



**DANK National Executive Board Meeting**  
**DANK HAUS Chicago**  
**June 25, 2011**

The meeting was called to order with the roll call at 1:07 PM

Attending: William Fuchs NP, Erik Wittmann VP, Donna Lippert VP, Robert Miske Treasurer, Beverly Pochatko Secretary, Edwin Gunther R1, Maria Thompson R1, Rein Lippert R2, Margaret Potocki R3, Ed Heinlein R3, Darlene Fuchs, Eve Timmerhaus, Eva Timmerhaus, and Stephen Fuchs. Guests: Al Shaffer, Christa Garcia and Dagmar Freiberger.

Minutes of last meeting were approved and can be found on the national website under Media Info.

**Financial & Budget Reports – Robert Miske** (Reports attached) Dues income is down but we are on track for our 6 months level. We are down by \$4,449 at the 6 month level. (It is difficult to track since dues for the year start arriving in September and not in January.) Total income is down by about \$9900.

- **Database Upgrade** – When are we purchasing the computer server and database upgrade for updating as approved at the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting? So far, \$3110 has been collected with pledges of \$1500 (\$1000 from Cleveland and \$500 from Region 2) once it is purchased. The bid was for \$3800. It should be purchased now using the money collected General Funds and the pledges called in when it is in place. **Erik made the motion to proceed with the database upgrade since we have the money. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Beverly Pochatko. Motion carried.** Bill Fuchs said he will get the actual proposal for specifics and then form a committee with Willi Gohs and Jerry Schielpacke that specifies what we want in there so it is included in the quote and then we will have the cost, yearly maintenance fees, etc.
- **Investment Account** - Margrit and Sam advised us to take \$5000 out of stocks and put into a money market to 'save' our money in the face of an unstable stock market, which was done and 'saved' us from a loss.
- **IRS granted us an extension until Nov 15<sup>th</sup> to file the 990.** Some chapters are still lagging behind. It costs us \$200 to file an extension via our accountant, since we have to cover their time. The group returns kill us when the chapters don't cooperate. It was suggested that this cost should be passed on to the offending chapters.

**Motion to accept the Financial Report was made by Donna Lippert, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rein Lippert. Motion carried.**

**NO Additions to Agenda:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Clarification of statement in March 12, 2011 minutes:** NP Fuchs noted that in the minutes from the March 12, 2011 Executive Board meeting, there is a statement in it that noted: Chapter North has changed their by-laws over the objection of its members and the older members feel that they are not getting full disclosure. Unfortunately, not enough chapter members attended their meetings. While the national board cannot dictate what happens in local chapter activities, unless it violates our bylaws, their bylaws cannot be in conflict with the national bylaws. President Fuchs would like it noted that he monitored the process of the chapter changing their bylaws and attended the final meeting that had their members vote on the change. This meeting was well announced and open to all chapter members. Many of the chapter elders and various age groups attended. Although many of their members did not agree with changes, during that final meeting they were given a chance to voice their opinions and proffer change. Every paragraph of the new bylaws was addressed and agreed upon by the members in attendance via the process of consensus. Once consensus was reached on the whole document, a vote was taken and a vast majority of the members present voted to adopt the new bylaws. Discussion ensued with Dagmar Freiberger about the proceedings. No violation was found on the part of Chapter North.

**Postage Machine Contract:** Pitney Bowes contract will not be renewed. It cost us \$12,000 over a 63 month contract and was only for the 'rental of the machine' and nothing else. The contract is over on October 10<sup>th</sup>. They will be notified the beginning of August. We will be using the program "stamps.com" which is run by the US postal service. They provide a scale and we print the labels (stamps) in house.

