

AVA: America's Walking Club
2023 Regular Membership Meeting
Via Zoom
June 14, 2023

Call to Order: Chair Nancy Wittenberg called to order the 2023 Regular Membership Meeting of AVA: America's Walking Club at 5:17pm CDT, June 14, 2023. The total present was 166 including officers and Regional Directors, members, and guests.

Welcome and Introductions: Chair Wittenberg welcomed everyone and introduced the AVA Board of Directors. Agenda is at Attachment 1.

Delegate Attendance Count and Quorum Determination: There were 108 clubs with voting credentials validated, so a quorum existed.

Report of the AVA Board Chair Nancy Wittenberg: See AVA Biennial Report at Attachment 2.

Report of the AVA Finance Chair Ed McCabe: See AVA Biennial Report at Attachment 2. In addition, Bobbi Bilnoski presented "America's Walking Club 2015-2021 Financial Scorecard," which appears at Attachment 3.

Report of the AVA Executive Director Henry Rosales: See AVA Biennial Report at Attachment 2. Henry also presented "2023 IVV Olympiad and IML Texas Trail Roundup Wrap Up" (Attachment 4).

Report of IVV Americas and Oceana - IVV A&O Vice President Tim Miner: Report is included in the 2023 AVA Biennial Report at Attachment 2.

Presentation of Awards - Awards Committee Chair Carl Cordes:

There will be a separate Awards report with complete citations. The list includes the following:

- Trailblazer Award
 - AVA-264, Columbia Volksmarch Club, Columbia, MD
 - AVA-995, Texas County Walkers, Mesquite, TX

- Distinguished Achievement Award, which requires at least eight years of service to AVA at several levels, including national. Recipients should have received the Meritorious Service award previously.
 - Tom Baltes (NW)
 - David Bonewitz (SE)
 - Russ Crane (NC)
 - Loralie Cruz (SW)
 - Suzi Glass (PA)
 - Dawn Gruber (MA)
 - Christina Kenyon (NC)
 - Karen Reger (NC)
 - Butch Spaulding (NC)
 - Don Suloff (NC)
 - Joan Sykes (PA)
 - Jerry Wilson (NC)

Introduction of Nominating Committee Chair Chris Mellen:

Committee Chair Chris Mellen thanked Tom Jackson, former Nominating Committee Chair, who facilitated transition to the new nominating chair. Chris introduced the slate, and candidates provided comments.

- Chair Nancy Wittenberg
- Vice Chair John McClellan
- Secretary Leslie Stone
- Finance Chair Ed McCabe

Election of Officers:

Since there was one candidate for each office, the vote was cast by acclamation by the Secretary for the slate of candidates. Chair Wittenberg noted that the Regional Directors (RD) would need to elect one RD to represent the RDs on the Executive Committee. Carl Cordes served in that capacity on the previous Executive Committee. The Chair asked for nominations by June 21, at which time a vote would be requested.

Introduction of Convention Committee Chair Jerry Wilson:

No proposals were received to host a 2025 Convention. Thinking more broadly, a suggestion was made to host a convention in conjunction with a cruise. Details are being worked.

Request for Comments from Delegates:

- John McClellan (AVA-0717) had comments on the Executive Director's Report:
 - With respect to the Olympiad, all volunteers should be formally and officially recognized and thanked. In particular, several members put in hundreds of hours before and during the event.
 - Concerning members listed in the Biennial Report as sustaining donors, have those 14 individual donors been formally thanked or recognized?
- John McClellan (AVA -0717) asked if the US FreedomWalk Festival Club (USFWF), under leadership of Dolores Grenier, would make a formal bid for the 2025 Convention. Convention Chair Jerry Wilson replied that since AVA received no bids, the cruise proposal was in lieu of a formal bid, and Dolores Grenier stated the USFWF Club would not be in charge of the effort. Jerry Wilson suggested that perhaps future conventions could be similar to the Olympiad model, in which local clubs provide structure, but there is help from all regions.
- Mary Frink (AVA-0269) asked how an Americaspiad would work with Convention? The Piads tend to affiliate with the International Marching League, so there would need to be at least 20-km routes offered each day, but Convention business could still be part of the event.

Introduction of New Regional Directors:

AT - Jeff Giddings (continuing)

MA - Craig Gauger

NC - Susan Pinneke (continuing)

NE - Carol Giesecke (former deputy)

NW - Sharon Moats (continuing)

PA - Carl Cordes (continuing)

RM - Steve Sandridge (continuing)

SC - Teresa Arnold (continuing)

SE - Kathryn King (continuing)

SW - Susan Medlin (former AVA Vice Chair)

Introduction of New Deputy Regional Directors:

AT - Karen Kaufman (continuing). Also chair of Membership Committee

MA - Roberta Allen (continuing)
NC - Ken Johnson (continuing)
NE - Eileen Skinner
NW - Ed Hainline (continuing)
PA - Suzi Glass (continuing)
RM - Christopher Benoché
SC - Terri Tyler
SE - TBD
SW - Andy Thomas (continuing)

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Sherry Ogur. Second: Chris Mellen
Adjourned 8:07pm CDT

Respectfully submitted,

Cecilia Miner
AVA Board Secretary