



ESTONIAN AMERICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL, INC. EESTI RAHVUSKOMITEE ÜHENDRIIKIDES

www.ESTOSITE.ORG
Tel: 301-587-8353

Dear Fellow Estonians and Friends of Estonia,

December 2008

President
Marju Rink-Abel
Treasurer
Erik Puskar
Secretary
Ülle Ederma

Executive Board
Lya Karm
Gilda Karu
Mati Kõiva
Eric Suuberg
Airi Vaga
Ilmar Vanderer
Viiv Vanderer

Council Members
Ylo Anson
Lilian G. Bein
Tiina Harris
Astrid Jaanson
Heino Jõgis
Jaak Juhansoo
Andres Kurrik
Mati Laan
Jüri Linask
Kersti Linask
Jaak Rakfeldt
Endel Reinpõld
Erich Siismets
Juhan Simonson
Jüri Tuults
Henno Uus
Markus Vaga
Tõnu Vanderer
Taavo Virkhaus
Urmas Wompa

Elected by Estonian-Americans, the Estonian American National Council, Inc. (EANC) continues to represent and support the Estonian-American community, and to assist in preserving Estonian culture, language, and traditions within the United States. As part of our ongoing nationwide outreach effort, the EANC organized a conference for regional Estonian-American community organizations in May 2008 at the Chicago Estonian House.

The recent conflict between Russia and Georgia and subsequent cyber attacks on Georgia have shown that smaller nations are unable to fight alone against larger adversaries. According to Estonian President Ilves, the assistance and support of Estonian-Americans is needed now more than ever before. At a recent U.S. speech, he noted that our efforts should be aimed at encouraging U.S. government support for Estonia, including military training and equipment. Other EANC priorities include supporting NATO enlargement to include Georgia, Ukraine and Macedonia, helping to make NATO's Baltic defense plan stronger, and speaking out in support of threatened smaller countries.

Accordingly, the EANC represents the interests of Estonian-Americans in organizations such as the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC), Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC) and Estonian World Council (ÜEKN). Together with the CEEC and JBANC, EANC has been active in conveying the interests, views, and foreign policy positions of Estonian-Americans and other Baltic and Eastern Europeans to the U.S. government, with one result being visa-free entry to the U.S. for Estonian citizens. Together with the CEEC, EANC representatives have attended meetings with President George W. Bush, the U.S. Department of State, the National Security Council, members of Congress, and advisors to several presidential candidates. The EANC remains in close contact with the Estonian Embassy in Washington, DC, and participates, as needed, in Estonian events throughout the United States, and at functions in Estonia and elsewhere.

The EANC has supported films and books which document the history, experiences and cultural legacy of Estonia and Estonian-Americans. In addition, we have given \$5,000 to the Victims of Communism Foundation Virtual Museum, supported the worldwide Estonian festival ESTO 2009 in Münster, Germany, with a \$25,000 loan, and are preparing the English-language history book "Estonians in America" for publication in 2009. Future applications for support will be reviewed twice a year – after May 1 and October 1.

Our total program outlays in 2008 exceeded \$125,000. Your generous donations helped us support:

*"The Singing Revolution"- marketing & PR support for film and publication of companion book
Freedom Monument in Tallinn, Estonia
Subscriptions of "Vaba Eesti Sõna" to selected institutions
Book "Sentence Siberia"- second printing and distribution
IREKS 2008 (East Coast Folk Dance Festival)
The Joint Baltic American Committee
Estonian-American Boy Scouts/Girl Guides
Long Island Estonian Children's Camp - pool renovations
New York Estonian House – Structural renovations
Baltic Summer Studies Institute – Estonian language program
Tallinn Technical University – Scholarship fund*

The EANC can only exist with your help! Estonian-Americans are few in number, but with your generous support, our voices will continue to be heard through the EANC in United States. You may specify on the form below exactly which project or organization should benefit from your donation. **Please give generously!**

As always, we invite your feedback about both our past and future activities. Important EANC news and events will be published in the "Vaba Eesti Sõna" newspaper, as well as on our own website, estosite.org. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact us via e-mail, juhatus@estosite.org.

Lugupidamisega,

Marju Rink-Abel, President

Erik Puskar, Treasurer