



**DANK National Executive Board
Committees Meeting – 10:00 AM
August 29th, 2009**

Attending: William Fuchs, Erik Wittmann, Donna Lippert, Maria Thompson, Beverly Pochatko, Robert Miske, Edwin Gunther, Hilde Schloesser, Rudy Schloesser, and Chris Decker. Ernst Ott, Alexandra Pradella-Ott, Christa Garcia, Ann Marie Fuhrig, Rein Lippert, Darlene Fuchs, Stephen Fuchs, Dave & Mary Ann Hinz, Amelia Cotter, and Eva Timmerhaus. **Excused:** Margaret Potocki

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM with a full quorum present.

TRAVEL PROGRAM: (Erik Wittmann) It is not moving as well as hoped for. Due to other priorities, it continues to be looked at. The program is featured in the GAJ. We are trying to connect with the members and the chapters to utilize the program, giving them full understanding of how the program works.

OFFICE: (Bill Fuchs) We are in need of a new copier for the office. The machine no longer works and parts are not available. A smaller office business machine copier/FAX machine would work well. The need to secure new computers for the office was also discussed. Our database program is maxed out and we need to have a new one written. This will cost about \$5 - \$6,000 plus an additional \$1-2,000 for new computers. It was suggested that we make an appeal at the Convention to the Chapters for help in securing the new computer updates. **Erik Wittmann made a motion to proceed with the purchase of a copy machine for \$400 and no more than \$700 out of our general funds. Seconded by Chris Decker. Motion carried.**

WEB-SITE: Stephen Fuchs reminded us to use the www.DANK.org/Admin page for the minutes of past meetings, Bylaws, SOG, etc.

NEWSPAPER: (Darlene Fuchs) Reminder to think about placing ads for Christmas at a cost of \$20 or \$35. We are now doing 8 pages in color and were able to save \$1,121 per issue on charges made by the publisher.

VISA CREDIT CARD: (Darlene Fuchs) The new apps received at the Milwaukee Festival have not been processed yet. We are hoping to realize a minimum of 45 credit acceptances from those submitted.

MARKETING: (Darlene Fuchs) Tools available for marketing both the credit card and DANK membership include: a 3' x 8' banner, the "50 years of German Pride" banner, a "Free T-Shirt" Poster and credit card poster; a training / Visa info binder for the card applications; T-shirts and new membership brochures. Copies of the GAJ are also available. The new 'blue' brochures cost \$200 for 5,000 and there is space on the back of the brochure for local Chapter information. We were able to sign up 32 new members for DANK at the Milwaukee Fest! Erie & Pittsburgh are the next festivals where the materials will be used. Amelia will 'log' out supplies requested by the Chapters. The plan is to be a part of the Milwaukee German Fest again next year. Recommend that an inexpensive pin be available for members who get it free when they show their membership card at the DANK promotion booth. Look into getting booths at other festivals such as Cincinnati, Kutztown, Reading, etc. – Encourage Holiday ads in the GAJ – get more from other GA organizations; encourage Chapter Patron ads.

EDUCATION FUND: (Ernst Ott) There has not been any requests for funding from any school. Currently they have \$7-8,000 and part of that funding must go to schools outside of DANK. A meeting is being planned and will include members of the Schools Committee to set up the guidelines for applications for funding in October. (Meetings can be set up on Friday night or Sunday mornings before the Executive Board meetings.)

RAFFLE: (Robert Miske) Chapter received a letter informing them that if they get a block of tickets, they will receive \$1.00 per each ticket sold. (Individual member tickets do not count.) So far, the tickets are slow

moving. Ticket sales so far have netted \$7,245 (1449 tickets sold). 15,000 tickets printed. Rein Lippert has sold in excess of 109 tickets (\$595) so far. Ray Schmidt of Pittsburg is also a top seller.

Members of the Executive Board will be assigned Chapters, not in their region, to call and talk to them about various issues they may have. They are being encouraged to talk about the Raffle and how the chapters can make money and also about the upcoming convention and election.

NEW COMMITTEE: Ann Marie Fuhrig proposed that a committee be formed to “*Promote our German Heritage*”. We need to know how to answer questions regarding Hitler, etc. It was strongly recommended that we, as citizens, should push for German programming on our televisions. 50,700,000 claim German heritage. *President Fuchs appointed Anne Marie Fuhrig to chair this committee.*

MEMBERSHIP: (Erik Wittmann) Report submitted. Success has been coming albeit slow; working to establish chapters in Charlevoix, and Syracuse. They are asking for more hands on assistance. Eric Soloman just gave up on establishing the chapter in Carolina. Currently, Erik is working with six inactive chapters. The good news is that the Mason-Dixon Sub-chapter of Pittsburgh may be going independent next year. They started with two members and currently are at 45 members. Chris Decker made a recommendation that we set rules/guidelines/goals for sub-chapters. We need handouts – guidelines for sub-chapters. The intent is to get locals together informally, lastly to provide technical and financial support.

EDUCATION: Class registrations are lower for the official language classes. Economics is a big factor. There is a curriculum core advisor for the language classes. A teacher in-service workshop for all teachers for the younger schools is planned. There are five official DANK Schools. Our directors work with local school entities and provide assistance when asked. Adult language classes – provide technical assistance, resources material and monitor student achievement.

- There has been a discrepancy in finances. German funds only directed to specific competency levels (i.e. perform or no subsidy) for the Deutsche Sprache Diplom.
- Issues: The guidelines are now strictly enforced. 1) Minimum of 10 students in class and they must pass the test on all levels. 2) One school did not pass the guidelines and was dropped for funding by Germany. 3) Schools must provide qualified teachers. 4) Require 30 classes.
- Some schools doing “Oma in der Küche” classes do not fall as a qualifying program. Qualified schools include Northern Suburbs, DANK Chicago, rest are second tier. DANK Sprache Schule Arlington and Columbus are coming up.
- We need to meet with the Chapters to discuss where they stand, either on the level to receive German funding or be self supporting.
- All DANK schools belong to the GLSC in the 2nd tier of education. It is important for the chapters to realize that they need to pay the proper government fees (FICA, etc.).
 1. Strict standards are set by the German government regarding funding.
 2. Language programs for children of all ages
 3. Various levels of adult language classes.
- If the schools fail to meet the standards set by the DANK Education Board, an ultimatum can be issued to remove DANK from the school name.
- Any issues regarding schools in the Chapters/Regions should be clarified with the school committee. Check and keep a document concerns with problem schools.

Committee Meeting Session adjourned at 12:30 PM


Beverly Pochatko
National Recording Secretary