

**American Volkssport Association
National Executive Council XX Meeting
Tapatio Springs Resort
Boerne, Texas
August 12, 2017**

Call to Order

The Meeting of the National Executive Council was called to order at 3:15 p.m., August 12, 2017 by President David Bonewitz at Tapatio Springs Resort, Boerne, Texas

Introductions:

National Executive Council Members Present:

David Bonewitz (President), Sam Korff (Secretary), Robert Morrison (Treasurer), Mike Green (Atlantic RD), Andy Bacon (Mid-America RD), Jerry Wilson (North Central RD), Chris Mellen (Northeast RD), Tom Baltes (Northwest RD), Suzi Glass (Pacific RD), Lynette Reagan (Rocky Mountain DRD), Lucy Yother (South Central RD), John McClellan (Southeast RD), Susan Medlin (Southwest RD), Henry Rosales (Executive Director)

Guests signed in:

Jan Van Vlack, Mid-Florida Milers; Ellen Ott, Randolph Roadrunners, Universal City, TX; Samanta Sanchez, Universal City, TX; Dolores Grenier, (Atlantic DRD); Butch Spaulding, (North Central DRD); Dolores Grenier, (Atlantic

DRD); Carolyn Adams (Northeast DRD); Carl Cordes (Pacific DRD); Robert McDaniel (Southeast DRD); Ruthi Worsham (Southwest DRD); Debbie Kruep, Gateway Milers; Chris Zegelin, South Bay Striders, San Jose, CA; Holly Pelking, South Bay Striders, San Jose, CA; Bobbi Bilnoski

Approval of Agenda:

Motion made by Chris Mellen: I move to accept the Agenda. (Attachment 1)

Seconded by: Andy Bacon

Motion not accepted by the President who added six items to the agenda.

Items to add to the agenda:

- 1. RD Election of a representative to the EC**
- 2. Approval of Committees**
- 3. Approval of dates and locations of NEC meetings**
- 4. Acceptance of New, Reactivated, and Deactivated clubs**
- 5. Celebration of IVV 50th Anniversary**
- 6. Investigate results of the \$50 no traditional event fee**

Motion accepted by the President.

Agenda accepted.

Reports of Officers.

President's Report. (Attachment 2)

The President's Report includes the names of the

committees and the Committee Chairperson and/or NEC liaison.

Jerry Wilson made a motion:

I move that we approve the electronic information schedule

Motion seconded by Tom Baltes.

Motion passed.

Nancy Wittenberg made a motion:

I move that three new committees be added to the board

(NEC)

- 1. Free Walker Study Committee**
- 2. Strategic Plan Implementation**
- 3. Club Development and Support**

Motion seconded by Bob Morrison.

Motion passed.

Secretary's Report: (Attachment 3)

Report withdrawn by Secretary.

Reports of Standing Committees.

a. Convention Committee Report (Attachment 4)

b. IT Committee:

Chris Zegelin Report (Attachment 5)

Frank Sayers Report (Attachment 6)

Reports of Special and Ad Hoc Committees

a. Report by Program Committee

Debra Kruep made a motion:

I move that AVA implement the 401k Invest in your Health Online Program as a pilot program for one year beginning January 1, 2018. (Attachment 7)

Motion passed.

Bob Morrison made a motion:

I move that the Executive Director has the authority to implement Walker Tracker so that it does not cost AVA more than \$10,000 in the first year.

Motion seconded by Nancy Wittenberg.

Motion passed.

Debra Kruep made a motion:

We move that:

- 1. AVA create a new category of "non-IVV (AVA-C) event parameters, as found on Attachment #1 and make changes to the AVA Policy Manual and the Electronic Sanctioning System (ESR) to incorporate these events so that clubs can apply to hold them.**

- AVA would approve AVA-C events using existing**

processes, and these events would be covered by the AVA's liability insurance.

- These events would not offer IVV credit for achievement awards, and not be constrained by IVV rules concerning distance categories. No use of the IVV logo would be permitted.
- Clubs conducting approved AVA-C events will be permitted to use the AVA logo, DBA, and promotional materials when advertising and conducting the events.
- Clubs will submit After Action Reports on AVA-C events as they do with IVV sanctioned events, to permit the AVA to gather data on the numbers/types of events and total participants.