**ATT Bill** – There are too many hidden fees involved. We need to set up a new package plan. Ours ran out in the beginning of May. We need to stabilize our phone costs. Currently we pay approximately \$300/month which is down from the \$400 we had been paying. We can get a block of minutes for long distance which is sufficient for our needs (\$225) but we have to subscribe to "My-Fi" and we get \$400 worth of mobile equipment that we wouldn't use. Bob Miske is going to work on this and see if we can renegotiate it.

**DANK CREDIT CARDS (for office)** We have transferred them to MB Bank. Maria Thompson needs to close out the original cards, from Card Partners, since she set it up.

**DANK TRADEMARK:** We have three trademarks that need to be renewed. Ernst Ott was going to work on it. Having checked up via the internet, it was learned that applications were submitted by Ernst Ott over the last 10 years, but had expired. Application Cost is \$350. that applications were submitted but had expired. Cost is \$350. There is a lot of paper work to be completed. We need to do this and should not delay and be sure that it is renewed on time. The trademarks include the DANK logo, the name German American National Congress and the DANK Journal logo. **Beverly Pochatko made a motion that we go ahead and apply for our trademarks and this should not be delayed. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Erik Wittmann. Motion carried.** The cost will come out of our general funds. Edwin Gunther said he will work with it as the Agent on record. Dagmar told us that her daughter's boyfriend, David Mellon will look at this. He has finished law school and studying for the 'bar' exam. At the meeting Edwin Gunther yielded his involvement to Dagmar Freiburger, who promised to involve David Mellon in this. She currently has the files for the applications.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Festivities in Washington DC.** Erik Wittmann was among the 250 people who attended the reception for Ms. Angela Merkel. (Erik brought back a flash drive with photos etc.) In conversation he found Rüdiger Lenz, Executive Director of the Washington German American Heritage Museum, is interested in working with us, and was interested in Beverly's suggestion that there be a program that would identify /classify the various types of regional tracht. Another gentleman, who is with a group from NYC and DC who prepared the gift for Ms. Merkel, said that they are interested and this categorizing of info would be wonderful and potentially we would be willing to participate in this as well. Erik said he was sharing this info because "I think we need to be more involved as Bill initiated some time ago, with these organizations that do that kind of collaboration on behalf of German-Americans." There were a lot of politicians who were there who publically recognized their Germanic heritage. Most Germans of prominence prefer to 'remain in the closet'.

I think we can learn from these connections. I had wanted to take a gift to Angela Merkel, and I think we as an organization how we can mail on behalf of DANK, or through diplomatic channels, to Angela Merkel a framed gift of the "There were German there also". It was a very positive feeling being there to have people recognize the German contributions. DANK was one of the select organizations to get an invitation to this event.

**National German American Day 2011** - Established by Pres. Regan in 1987. Since President George W Bush (the second) was in office, we have not been invited to the White House. GAJAC continues to work yearly to get the resolution. We want it to be recognized as it once was by the German Embassy and US President. In the past a reception was hosted at the Goethe Institute and the German Embassy. Next year is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing and we want to make this a big deal. Bill would like Erik and anyone who can, join him in DC on German American Day this year.

**DANK HAUS – Settlement –** To have the rent for a 4 year period with a reduction of \$35 to monthly rent of \$600. There has been a lot of talk about ‘intent’ but nothing had been legally done. So it is what it is...not that we like it. **A motion to accept the four year rental agreement at \$600 effective April 5, 2011 was made by Beverly Pochatko, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donna Lippert.** Beverly commented “ I think what we are looking at, speaking for myself, is that we (DANK) are the aging parent who is now beginning to find out that our ‘retirement funds’ aren’t going anywhere, we are barely making ends meet, and that we are hoping that in the goodness of their heart, the ‘first-born’ is willing to look out for us. Not that we are asking for a free ride, but a break. It is not that we are demanding it, but it is out of respect for the aging parent. Erik said that unfortunately for the past 15 years this has not been addressed and now that is the issue at hand. **A roll call vote resulted in 5 yes, 1 no and 3 abstained. Motion carried.** NP Fuchs signed and dated the lease agreement.

