



**DANK National Executive Board
Teleconference Meeting
Wednesday, July 29, 2009**

Meeting called to order at 8:07 pm edt (7:07 pm cdt)

Attending: NP Bill Fuchs, VP Erik Wittmann, VP Donna Lippert, Treasurer Maria Thompson, Secretary Beverly Pochatko, Edwin Gunther, Robert Miske, Hilde Schloesser, Chris Decker, Ernst Ott, Christa Garcia, Amelia Cotter, Darlene Fuchs, Steven Fuchs, Anita Walthier.

Excused: Margaret Potocki (Region 3) **Absent (unexcused):** Region 2 Rep Dave Hinz.
Quorum was met with 8 members of the elected board present.

Minutes of the May 30th, 2009 meeting were approved on July 15th, 2009

Financial Secretary Report: (Maria Thompson) Report attached. We need to transfer \$14,000 from the investment account to our regular account as we are running low in our account. Reason it looks bleak, when we changed over our dues notices at the end of the year and we will catch up again in the last quarter. We are saving a lot of money on the newspaper printing \$6K / year and expect more income from the new Visa cards when processed. **Motion to accept the financial report made by Erik Wittmann 2nd by Donna Lippert. Motion carried.**

Additions to the Agenda:

St. Charles, IL Oktoberfest – invited us to have a free booth

Membership: (Erik Wittmann) Regions reported:

Region 1 – Edwin Gunther - No problems with their chapters.

Peoria Chapter – no update from Katie Viebach.

Region 2 - There is an issue with South Bend moving to Benton Harbor. Rudy & Hilde Schloesser want to stay in South Bend, balance want to move to the Benton Harbor Chapter. – Need to follow protocol for dissolving chapter and clarify what is a sub-chapter. Need to meet with the chapter to make a formal decision. Erik will meet with them to clarify being a sub-chapter or the dissolution of the chapter.

Region 3 – Will be holding a meeting on August 8th

- Sub-Chapter guidelines will be available to be discussed at the August meeting for Board approval.
- Chapters received notices of unpaid memberships. Erik has sample letters to share with the chapters to contact these individuals. Copies will be given to the Regional Presidents to share with the Chapter Presidents. Recommend policy of personal phone calls to these individuals.

Membership Pins – The issue was settled based on the proposal at the last Board meeting. National purchased 1700 new member pins and was given an additional 115 free pins from them. Payment for the pins has been sent to them. It was again reiterated that National will not use the

pins for fund raising and the only cost will be the amount paid for the pins and shipping expenses.

Pitney Bowes machine – still working on it for cost saving measures. Meanwhile, we needed a new printer head and resulted in a new updated machine at no cost to us. A much better, updated machine has been received and is in use.

Milwaukee German Fest update: We paid a \$2000 tent fee (as a sponsor) to push our credit card and memberships. Bob Miske, John Dienhart worked at getting it set up. The National Board approved the expense via phone calls with a vote of 3 yeas and 1 nay. Helpers from DANK South (Anita & Christine Walthier, Marianne & Andrea Dietz), John Dienhart, Bert & Arlene Lachner, Maria Thompson, Donna & Rein Lippert, Amanda Pedersen and Stephen Fuchs assisted Darlene and Bill Fuchs in covering the booth. Applicants for the card and/or new memberships received a special t-shirt. Card applicants presented a photo id for validating their applications. They also wrote down their driver's license id number. There are instructions on how to do the credit cards; and the posters and banners that chapters can use. Erie and Pittsburgh have asked to use these items for promotional purposes at their respective festivals.

In the future, we need to consider getting members to attend as volunteers at various festivals (Cincinnati, Kutztown, etc) where we can make an attempt to promote DANK. We will discuss this for a future action. New info brochures were printed, special t-shirts printed etc. that can be used. In some places (Erie, Pittsburgh) we will be able to take part and not have to pay for tent rental. We have a 2' x 3 ½' and a 4' x 10' banner to utilize. The latter was the banner (from the 2007 national convention) folded in half.

Due to the expenses (room and travel) for our President to attend throughout the four days of the Fest, the Board suggested that Bill Fuchs submit his hotel and mileage expenses for reimbursement. (Bill has not submitted for any of his travel expenses for DANK). Also, Donna Lippert's hotel and travel costs will be submitted also. If people are willing to volunteer their time and pay for their food, we should make some plans to cover overnight accommodations and marginal transportation costs in the future. ***A motion to cover Bill and Donna's expenses were made by Erik Wittmann and seconded by Chris Decker. Motion carried.***

Newspaper: First time with new printer in Lansing Illinois. Cost is \$1100 cheaper (\$800 actual). (DesPlaines could only counter from \$1800 to \$1300.) Also, we have applied for a new mailing permit in Calumet City, Ill. \$75 for a one-time application but will save on the mailings.

PR Brochure – created by Rudy. Printed 5000 for Printed 5000 for \$300– it's a tri-fold with the membership application added as an insert. Adding 'Life-Time' membership to new applications. We have used up almost all of the old ones at the office.

