

**DANK National Executive Board
Committee Meeting
Saturday, October 11, 2008**

Meeting was delayed until 10:30 due to the lack of a quorum.

Newspaper Update: Darlene is unable to be here but here is an update. Newspaper has so many contributions from different sources that we have to 'pick and choose' according. We are trying to get two more ads from local restaurants and then possibly increasing the newspaper by four pages to 20 pages. Bill encouraged everyone to try to get ads for the paper. Need to check with the post office to see what we need to do. Cut off date for Christmas ads is November 1st. \$15/small - \$25 for larger ad.

Who notifies whom on the death of a member? Usually a member of the Chapter or the Regional President sends an e-mail to our National Board Secretary and a Sympathy card is then mailed to the family. The Obituary is sent to the Secretary to be included in the next GAJ.

ROLL CALL:

Present: William Fuchs, Donna Lippert, Maria Thompson, Beverly Pochatko, Harald Pitz, Robert Miske, Rein Lippert. **Excused:** Erik Wittmann, Rudy Schloesser, Chris Decker, and Margaret Potocki. **Guests:** Nicholle Dombrowski, Terry Viebach, Hans Wolf, Christel Miske, Ernst Ott, Alexandra Ott, Christa Garcia, Eva Timmerhaus.

Meeting began at 10:30 am with a full quorum.

Everyone was reminded that our meetings will start promptly at 10am and attendees should plan accordingly.

NP Fuchs introduced Maria Thompson as our National Treasurer and Nicki Dombrowski who is the Executive Director of the DANK Haus. They received a warm welcome. Nicki has agreed to chair the Marketing Committee since Hans and Ron are so busy in their positions.

Newspaper: (Darlene Fuchs) Reminder for the Chapters to get their Christmas Greetings in soon. You can use one of the suggested ads (\$15 or \$25) or your own design. The Editor is looking to increase the size of the paper based on the amount of information submitted by the Chapters and our membership. They are checking with the Post Office to see what regulations will effect the change.

Travel Program: (Erik Wittmann) In his report, (attached) Erik noted that neither of the two groups met the deadline for the last newspaper's ads nor did we receive an article from them. There was discussion about Burt Lachner's travel group, Mayflower Tours. He is planning to work with us. Another great tours contact is Peter Soppa (originally from Hamburg), who is also a good speaker for programs. He represents 'Old Town Hamburg'.

Marketing: (Chris Decker, Nicki Dombrowski, Hans Wolf). Good to keep adding ideas. Donna Lippert brought a tee-shirt designed for Benton Harbor/St. Joseph. The cost would be \$25/\$27 (XXL) (embroidered) each. The logo was outlined with gold, and while it was attractive, some felt that it violated our rules on the logo design by changing the color. Donna

said they felt it did "not violate" any DANK rules as it was never mentioned that they had to stick with the blue color logo when given approval to use the logo. Ernst Ott clarified that DANK has a copyright on the logo (not the particular color). It was recommended that we keep the logo in blue and add the crossed flags to add contrast. It was suggested that the Committee get samples from various companies. (Café Press) We need to come up with a 'catchy logo'. Everything should be shared with the committee to set up our own catalog that can be put on line. Need to put a budget plan for Marketing in place. We would like to get more members from the Chicago area on the Committee. Donna also shared a copy of the brochure designed to promote Chapter #13 Benton Harbor/St. Joseph."

We are still looking for information on our own *German American credit card*. Darlene contacted several companies and if members join, you get something in return. We are looking at an 'affinity' program – you get paid to sign up members and 3% of the sales charged. More research will be done on this matter.

The current *DANK color brochure* is really costly to be redone in the same format (1,000 copies cost \$1,000). The size is irregular thus more expensive. Darlene is checking into a condensed version (tri-fold) which would cost \$650 for 5,000 copies including shipping via companies that can be picked out via the internet. This would be done in a specialized 4-color pdf. format. Darlene will present the new design at the next meeting. We are using "Dream Weaver" to create our new web-site. We hope to add ads to our web-site. If you haven't already, members are asked to check out our web-site. Hope to have ready by the Dec. teleconference or no later than the first meeting of the year.