2. That the AVA market and advertise these new opportunities, by adding the AVA-C events concept to our National Marketing Campaign (Strategic Plan OBJ 3.A). The AVA will make appropriate resourcing available to clubs, RDs/State Organizations, and Committee(s), to initiate and sustain the program as follows:

- a. Initial costs to be approved (for the ESR changes)
- b. Future costs to sustain the program to be determined and proposed in regular annual budget submission(s)(same as IVV sanctioned events currently)

3. That the AVA implement this program when the required ESR changes are ready, but starting not later than 1 Jan 2018. The Executive Director will announce this timeframe and associated procedures to be followed in the AVA Checkpoint, when ready.

Motion passed.

John McClellan made a motion:

I move that we delete under para #3. "but starting not later than 1 Jan 2018."

Motion seconded by Bob Morrison.

Discussion followed.

Bob Morrison made a motion to call the question.

The motion to call the question failed.

Discussion continued.

Motion passed.

New Business.

Presentation made by Holly Pelking and Dolores Grenier regarding a potential Olympiad in the United States.

John McClellan made a motion:

I move that the NEC approve that AVA apply to host the 2021 IVV Olympiad in Arlington, VA.

Motion seconded by Andy Bacon

Motion passed.

Chris Mellen made a motion:

I move that we approve the 2017 - 2019 meeting calendar for the NEC:

January 19-21, 2018 - Florida

June 8 - 10, 2018 - Albany, NY

January 11 - 13, 2019 Arizona

June 8 - 10, 2019 - Albany, NY

Motion seconded by Andy Bacon

Motion passed.

The NEC accepted the New, Reactivated, and Deactivated Clubs. (Attachment 8)

List of Donations accepted by the NEC. (Attachment 9)

Susan Medlin made a motion:

I move that we form a subcommittee to report back on the \$50 no traditional event fee.

Motion seconded by Sam Korff

Motion withdrawn.

Susan Medlin made a motion:

I move that the Executive Director investigate and report

back to the NEC on the results of the \$50 no traditional event fee.

Motion seconded by Suzi Glass.

Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned 6:40 p.m. August 12, 2017



American Volkssport Association
National Executive Council XXI Meeting
Saturday, August 12, 2017/ 3:00p.m. – 6:00p.m.
Tapatio Springs, 1 Resort Way, Boerne, Texas 78006

AVA: America's Walking Club

Agenda

- 1. Welcome & Call to Order**
- 2. Introduction of Board of Directors**
- 3. Introduction of Guests**
- 4. Approval of Agenda**
- 5. Reports of Officers**
 - a. President – David Bonewitz
 - b. Secretary – Sam Korff
- 6. Reports of Standing Committees**
 - a. Convention – Frank and Sherry Sayers
 - b. Information and Technology – Chris Zegelin
- 7. Reports of Special Committees and Ad Hoc Committees**
 - a. Ad Hoc Programs – Debbie Kruep
- 8. Unfinished Business**
 - a. "non-IVV" events (AVA-C)
- 9. New Business**

Approval to apply for 2021 Olympiad – Holly Pelking and Dolores Grenier
- 10. Next Meeting**
- 11. Audience Comments**
- 12. Executive Council Comments**
- 13. Adjournment**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - August NEC

There has only been a short time since the July 1, 2017, transition to the current National Executive Council (NEC); so, this report will be limited.

Some of the problems with the governance of the AVA are (1) the infrequent meetings of the NEC, (2) the relatively short time for each of the meetings, and (3) the tendency of the NEC to spend too much time in the details.

A potential solution to the first problem is to arrange for more frequent in-person meetings of the NEC. The ByLaws require the NEC meet a minimum of two times a year. Currently, the NEC has been meeting two to three times a year. To add an additional one or two in-person meetings will add an additional expense to the annual budget. The question to the NEC is whether the value added of additional in-person meetings justifies modifying the budget.

The second potential solution to the first problem is to conduct routine "long-distance" electronic meetings. The proposed plan is to conduct a monthly "information" meeting on a single subject. No votes are planned to be conducted at these meetings. This is a doable solution using the Office 365 system installed at the AVA office. An email poll was conducted of the NEC members and a routine day/time was established (monthly on the third Tuesday at 10:00 Eastern Time) for these meetings to be conducted. A vote by the NEC at this meeting will officially confirm this meeting plan. If officially approved, the first "information" meeting will be held on September 19, 2017.

