

## Celebration 2006 Report:

### *Streamlining the Organization and Reducing National Dues*

The 2006 COUPLES National Network Annual Meeting took place on June 18th aboard the festive Paradise Cruise ship off the coast of California. The meeting was called to order by Jorg at 4:50 p.m. Nine couples from six affiliates and one developing affiliate attended the meeting. A quorum was established with four Board couples represented in person and the remaining Board couples represented by proxy. Six Affiliates were represented in person and three Affiliates were represented by proxy. One Affiliate was not represented at the meeting.

The revenues and expenses of 2005 were balanced so the Network continues in a sound financial position, with \$5,133.05 on hand as of May 31, 2006. The Board discussed the need to maintain a sufficient balance to address potential issues such as indemnification for local affiliate officers.

### Organizational Change - Streamlining

The Governing Council agreed in concept to change the National Network organization as follows:

- Change the Network to a “holding” organization that provides the corporate and tax-exempt status.
- Change the requirement for an Annual Celebration and quarterly DUET newsletters.
- Maintain the web site and encourage sharing of newsletters among Affiliates.
- Reduce the number of Operating Board offices and simplify the process of annual and other meetings.
- Reduce the affiliate dues.
- Change Celebrations to once every other year or third year as determined by the desire of the membership with the annual business meeting of the Operating Council by teleconference when a Celebration is not scheduled.

A committee was formed to review the national bylaw and propose bylaw changes in light of this organizational change to the Board. These changes will be reviewed with Affiliates over the coming months.

### 2006 -2007 Board

In keeping with the intention of the Board to streamline the Network organization, Hal & Ken were elected to fill the open positions of Vice Chair, Member Services, and Hospitality Couple for one year. Jorg & Hermann were elected to fill the open positions of Web Services and Media for one year. In addition, Jorg & Hermann will continue for the remainder of their term as Chair Couple, and Harry & Paul will continue for the remainder of their term as Finance Couple.

The resulting streamlined Board is composed of three dedicated couples: Jorg & Hermann (Greater Orlando Couples), Hal & Ken (Coachella Valley Couples), and Harry & Paul (San Francisco Bay Area Couples).

#### Reduction in Dues

The Governing Council voted to reduce national dues from \$7.00 per year/per couple to \$5.00 per year/per couples beginning in the third quarter of 2006. This reduction in dues reflects the streamlining of the Network organization.

#### Budget

A formal budget was approved for 2006 reflecting the reduction in dues and a comparable reduction in expenses for a balanced budget of approximately \$2,800 for the year. This budget allows for streamlining of the organization while maintaining a sufficient balance to indemnify local officers if required.

#### Wrap-up

The Board expressed gratitude to Lori & Virginia for all their efforts as National Hospitality Couple over the past few years, and especially for their hard work in organizing Celebration 2006. We appreciate their continuing support during this transition period. We also appreciate the outgoing National Media Couple, Mack & Skip, for their work producing the DUET over the past few years. This organization is run by volunteers and we appreciate the dedication and commitment of all couples serving on the National Board and on each Affiliate Board.

The annual meeting was adjourned by Jorg at 5:41 p.m.

Leo & Tony,  
*2005-2006 National Vice Chair Couple*