



German American National Congress
of Milwaukee, Inc.
Deutsch Amerikanischer National Kongress

April 6, 2019

Dear Fellow DANK Chapters,

DANK Chapter Milwaukee is pleased to host the 2019 DANK National Convention. On behalf of the DANK Milwaukee Board and membership, I invite you to the convention which will begin on Friday, October 11 and run through Sunday, October 13, 2019.

The theme for the 2019 National Convention is “Mentoring die nächste Generation” / “Mentoring the Next Generation. I would like us to focus and share ideas that will keep alive our interest in our German culture for generations to come. We need to look at the value of being a DANK member by establishing a warm and welcoming approach to our future members who will someday mentor the next generation.

The three-day convention will be held at the Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport located at 5311 South Howell Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53207. The Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport is offering, only to DANK national convention attendees, a special package for Friday and/or Saturday that includes either a double queen or single king *and* a hot deluxe continental breakfast for \$119 per night plus taxes. To obtain this special package, do not book on line, rather make your reservations by calling the hotel at 414-481-2400 and request the special rate for the “DANK Convention.” **This package rate and a limited block of rooms are available until September 11, 2019.** The hotel has newly decorated guest rooms and the following amenities.

- Airport shuttle (5 minutes from airport and Amtrak)
- Ample, free parking, including near the conference center entrance
- Indoor pool and gym
- Complimentary high speed internet
- Business Center
- On-site restaurant and lounge

The convention will kick off on Friday evening, October 11 at 6:30PM, with registration and a Heimatabend Meet & Greet. After morning registrations on Saturday, October 12, the business meeting will begin at 9:00AM. There will be a mid-morning break before we continue with business, including a guided discussion on Mentoring die nächste Generation. Lunch will be a one-hour buffet.

On Saturday afternoon, we will be entertained by lighthearted and informative presentations from guest speakers. Walter Geissler, past president of DANK Milwaukee and one of the founders of Milwaukee German Fest, will give a review of how he answered the request of Milwaukee’s Mayor to gather German clubs to start a German ethnic festival on Milwaukee’s lakefront.

Geoffrey Kroening, of the Milwaukee German American Societies, will speak on how the umbrella organization works to bring together the German groups of the metro Milwaukee area.

The Keynote speaker will be John Gurda, Milwaukee native and historian. Mr. Gurda will present on Milwaukee's German history and the continuing Germanic influence on the community's character in the 21st century. Mr. Gurda is author and host of the Emmy Award winning documentary, "The Making of Milwaukee," and History Producer for PBS program "Around the Corner with John McGivern."

Saturday evening will commence with a banquet preceded by a performance by the DANK Milwaukee Chor. DANK Milwaukee will then host an Oktoberfest which will include a performance by the DANK Milwaukee Folk Dancers. Music for dancing and listening pleasure will be provided by Milwaukee's premiere European band, Blaskapelle Milwaukee. Tracht is welcome and encouraged. The Oktoberfest will be open to the public. As special guests of DANK Milwaukee, delegates and their guests will have reserved seating for the evening.

The convention will end on Sunday, October 13, with the closing business meeting with the newly elected national board and a lunch before your journey home.

The cost for the three-day convention of immersion in DANK, Mentoring die nächste Generation, Freundschaft, Gemütlichkeit, and Milwaukee German entertainment and cuisine is \$110. The final registration date is August 15, 2019 and we look forward to meeting our Mitglieder.

We have an incentive for early registration. DANK Milwaukee will provide a free 2 night hotel stay for an early bird registration. All delegates who submit a paid registration for the convention by the **early bird deadline of August 1, 2019**, will be entered into the drawing. **Note: All attendees should make reservations at Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport in order to secure accommodations in the DANK room block with the special package.** DANK Milwaukee will coordinate with the hotel and the lucky early bird winner *after* the drawing. Viel Glück!

Included in this mailing are additional registration information, a tentative agenda for the convention, Oktoberfest flyer, hotel information, and the registration form. We have also included internet addresses to some Milwaukee attractions, especially if you want to extend your stay.

As is tradition, DANK Milwaukee is asking chapters to donate a gift basket worth a minimum of \$25 to help defray costs. If your chapter is unable to bring a gift basket, we will gladly prepare one with your donation.

DANK Milwaukee is excited to host this convention, make friends, renew friendships, and most importantly, energize and learn ways to continue to preserve our German heritage by *Mentoring the Next Generation*.

Danke Schön,

William Bessa

William Bessa
President
DANK Chapter Milwaukee

Enclosures