The potential solutions to the second and third problems with governance as listed above work together. The committee structure that currently exists has not been used efficiently. The intent here is to use the committee structure as indicated by best practices for non-profits. We will encourage ideas, suggestions, and motions to be submitted on a continuing basis, not just right before the next NEC meeting. A submitted item will be assessed by the President and the Executive Director for assignment to one of the AVA NEC committees. Once assigned, the committee will take needed actions to prepare for an initial presentation to the NEC. Following the presentation, the NEC will give direction to the appropriate committee for those topics that will be pursued. The committee will take the directed action and report progress to the NEC. By taking this "committee-centric" approach and working hard to keep discussions at the NEC meetings at the strategic level, both the last two problems can be dealt with.

In order to better use our committees, it is essential that the NEC review and discuss the committee structure, add/modify/delete committees as appropriate, and ensure that every committee has a charter. This will be a topic of discussion for today's meeting.

The Executive Director and I travelled to Albany to participate in planning meetings for the 2019 AVA Biennial Convention. A full verbal report will be given at this meeting.

I would also note that I put three items in the July Checkpoint. The first was a call for volunteers for the various AVA National Committees. As of the date of this report, I have received no emails requesting more information or volunteering to help AVA at the national level. The second was a request for clubs to tell us about how they are being good members of their communities by doing something of service in their community like picking up trash, holding an event to honor a special group like veterans, partnering with another non-profit to raise awareness or money, or doing something else of service. As of the date of this report, I have received only one response from a club who partners with the American Cancer Society at their Relay for Life. The lack of response to these two items has led me to ask myself if folks are reading the Checkpoint or just don't care to respond. The third item was an announcement of the change to the date of the 2019 Biennial Convention to avoid a conflict with the Crazy Horse event.

It was an honor to be elected President of AVA. Using the foundation of the Strategic Plan, we can ensure that AVA: America's Walking Club has a bright future. However, we must realize that this is a team effort here at the NEC and across the AVA nation. It will take work. It won't be easy or necessarily quick, but AVA can have a bright future. Let's get going!

Standing Committees	Chair	E-Mail
Audit	Bob Morrison	audit@ava.org
ByLaws	Lucy Yother	bylaws@ava.org
21st AVA Biennial Convention	Lea Darling & Teresa Kennedy	convention@ava.org
Information Technology	Chris Zegelin	IT@ava.org
Publicity	Barbara Nuss	publicity@ava.org
Standards and Evaluation	Jerry Wilson	Stand-Eval@ava.org
Special Committees	XXXX	XXXX
Awards and Recognition	Suzi Glass	awards@ava.org
Nominating	Open	---
Special Programs	Bonnie Johnson	SpecialPrograms@ava.org
Training Development	Tom Baltes	training@ava.org
Programs*	Debbie Kruep	programs@ava.org
National Programs*	Susan Medlin	NationalPrograms@ava.org
Ad Hoc Biking*	OPEN	---
Ad Hoc Membership	Holly Pelking	membership@ava.org
Ad Hoc Fund Development	Nancy Wittenberg	FundDevelopment@ava.org
New Committees	XXXX	XXXX
Club Development and Support	John McClellan	ClubSupport@ava.org
Free Walker Study Group	Sam Korff	FreeWalkerStudy@ava.org
Strategic Plan Implementation/Coordination	Nancy Wittenberg	StrategicPlan@ava.org
2021 IVV Olympiad Organizing Committee	Dolores Grenier & Holly Pelking	Olympiad2021@ava.org

Credentialing Standard Operating Procedures – Sam Korff, AVA Secretary

Currently, the Secretary responsibilities are spelled out in the NEC Handbook, Section VII, paragraph C. Sub para 4 currently reads "4. Produces convention meeting rules and credentialing procedures."