Technology Report: Dave Fairbrother is working on purging 'out-of-date' records, i.e. unpaid members. There have been problems with the dues being received from Chapter Springfield, and with the Chicago Postal Service. The PO had a serious delay in notifying us of address changes from May 2007 to Sept 2008! As a result, some members did not receive their dues notices and thus did not renew. Dave has just about completed all the updates. A letter was sent to the delinquent members (approx. 6-7) who through no fault of their own did not get membership renewals that we will credit them with their dues for 2008 and 2009 when they send in their checks. Membership database purge had not been done, but will be done soon.

If you join during Oct-Dec, you will be credited for the next year. The schools get new members in Aug-Sept and their checks were being held until October. This is not good practice and we hope to get approved, crediting them, starting in September with the next year.

The *membership packet* contains a letter from the president, membership card, a copy of the current Bylaws, a recent GAJ and their membership pin. We would like to see a personal card from the President and the Membership Chair welcoming the new members in it.

NP Fuchs discussed his disappointment in the lack of chapters filling our DANK Chapter Survey. He asked that we encourage our Chapters to go to www.DANK.org/admin and fill it out and return it ASAP.

Chapter Surveys received from Chic West, Lake County, Phoenix, Region 1, Quad Cities, Fox Valley, Northern Suburbs and Chicago. Discussion centered on making the Chapters responsible for completing their surveys. Basically no survey....no Chapter reimbursement will be sent. No

conclusion was reached on this method however. The survey doesn't need to be done by the president but perhaps by a member of their Chapter who is knowledgeable. They would be the Chapter's liaison with National with computer communication. They could print out (but not edit) the Chapter's membership list, etc. Calendars are not being received - we need to do something. If they send them to Bev she will put it in the proper format. Region Presidents need to contact those Chapters who did not respond, get a contact. We will try again in January. Need to work on the calendar info as some are incomplete...no contact, location or cost.

Chapter Status: Erik Wittmann. New Chapters, "Resurrections" etc. See Attachment

Associate Memberships: What benefits can we give them? Need to let them know what we can offer – add their web-site to ours, a listing in our GAJ for starters. The Männerchor in Effingham is a new candidate for Associate Membership. Bill, Merl Arp and Ernst Ott will meet to work on details.

Christa Garcia stated that she was approached in Washington DC and told that no one at the Embassy or elsewhere knew who represents DANK in Washington. NP Fuchs said that all the appropriate persons were notified and *Merl Arp, our Washington liaison* has been in touch with them on a regular basis. Merl has a letter and a formal certificate of his appointment.

Participants were reminded that they are expected to be present for the whole meeting. If not, they should have an alternate remaining until the meeting ends. They should notify the Secretary if their intention is to NOT stay for the entire meeting.

Chapter Rating System – This was a thought by Bill Fuchs to encourage Chapters to win a prize for bringing in members, increasing activities, etc. There would be qualifications to get to 5 stars. Chapters would all be put on the same level and adjusted to account for their membership numbers. Bill will work something out with Erik and the Membership Committee. There will be more to come. Any ideas?

Mailing of dues in November: Everyone was in agreement that this is a good idea. Harald will coordinate to have help November 10-15th and Donna Lippert will also come in to help stuff 4,300 envelopes. Labels, etc. will be ready for them by that time.

School Report: President Fuchs discussed what had occurred with the teacher contract issue during the summer. Christa Garcia presented contracts to the teachers and was met with resistance by the teachers. As a result in August NP Fuchs met with the school directors of the largest schools in the Chicago area to resolve the differences. After some frank talk and discussion President Fuchs suggested increasing the size of the school committee to have a larger group to reach consensus for helping our schools. All present did agree and the committee was enlarged with Christa Garcia, Anne Marie Fuhrig and Alexandra Pradella-Ott acting as co-chairs. The rest of the committee consists of Virginia Apel, Gertrud Golsch, Astrid Herod, and Maria Thompson.

