



EANC ANNOUNCES SPECIAL FUNDRAISING DRIVE 2015 A. ERAKORDNE KORJANDUSE AKTSIOON

Because of the critical Ukrainian situation, the Estonian American National Council announces a special fundraising drive to raise \$200,000! This would allow us to more effectively and proactively work to counteract Russia's actions and the lies of the Russian propaganda machine – not only regarding Estonia, but all the affected nations. We would be able to represent Estonian American interests in Washington more systematically and effectively.

Now more than ever before, EANC's work on the political front is critical. EANC supports the Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC), and actively participates with other East and Central European and Baltic organizations to inform American policy makers of issues of concern to Estonian Americans. We meet regularly with State Department and National Security Council personnel, as well with Congressional leaders. We also maintain close contact with the Estonian Embassy in Washington and represent Estonian Americans at events in the US and elsewhere. Additional funding would allow us to move from a volunteer-based to a more consistent full-time operation.

EANC will also continue to support the preservation of Estonian culture, language and traditions in the United States.

Tingitud Ukraina kriitilisest olukorrast, kuulutab Eesti Rahvuskomitee välja korjanduse aktsiooni et koguda \$200,000! See summa võimaldab meil paremini ja efektiivsemalt võidelda Venemaa propaganda masina ja tegude vastu – mitte ainult Eesti, vaid kõikide riikide eest keda see puudutab. See võimaldaks meil esitada ja kaitsta Ameerika eestlaste huvisid süstemaatilisemalt ja efektiivsemalt Washingtonis.

Nüüd, rohkem kui kunagi varem, on ERKÜ töö poliitilises valdkonnas kriitiline. ERKÜ toetab Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC) ja töötab aktiivselt, et informeerida Ameerika poliitikuid Ameerika eestlastele muret-tekitavatest küsimustest. Meie kohtume Välisministeeriumiga, Kongressi liikmetega ja nende staabiga, ja hoiame sidet Eesti ja teiste riikide saatkondadega. Lisa raha võimaldab meil liikuda vabatahtlikust tööjõust järjekindlamale ja täisajalisele alusele.

Palun pidagem meeles, et teie abi aitab säilitada ja tugevdada Ameerika eesti ühiskonda, ning jätkata meie tööd Washingtonis!

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*Estonians demonstrate at
Ukrainian rallies in Washington.
(Photo: JBANC)*

EANC Executive Board/ ERKÜ Juhatus

Marju Rink-Abel, President • Eric Suuberg, Vice President • Tiina Urv, Treasurer • Maia Linask, Secretary
Kristi Allpere • Mai-Liis Bartling • Arne Kalm • Mirjam Krull • Matti Prima • Andres Simonson • Alvar Soosaar

**In 2014, your donations helped support the following activities and projects:
ERKÜ 2014. a. toetuste ja ürituste seas olid:**

- Vaba Eesti Sõna ("The Free Estonian Word") newspaper
- The production and distribution of the film "To Breathe as One" about Estonia's Laulupidu
- The Arvo Pärt Project, including concerts at the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall, and a Lifetime Achievement award to Arvo Pärt.
- The "Estonians in America" book project
- Scandinavian film festival
- New York Cultural Days
- New York Estonian Mixed Chorus
- Los Angeles Estonian Mixed Chorus
- Diaspora Conference in Estonia
- Saare Vikat folk dancing troop
- Estonian Long Island children's summer camp
- Estonian boy scout and girl guide activities.
- New York Estonian school's anniversary
- Lakewood Järvemetsa camp renovations
- The Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC)
- Estonian Archives in the U.S., including serving on the advisory board and finance committee
- Victims of Communism Foundation project to establish a museum in Washington
- 2014 EANC awards honoring outstanding Estonian American individuals and organizations
- Free-to-the-public panel discussion, "Estonians in America – Past, Present and Future," in Stamford, Connecticut
- Representation at annual Estonian World Council meeting in Riga, Latvia
- KLENK-IEP 2015 cruise sponsor



*Estonian boy scouts and girl guides at Järvemetsa camp.
(Photo: FAAEY, www.jarvemetsa.org)*

ESTONIA AND MARYLAND – A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP

Estonia and the state of Maryland have enjoyed a special relationship since the early 1990's at the end of the Cold War, as part of the NATO Partnership for Peace program. The Maryland National Guard has been linked to the Estonian Kaitseliit (Home Guard) as part of a State Partnership Program to assist with Estonia's transition to an independent nation after the collapse of the Soviet Union. During the past two decades, the Maryland Guard has trained Estonian troops and participated alongside them in exercises. Maryland also has worked closely with the Estonian Defense Forces on cybersecurity and on clearing unexploded mines and ordnance. Estonian soldiers have deployed to Afghanistan with the Maryland Guard.