Convention Meeting Rules and Credentialing Procedures

A. Actions before Convention

Approximately 90 days before convention:

- (1) Send out Call to Convention with Delegate/Proxy Forms
- (2) Send email to Regional Directors asking for:
 - (a) A Teller (vote counter) from each region (teller must not be a delegate or proxy carrier) (Secretary needs name and contact information)
 - (b) The name and contact information for each new or reelected Regional Director (This information to be given to the President to announce the next National Executive Council)

B. Actions during Convention

1. Have the Credentials Booth open the same hours as the Registration Booth while registrants are picking up packets. The Secretary will man the Credentials Booth during the hours of the "Meet-n-Greet." The Secretary will need Headquarters assistance to help man the Credentials Booth.
2. Wednesday through Friday: Credentials Booth closes one hour before the meetings start. If the General Meeting starts at 3:15 p.m. Credentials Booth closes at 2:15 p.m.
3. Wednesday - Secretary meets with Tellers and Head Teller 15 minutes after Credentials Booth closes to give instructions in the Meeting Room (2:30 p.m. if the meeting starts at 3:15 p.m.)
4. Secretary will appoint the Head Teller
5. Distributing Officer Ballots

These will consist of four colored individual ballots. Blue for President, Pink for Vice President, Green for Secretary, Yellow for Treasurer. These ballots will be distributed at the entrance to the meeting room. One set of four individual ballots will be given for each Delegate/Proxy Card presented by a Delegate.

Special Note: Where only one candidate for a National Office has been nominated, NO ballots shall be cast by the members (Delegates), and the President will call for a voice vote of the members. This will take place during the

Opening General Session on Wednesday. Thus, once a candidate has been elected by acclamation, their paper ballot will be removed from the set.

6. Picking up Paper Ballots

Four Tabulator Team Members (from any of the three teams) will pick up the ballots from each row. Two members will be on each of the two outside aisles of the room (4 people). They will go from row to row using a box in which to deposit the ballots. They will begin at a middle row. One member will walk toward the front of the meeting room and the other will walk to the back collecting ballots at each row. The folded ballots will be passed to the aisle from the center.

The boxes of ballots will be taken to a designated area for counting

7. Tabulating Paper Ballots

Each Tabulator Team will be given one Tally Sheet for each National Officer. A Tally Sheet consists of three columns. Each column heading lists the name of the candidate plus a blank.

Two Team Members will be Name Callers and call out the name of the candidate whose name is circled on the paper ballot.

The third team member will be the Tabulator and make one tick mark in the column for the person whose name has been called out. Tick marks will be made in groupings of five: four vertical tick marks and the fifth tick will be a slanted line through them.

Each team will have a box to put the ballots in as they are counted.

Once the paper ballots have been collected, they will be put into one pile. Team A will begin the tabulating process. Once a name has been called out, the ballot will be placed in the Team A box.

To speed up the process, after Team A reads about 30 or so ballots, Team B will begin the process using the paper ballots in the Team A box. After Team B has 30 or so ballots in their box, Team C will begin the tabulating process using the in the Team B box. This will continue until each team has read each ballot one time. Once each team completes tabulating all ballots and marked the Tally Sheet, it will be handed to the Tabulator Team Chief. NOTE: The Team Tabulator DOES NOT need to add up or count the tick marks.

8. Counting Delegate/Proxy Cards for Non-Paper Ballots

Nine Tabulator Team Members (from any of the three teams) will count Delegate/Proxy Cards. Two members will be on the two outside aisles of the room (4) and start at the middle row. One member will walk toward the front of the meeting

room and the other will walk to the back.

After they have completed five or six rows, two more members (4) will do exactly the same thing as a double check.

One team member will go on stage and count Delegate/Proxy Cards held by the four officers, Regional Directors, and Parliamentarian.

At each row, a Tabulator Team Member will count the number of Delegate/Proxy Cards held up by each delegate in that row. Only the color card selected for the day will be counted. Once the cards have been counted in a row, the number of cards that were counted will be written on a small pad of paper.

After compiling the information from each row, all team members will give the pad sheets with the numbers to the Tabulator Team Chief.

9. Tabulator Team Chief Responsibilities

- Oversee the balloting process
- Add up tick numbers on the Tally Sheets
- Prepare the Ballot Tally Reports to the President
- Give all Tally Sheets and Ballots to the AVA Secretary

NOTE: These instructions are subject to change because of on site conditions. They are presented as an initial guideline. A briefing will be done on site to review and discuss these procedures.

