

The American Hungarian Federation

Founded 1906

March 27th 2004, Washington, DC

Outline

1) Technology
2) 1956 Commemoration Task Force
3) Introduce PAC and CHACR

Technology

Current AHF Issues

- No Central Repository of Data
- Inaccuracy of Existing Data
- Poor Information Dissemination
- Lack of Effective Communication
- Inability to Enable Large Scale Action
- No Networking within Community
- Minimal Fundraising and Outreach
- Lack of Vision

Technology

Major Constraints

- No History
- No Infrastructure
- Lack of Funding
- Lack of Expertise
- Lack of Vision
- Lack of Commitment

Technology

Current Activities

Websites:

- www.amsz.org
- www.ahf.cc
- www.americanhungarianfederation.org

Tools:

- Networking Tool (Excel now)
- Prioritization Tool

Technology

AHF Intranet

Database of members

- **Upload AHF member lists** with email, phone, address, categories, membership renewal status, and other information
- **Logins for executive teams** to edit and manage list
- **Logins for members** for read only access to other member info and edit access for personal info email distribution lists

Technology

AHF Intranet

File Archive

- Documents accessible by management
  Strategy, budget, legislative, works in progress, etc
- Documents accessible by members
  By Laws, form letters for Congress
- Documents accessible by public (Extranet)
  Position papers, white papers, research, etc

Technology

AHF Intranet

Community Networking

- List of Hungarian-owned businesses
  Allow members to post business listings, job postings, internship opps, scholarships, etc

- Discussion forums
  Allow users to create discussions and weigh in on various topics (1956 good example)

- List of Connections and Relationships
  Whom do we know? Media, Government, Influential

Technology

AHF Intranet

Event Management

- List of Upcoming Events
  Post events and allow online signup. Also allow members to post non AHF, Hungarian-related events. Sell tickets online

- Print Membership Cards and nametags online

Technology

AHF Intranet

Information Dissemination & Member Management

- AHF eNewsletter
  Full-color newsletters integrated into email distribution based on pre-defined template

- Calls for Action
  Fundraising, letter writing campaigns

- eCommerce
  Membership renewals and new member registrations, sale of AHF and Hungarian items

Technology

AHF Extranet

The Public Interface

- **AHF eNewsletter** signups
- **Documents** accessible by public
- **eCommerce** for new member registrations, donations
- **News,** Public Calls for Action, Positions
- **About AHF**
- **Events** (online registration)
- **Calls for Volunteers**
- **Congressional Links** (easy letter-writing and phone number access)
- **Contacts** (include those responsible for Media inquiries)

1956 Task Force

Mission

Develop suggestions for the Commemoration of the 1956 Revolution

Goal

Brainstorm and Prioritize events and find a feasible event or series of events that would leave more Permanent mark and report to executive team

1956 Task Force

First Meeting

First meeting was held on 2/19/2004

Participants included:

- Zoltan Bagdy
- Frank Koszorus
- Csaba Teglas
- Atilla Kocsis
- Bryan Dawson-Szilagyi

1956 Task Force

Outputs

We discussed:

- Potential sources for new ideas (Liptak Bela, AHF, Embassy, Jeszenszky Geza, etc)

- Prioritization of ideas and identification of activities within close reach that can be worked on now.

1956 Task Force

Outputs

We discussed:

- Possibilities of funding larger events (need to identify coordinators for fundraising, identify other organizations with which to partner, corporate sponsorships, US gov't sources)

- Role of media and ways to develop a network of media contacts

1956 Task Force

Outputs

We discussed:

- Ways to **involve larger community** and "next" generation American Hungarians

- How to **utilize technology** to help us coordinate better

1956 Task Force

Outputs

We agreed:

- Any commemoration should have lasting impact and leave a **permanent impression** that could be revisited on multiple occasions.

1956 Task Force

Outputs

We agreed:

- Our efforts should point out what Hungary did for the free world, how the long term results of the revolution prepared Hungary to provide faster economic economic recovery, democracy, and a country that is a choice place for western companies and tourists .

1956 Task Force

Outputs

We agreed:

- **Keep the media in mind** and ensure that any events or programs we do, involves media and provides media *with "eye candy" and and an English-language forum for coverage*

- ***Allow ourselves to think BIG***

1956 Task Force

Outputs: Ideas

Brainstorming:

- Initial ideas ranged from the very capital intensive, such as a Hungarian Cultural Center, to “simpler” events such as panels and other educational programs through museums and other venues. Ideas were deemed not mutually exclusive.

