



German American National Congress
Committees Meeting
November 6th, 2010 10:00 A.M.

Attending: William Fuchs, Erik Wittmann, Donna Lippert, Maria Thompson, Beverly Pochatko, Edwin Gunther, Robert Miske, Dave Hinz, Rein Lippert, Chris Decker, Margaret Potocki, Christa Garcia, Darlene Fuchs, and Stephen Fuchs.

1. **Communicating with Membership: (NP Fuchs)** Last night members of the Board met with members of various chapters to provide more communication with them and to help solve the frustrations they feel. Erik Wittmann was asked to be the moderator so we could have productive conversations and discussions. There were comments shared on our Friday evening ‘Town Hall’ meeting. It clarified some of the issues that our members have, and recognized that some of us on the Board don’t have the “history” as some of the members do – knowing persons instrumental in the early days of DANK. Meetings like this will enable the Board to get a better ‘hands-on’ knowledge which will enable us to better represent the organization. Erik Wittmann suggested that doing this at least twice a year would be positive for the understanding and growth of the organization. ***The general consensus was that we hold a meeting to meet with the membership on Friday evening prior to the live meeting in Chicago, with advance notice.*** It was noted that it is the member’s duty to speak-up on issues – whether in your chapter, regional meetings or at the national board level. According to Robert’s Rules your silence means that you agree with what the board is doing and therefore if you don’t agree with something, you have an obligation to speak up.
 - *Amelia sends out a weekly update about office happenings. Useful information for the chapters can be found on our web-site. Everyone was reminded that copies of the national board meetings are available on our web-site as soon as they are approved. (Admin.DANK.org) Chris Decker inquired about having supplemental Region teleconference Meetings since travel in Region 3 is difficult. It was clarified that this is acceptable with the exception of holding meetings. A motion to permit teleconferences for a Region Meeting in lieu of an actual physical meeting, with the exception of an election of officers, is acceptable was made by Edwin Gunther – 2nd Erik Wittmann. All Teleconferences will be set-up by Amelia. Motion carried. . It was mentioned that all voting done during the teleconference must be by roll call vote.*

Committee Reports:

2. **Database Issues:** Jerry S. has looked for options. He has a quote for \$3,734 for a whole new database system. After discussion, it was decided that the National Board should ask Chapters to contribute toward the cost. Willi Gohs will work with Jerry and the company. It was suggested that NP Fuchs put an appeal in the Journal regarding getting funds to replace the outdated system. A separate letter will be sent to the Chapters requesting assistance. ***Motion: To put in a notice to our membership and our chapters a request that we are upgrading the complete database computer system with all necessary hard and software up to a cost of \$10,000 - if members or Chapters would like to support it with donations. Motion made by Erik Wittmann, 2nd by Donna Lippert. A unanimous decision – motion carried.***
3. **Youth Ambassador**– We have had no response from the Committee regarding our request for a more formal program. It was the opinion of the Board that the program needs to be expanded to encompass the national organization and not just Region 1. We need to include all school programs (AATG, local programs) to involve a broader community. A suggestion was made that it would be beneficial to have a Youth Ambassador in each Region. The committee needs to expand and perhaps Christine, Stephen Fuchs and Christa Garcia could join this committee. It was noted that the winner(s) did not receive the prize money at the last convention. NP Fuchs will contact the YA Committee and see what direction they want to go.
4. **Leaving an Inheritance to DANK** – (Margret Schrant) no report. There will be an article in the next Journal regarding donations being sent to “DANK” and why a person/chapter should be specific in their bequest so the funds are sent to the proper area.
5. **Public Relations** (Margita Mandel & Anita Walthier) Everyone agreed that we need to ‘target’ younger people.

6. **DANK Journal** (Darlene Fuchs) Over 4000 people now get the newsletter. Reminder that the submissions for the next Journal is December 25th!

7. **Website Enhancements** (Stephen Fuchs) Stephen indicated he has been getting good-feedback. He urged everyone to check the new web-site and asked that everyone remember to update on Chapter contacts. There is a new section for Press Releases that should be checked out.

8. **Awards Committee** (Bev Pochatko) There have been no requests for recognitions of members at this time. She said she will be sending Stephen the info on AWARDS RECOGNITION to be placed on the web-site.

9. **Membership** (Erik Wittmann) Erik – expanding the committee – Christa

- a. Currently we have 3, 391 paid memberships and we are holding steady; however we need to go on.
- b. Associate Memberships – no report, however copies of the new Associate Membership Brochure and Applications were passed out.
- c. Sub-Chapters – still exploring issues.
Why form a Sub-Chapter: No one wants to serve as a Board member. They would rather dissolve the chapters. We need to invigorate our Chapters...they still provide the personal touch.
- d) Chapters are not making their events a vehicle to bring in new members. This needs to be encouraged.
- e) Currently we have 3 inactive chapters that have probably reached this status due to the age of their members. We are hoping to hook-up Chapter New Castle as a sub-chapter, but with who is the question. We need chapters who would be willing to be a 'surrogate parent'.
- f) Membership pins: The longevity pins are sold at cost (\$2.50 + S & H). Due to an error in the office, members were billed \$6.50 / pin.
Life Member Pins – still do not have a design. A certificate is issued and the Life member will get the pin and a Life Membership card.
- g) Communication: (Edwin Gunther) Edwin felt that there is a need for better communication between the organization and the chapters. Asked about an update type of article in the Journal.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM for Lunch on a motion by Erik Wittmann and 2nd by Rein Lippert.

Submitted by



Beverly A. Pochatko
National Recording Secretary



ACTIONS AND MOTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEES MEETING

November 6, 2010

- There was a general consensus was that we hold a meeting to meet with the membership on Friday evening prior to the live meetings in Chicago, with advance notice.
- ***A motion to permit teleconferences for a Region Meeting in lieu of an actual physical meeting, with the exception of an election of officers, is acceptable made by Edwin Gunther – 2nd Erik Wittmann. All Teleconferences will be set-up by Amelia. Motion carried.*** It was mentioned that all voting done during the teleconference must be by roll call vote.
- ***Motion: To put in a notice to our membership and our chapters a request that we are upgrading the complete database computer system with all necessary hard and software up to a cost of \$10,000 - if members or Chapters would like to support it with donations. Motion made by Erik Wittmann, 2nd by Donna Lippert. A unanimous decision – motion carried.***