10. Team Member Duties

- Distribute Officer Ballots to **credentialed** delegates
- Distribute Special Ballots (if needed) to **credentialed** delegates
- Collect Paper Ballots
- Count Delegate/Proxy Cards
- Make tabulations

11. AVA Secretary

The AVA Secretary is required by the AVA Bylaws to furnish delegates with credentials and supervise the voting at all regular and special membership meetings. The AVA Secretary will authenticate each Delegate and Alternate Delegate and the proxies they may be carrying and issue the Delegate/Proxy cards. These will be:

- Wednesday: Yellow
- Thursday: Blue
- Friday: Pink

SAMPLE TABULATOR TEAM MAKE UP
Tabulator Team Chief: Northwest Teller

Team A (1) North Central Teller
(2) Southwest Teller
(3) Atlantic Teller

Team B (1) South Central Teller
(2) Pacific Teller
(3) Northeast Teller

Team C (1) Rocky Mountain Teller
(2) Southeast Teller
(3) Mid America Teller

Team make up is arbitrary. It can be changed at future conventions. One person on each team will be a Tabulator. The other two team members will be Name Callers. Each team can decide on who does what.

(b)(1)

**AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE REPORT**

FOR THE _____ **20th AVA Biennial Convention** _____ **COMMITTEE**

FOR THE _____ **August 11, 2017** _____ **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

FROM (Name): _____ **Sherry Sayers, Chairperson** _____

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Convention Complete with many positive comments.

ACTIVITIES:

Total Registrations: 473.

Event Participation: Buffalo-456; Little Bighorn-488; Yellowstone River-573; President's Walk-518; Swords Rimrock Park-513; Red Lodge-422; Cody-378; Bike-125; Swim-223; Total Event Participants-3696.

Social Events: Meet & Greet-342; Thursday Deli Lunch-338; Friday Box Lunch-295; Friday night Out of Bounds Bash-314.

Workshops were well attended and well received. There was no walk or lunch conflict.

General Sessions accomplished everything scheduled. Speakers were excellent.

A total of 195 shirts were ordered: 127 polos, and 68 T-shirts, all of which sold out. A total of 144 volunteer shirts were ordered, with only a few left over.

CONCERNS:

The medal count somehow was off, therefore, we had to reorder and mail out about two dozen orders, as well as some bears.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

A more detailed wrap-up document will follow.

Please attach any additional material that is part of your report.

[Print Form](#)[Reset Form](#)[Submit AVA Committee Report to AVA Headquarters by Email](#)

2017 AVA Convention in Billings – After-Action Report
Sherry Sayers, Chairperson

For this convention, we decided to try something different and that was to sanction all seven walks from June 5th to June 11th. This worked well in some ways, but not in others. The walkers seemed to like it, as this gave them a lot of flexibility in doing the walks, since there were no seasonals or year-round walks close by. In my experience at previous conventions, the two post-convention walks usually get lower numbers and they are usually the nicest walks, so I feel that a lot of walkers got to experience the last two walks on their own by doing it this way. The downside of this was that the maps were too available and people took advantage of this. We almost ran out of maps on several occasions at the regular events, even though we thought we had accounted for this. Another downside was trying to keep an accurate count of walkers that did what walks, so probably some credits didn't get accounted for.

A mistake I felt that we did was including too many things with the full registration package. We included GAVAN bear (which Frank insisted on and I was against; I just wanted to sell him for \$12), we included the bear medallion with all the medals (for a total of 10), and this made it very hard to organize the packages. We ended up ordering the bears three times, and the last time it took them almost two months to ship, so we had to mail bears. In addition, somehow the medal count was incorrect, so we ran out of certain medals, even though we had ordered almost the same amount. I am convinced the company shorted us, but we had no way to prove that, as we didn't have time to do an inventory check before we started distributing the medals. So, my advice for the next convention is make sure you order your medals in plenty of time.

