



**DANK National Executive Board
Committees Meeting
June 25, 2011**

Attending: NP Fuchs, Erik Wittmann, Donna Lippert, Robert Miske, Beverly Pochatko, Edwin Gunther (R1), Maria Thompson (R1), Rein Lippert (R2), Margaret Potocki (R3), Ed Heinlein (R3), Darlene Fuchs, Eve Timmerhaus, Eva Timmerhaus, Stephen Fuchs, Christa Garcia; Guests: Al Shaffer and Erwin Lickmann.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00AM by NP Bill Fuchs.

Website: Stephen Fuchs. New site is up. 75-80% of Chapter info is missing since they have not forwarded the info for the web site. Executive Board needs to contact all chapters and let them know why we need chapter information and contacts. It is to help them to acquire new members and build an interest in their chapters. Stephen announced that he will not be able to continue with the Forum due to a lack of time; he asked if anyone was willing to continue working with it. He is scaling back his role here in DANK; There are things he sees going on that he just doesn't stand behind and doesn't feel the way the young people want to get involved don't have the opportunities they are looking for and they keep getting turned away. He will continue to do the maintenance of the web-site, but that's it. He will not be available to do any extra work for the organization. He will continue to do the paper, and see what goes on at the convention and will then have to reevaluate what's going on and where the organization turns. (He feels that the young people are being ignored. They try to come with new ideas and they get turned down.)

Newspaper: Darlene Fuchs: The newspaper will be mailed by July 23rd for the Aug/Sept issue; under tight crunch to get extra (2000) papers for the Milwaukee Fest and other festivals. Erie asked for 100 copies, Maria Thompson requested for 300 copies for the Fox Valley Fest. Darlene is still waiting for ads and a few articles. It needs to be at the publishers asap. Erik asked for 25-30 copies to be sent to the proposed Alaska chapter. Only 10 copies are archived at the office. Would like to have them available at the Chicago German Fest table...actually doing a membership drive for North. In the past, no one has been allowed to pass out any papers, but we will ask. We will have extra papers available. Donna secured a new ad for Alpenland. We should make about \$7000 so far this year for advertising. Check the web page for ad guidelines.

Awards: Beverly Pochatko: A letter was received from Karl Schmidt of Lake County IL Chapter requesting a large pin to honor Mr. Ernst Weber for work on commemorating the nine German POWs buried at Fort Sheridan. **A motion to present the large DANK pin to Mr. Ernst Weber was made by Bob Miske, 2nd by Edwin Gunther. Motion carried.**

Raffle Tickets: Bob Miske: The raffle tickets are being sent out by Eve and Eva in the national office. There has been a problem with the printer jumping when printing the labels and besides being aggravating is time consuming. To date there has been no volunteers to help with the mailing. (Christel Miske and Ursula Gunther were working on the envelopes during the meeting.) Al Shaffer said he will see about volunteers from Chicago North. Eve said she has not been given a deadline for them to be out. Bob Miske said he would like to have them out asap – no later than July 15th. This is a chance for the chapters to get supplemental income by selling the tickets. They receive \$1 for each ticket sold (does not include individual member's tickets.)

School Advisory Council: Erik is working with teachers from Chapters and regions, Jeff Engel and Ed Heinlein to be part of the advisory search committee to learn what direction the schools/chapters want to take. We need to establish what the needs of the chapters are and once established, we can begin to work in earnest to get the program rolling again. We will then re-establish the Education Committee and then move on. We hope to have this accomplished by October.

Education Fund: It was noted that the other Education Funds do not want to partner with us and so we will move ahead. There are some modifications that need to be addressed based on the recommendation of attorneys. **Bev**

Pochatko made a motion to put the Education Fund, on our dues statement and in our newspaper based on the guidelines by the attorneys. Seconded by Edwin Gunther. ROLL CALL VOTE taken. Motion carried.

Membership: Erik Wittmann: Made some progress in some areas and continue to have difficulty in others. (See membership report) We are better off than we were two years and making progress in new Chapter development. Last night the national officers had a speaker phone conversation with Peter Prokein of Fairbanks, Alaska to discuss establishing a DANK chapter there, which sounds very promising. Downsides: Philadelphia, Las Vegas, nobody wants to take responsibility to serve in a leadership role. Even though we have \$2000 budgeted, that hasn't been used due to an overall lack of funds. We have 'anemic' chapters – with minimal numbers but don't have an active board. Those chapters must work to get into an active status, or possibly consider becoming a sub-chapter. Another dilemma is we have chapters with strong leadership and when they want to step down, no one wants to step forward and either the chapter flounders or goes inactive. Erik will work with the Regional Presidents to get the chapters onboard or go the route of being a sub-chapter. Janesville Beloit wants a certificate recognizing their 50 years of existence. Erik said he had no problem recognizing them, but he felt the certificate should be conditional in that we recognize their chapter status for the past 50 years; they must write an article and send a photo that would go in the Sept/Oct issue of the newspaper; and they need to commit to presenting their chapter status as part of that. They need to meet some of the basic requirements of the Chapter for us to recognize 50 years of the chapter. If we want the vibrant chapters to survive, we need to mentor them. Al Shaffer mentioned that the feelings of the older members and those of the younger members are both the same, each feel that the other doesn't understand or respect them and for whatever reason can't seem to meet on common ground. We need to work on this. Education group (Ed Heinlein) will visit all schools teaching German; make them aware of DANK; potentially bringing in new blood; then we have to be receptive to their ideas. All these things will help – by working together – to achieve the common goal – keeping our DANK organization alive. DANK needs to make the transition from immigrants to an organization of Americans of German descent.

