



**DANK National Executive Board
Executive Board Meeting. – 1:00 PM
Saturday, May 30, 2009**

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm

Attending: NP Bill Fuchs, Erik Wittmann, Maria Thompson, Beverly Pochatko, Edwin Gunther, Robert Miske, and Margaret Potocki. Christa Garcia, Amelia Cotter, Christel Miske, Darlene Fuchs, Ursula Gunther. **Excused:** Donna Lippert, Chris Decker. **Absent:** Region 2 Representatives (2)

Minutes of the March 14th, 2009 meeting were approved on April 13, 2009

Financial Secretary Report: (Maria Thompson) Report attached.

Motion to accept the financial report made by Erik Wittmann 2nd by Bob Miske. Motion carried.

Additions to the Agenda: Speaker for Convention (Edwin Gunther)

Raffle Drawing: Bob Miske 6,000 tickets were printed last year. Using a slightly larger ticket it will cost \$214.60 complete as there is no paper waste. Will use the logo (without the wreath). It was determined that we lower the cost of the tickets to \$5.00 each. Four (4) tickets will be sent to each head-of-household member with a letter of explanation. Tickets can be sent to a Chapter for special events, etc., and they sell them. National will return 20% of the funds received for these tickets that are sent to chapters for sale as a fund raiser. Letters will be sent to the Chapters on this participation in fund raising not only for the national organization, but their individual chapters.

- Prizes will be awarded during the National Convention.
 - 1st Prize: \$1000 cash
 - 2nd Prize: 42” large flat screen television
 - 3rd Prize: \$500 cash
 - 4th Prize: \$250 Gift Certificate
 - 5th Prize: \$100 Gift Certificate
 - 6th Prize: \$50 Gift Certificate

A motion to accept the proposed prizes for the 2009 DANK Raffle was made by Erik Wittmann, 2nd Bev Pochatko. Motion Carried.

Fliers will be available and fifteen posters will be created for Chapters to use.

Edwin Gunther suggested a weekend getaway at Green Bay, WI. He will check into this for the next meeting. This could be a prize for the Convention.

2009 National Convention: Thursday is early registration and hospitality room at the Holiday Inn. Beginning Friday morning thru 1 pm on Sunday is the actual Convention. The Town Hall will be held following the Sunday morning meeting. Delegates will receive a bag with everything pertaining to the convention in it. Friday will consist of workshops; the \$2500 speaker was voted down by the Board as not feasible at this time. We are trying to formulate a workshop atmosphere to help the Chapters...give them the tools and how to use them to be a better organization. A ‘Passport’ will be used to encourage delegates to attend the workshops. The delegates will get their passport stamped at the end of each of the sessions they attend. The delegate fee will cover a \$20 rebate per delegate IF they attend and get their

passport stamped at the end of each of the sessions and all spots are stamped. The rebate check will be sent to the chapters. Friday night at the DANK House is a local celebration and Awards presentation. Saturday night is a bit more formal (Black tie – semi formal)... trying to get some 'big names' to attend this affair.

Membership Dues Update: (See report) No more dues reminders will be sent. Chapters need to clean-up their lists. June 1st unpaid are being removed from our membership lists.

Chapter Updates: (Erik Wittmann)

- Peoria's financial problems have been cleared up according to Kathy Viebach, President.
- Indianapolis – Elected a new board, had seven new members sign-up. They will be working with the Kade Institute.
- Cleveland has elected a new board – Stefan Pigler is the new President.
- Columbus – everyone has renewed their membership and anxious to keep the school active.

Chapter standings: Working with Chapters that are struggling. New Castle and Philadelphia have members who still want to keep the Chapters. A letter was sent to them and outlined suggestions to help them. Michigan, and Syracuse are still in the talking stage; hoping to get Las Vegas people to come to the Convention. New areas or dormant chapters in outlying areas...The sub-chapter concept is to provide administrative support to a group of people who don't want the headaches of running a Chapter; they can't elect a board...etc. Pittsburgh is working with the two sub-chapters: Mason-Dixon and the Laurel Highlands. Mason Dixon could be ready to stand alone by year's end if they choose...but not mandated.

- We need to set-up guidelines for sub-chapters
- Insurance questions for sub-chapters – they would be covered under the host chapter (in this case, Pittsburgh) insurance.
- They get the Journal
- The Chapter will provide them with language classes
- The Chapters hold their own individual activities
- Hold joint functions with the Chapter and sub-chapters
- A member of the sub-chapter has to be a member of the 'parent' chapter board.
- They could attend the convention as a delegate of the 'parent' chapter.
 - * Need to consider giving the sub-chapters representation on their own at the Convention.