I ordered all the polos and T-shirts and I found it was very difficult to determine what sizes to order and how many of each. I used Queensboro in North Carolina, and ordered from them four times, with the initial color that I ordered being discontinued, but they did offer great prices and free shipping. I ordered 127 polos and 68 T-shirts, and they all sold out. We used a local company (GraffitiTs) for the volunteer shirts and this worked out way better. We ordered 144, which is the cut-off number where you don't have to pay a set-up fee, and the shirts were under \$5 each (except 2XL, which are a couple of dollars more). Lynette thought this was going to be way too many, but we ended up with only about eight t-shirts left, and I ended up selling quite a few of them at Red Lodge and Cody.

The company we ordered the medals from threw in 300 free bear lapel pins, which we ended up selling for \$3 each and sold about half of them. I think that was pretty good, since we did not pre-advertise them because we didn't know we were getting them until the order was placed. The medals ended up being quite heavy (which I just loved), but people seemed to think they were going to be patches, which surprised us. I am not a fan of patches and I think the medals were a good bargain for the price. We ordered them from Challenge Coins (challengecoinsltd.com).

Another surprising thing to us was that the online registration was open for three months, yet we had quite a few people who got upset when they missed the deadline. So, we allowed them to go ahead and register late, but that really put a wrench into our timelines for printing of badges, figuring the numbers, ordering the medals, etc. I felt the company we chose for online registration (EZRegister.com) was very good, however, we had some complaints that it was too confusing, but Frank did it the way he did so that you only had to pay once for each item you chose. Some also did not read all the way through the registration process and did not get their associate member discounts, which we then refunded at the end of convention.

Workshops:

I feel this is one area where you absolutely need a committee (but I didn't have one). This was quite difficult with not living in the area, but I ended up contacting Kevin Kooistra, who is the executive director of the Western Heritage Center in Billings, to do the keynote address and two workshops only because we had met him three years previously when we were scouting the area prior to the convention presentation. Just from meeting him then I knew he would be a great keynote speaker and he was. I also contracted for the Nordic Pole Walking workshop through Robert Sweetgall, who used to do workshops with the AVA back in 2003. Unfortunately, he is having health issues, but he recommended Bruce Colton, who came all the way from Bozeman, to teach the pole walking workshop, and that worked out great, as well. Lynette lined up the Tai Chi folks, and Frank coordinated the remaining workshops. So, I guess I had a committee after all!

I also found Russ Palmer, our other keynote speaker, online, who then directed me to the Andrew Pearson American Legion Post organization, and they presented the Colors at the beginning of the convention meetings. He also ended up being a great find for the presentation and he accepted the donation for the nonprofit mentioned above. I was a bit leery at first just picking him out of the blue (internet)!

These were my committee members:

Lois Petersen and her husband **Frank Pratt**, who coordinated everything pertaining to the Buffalo walk, **Kevin Ross**, who coordinated everything pertaining to the Cody walk, and **Lynette Reagan**, who coordinated everything pertaining to the Red Lodge walk, as well as finding our artist for the medals, helping me design the medals, ordering the volunteer T-shirts, finding a company to laminate the badges (at the last minute), and pretty much everything I asked of her.

Lynette also coordinated all the volunteers at the convention, which was a huge task. I cannot stress enough that without our volunteers that stepped up, we could never have pulled this off. So many people from all over the country helped us tremendously and I am so grateful for that. As I mentioned above, without a local club presence (the two clubs that are in Montana are far away and both have only a few members), and with us living so far away from the venue, I feel that we were very lucky to have succeeded in putting on a great convention.

All in all, with our limited resources, I believe the convention was a big success, and I'm happy to say we are all still friends. I will gladly answer any questions pertaining to the convention details at 719-640-6745.

Thanks for reading!

6(b)

**AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE REPORT**

FOR THE _____ IT _____ COMMITTEE

FOR THE _____ AUG 2017 _____ EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

FROM (Name): _____ CHRIS ZEGELIN _____

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

This IT committee is new with a short term focus on fixing those items neglected over previous years. The accomplishments over the last 6 months were outlined in a presentation given at the AVA convention and a final committee report. There is no additional information on that work at this time.

ACTIVITIES:

The first weeks are being spent identifying the top few IT projects that will have an immediate impact. There is a significant discovery to understand the true nature of the AVA systems. This discovery will be complete by the end of July (except for new ESR) and the projects started by the August 2017 NEC meeting.

