

**AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS XXII MEETING
JOHN NEWCOMBE TENNIS RANCH
NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS
AUGUST 17, 2019**

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting of the Board of Directors (BOD) was called to order August 17, 2019 at 3:16 p.m. by President David Bonewitz at the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch, New Braunfels, Texas.

2. **Introductions**

a. **Board of Directors members present:** David Bonewitz (President), Cecilia Miner (Secretary), Chase Davis (Treasurer), Henry Rosales (Executive Director), Mike Green (Atlantic RD), Robert (Bob) Buzolich (Mid-America RD), Butch Spaulding (North Central RD), Chris Mellen (Northeast RD), Dennis Standridge (Northwest DRD), Suzi Glass (Pacific DRD), Lucy Yother (South Central RD), John McClellan (Southeast RD), Sammy Hunnicutt (Southwest RD). A quorum existed.

b. **Guests signed in:** Susan Pinneke, North Central DRD; Andrew Schmidt, Northeast DRD; Susan Medlin, Southwest DRD; Susan Ives, Publicity Committee; John Ives, San Antonio, TX; John Glass, San Jose, California; Sandy Spaulding, Omaha, Nebraska; and Marian DeVaul, Erin Grosso, and Samanta Sanchez of the AVA National Office.

3. **Approval of agenda: (topics listed at meeting and accepted by consensus)**

- a. RD election of representative to the Executive Council (EC)
- b. Approval Electronic Board Meeting (EBM) schedule
- c. Approval of next BOD face-to-face meeting
- d. Approval of proposed procedure for revised bylaws rollout
- e. Discussion of new business model
- f. Proposal to sunset lifetime membership
- g. Charity Miles app
- h. Procedures for vacancy of an RD position with respect a DRD previously serving as RD (introduced by Chris Mellen, Northeast RD, no objection)

4. **Approval of General Membership Meeting minutes from the Albany**

Convention: Chris Mellen moved to approve, John McClellan seconded. Motion passed.

5. **Approval of July 16 EBM minutes:** Approved as corrected.

6. **Election of RD to EC:** RDs have one representative on the EC. Suzi Glass nominated Mike Green, and there were no other nominations. Mike accepted; the RDs voted unanimously to approve.

7. **Approval of Electronic Board Meeting schedule:** EBM meetings are by teleconference on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10 am Eastern Time. Chris Mellen proposed the 4th Tuesday as backup if the 3rd Tuesday would not work. John McClellan moved to accept the EBM schedule with Chris Mellen's proposal. Chris Mellen seconded. Motion passed.

8. **Approval of next BOD face-to-face meeting:**

Henry Rosales noted that one meeting is \$15K. John McClellan stated that priority for in-person meetings should go to a 2020 summer meeting at the location of the next Convention in Madison, Wisconsin, to preview venues and receive a Convention overview. In-person meetings normally run Friday evening through Sunday noon, and the weekends of June 12-14 and June 19-21 were considered. June 19-21 conflicts with the Mid-America Conference, and June 12-14 would work better being closer to Crazy Horse. Chris Mellen made a motion for the next face-to-face meeting to be June 12-14, 2020, in Madison, Wisconsin. Bob Buzolich seconded. Motion passed.

9. **Approval of proposed approach for revised bylaws rollout:**

The President and ED will continue to work on the redline version of the bylaws and a summary of substantive changes. The BOD will review with suspense. Once any issues with the BOD are resolved, bylaws will go to clubs with suspense. Clubs will discuss with RDs and take an up-or-down vote. John McClellan moved to approve the approach presented by the President to rollout updated bylaws. Sammy Hunnicut seconded. Motion passed.

