

Minutes
AVA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting
May 14, 2024

1. **Call to Order - Chair: The meeting was called to order on May 14, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. CST by Chair Nancy Wittenberg.**
2. **Roll Call of AVA Board: - Secretary:**
 - **Officers:** All officers and Henry Rosales were present.
 - **RDs:** All RDs were present.
 - **DRDs:** All DRDs were present except MADRD Roberta Allen, SCDRD Terri Tyler, and SWDRD Susan Medlin
 - **AVA HQ:** Erin Grosso and Marian Devaul
 - **Committee Chairs:** IT Mike Green; Membership Karen Kaufman; Walk App Jeff Giddings; Nominations Bob Buzolich
 - **Guests:** Cecilia Miner, Dawn Gruber, Joe Piffat, Abby & Rick Sisco, Pat Jewett, and Wayne Knapp. Guests from Broadminded Media were Debbie Johnson and Richard Sloop
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Chair Nancy Wittenberg moved that the IT Report be placed before the Mobile Walk App Report. The motion was seconded by NERD Carol Giesecke. The motion passes and the modified agenda was approved.
4. **Approval of Minutes of February 13, 2024, Regular Board Meeting:** The draft minutes of the February 13, 2024 meeting, submitted in the meeting packet, were approved.
5. **Board Chair's Report – Nancy Wittenberg:**
 - a. Chair Nancy Wittenberg advised she is recovering from lung blood clots. She is fine and walking as normal.
 - b. Nancy advised that she has recruited AVA Board members to chair the monthly webinars for the rest of the year.
 - c. Nancy mentioned that she would like to have a review of the investment policy related to AVA's investment account. She asked Finance Chair, Ed McCabe to research this matter.
 - d. There is a need for a Nomination Committee. Board members are not permitted to serve on the Nominations Committee. Nancy has asked Bob Buzolich to serve as the Chair of the Nominations Committee, and he has agreed to serve in that capacity. MARD Craig Gauger moved to appoint Bob Buzolich as the Nominations Committee Chair. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair, Carl Cordes. The motion passed.
 - e. Nancy advised that she is unable to attend the scheduled meeting on September 17, 2024, due to conflicts. Discussion followed. Agreement

was reached to reschedule the meeting for Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. CDST.

6. CEO/President's Report - Henry Rosales:

- a. Bringing the publishing of the TAW inhouse appears to be a cost savings for the AVA. Estimated savings is about \$12,400.00 for the year. Much appreciation to the Publicity Committee.
- b. There is a new "Strider" program, in partnership with Grouper (formerly E3H). AVA will reimburse the clubs \$2.00 for each "Strider" participant. These are new participants that Grouper is referring to our walks. At this time, participants will be directed only to YREs with physical start boxes and to TEs and group walks. The AVA and Grouper are trying to work on logistics for the OSB events. The \$2.00 will be credited on the quarterly invoices. Written information about the program is in process.
- c. Discussion was held on the sign-in logs about the participant categories. The AVA needs information on paid participants, guests, striders and children 12 & under. The RSVP program (Grouper on-line signup) is still in use. A decision was made to have 2 Log Forms and the clubs would decide which would work best for them. Clubs would like to have the new forms before the end of June so the walk boxes can be updated. The feedback also recommended that the logs be made available in the MS Word format so clubs could customize their logs and have a margin for 3-hole punches.
- d. Henry advised that there are 2 new clubs, The Alpine Helen Volksmarch Club in Helen, GA and the Northwest Nebraska Trails Association in Chadron, NE. Thanks to Kathryn King for bringing 3 clubs into the AVA during her tenure. The AVA Board of Directors approved the new clubs into our membership.
- e. The AVA's 50th Anniversary is coming up in 2026. Henry would like to have an ad hoc committee to plan the celebration. This committee will fall under the AVA National Office.
- f. The National Office will continue to submit grant applications. We do have some restricted money coming in for the walk app development. The Big Give is September 18, 2024 from 6:00 P.M. CDST to September 19, 2024 6:00 P.M. CDST.

7. Financial Report – Ed McCabe

- a. **Final year-end Financial Report:** Fund development revenue exceeded program revenue by a bit over \$700.00, mainly due to the Big Give, bequests, and grants (Government and private).

