



DANK National Executive Board Teleconference Meeting – September 9, 2010

The Mtg. was called to order by NP Fuchs at 8:00 pm EDST and roll call was taken.

Participating: William Fuchs, Erik Wittmann, Donna Lippert, Maria Thompson, Beverly Pochatko, Edwin Gunther, Bob Miske, Dave Hinz, Rein Lippert, Chris Decker, Margaret Potocki, Christa Garcia, Amelia Cotter, Darlene Fuchs, and Margret Schrant. **Excused:** Ernst Ott and Alexandra Ott.

Regional Reports are attached. None received from Regions 1 & 3.

C. Minutes of the July meeting were approved on August 12, 2010.

D. Financial & Budget Report: (Maria Thompson) – Total income for the year to date is \$86,938.42. We budgeted \$96,320 for the year – which is just about on track. Expenses so far are \$87,154.72 and we budgeted \$120,747 for the year. Currently we are at -\$216.30 or over budget for this time period. We used \$20K from our investments and will need another \$20K to finish the year unless our income increases and we find more ways to decrease our expenses.

E. Investment Report: (Margret Schrant) As of Sept 8, we have \$30,947.39 and \$4K in cash. Investments were sold and a profit taken. Regarding starting endowment, the proceeds would go specifically to a special project. Right now we have 3 – 501c3 accounts. Assuming they merge, it would leave (2) 501c3's and one could be changed to an endowment fund. Margret will check further into this with experts and have an answer for us by November regarding the possibility of using one for the proposed endowment.

A motion to accept the financial and investment reports was made by Erik Wittmann, 2nd by Chris Decker. Motion carried.

F. No new items to be added to the Agenda

G. Old Business:

a. Membership (Erik Wittmann) Our membership numbers are down from 3461 to 3258, however we have had some success with Philadelphia getting new members. Amelia sent them 100 applications noting Philadelphia as the Chapter of choice. They will be meeting after their Oktoberfest activities. Syracuse – not as optimistic about rejuvenating them. We need to find a way to better help the weaker chapters – had to delay visits. Chapters need to make an effort with a membership drive and the “Just Add One” campaign. Hopefully we will get new chapters out of the festivals we are participating at. Erik is looking at Akron and Mansfield, Ohio as possible sub-chapters. Overall, we need to make better attempts at having PR booths at local festivals to promote DANK and the chapters need to help us with this. It was surprising that Chapter Cleveland had no presence at the large Oktoberfest held there recently.

b. Office Update: (Amelia Cotter) Amelia reported that everything is going smoothly and we have two interns now working with us. Beth will place calls to ‘unpaid’ members for the chapters on request, and Sara is working with the Journal. They are working on creating templates for chapters to use for public relations purposes. She also reported that applications are slow at about 1 per week, which is expected at this time of the year. Also we are now going to start giving out the GAJ at local colleges to see if we can get more student members. Amelia asked that if Chapters have any projects they can help with to contact her and she will do what she can to help out.

c. DANK Haus: We have been asked by DANK Chapter Chicago North to approve the transfer of their line of credit to the MB Bank. They want to close out the accounts at Ravenswood Bank and move to the MB Bank where they will get better rates on their loan. The bank and DANK Chapter Chicago North need the approval of the DANK National Executive Board of Directors before they can consider creating the account for DANK Chapter Chicago North. After much discussion, and as **per article XI of the national by-laws, DANK Chapter Chicago-North requests that the DANK National Board give approval for the Chapter to apply for a \$ 300,000 line of credit with MB Bank in order to pay off the current loan balance of \$136,211 held by Northbrook Bank & Trust Company, previously the Ravenswood**

Bank. The DANK Haus property will be used for collateral in this lending agreement. Erik Wittmann made the motion for the National Board to approve as requested above and was seconded by Chris Decker. The motion carried by roll call vote of 9 yeas and one abstention (Edwin Gunther).

Discussions then centered on the desire for chapter membership approval of any sale or transaction (that would change ownership) in the future as a condition/stipulation to the national board's giving approval. The intent is to discuss and reach a consensus on this in our committee meetings prior to the next board meeting in November.

Regarding the Title search undertaken, the cost to National was \$10,000+ for the Title Search and Title Insurance Policy. Of this amount, Chapter Chicago North reimbursed National \$2,200 and then additional \$1,050 for the Title Policy toward the legal expenses or \$3,250 total. It was hoped that they would give additional financial support as this clarifies the ownership of the DANK Haus now and into the future. The Stipulations/Exceptions in the Title Policy were discussed. If a sale of the property should occur in the future, it was duly noted that the DANK Haus cannot be sold without the specific approval of DANK National Executive Board and the approval of the Board of the Chicago North Chapter.

d. Membership Pins: (Amelia Cotter) The design of the Life Member Pin looks good but just needs fine tuning; should have the final design ready for approval by the November meeting.

e. GAJAC & German American Day Proclamation: We hope to have the proclamation in hand a week and a half prior to German American Day on October 6th. The wording has been approved and sent to Pres. Obama for signing.

f. Milwaukee German Fest: The presence of DANK was successful in recruitment. Credit card applications totaled 73; over \$700 in merchandise was sold and 27 new members were signed up.

g. Other DANK PR booths – previously discussed

h. Office Credit Card: Maria Thompson announced that a credit card for the national office was filed with Chase Bank and waiting for approval.

i. Web Site: Nothing new to report. Chris Decker asked that Mason-Dixon Sub-Chapter be changed to Chapter 54 Uniontown.

j. GAJ Newspaper: in final layout and will be in the mail by Sept 22nd.

