



DANK NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD
Executive Meeting – 1:05 pm
Saturday, October 10, 2009

Attending: William Fuchs, Donna Lippert, Maria Thompson, and Beverly Pochatko. Edwin Gunther, Robert Miske, Jerry Schliephake, Dagmar Freiberger, Stephen Fuchs, Darlene Fuchs, Anita Walthier, Dagmar Freiberger, Terry Viebach, Amelia Cotter, Christel Miske, Mrs. Gunther, **Excused:** Erik Wittmann, Chris Decker, Margaret Potocki. **Absent:** Hilde Schloesser, Dave Hinz, Merl Arp.

Bill Fuchs: We set lofty goals at the 2007 and our hope was to accomplish 50% of them by 2009 sometimes going two steps forward and 3 steps back. For various reasons there has been serious neglect in how the organization is run – procedures weren't passed down and we are still in the process of writing things down. It was no one's fault and we are trying to get away from the old ways and regroup as an organized society. It is hard – for example, insurance – we struggling in getting the Chapters to do this. We must have a copy of each Chapter's declaration page for legal reasons, yet some chapters will respond with a curt "mind your own business!" Some times it gets discouraging for the Board not to be supported by the Chapters and the membership. Hopefully, with the convention workshops everyone will gain knowledge and understanding of the new revisions we have made and renew their sense of responsibility. i.e. Have the passion in the torch and ignite and 'feed' the flame of the torch. The elected board will be contacting the chapters to talk to them personally about where we are and what do they want to see in us.

Minutes were previously approved on October 1st, 2009.

Financial Report: (See attachment) Motion to accept the financial report by Bob Miske, 2nd by Donna Lippert, Motion carried. \$10,000 was transferred from the investment fund. We will be fine with the dues income that will come before the first of the year.

Dues Update: The office staff is preparing the dues renewal forms and they will be ready to send out within days after the National Convention which will add to our financial standing.

No additions were placed on the Agenda.

Chapters Report:

- Columbus Language School has applied for a 501(c)3 status. If they were to operate the school under the 501(c)3 then they would not be operating the school as part of the chapter but as a separate entity. Chapter President told Bill that she sees 'only a possibility' of becoming a Chapter in all sense of the word. (When Bev & Erik met with them to establish the Chapter, the conversation was always on the school – nothing with being a Chapter.) It is our understanding they will not be attending the national convention.
- Mason-Dixon Sub-Chapter. Would like to become a Chapter prior to the Convention. We need to issue a founding letter. They would not have voting rights as the delegates are determined by the membership based on the previous December 31st.
MOTION: If the Mason-Dixon sub-chapter attains chapter status prior to the national convention, they will be seated as non-voting delegates. Motion by Bob Miske, 2nd by Beverly Pochatko. Motion carried with 5 yea votes.
- DANK HAUS Update: They have a letter of intent with no deadline attached from the HofBrauHaus, Bavaria. They are still waiting on action by the city (their deadlines keep changing) regarding the parking lots etc.

Associated Members / German American Day

- St. Benedicts Day celebration – 1 ½ to 2 hour service. All associations were encouraged to bring in their flags to be represented. – encourage the 5 Chicago area chapters to be represented. It would give us more credibility. They have an ‘fest’ following the celebrations with beer, brats and music.
- GAJAC – (consisting of Steuben Society of America, German American Heritage Foundation of the USA and DANK) spent the most money for the celebration on German American Day. UGAC has changed its name to the German American Heritage Society of the USA.
- The Heurig Haus has not yet opened in Washington..
- Information on how to organize a German American Day celebration can be found on our web-site.
- Friendship Garden in Washington – There are three fountains contained within it. It is located between the Washington Monument and the White House. Most of the year it is over grown with weeds. If we (GAJAC) work together as a team it could be cleaned up and maintained. We should consider starting a new Chapter (from their German club) at Hood College in Fredrick, MD. with the sole purpose of becoming the sole guardians of the Friendship Gardens and perhaps bring in other German organizations.

Public Relations: Brochures and new membership applications are done and now available. It is a job that was very well done.

50 Year Membership Pins: Scott Walter designed a 50 year membership pin. Those present gave a general consensus that the pin design was good. They also felt that the pin should read “50 Jahre Mitglied” on the scroll. It was felt that this would generate interest in the pin and also pay tribute to the older German-born members. We are ordering 100 of the pins.

CONVENTION & ANNIVERSARY

- **Thursday** is early registration with a welcome at the hotel in the evening;
- **Friday**, the workshops will begin at 9 am. There will be ‘ice-breakers’ etc. Members will learn their roles as Board members and the obligations that come with being a board member on any level. – Audrey from Euro-Lloyd Travel will be there also. The evening features the Awards Dinner.
- **Saturday** is the business meeting and election of officers followed in the evening with the Convention Banquet.
- **Sunday** is the first meeting of the newly elected board and the Town Hall meeting.

So far only 46 rooms have been reserved at the hotel. The rate is available only until October 20th.

National Board involvement: The lunch, dinner and banquet costs plus hotel and travel is generally paid for the five elected board members. Discussion centered on whether or not the presence of the Regional Board members is necessary for the meeting. The Regional Reps are generally present as a chapter delegate. The Nominating Committee is comprised of the 3 Regional Presidents who verify the nominations and count the ballots at the election. Since the reps are there as delegates, then national should not have to bear their expenses for this meeting.

Motion: The expenses of the five elected board members and the office staff will be borne by the National organization. Made by Robert Miske, 2nd by Beverly Pochatko. Motion carried.

Youth Ambassador: Terry Viebach reported that there are three candidates. She requested that National provide the winner's sash. **A motion was made by Donna Lippert that the National Board bear the expense of the Youth Ambassador sash. 2nd by Edwin Gunther. Motion carried.**

National Awards: Bev Pochatko reported that she had received few nominations for the awards available. The deadline for receiving the award nominations is October 21st.

Guest Speaker: No one has accepted to date.

Dinners for the invited dignitaries are usually covered by the hosting chapter (i.e. Alderman, Mayor, German Ambassador, etc)

Being no further business the motion to adjourn was made by

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM



Beverly Pochatko
National Recording Secretary

MOTIONS & ACTIONS
approved at the
DANK NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

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- **Financial Report:** (See attachment) Motion to accept the financial report by Bob Miske, 2nd by Donna Lippert, Motion carried.
- Chapter Development: ***MOTION: If the Mason-Dixon sub-chapter attains chapter status prior to the national convention, they will be seated as non-voting delegates. Motion by Bob Miske, 2nd by Beverly Pochatko. Motion carried with 5 yea votes.***
- **Motion: The expenses of the five elected board members and the office staff will be borne by the National organization. Made by Robert Miske, 2nd by Beverly Pochatko. Motion carried.**
- **A motion was made by Donna Lippert that the National Board bear the expense of the Youth Ambassador sash. 2nd by Edwin Gunther. Motion carried.**