8. First Quarter Financial Report – Erin Grosso: preliminary study on 1st quarter. Overall, the money was higher, but the participants were lower, but not by a significant amount.

9. Report on IVV Congress in Canberra, Australia – Vice-Chair & Secretary:

- a. Carl provided a written report.
- b. The representation was better from the Asia, Americas, and Oceania. The representation from Europe was not as strong.
- c. Presentations were presented by candidates for the 2027 IVV Olympiad (to be held June 14-19, 2027, in Coque Luxembourg) and the 2026 IVV Congress (to be held 6-9-2026, in Butgenbach, Belgium).
- d. The weather and countries were great.

10. NW Region Director's Stamp Sticker Pilot Program Proposal:

- a. NWRD Sharon Moats stated that they have been using event stickers for over 2 years.
- b. Mike Green has developed a template to be able to properly size and print the stickers. She would like to spread this nationwide.
- c. Sharon would like to hold a sticker trial in the NW Region starting July of 2024 for the YRE events.
- d. Stickers would save clubs the cost of gel stamp pads. The cost of the sticker sheets would be the responsibility of the clubs. The cost could be as low as 30 cents/sheet for 75 stickers – if you buy 1000 sheets. It is not cost effective for the AVA to purchase the sheets and mail them to the clubs.
- e. NWRD Sharon Moats moved: **To approve NW Region to do a pilot program within our region and report the results to Headquarters and Mike Green of how it went.** The motion was seconded by Finance Chair Ed McCabe. The motion passed.

11. Motion to Modify the ACE Policy:

- a. ATRD Jeff Giddings has a club request to allow ACE-WG events to be held on weekends, as long as there were no TE or Conference within 50 miles of their location. The goal would be to attract new members. Cons would be a loss of income to the AVA.
- b. After discussion, a determination was made that this was an operational matter that should be handled by Henry at the National Office.

12. Operative Committees' Reports

a. IT Report – Mike Green:

- i. Digital TAW set up with Hector and the publication committee and setting up Constant Contact with subscribers from the TAW & Checkpoint mail lists. Constant Contact database allows subscribers to update their information.
- ii. Hector is also working on putting all the pages from the legacy AVA.org website to the new AVA.org website. The old website is no longer needed and is disabled.

- iii. New OSB tutorial available. It also covers the sticker pages in anticipation of the NW Region sticker stamp trial.
- iv. Prototype participation pages developed in anticipation of the new “Strider” Program and the Children 12 & Under Program.
- v. New feature added for Life & Associate Members Only that allows you to research event numbers for date and place.
- vi. New “Go” button with the OSB to remind you to finish your event.
- vii. Working with IVV to be able to load AVA events onto the IVV website. This is a work in progress.
- viii. Working on ways to be able to distinguish between a “Strider” participant and a “Grouper” Participant and how to process both.
- ix. IT has old event data from a Microsoft Access database from 1981 through 1999. We are missing walk information from 2000 through 2004. May be able to retrieve YRE information from the Starting Point. The IT Committee is looking for volunteers to put the information into an Excel spreadsheet.
- x. New category of IVV Credit/Paid on participation logs.
- xi. Ready to shut down the legacy server. Just need to back up the data.
- xii. Would like to create a tutorial on how to use a physical start box.
- xiii. There is a significant amount of programming effort to set up the Grouper OSB and Strider programs and the IT committee believes that the AVA should approach Grouper for some financial assistance in this effort.

b. Mobile Walk App – Jeff Giddings & Debbie Johnson:

- i. Jeff Giddings introduced Debbie Johnson and Richard Sloop from Broadminded Media who shared a presentation of the Walk App Business Plan with the Board of Directors.

The public meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M. CDST.

13. Executive Session – Board Members Only: Immediately following the public meeting adjournment, the AVA Board of Directors met in Executive Session.

14. Adjournment: The Executive Session adjourned at 9:10 P.M. CDST

The next scheduled Board Meeting is September 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. CDST.

Respectfully submitted,
 Leslie L. Stone
 Secretary
 AVA: America’s Walking Club