Chapter Calendars...We need to get the Chapters to send in their calendar of events so that we can get them in our GAJ and on our web-page. We use the info to communicate to other members and others who are interested in our organization. Chapters need to send the calendars for the balance of the year to Amelia in the office. This is just one of the needs to be re-enforced at our national convention.

Chapter Motivating Ideas – Deferred to future meeting.

Regional Meetings: (Regional Reports are attached)

Please let Amelia in the office know of the dates planned for all Regional meetings.

DANK Membership pins: This issue continues to be worked upon. There has been a positive meeting of the minds. This is expected to be resolved within two weeks.

A request from Fox Valley for membership pins was received.

Erik Wittmann motioned for National sell membership pins to Fox Valley Chapter at a cost of \$4.50/pin plus shipping and handling. (We will sell the pins we purchase from Milwaukee at the exact cost we pay for them plus shipping & handling.) 2nd by Bob Miske. Five (5) voting in favor, 1 abstaining (E. Gunther), National Pres. – does not vote.

Reimbursement Policy: (Erik Wittmann) The Reimbursement Policy was reviewed and explained. A copy of the policy and the roll call vote on the amendment was given to the Region 1 President Edwin Gunther. It was noted that this document can also be found on the Admin page of our web-site for future reference. (www.DANK.org/admin)

Milwaukee German Fest – Milwaukee's space was relocated to the North End with less space (8' table + 6' table for National). Our interns can come up with a backdrop for the booth. Robert Miske reported that we can not sell our raffle tickets in the provided booth, however DANK has applied for one to sell our raffle tickets and promote applications for our VISA card.

Convention Delegates: There is still some inequity in the number of delegates representing the chapters at the National Convention with only about 2/3 attending. **Erik Wittmann proposed that we have three (3) delegates per 100 members or less; 1 additional for each 50 over a hundred fifty members. He will come up with a formula by the next meeting, including sub-chapters.** There was discussion on the merits of change and it was noted that to change our National Bylaws with a resolution 60 days prior to the convention.

Associate Membership – Ernst Ott, Bill Fuchs and Erik Wittmann had a conference call regarding our Associate Memberships. We need to revisit the concept. To increase our number of associate memberships, we need to be sellable to the other organizations...i.e. what benefits do they receive as an associate member? Darlene Fuchs said there is a draft brochure to use and Mr. Ott will review it for changes/corrections. The Board determined that we should not lower our current fee of \$75 for associate membership.

DANK Newspaper: Had many positive comments on the 'new look'. We want to add four more pages to the content. There were requests that an article be written in German with an English translation. Mrs. Ott said that her adult students are asking for articles written in German for them – which they can understand. For the children, Oskar and Atticus have proven to be a hit thanks to Amelia Cotter. Mrs. Ott and Christa Garcia have asked to proof read these articles for grammar content. Mrs. Ott and Christa Garcia agreed to be contributing editors and offered to proof read all German articles. Will consider asking our new German correspondent, Corina Bienger, to write an article (in German and English) from the German perspective.

Ethnic Museum: Merl Arp brought this up, it's a museum to represent all ethnicities, and thought DANK should participate. He was asked to send a letter, which was finally done and we will be a part of this endeavor. We would like to work on this earlier in the year. We'd like a follow-up letter as to what is happening.

MEETING SCHEDULE: July 22nd (conference call) August 29-30th will be in Chicago. Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm on a motion of Erik Wittmann and 2nd by Robert Miske.

Beverly A. Pochatko
National Recording Secretary

Motions and Actions of May 30th, 2009 Executive Board Meeting

- Motion to accept the financial report made by Erik Wittmann 2nd by Bob Miske. Motion carried.
- ***A motion to accept the proposed prizes for the 2009 DANK Raffle was made by Erik Wittmann, 2nd Bev Pochatko. Motion Carried.*** Prizes will be awarded during the National Convention.
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Future Actions:

- Letters to Chapters and heads-of-households regarding our raffle at the convention.
- Chapter motivating ideas
- Set-up guidelines for sub-chapters
- Work on increasing our Associate Membership with an attractive brochure listing benefits by next meeting to implement in the fall.
- Delegate representation at the National Convention - Erik Wittmann proposed that we have three (3) delegates per 100 members or less; 1 additional for each 50 over a hundred fifty members. He will come up with a formula by the next meeting, including sub-chapters.
- Let the office know of the dates planned for all Regional meetings.