The new committee is myself (Chris Zegelin), Mike Green (liaison to the NEC), Chris Mellen, Hector Hernandez (liaison to headquarters). We had our first planning meeting (online video conference) and will continue to have meetings every last Tuesday of the month.

We have identified three major projects that we will make every effort to complete by the January NEC meeting. The projects are as follows:

- a. Supporting the new IVV event stamps.
- b. Work out how to get the participation information reliably into the billing system.
- c. Create a new walker story for the current web site. Focus on the story and graphic design

CONCERNS:

None at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

We have no specific recommendations. It is too early for this new committee to make any changes in direction. The new projects are fixes and or new work that does not have a significant impact on ongoing work.

Please attach any additional material that is part of your report.

Print Form

Reset Form

Submit AVA Committee Report to AVA Headquarters by Email

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**AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE REPORT**

FOR THE Information Technology **COMMITTEE**

FOR THE August 10, 2017 **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

FROM (Name): Frank Sayers

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Event database ready for production as soon as ESR training can be accomplished.

ACTIVITIES:

See YCS status reports.

Recommended to renew events with legacy system, then ETL when ready to turn on new database access.

CONCERNS:

Time ran out before extensive testing could be accomplished on Event database.
Training on ESR entry needs to be accomplished.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please see document 'Transition of the AVA Database'

Please attach any additional material that is part of your report.

[Print Form](#)[Reset Form](#)[Submit AVA Committee Report to AVA Headquarters by Email](#)

Transition of the AVA Database

Per the email discussion and determination of the conflict of interest, I will be turning over all information and account information on a USB to headquarters, and to David for passing on to the new IT Committee Chair. Henry has hired Robert, who normally charges \$150 per hour, to replace Mike Young (\$1,000 per month [about \$8 per hour based on hours worked]) and me (free). Mike and I will provide informational insight to Robert as he requires for the next three months. Mike and I will have our access terminated to all AVA related office and cloud functions effective 1 July 2017.

Discussion with club members and Mike Green at the convention indicated we should allow updating of next year's YRE/Seasonal events in the legacy system. We will ETL it over as necessary so everything is there. The cutoff will be the cutoff date for publication of the Starting Point. At that point, all new ESR input will be to the new database. Chris Mellen has volunteered to be the point person for the new ESR, even though I do not remember him being at the sessions at convention, or being exposed to the new ESR at all.

It is now up to the new IT Committee to take over the 'Data Governance' issues, the correction of 'bad' data, training for generating reports with Excel and Word by connecting to the new database, online training for the new ESR, SuperAdmin responsibilities.

Publication of the Starting Point should go ahead as planned for this year, utilizing the data in the legacy database. The new database will have a report configured as necessary for next year, or we may decide to go to a 'Print on Demand' format, and no longer publish the huge book. That is a discussion for the next NEC.

New content needs to be provided by all Regional Directors for the new ava.org. It should be a regional biography. Recommend no longer putting home addresses on the web pages. Photos should be full color.

Email marketing needs to be created for both new individuals that sign up, and a separate email marketing campaign for those who are already associate members.

7(a)

AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE REPORT

FOR THE _____ Programs _____ COMMITTEE

FOR THE _____ June 2017 _____ EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

FROM (Name): _____ Debbie Kruep _____

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The Program Committee accomplished the following items from January 23 through April 4, 2017

1. Connected Navigator USA chapters and AVA clubs in Colorado and Indiana each conducted a Walk Together.
2. Tested a Walker Tracker Community.
3. Researched compatibility of Walker Tracker to fill needs for an AVA online digital reward system and AVA mobile app.
4. Completed and submitted a motion for the NEC meeting regarding the creation and guidelines for a new category of AVA walks known as AVA-C (non IVV).

ACTIVITIES:

1. Connected Navigator USA chapters and AVA clubs in Virginia, Nevada, Missouri and Wisconsin. Walk Togethers are planned for the months of April and May.
2. Still attempting to connect the Pensacola Navigators with the Pensacola AVA club. The Navigator Chapter is ready to walk with us.
3. Moved Navigator USA/AVA Mega event to 2018.
4. We are heavily researching information regarding, internal costs, user cost, and sponsorships for the Invest in your Health 401K as an online program. There is great interest in sponsorship from investment firms. We hope to have this completed by the next NEC for approval. If approved it could roll out in January of 2018.
5. Aggressively recruiting 5 AVA clubs to volunteer for a pilot program for Grade Schools. The program would consist of volunteer club members to walk with grade schoolers one or two times a week before or after school throughout the school year and culminate in a large 5k celebration event at the end of year. Two clubs have agreed.
6. Conducting the Girl Scout Patch competition with the Girl Scouts of California Central Coast. Contest ending April 30, 2017.
7. In talks with Navigators USA to renew existing collaboration for 5 years.