k. St. Nikolaus Project: (Darlene Fuchs) The goal set for DANK was 50,000 lbs of food by December 6th with over 38,000 lbs collected to date. Milwaukee, the Rheinischer Verein -Kinder Fasching, Erie DANK Chapter, the Erie Männerchor Club, Erie German Heritage Festival, American Licorice and the Pittsburgh District of the NASB have already started. Before this was even in the paper, we have made great strides. Press releases are available. What is nice is that this is a nationwide effort by German American business, clubs and organizations helping our communities. Darlene said that generally speaking each donation of \$1.00 will purchase 10 lbs of food from their regional food banks.

l. Chapter Audit Committee: Report in November

m. Associate Chapter: Brochures are being printed and will be available. The brochure layout was approved at the May meeting.

n. Raffle Update: (Bob Miske) The response has been slow to date and not what we expected. We could not promote sale of the tickets at Milwaukee's German Fest since it competes with their raffle. Chapters need to be reminded that they get 20% of the ticket sales by their chapter. (Individual member tickets do not count here.) There was no article in the GAJ.

The 2010 Raffle License (License # 127655) signed by Ernst Ott and Dagmar Freiberger is under DANK Chicago North. This was a mix-up by the city that the officials should not have allowed this without a new license application which would have resulted in a new number. Since North had already paid the \$100 for this year, we were told by the

Department Clerk to apply for the new license next year. A new application for the raffle license in DANK National's name only and signed by NP William Fuchs and R. Secretary Beverly Pochatko will be presented for next year's license. There was a general consensus that National reimburse Chicago North Chapter for the \$100 cost. Maria Thompson has asked Nikki Dombrowski for a copy of the license for our records.

o. DANK Education Fund: Proposals were sent to Christa Garcia and to the Fox Valley GATES. They have reached an informal agreement to merge. A formal request was being sent to each and we are waiting for approval from their respective Boards. If approved, they will have to write new bylaws etc.

p. Schools: NP Fuchs sent letters to schools that the DANK Education Committee was dissolved at the May national board meeting and that there will be meetings held in the future. As the Education Fund is clarified then the board will look at the education committee as an advisory and national as well as to the Education Fund itself. Christa said that she was designated again as the official tester for all DANK schools. On Dec 5th, we will have a presentation contest for students from Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota and MS at the DANK Haus – a pre-run for the German pre-Diploma test. We appreciate Christa's continued support to our schools.

H. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Von Steuben Parade Chicago – Donna and Rein Lippert, Darlene and Bill Fuchs and the Chicago Chapters will participate in the Parade and there will be a convertible with the German Youth Ambassadors.

Von Steuben Parade in New York City: Darlene and Bill Fuchs, Kathy & Hans Wolfe, and Erik Wittmann on Sept 25th.

b. Von Steuben Statue in Lafayette Park in DC will be 100 years old on December 4th. Bill & Darlene will be representing DANK at the commemoration ceremony

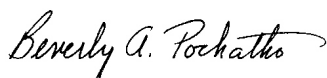
c. 2011 National Convention (Erik Wittmann) Date has been set for November 4, 5, & 6th, 2011. He is working on keeping the cost of the rooms under \$100 – with free meeting rooms etc. He is looking at the Hyatt Hotel at the Pittsburgh airport. It is 13 miles from town, but we are looking at shuttles etc for local activities. While located in Pittsburgh, it is really a regional event as Chapters Pittsburgh, Uniontown and Erie are working on it and we hope to get Cleveland and Columbus on Board.

d. Database: (See attachment) Jerry Schliephake found a company that does a database on line with a secure server at a cost of \$3734 to transfer over – which is less than any others looked at before. More information is needed and we also need to find funding for it. Our current database is antiquated as is the equipment needed to use it. Hopefully we will have more information by the November meeting.

e. Regional Elections by Teleconference: (Edwin Gunther) Due to a lack of response by the chapters in Region 1, Edwin thought that perhaps, with the permission of the national board, that a teleconference could be held for their election of Region 1 officers. It was discussed and while some meeting are okay by teleconferencing, elections really need to be held live – in person. Need to find out if the members are unwilling or just unavailable to attend. It was the general consensus that teleconferencing was permissible for regular meetings but not recommended for elections.

Being no further business, Donna Lippert made the motion to adjourn, 2nd by Chris Decker. The meeting adjourned at 10:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Beverly A. Pochatko
National Recording Secretary



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MOTIONS AND ACTIONS

- **Minutes** of the July meeting were approved on August 12, 2010.
- *NP Fuchs asked that the budget be set up showing our anticipated income and spending on a monthly or quarterly basis. (The current budget report shows the budget comparison as a year to date, but the numbers cannot be accurately analyzed until the end of the year, making it a retro budget analysis instead of a current budget analysis.)*
- **A motion to accept the financial and investment reports was made by Erik Wittmann, 2nd by Chris Decker. Motion carried.**
- After much discussion, and as per article XI of the national by-laws, DANK Chapter Chicago-North requests that the DANK National Board give approval for the Chapter to apply for a \$ 300,000 line of credit with MB Bank in order to pay off the current loan balance of \$136,211 held by Northbrook Bank & Trust Company, previously the Ravenswood Bank. The DANK Haus property will be used for collateral in this lending agreement. Erik Wittmann made the motion for the National Board to approve as requested above and was seconded by Chris Decker. The motion carried by roll call vote of 9 yeas and one abstention (Edwin Gunther).
- *Discussions at the teleconference were centered on the desire for chapter membership approval of any sale or transaction (that would change ownership) in the future as a condition/stipulation to the national board's giving approval. The intent is to discuss and reach a consensus on this in our committee meetings prior to the next board meeting in November.*
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