National Convention:

1. **Nominating Committee** (Edwin Gunther, Chair) Letters were sent to the individual chapters with the nomination forms to be returned by August 15th. Confirmed nominees need to send their own resume and photo for the GAJ. Edwin, Chris Decker and Donna

Lippert as Region Presidents need to confirm any names submitted if they truly want to run.

2. **Itinerary and activities** (Anita Walthier, spokesperson) Terry Viebach didn't step down but due to her schedule Anita Walthier was appointed to be the spokesperson for the convention. Terry will be the coordinator of the former Miss DANK/German American Youth Ambassador contest pending interest in this. A request for info from the chapters was sent out and few have replied.
 - a. There was discussion regarding the Miss DANK contest and the response from our young people. Turns out they felt the title Miss DANK title was sexist and degrading and didn't look good on resumes. The title "Miss anything" doesn't fit into their idea of appropriateness.
 - b. It will be called the "German American Youth Ambassador" Contest and have the same guidelines except that it will be open to both young men and young ladies who hold DANK membership for ages 14-19; should know about Germanic history, representing German American society.
 - c. Plans for this will be in place in August including our expectations of the winner. We need a minimum of 3 applicants to hold this event. A budget will also need to be established if there is interest.
 - d. Sing Along - Cobi's idea – would take place on Friday evening at the club house. South will work with Cobi on this. Most think it would be better to just have an impromptu hospitality room sing and not a planned choir. Probably take place on Friday night or on Sunday morning.
 - e. Speakers: Need to have in place by August 31st. Erik has contacted George Steinbrenner, Heidi Klum, Sandra Bullock, Arnold Schwarzenager, and Norman Schwartzkopf as a special guest for Saturday evening. No acceptances yet nor refusals! Need by August 31st and then look elsewhere.
 - f. Awards: Bev Pochatko – Waiting for approval of the letter from Bill to send out to the Chapters.
3. **Associate Members** – are down with only 11 paid associate members this year. The brochure has been worked up and waiting for approval before printing. This will be confirmed at the August meeting. We do have a new associate member, the Milwaukee Chapter of the German American Police Association.
4. **Ethnic Museum update:** We notified them that DANK supports the idea of the museum. We have not heard anything from them since the initial and follow up letters.
5. **German-American Day:** (Ernst Ott) will start working on this by mid-August. He will work with the German Embassy. There is a new Ambassador in DC as well as a Director for Cultural Events. Members of the Board felt that we should have begun planning in June. This late may jeopardize having the proclamation in time for GA Day.
6. **Friendship Gardens:** (Ernst Ott) contacted the DC Parks Department to make a more prominent plaque made denoting the gardens. Christa has offered to hand deliver the letter in person while in DC. She will also see about activities on GA Day in Washington. As a side note – the German American Day kit can be found on our website ADMIN pages.

NEW BUSINESS:

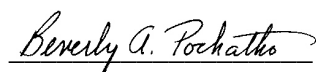
1. **National Office Business Credit Card.** After some discussion, it was determined that Bill Fuchs, Maria Thompson, Eva Timmerhaus and Amelia Cotter will be authorized to use it. Erik stated that rules will be established for usage including maximum amount with some reporting format that is available to the Board, especially the Treasurer, as to what the expenditures were so that some fiscal monitoring can occur. *A motion was made by Erik Wittmann and seconded by Chris Decker to get the credit card with the stipulation that Bill, Maria, Eva and Amelia be authorized to use it. Motion carried.*
2. **German World Magazine Offer.** After some discussion, Bill Fuchs said he would contact them to get further clarification of their offer. *Deferred decision to August meeting.*

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA

1. **St. Charles, IL Festival:** We received an offer to participate in their festival on September 18-20, 2010. Currently there is nothing in concrete and there were indications that it originally started as a Rock Fest and now to being an Oktoberfest. If it flies, we could be represented there.
2. **Michael Reese Hospital:** The national office received a letter asking DANK to support the effort to save the Hospital as a historical architectural site. It was designed by Gropius in the Bauhaus style and is on a site being razed for the Olympic Village. **It was the general consensus that we do not reply to this letter, thereby not giving them our support.**
3. Cobi Stein contacted Erik regarding the clarification of the national bylaws in regard to making a proposal to change the bylaws. Specifically, does a proposal need to be co-signed by chapter from a different region to be accepted? No, but it is stated that all chapters must be notified of the intent to propose a change the bylaws 60 days prior to the National Convention.
4. Christa Garcia added info to the Schools Report and will be attached to the minutes.

Motion to adjourn was made by Beverly Pochatko, seconded by Maria Thompson. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 pm edt (9:23 PM cdt)


Beverly A Pochatko
National Recording Secretary

Teleconference Executive Board Meeting
July 29, 2009

Motions and Actions

1. *Motion to accept the financial report made by Erik Wittmann 2nd by Donna Lippert. Motion carried.*
2. Erik will meet with Chapter South Bend to clarify being a sub-chapter or the dissolution of the chapter.
3. *A motion to cover Bill and Donna's expenses was made by Erik Wittmann and seconded by Chris Decker. Motion carried.*
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