German Fest: All the paperwork has been filed. Darlene and Bill will be there. We have approval for the tent, insurance is in place, and Donna & Rein will be there to help. We are not purchasing anything with the exception of polybags. Everything will be done the same as last year. Erik is taking care of the PA Bavarian Fest, Bev has Erie's Fest. He would like approval to cover \$146/4 days for Bill & Darlene, \$99/night for three nights for the Lipperts. Erik Wittmann made the **motion that any necessary staff person to work this festival, or any festival that we do as an organization, should be approved for lodging in keeping within the acceptable hotel rates of what is available within the area. Seconded by Bob Miske. Motion carried.**

We need to cover for Milwaukee, Fox Valley. Pittsburgh/Uniontown will cover the expenses for the PA Bavarian Fest. The coordinator's need to identify who – if any - will need to stay overnight beyond those setting up and breaking down. **Our promo budget is \$1500. A motion was made by Eric Wittmann and seconded by Bob Miske to limit to approx. \$850-1000 for lodging for the two festivals. Motion Carried.** Other Festivals: Erie's German Fest, PA Bavarian Fest, Von Steuben Parade in NY, Cincinnati Strassen Fest and German Day in Chicago, PA Bavarian Oktoberfest. Being visible brings more attention and respect for DANK.

National Convention: Erik Wittmann: All chapters will receive a packet very soon listing the convention info. The delegate's bag will feature the Pittsburgh logo (eagle with the triangle representing Pittsburgh) on one side and the Hofbrau logo on the reverse. Committees are established. As part of the banquet, the Ptsbg. Jr. Philharmonic ensemble will play before and during the dinner hour; waiting word back from Cardinal Wehrl whether or not he will be our guest speaker; other guest speakers have been lined up. Friday night is Oktoberfest and will also be a 'public' event as well as a convention event. Everything is taking shape and we are working with local vendors to get items for our "goodie bags". The national board usually decides what happens from an agenda standpoint for the meetings and the host chapter takes care of the social events and making sure meeting space is arranged. A decision needs to be made making

Cardinal Wehrl the GA Man of the Year. The nomination form for the election of officers will be put on the web site. Only four nominations have been received so far and they are from Region 3. We want to have bios for all nominees by Aug 25th to put into the newspaper. (Bill Fuchs and Donna Lippert stated they are not running for office this year.) Bob Miske asked if perhaps Karl Schmidt could run the elections this year to avoid a conflict if he is nominated for a position? Karl will be contacted. Erik encouraged all the Regions/Chapters to put a congratulatory message in the program book. We are accepting business card ads for \$20. This is what helps cover the expenses of putting on the convention.

Bylaws: A motion presented by Region 1 to change the National Bylaws regarding representation of Chapters at the Regional Meetings was brought to the Board by Christa Garcia. She was instructed that Chapter Presidents need to have this in hand 60 days prior to the convention.

Seminars: 1) Education should be part of the focus and Ed Heinlein has agreed to head this up. 2) Christa Garcia **proposed** a seminar regarding **the AATG=American Association of Teachers of German, the ZfA=Zentralstelle fuer Auslandsschulwesen and the GLSC=German Language School Conference**, their involvement in our schools since 1972 and what it takes to become a member school" 3) Bev Pochatko suggested a Seminar on "Welpenschutz – Mentoring" to help get both generations to interact – perhaps a panel discussion. Ask your chapters what kind of focus would be beneficial to them.

Youth Ambassador: Bev Pochatko made a recommendation that we do not proceed any further with the Youth Ambassador Program. It's always been centered in Chicago and there doesn't appear to be much interest by the young people to apply. It was the general consensus that we let it rest at this time.

DANK National German American: Bev Pochatko made a motion that we nominate and accept Cardinal Wehrl as DANK National's German American Man of the Year. Seconded by Edwin Gunther. Motion carried. Rather than a plaque, Bev suggested that a tree be planted in his honor, with a plaque placed at the base of it. This is something living and enjoyed by all for many years to come.

Christa Garcia, Donna Lippert, Ed Gunther, and Bob Miske, (Chair) are the committee that will represent the DANK National organization to work with the Pittsburgh Chapter to coordinate events at the national convention.

Computer Fund Update: We have received \$3110 so far in funds to update our computers. Bill does not want to go ahead until we have the money in hand. **A motion was made by Bev Pochatko and seconded by Edwin Gunther to put an article in the paper again requesting support for the updating of the computer systems for the office. Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:30 pm.

In conversation between the meetings regarding Stephen Fuch's comment early in the meeting "(He feels that the young people are being ignored. They try to come with new ideas and they get turned down.)" a discussion centered on the involvement of our younger members. Bob Miske made the statement: "DANK needs to make the transition from an organization of immigrants to an organization of Americans of German descent. It's a time warp! Remember immigrants came over and that is what they left and they haven't progressed beyond that because they don't know." Darlene Fuchs offered that "Sunday's were coffee and cake and cheap events!" They (older members) don't want to be out late. " Bev Pochatko offered "Why not have for instance a dance where the music is geared to the older people the first half and the younger the second half. – The best of both worlds. "