



German American National Congress National Executive Board

**COMMITTEES MEETING – 9:00 AM
Saturday, September 10, 2011**

Meeting called to order at 9:00 A.M.

Roll Call: Wm. Fuchs, Erik Wittmann, Donna Lippert, Robert Miske, Beverly Pochatko, (R1) Edwin Gunther, Fred Leinweber, (R2) Rein Lippert, Dave Hinz, (R3) Margaret Potocki, Ed Heinlein; Darlene Fuchs, Eva Timmerhaus. Guests: Al Schafer, Christel Miske, Mary Ann Hinz, Dagmar Freiburger.

Following welcome remarks by NP Fuchs, a minute of silence was held in honor of the victims of 9/11/2001. We have received a invitation to attend a function of the German Heritage Society of St. Louis on September 24th. There was no one from the Board who was able to represent us there and it was suggested that we ask former NP Jerry Michaud or someone in Chapter Springfield to represent us due to their close proximity to the event.

Regional Reports were submitted in writing and are attached to this report. There were no further comments.

Newspaper: - Darlene Fuchs reported that the next edition of the GAJ will be out by Sept 20-21. She noted that Eve Timmerhaus and Donna Lippert are really getting us new ads and we netted \$1944 for three ads. With the purge of non-member addresses, we were down 326 mailings however she has received 50 new mailing addresses this month. Our advertising income from Jan-Sept is \$6,825.56; contributions \$2600; income from the membership dues amounts to \$15,560 per mailing address; our printing cost is \$10,573 so the results are positive by over \$14K. Money donated by the membership to the Newspaper Fund is used specifically for the newspaper. Monies donated to the newspaper are shown as being received for the newspaper on the financials but in reality the monies are going to "general funds". The paper is helping offset the yearly deficits of the budget. She passed out the format for the Christmas ads. Darlene was acknowledged by those present for the great job she has done with the style, format, inclusiveness and savings she brought to the paper. A motion was made to present Darlene with a special recognition award at the national convention by Erik Wittmann, 2nd by Edwin Gunther. Motion carried. (Office staff gets 10% commission for every new ad they bring in.)

Raffle Tickets: Bob Miske reported that last year the income was \$9,937. This year to date it is \$6,335. He noted that additional money came in yesterday and today that is not included in the figures. NP Fuchs recognized Rein Lippert for being the top seller of the tickets again this year.

School Advisory Commission – (Ed Heinlein chair, Christa Garcia, Jeff Engel, Ann Marie Fuhrig and Edwin Gunther) Ed met with the officers last evening and had a packet of information prepared and it was given to everyone at the meeting. The program promises to be a good resource for all levels of education. Sadly, it was only Ed and Edwin and the DANK Board with no one else from the Committee who attended Friday night's meeting. Education is an important component of DANK. The officers felt Ed has a good handle on the situation and he will proceed with the hope that he will get more support from the committee members in the future. He will do a presentation at the convention.

Education Fund – Erik Wittmann reported that our legal issues have been resolved and it is a 501(c)3. All certificates are in order at this time. There will be a notice regarding contributing to the Education Fund in the next GAJ and it is on the membership renewal forms. All funds are collected and sent to the Education Fund Treasurer, Bob Bross. None of the funds collected go into the National treasury.

Membership: Erik Wittmann reported there are issues as it pertains to our Membership data and the accuracy of said data. Bill Fuchs is working with several individuals regarding cleaning up the data problem as part of our computer enhancement project. The Database enhancement will occur with the change-over to a new system. Willi Gohs and Dave Fairbrother did not wish to be involved in the process at this point. Eve and Eva Timmerhaus so far are helping Bill in the process to convert.

We are proceeding according to the by-laws in issuing letters to the chapters that unless they become active as required by the by-laws, they will be closed via the procedures in our by-laws. Several letters have been sent out.

Actions have been taken over the last several months to clean up our chapters that appear non- functional. Letters have been sent by the Membership chair to New Castle and Philadelphia. The Regional Presidents for Chapter 1 & 2 are to discuss the issues of their problem chapters and provide a report on recommended actions to be taken. According to the information coming from our Office Manager in her weekly reports- we seem to be getting on the average 6-7 new members a week. Hopefully these numbers will increase as we get into the Oktoberfest Season with our various Chapters holding these events and making membership drives as part of the Oktoberfest activity. It is up to the chapters to find ways to increase their membership. Mentoring of younger members is important.

Fairbanks Alaska is doing a membership drive and it is hoping to start a Chapter soon.

Milwaukee Fest: Bob Miske reported that approximately 70,000 people attend the festival and DANK National was once again in a good exposure area. The income from sales was \$658.55 (\$580.50 in 2010); new members \$240 (\$455 in 2010). Our thanks to Chapter Milwaukee for covering the \$1000 vendor fee and \$109 Liability Insurance to allow DANK National to participate in the Fest. Due to excessive heat and the poor economy, it appears that the numbers were down all over. Having a DANK National booth at the various festivals brings good attention to our organization, however the cost to participate in the larger festivals are prohibitive. Bill Fuchs commended all the volunteers for their help at the DANK National Booths - at various festivals and especially at the four day Milwaukee Fest and an appreciative thank you to Bob Miske for coordinating the whole Milwaukee Fest operation.

Convention Report: Erik Wittmann. Motto for the convention is "Together we can do it!" Everything is in place and still waiting for Chapter responses. So far, 22 rooms have been reserved by the convention attendees. Keeping in mind that everyone is watching their money these days, we have done our best to keep costs for all activities down. Program ads must be in by Sept 15th. The Pittsburgh Chapter is going to recognize George Steiner their Vice President who passed away and was in part responsible for Pittsburgh's hosting this convention. George was the epitome of a gentleman who truly believed in the mission of DANK; the cultural components and all that stuff. We have proposed three workshops based on the 'Passport' concept and delegates must attend 2 of the three workshops for the Chapter to be reimbursed \$10 per delegate. The workshops may include Education, History of Germans in America'. Bishop Wehrle is unable to attend as previously expected and will not be able to accept the GA of the year award. On a local basis the invitation was extended to Jack Wagner, PA Auditor General – who is a DANK member and a supporter of our German heritage. A motion to name Jack Wagner as the DANK German American of the Year recipient was made by Beverly Pochatko, 2nd by Fred Leinweber. Motion carried. The award to be given to him and future GA recipients will be 'the flame'

The Committee's meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Beverly A. Pochatko
Recording Secretary