1956 Task Force

Outputs: Ideas

Maintain Institutions (Physical)

- **Hungarian Cultural Center** (multiple use facility and could partially self fund: **School** - there is no Hungarian school for our children. Open enrollment to all. provide training to visiting Hungarians, **Hungarian Hall of Fame**; **Concerts**; **AHF Central Office; Museum**; other uses

1956 Task Force

Outputs: Ideas

Maintain Institutions (Physical)

- Exhibits, photo-exhibit, traveling shows
- Statue or plaque (i.e., von Karman)
- Web-site, with a 1956 focus
- Bibliography or collection (library)
- Journal, focusing on the ideals of 1956
- Documentary
- Epcot Center Hungarian Pavilion

1956 Task Force

Outputs: Ideas

Maintain Institutions (Non-Physical)

- Research institute about 1956 (may be physical or non-physical)
- Foundation to oversee various programs, activities

1956 Task Force

Outputs: Ideas

Maintain Institutions (Non-Physical)

- Research institute about 1956 (may be physical or non-physical)
- Foundation to oversee various programs, activities
- Scholarship to focus on 1956 or broad Hungarian issues

1956 Task Force

Outputs: Ideas

Maintain Institutions (Non-Physical)

- Scholarships to Hungarian University
- Hungarian Cultural Institute
- Hungarian-American Foundation for Democracy (bring Hungarian students to the US to provide leadership training, provide training in Hungary to build pride and self-awareness. Need to influence reading material in US and Hungary).

1956 Task Force

Outputs: Ideas

Commemoration

- Annual Prize, honoring an individual or an event related to 1956 (similar to Kossuth Prize, Pullitzer Prize)
- U.N. Resolution
- U.S. Senate/House Resolution
- Commission an artistic piece
- Movies (Hollywood style about the revolution)

1956 Task Force

Outputs: Ideas

Commemoration

- Create a "Thedore von Karman" memorial or permanent exhibit at the new Steven. F. Udvarhazy Mueum of the Smithsonian Institute's National Air and Space Museum. Other options include von Neumann at the American History Museum. Many other possibilities.

1956 Task Force

Outputs: Ideas

Commemoration

- "Mihaly Kovats" memorial that would be celebrated yearly by military cadets from the Citadel that currently celebrates the fallen Father of the US Light Cavalry on "Mihaly Kovats Day." Invite Citadel Cadets to Embassy.

1956 Task Force

Outputs: Ideas

Commemoration

- Work with Smithsonian Museums to create multiple exhibits and events on various Hungarians and their accomplishments and/or inventions
- Lecture series (perhaps include actual participants in the revolution

1956 Task Force

Outputs: Ideas

Commemoration

- Dissemination of books – work with High Schools and Universities to promote 1956 studies.
- Big ado in Washington, New York, Cleveland.
- Magazines, Newspapers, & Television
- Time “RE-Man of the Year” or special re-publication

1956 Task Force

Outputs: Follow up

- More ideas
- NEED networking!!
  Networking tool can be emailed.
- Fundraising

We need volunteers!

Tri-Partite Organization

CHACR

“The Center for Hungarian American Congressional Relations (C.H.A.C.R.) strives to empower Hungarian Americans to voice their opinions in the US Congress.

Tri-Partite Organization

American Central European Political Action Committee (PAC)

Gives the Hungarian community the ability to influence the political process through direct monetary contributions to political campaigns

Closing Thoughts

Inclusivity

Closing Thoughts

"Make the strangers welcome in this land, let them keep their languages and customs, for weak and fragile is the realm which is based on a single language or on a single set of customs."

"(Unius linguae uniusque moris regnum imbecille et fragile est)"

St. Stephen in a letter to his son St. Emeric, 1036 A.D…

Closing Thoughts

“I have never had and never will differentiate between man and man, based on race, language or religion; as a man of the nineteenth century I am ashamed by the anti-Semitic agitation… I consider the principle of discrimination based on race, language or religion not only a moral but a political impossibility."

Louis Kossuth

Closing Thoughts

STOP thinking small

www.thehungarypage.com