#### **DANK Haus Transfer Resolution June 25, 2011**

After considerable review and consideration during the past three years, the officers of the National Executive Board propose the following motion:

Whereas: To correct the inadequacies of previous real estate transactions as related to the DANK Haus Chicago

Whereas: To carry out in a legal and appropriate manner the intent of previous board actions including this board: Specifically, a motion that was voted on and carried during the meeting of the National Executive Board dated March 22, 2003 that states that the National President and National Secretary sign any papers necessary to have the ownership transferred to the chapters according to the national bylaws.

Whereas: While this was done to transfer the DANK Haus Benton Harbor to the chapter in 2003, the action to transfer the DANK Haus Chicago to the Chicago North chapter via a quit claim deed occurred in 2005. However, unlike Benton Harbor, this was done without appropriate and adequate documentation attached.

Be it therefore resolved that the action of this motion is intended to correct this inadequacy by:

The National Executive Board legally deeding the DANK Haus Chicago property to the Chicago North Chapter and Having clear reference to paragraph 7 of Article XI of the bylaws of the German American National Congress as adopted October 16, 1977 and amended and accepted by the Executive Board on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and accepted by the regions on July 23, 2005 and any subsequent amendments of the national Conventions of 2007 and 2009 that require consent of the National Executive Board in case of sale or exchange of such real estate property and

Having all supporting documents attached to the quit claim deed including minutes and a prologue with an explanation of why this process was necessary.

To assure that the interest of the membership of the DANK organization is maintained, this board is also proposing an agreement of formal clarification between the National Executive Board and the Board of Chapter Chicago North previously discussed whereby:

Clarifying what would be construed as a general underlying condition for the board to approve or disapprove any sale or exchange of the DANK Haus property as referenced in the national bylaws.

**A motion to accept the DANK HAUS Transfer resolution as presented was made by Bob Miske, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Beverly Pochatko. A roll call vote was taken: 7 yes 2 no Motion Carried.**

This will be presented to Chapter Chicago North for acceptance, and then reviewed by our legal counsel to be sure everything is in order, and all documents are attached pertaining to this action. At the September 10<sup>th</sup> leadership meeting, will be signed and filed by all parties.

**NOTE:** The next meeting of the Executive Board will be held in Chicago on Sept 9-10<sup>th</sup>. We will be taking part in the Steuben Parade in the afternoon.

Being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Donna Lippert, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rein Lippert.  
Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM

Respectfully submitted



Beverly A. Pochatko  
National Recording Secretary



**National Executive Board Meeting  
June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**MOTIONS AND ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN**

**Awards:** A motion to present the large DANK pin to Mr. Ernst Weber was made by Bob Miske, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Edwin Gunther. Motion carried.

**Computer Fund Update:** 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.

**Education Fund:** 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. Motion carried. ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.

**German Fest:** 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.**

**Youth Ambassador:** Bev Pochatko made a recommendation that we do not proceed any further with the Youth Ambassador Program. 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.

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.

**Database Upgrade:** Erik Wittmann made the motion to proceed with the database upgrade since we have the money. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Beverly Pochatko. Motion carried

**DANK TRADEMARK** - Beverly Pochatko made a motion that we go ahead and apply for our trademarks and this should not be delayed. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Erik Wittmann. Motion carried.

**DANK HAUS** – A motion to accept the four year rental agreement at \$600 effective April 5, 2011 was made by Beverly Pochatko, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donna Lippert. A roll call vote resulted in 5 yes, 1 no and 3 abstained. Motion carried. NP Fuchs signed and dated the lease agreement.

**DANK HAUS TRANSFER RESOLUTION** - A motion to accept the DANK HAUS Transfer resolution as presented was made by Bob Miske, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Beverly Pochatko. A roll call vote was taken: 7 yes 2 no Motion Carried.

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Presented at the National Executive Board meeting of June 25, 2011