After some research, it was determined that the teachers could not be compelled to sign the contracts. The contract can not include hours to work, what they teach etc. The agreement can state the number of hours to be worked and what the expected outcome should be. Except for in the larger chapters it would be desirable to have the teachers be independent contractors due to

the cost and record keeping involved in making them employees of the chapter. President Fuchs is working with legal counsel, Gregory Frezados of Holland & Knight LLP, to further resolve this issue. The committee's co-chairs feel they should be the ones to set the standards for the schools; however the National Officers feel that DANK National is not in a position to set and enforce the standards. That is up to the chapters since they are the ones running the schools and not the national organization. We can help the schools meet the criteria for the requirements to receive recognition and/or funding from Germany. Chapter Presidents sponsoring schools need to be more involved in their schools. Any contract that may be conceived should be checked by our attorney before anyone signs anything.

The seed money (\$250) for Chapter Columbus will be sent this week. Erik and Bev Pochatko informed the officers that they should write a grant request outlining the needs for their school to the DANK Education Fund c/o Ernst Ott.

An In-Service Program will be held on Oct 19th with the Fachberater-Language Coordinator, Gert Wilhelm, from the Goethe Institute and additional presenters from the German Immersion School in Milwaukee, and a rep. from the Prairie Ridge High School in Crystal Lake, IL. The Central Agency for German Schools Abroad (ZfA) will pick up the tab for the program.

Alexandra offered to teach the school children the 'DANK Lied'. *(It will be sung for the first time publicly at the Milwaukee DANK Choir 25th Anniversary on Nov 19th.)*

Raffle Update: (Harald Pitz) \$780 in Raffle money received this month. Total, currently at \$9,085. Our goal is \$10,000. Children from the German classes will do the drawing.

National Convention - November 6-8th, 2009 (Christine Walthier, Kathy Fandl, Anita Walthier, Frank & Linda Jenko, chaired by Terry Viebach). Friday will be the Town Hall meeting early, followed by a reception casual dance at the DANK Haus. There will be the Miss DANK Pageant (written test and talent program) during the Convention rather than a scheduled speaker. There will be scheduled shuttle service to and from the hotel. The National Board needs to be represented on the Convention Committee – Bob Miske, Donna Lippert and Bev Pochatko will help. NP Fuchs suggested checking into the Holiday Select Convention Center...Often for a guarantee of a specific number of rooms by our organization they can get free meeting rooms etc with no charge for the main halls- takes negotiating. People like to be in one place – hold Friday night events at the DANK Haus then balance at the hotel. Scholarship \$1000 savings bond could be arranged via the DANK Education Fund for the National Miss DANK – a two year reign.

DANK 50th Anniversary: (Donna Lippert) It was determined that the printing of a book based on the 50 years of DANK was not financially feasible. NP Fuchs has asked Susan Barton from Chapter Chicago North to help design a new logo for DANK's 50th Anniversary. He hopes to have something sent to the Board to review by the December teleconference.

Also, there was discussion on special pins to mark the occasion. The pins cost from \$1-\$1.50 and could sell for \$4. Bev Pochatko suggested that we use the crossed flag pin with a banner underneath depicting the years 1959-2009. Also, it was noted that a pin back, while more costly is better than the current 'tac' pin we currently have.

Donna presented a series of embossed seals that we could use on our stationary and envelopes. The seal would be done in Blue/Gold. The decision was to use the one that looked like an award ribbon. **A motion was made by Donna Lippert and seconded by Beverly Pochatko to purchase 10,000 of the 50th Anniversary Seals at a cost of \$277. Motion carried.**

A motion to adjourn the Committee Portion of the DANK Executive Board was made by Robert Miske and seconded by Rein Lippert.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm

Submitted by



Beverly A. Pochatko
National Recording Secretary