

Minutes
DANK National Executive Board Conference
DANK Haus – 3rd Floor
Saturday, May 17th, 2008 – 10:00 AM

NP Fuchs extended a warm welcome and a thank you to all attending this Board Meeting.

Committees: NP Fuchs stated “his vision at the convention about how we go about our meetings is that we want more people helping out in this organization; to introduce new people into here; the senior members of the organization acting as mentors to the younger people so they are not left alone to do things; a lot more vibrancy going on. I’m a little disappointed that people who stated their support both before and after the convention now state I’m all there for you but when it comes down to actually getting involved, they say well not now, maybe in the future. I hear that a lot! I don’t want this organization to die with the ‘same old people’ at the helm. I want to get new people in here and introduce some new blood and with the Committees. The last time I handed out the visions for the Committees. I want to have working committees that actually do something for the organization. Some committees are working very hard and without them the work doesn’t get done. The Board can set a direction, but the committees need to work to get things done.

Office Remodeling: NP Fuchs extended a sincere thank you to all those who participated in renovating the office area. After 45 years, it looks like a national office and is more efficient. A big thanks to Al Mueller for the office renovations, David Fairbrother, Darlene Fuchs, Regina Kania, Erik Wittmann, and Ron Zielinski, whose company (American Licorice) donated our new office furniture.

ROLL CALL: **Attending:** William Fuchs, Erik Wittmann, Donna Lippert, Linda Voit, Beverly Pochatko, Harald Pitz, Robert Miske, Hilde Schloesser, Reinhard Lippert, Margaret Kodrzycki, Ernst Ott

Excused: Chris Decker

Guests: (Committee Members) Ann Marie Fuhrig, Alexandra Ott, Christa Garcia, Ron Zielinski, Darlene Fuchs, Dave Fairbrother, Regina Kania, Rudolf Schloesser, Harald Pitz, Siegfried Endlichhofer, Christel Miske, Alfred M. Mueller, Sr., Hans Wolf and Dagmar Freiburger.

Meeting was called to order at 10:20 am.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Marketing: (Hans Wolfe, Ron Zielinski) It was noted that prudence is required regarding funding. The timing of making merchandise available is critical to be available for purchase by Chapters, especially with the onset of Oktoberfests, German Fests, etc. Chapters need help especially when they are holding ‘small events’ and to purchase small quantities is more expensive. We need to hopefully establish a small number of items to have available by September. Bill Fuchs explained the concept of ‘branding’ to get DANK more recognizable and where people will want to purchase items promoting DANK. Thanks to Erik Wittmann DANK shirts are being worn by the Board Members today that will be available for sale. Pittsburgh has some items that we can start to utilize such as beer mugs, vanity license plates.

Literature Development: We need to update our literature to send/make available to prospective members. It was decided to create a new brochure and print 5000. But, in the meantime, to have brochures at Milwaukee's German fest on July 25-27, we would print 1000 copies of a slightly modified copy of the original color brochures. Erik asked that it becomes personable for use by Chapters at their functions...Can add a label on the back. The flyer can be shipped flat and the Chapter can print its own initialization before handing out.

DANK Credit Card: We hope to have this in place by the fall.

Technology: (Dave Fairbrother) (See attached Report)

Currently there are 48 Life Members (Chapter 99)

4,188 names are on file as members, 701 of which are NOT PAID.

155 youth memberships do not have birth dates listed.

Chapters are needed to update this information and get it to our office secretary.

DANK Travel Program: (Membership – Erik Wittmann) Travel can be used for recruitment purposes...and also helps to raise money for the sponsoring Chapter.

Jörg Kramer of Value Holidays and Dave Carollo of RM Tours Inc. Both presenters stated that tour operators can get better prices because they work directly with the suppliers in Germany. We also will have the satisfaction that tours will be composed of only DANK members and not 'pooled with other groups. Also, the best times for travel with lower rates are from mid-September through spring. (See attachments) **Tom Dietz of DANK North** stated that he also customizes trips for groups (help with fund-raising – gratis tickets etc.) and he travels with 'you'. The Passion play can run \$3-4,000 per tour. Final price lock-in is one year in advance. If you choose to take a cruise, he would figure 6 cabins on a cruise boat and you need 14+ attendees for a group rate.

Committee was formed to look into this: Erik Wittmann, Bev Pochatko, and would like two others to work with them.

Feingold Bill: Karen Ebel relayed that the Feingold Bill (re internments of German Americans in WWII) asking acknowledgement of the injustice to German Americans was not passed. DANK needs to be a sponsor of the bill, to initialize the bill again. President Fuchs will write a letter on behalf of DANK. A *Committee of Christa Garcia, Cobi Stein, and Ernst Ott* will work with Ms. Ebel to get this bill passed.

Schools: (Anne Marie Fuhrig, Christa Garcia, Alexandra Ott) Refer to handout. Ann Marie Fuhrig stated that if the schooling is effective, our heritage will be carried into the 22nd Century. Testing of the German language students has been realigned by the German government. They want to see results prior to giving a financial rebate to the schools. There is no fee for testing. The schools holding the testing are asked to pay the 'testing supervisor' for the hours they are present (Substitute-teachers pay). The schools are then reimbursed in the fall.

DANK schools are holding a summer camp for children ages 5 to 8 from June 30th until August 1st. The camp will run 9:30 to 11:30 at a cost of \$140/child.

Lunch Break...