Many Guard members are going to Estonia in June to participate in training and exercises. In February, EANC president Marju Rink-Abel was invited to brief the Maryland Air National Guard on Estonia's history, language, culture and economy. Interest in the topic was high, as evidenced by a standing-room-only crowd of over 100.

The military association has proved so successful that Estonia and Maryland have enlarged their partnership to include civilian relationships. For example, Salisbury University, the University of Tartu and Tallinn University of Technology have developed a full-year study abroad program in Cyber Security. SU Students also have the option of continuing on to complete a master's degree in Cyber Security in Estonia.

Sister Cities

Maryland has by far the largest number of Estonian Sister Cities relationships of any state. Sister Cities International (www.sister-cities.org) is a nonprofit organization which "advances peace and prosperity through cultural, educational, humanitarian, and economic development exchanges." Its programs span 140 countries on six continents. Maryland Sister City programs with Estonia include:

- State of Maryland – Harju County
- Annapolis – Tallinn
- Charles County – Jõgeva County
- Cumberland – Tapa, Viljandi
- Havre de Grace – Sillamäe
- McHenry – Otepää
- Oakland – Tõrva, Valga
- Ocean City – Pärnu (Note: Pärnu is also a Sister City with Portsmouth, New Hampshire)
- Salisbury - Tartu
- Westminster - Paide



*EANC President Marju Rink-Abel briefs
Maryland Air National Guard*

Currently, the Maryland Estonia Exchange Council helps to coordinate the civilian activities. Col. Milton Davis (ret.), is Executive Director, Dr. Barbara Tower is vice-president, and Mrs. Elizabeth Davis is secretary. Estonian Americans who have been active in MEEC activities include Chairman Toivo Tagamets, Karl Altau, and Erik Puskar.

The EANC Newsletter / ERKU Teataja is written predominantly in English for an important reason – we want to inform and engage as many Estonian Americans as possible. Due to the cost of printing, we cannot publish the entire newsletter in both English and Estonian. In the future we may consider publishing electronically, which is much less expensive. Until then, we are gathering e-mail addresses from our readers, so please write your e-mail address on your donation form.

ERKÜ Teataja ilmub peamiselt inglise keeles tähtsal põhjusel - meie soovime informeerida ja hõivata nii palju Ameerika eestlasi kui võimalik. Trükikulude tõttu meie ei saa ringkirja välja anda mõlemis inglise ja eesti keeles. Tulevikus võime kaaluda elektroonilist väljaannet, mis on palju odavam. Seni korjame e-meili aadresse lugejatelt ja palume, et kirjutate oma e-meil aadress annetusvormile.

English-language Translation of the Book "DP Kroonika" Now Available

Originally published in Estonian in 1999 by the Estonian Archives in the U.S., "DP Kroonika" ("DP Chronicle") is a monumental history of Estonian displaced persons in Germany after World War II. With the recent publication of an English translation by Aime Martinson Andra, it is now able to reach a wide English-speaking audience. The Estonian American National Council is pleased to have provided financial support for the translation, and thanks the Estonian Archives for initiating and coordinating this effort.

The original Estonian-language "DP Kroonika" was based on materials compiled by Ferdinand Kool and edited by historian and bibliographer Evald Rink, assisted by Estonian language philologist Hildegard Rink. Airi Vaga transcribed the text into electronic form.

"DP Chronicle" is now available through the "Vaba Eesti Sõna" bookstore in New York by calling 1-212-686-3356, or by ordering through their website, www.store.vabaeestisona.com.

Upcoming Events / Tulevased Üritused

JBANC's 11th Baltic conference in Washington, DC, April 17-18, 2015.

The conference will address security concerns for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, in the wake of Moscow's campaign of aggression against Ukraine, and other moves in the region. What are the implications for U.S. policies towards the region, vis a vis NATO, and for the Baltic countries in particular?