10. **Discussion of new business model:** The proposal is to hire consultants to work with the President and ED, but the issue is a strategic one that requires full BOD involvement. Mike Green asked about the mechanism to hire consultants. The contract would be flat-fee in the range of \$20-50K. Henry Rosales already has one proposal and is seeking others. Henry would like proposals in the next three months, and the BOD should be able to review and turn the proposals within 30

days. John McClellan made a motion to support the process of exploring new business models by pursuing an outside consultant from multiple proposals and then support the ED's effort. Butch Spaulding seconded. Motion passed.

11. Proposal to sunset lifetime membership: The proposal does not mean current lifetime members would lose their membership. Instead, no new lifetime memberships would be sold. This is a policy issue, so the BOD makes its position known to support the ED in making this operational decision.

Discussion: Chase Davis asked if lifetime membership could be priced higher, so the membership category wouldn't be a money loser. Henry Rosales replied that the entire membership package required overhaul, with the goal to make membership provide value, as well as bring in revenue, and he supported sunseting lifetime membership. John McClellan agreed that the current lifetime tier structure isn't realistic, but if a person signs on as a life member, that is an indication of the person's interest in the organization. Erin Grosso noted that current life members are long outliving their membership, so membership fees are not bringing in needed revenue. In addition, there are many life members that the AVA has lost contact with, and The American Wanderer, a costly perk, is still being mailed out. Susan Medlin said she would work with Erin to examine the list of inactive lifetime members and sort by region to pass to RDs.

Result: After discussion, there were no motions, and the BOD decided to leave the issue for the membership committee.

12. Procedures for vacancy of an RD position with respect to a DRD previously serving as RD: The specific topic is on RDs becoming DRDs and then returning to the RD position. Chris Mellen asked for clarification of term limitations. David Bonewitz said when a new RD steps in, the clock starts over for the previous RD, even if that previous RD termed out due to consecutive terms and becomes the DRD. David asked Chris to recommend a change to the bylaws if the current wording does not adequately cover the situation and recommend to the Governance Committee a change if needed. Discussion topic, no motion.

13. Charity Miles app: Potential sponsors see AVA as self-serving, even when we state our mission as health and wellness education, so AVA needs a way to show commitment to other charities. To that end, John McClellan formed an AVA team on Charity Miles, a phone app that lets participants log run/walk/bike miles to support a charity from a select list using sponsors and/or pledges. John McClellan

and Henry Rosales have applied to add AVA to the list of supported charities, but while we're waiting, we show commitment to other charitable causes through the AVA team. David Bonewitz suggested that if AVA does get approved, we alternate walking for AVA and another charity monthly. David requests support from BOD members, and he will get the message out through TAW and the Checkpoint.

14. **Officer/Committee reports:** None requested for this meeting

15. **Request for new business:** None raised

16. **Audience comments:** John Glass agreed with making adjustments to the membership structure but supported keeping life memberships. Susan Medlin and Samanta Sanchez look forward to working with new Board. Erin Grosso thanked volunteers who transported attendees and helped reduce expenses. Susan Pinneke thanked everyone for making her feel welcome.

17. **BOD Comments:** Mike Green reminded RDs to get YRE renewals in. Also, Hector will not have an assistant this year, so he wants to start printing stamps in mid-September. John McClellan welcomed new BOD members. He liked the thumb drive but stated a need to ensure all presentations are on the drive. Lucy Yother enjoyed the tour of the National Office. Suzi Glass thanked new BOD members for stepping up and the National Office staff for giving up their weekend. Chris Mellen thanked Suzi Glass and Susan Medlin for becoming DRDs after terming out as RDs. He liked the orientation that preceded the BOD meeting but felt the orientation should be for all BOD members, not just new ones. Henry Rosales thanked all for their time, especially the National Office staff for giving time to the orientation and meeting. David Bonewitz thanked staff members for their time and all BOD members for willingness to serve. He will resume putting out EBM agendas at least two weeks prior and noted the first AVA Angels form had been turned in. Finally, David expressed great affection for AVA.

18. Meeting adjourned 5:01 pm, August 17, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecilia Miner
AVA Secretary