The April 18 conference venue is the Renaissance Dupont Circle Hotel
1143 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington DC.

For more information, please visit the JBANC homepage: www.jbanc.org.

WHY I JOINED EANC - MAI-LIIS BARTLING



Being Estonian-American has always been an important part of my identity. My own family's story has been a source of inspiration, and today it is not hard to be proud of the accomplishments of a free Estonia. But, why join the EANC? Two reasons really: first, to better understand the work of this national organization, and how we in the San Francisco bay area (where I live) can connect with and support its aims. For me, comprehending how very small the number of Estonian-Americans is – about 25,000 – is an invitation to participate fully. Although Estonians have a reputation for "punching above their weight," one has the sense that no one is surplus, everyone is needed. Now my second reason: I have been happily married to a non-Estonian for many years and my children, as well as my nieces and nephews, regard themselves as "1/2 Estonians." They, too, would like to be part of the Estonian-American community, but are not sure how. An important question that EANC is engaged with now is how to "build a bigger tent," i.e. tap into the interests, energy and talents of all those connected by heritage, marriage, friendship, academic interest, whatever! – to insure that there continues to be a community of people with a deep connection to their Estonian heritage and who feel deeply invested in Estonia's future.

Mai-Liis Bartling is president of the San Francisco Eesti Selts / Estonian Society and an EANC Board .



*Karl Altau,
JBANC Managing Director*

JBANC UPDATE FROM WASHINGTON DC

It's time to look ahead to the 114th Congress, which was sworn in on January 6, and which will be in session until the end of 2016. Before we do that, let's review the November elections from a Baltic-American perspective.

In the U.S. House of Representatives, the GOP gained 13 seats (from 234 to 247), out of 435 places. The Democrats dropped from 201 to 188 seats. The Republican majority is their largest in the House since the Herbert Hoover administration in 1930.

The November elections saw a loss of eight out of 56 House Baltic Caucus (HBC) members. The HBC is a group of friends of the Baltics, who have interest in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. The connections may be personal, because of voters, and some even with a blood or familial connection to the Baltic region.

Seven of the eight losses for the Baltic Caucus following the November elections are Republicans. There were six retirements: Henry Waxman (D-CA), Dave Camp (R-MI), Mike Rogers (R-MI), Gary Miller (R-CA), Tom Petri (R-WA), and Steve Stockman (R-TX). Two members lost election races: Lee Terry (R-NE), and Kerry Bentivolio (R-MI). Of the 48 remaining HBC members, 29 are Democrats and 19 are Republicans. The recent trend has been leaning Republican, with seven GOP recruits during the 113th Congress (2013-2014), and five from the Democrat side. Three additional Republican recruits from the 113th (Bentivolio, Petri, and Stockman) have left.

The past two-year cycle with 15 new members was the most successful Baltic Caucus recruitment in over a dozen years – during the NATO enlargement heyday. Attrition during the past few elections led the Caucus to dwindle from nearly 80 members to just over 40. JBANC will be working hard to attract new Members to the HBC in 2015, and counting heavily on constituent connections. We're happy to announce that thanks to the personal efforts of EANC member Kadri Linask-Goode, her congressman Rep. Dave Reichert (R-WA) has recently joined the HBC.

We also rely on the leadership, work, and great cooperation of the Baltic Caucus co-chairs, Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL), and Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA). JBANC manages the HBC website: <http://housebalticcaucus.webs.com>

Republicans also took over the Senate with nine gains. This was in large part the ability of the GOP to win six of seven toss-up seats (Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, and North Carolina). Only Sen. Jeanne Shaheen's hold in New Hampshire prevented the Democrats getting blanked in that category.

Of the 33 Senate seats that were contested, seven were open (no incumbent). In 2012, Democrats won 25 of the 33 seats. This year, the Republicans won 22 seats (13 holds and nine pick-ups), while Democrats held on to eleven. Out of those 33 races, there were a number of key supporters of the Baltics, and certainly none more so than Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL), who easily held onto his seat.



*First Black Ribbon Day commemoration in the U.S. Capitol with
Congressman John Shimkus and Baltic diplomats and representatives.
(Photo: JBANC)*

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Thank you's to EANC in 2014