CONCERNS:

1. We have researched Walker Tracker for use as the application to use as an online digital system and mobile app. We have come to the conclusion that Walker Tracker will not work in that capacity. We researched Walker Tracker because one of our committee members has had a nine year relationship with them and felt very comfortable discussing all aspects including cost. We will have to go back to the list to research other applications. The other members of the program committee do not feel comfortable in this area. This poses a problem for our committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Although Walker Tracker is not a good fit for the AVA digital online reward system to track current distance and events, the committee does feel it is the perfect application for the "Invest in Your Health 401K" program we are currently developing. This program would be similar to the special program books we run now. The difference being this program would be run online and the awards (t-shirt, etc) would come directly from AVA HQ, no books or clubs involved. Any profitable funds would go to HQ. We feel this is a great way to introduce an online application to AVA and attract new walkers from the Walker Tracker community. We have been putting feelers out in the financial sector and have leads on Investment firms that are very interested in funding this program. We feel confident we may be able to completely fund this program by sponsorships. We also have a lot of walkers interested in the program. We would like the NEC to give the program committee permission to continue to develop this program, solicit and secure financial sponsorships with the understanding that a detailed outline of the program will be given at the next NEC meeting.

Please attach any additional material that is part of your report.

Print Form

Reset Form

Submit AVA Committee Report to AVA Headquarters by Email

401K: Invest in Your Health

Description

An Internet based program through Walker Tracker where walkers log their Volkswalks by kilometers to earn awards for walking 401K in a year.

Objective

1. Provide AVA walkers an introduction to using technology in Volkssporting.
2. A fun 12 month program that allows Volkswalkers to log all walks in one place to accumulate the required 401K.
3. We invest in our financial future with 401K Programs so we can retire comfortably. Why not invest in our health so we can enjoy our retirement with better health and longevity by walking 401K each year?

Program

1. AVA will have a private designated personalized portal, (possibly ava.walkertracker.com) with simple setup and administration. This will be linked to the AVA website. App to eventually follow.
2. Once a Volkswalker is approved and registered for the program, he/she will create a username and password. We have a volunteer who will be designated to approve walkers.
3. Each time a Volkswalker completes a Volkswalk, he/she will log the kilometers walked on the AVA Walker Tracker Website.
4. Each time a Volkswalker completes a Volkswalk, he/she can post info and a photo about the walk for other Volkswalkers to view.
5. Only sanctioned Traditional or Year-Round Events will count.
6. Only kilometers for sanctioned events will be recorded; no steps or conversion of other activities.

Benefits

1. A unique opportunity to help move Volkssporting forward in technology.

401K: Invest in Your Health



2. A bar graph showing each Volkswalker's progress and comparison to other walkers, designating when the goal has been completed.
3. An online community of Volkssporters to share and learn about other events.
4. A platform for Volkssporters to communicate with other Volkssporters and inquire about other events.
5. A platform for Volkswalkers and Clubs to advertise upcoming events and multi-event weekends.
6. A platform for AVA Clubs to create Teams and view Club progress with bar graphs.
7. A platform for Clubs to challenge other Clubs, with bar graphs showing progress.
8. **A platform to add additional programs/challenges at no extra cost** allowing kilometers entered to count for all programs in a timeframe. No duplicate kilometer entry necessary.
9. Secure, accessible from anywhere online (or via the app, future)
10. Promotes social interaction and team building.

Cost to AVA --\$0--

1. \$1,000 set up fee. **Paid by sponsors**
2. \$28/person per year, minimum of \$150 users; or
3. \$24/person per year, minimum of \$300 users.
4. Sponsorship money from Financial Institutions will be used to offset the cost for the program and award (T- Shirts) by allowing them to advertise on AVA's Website for one year. i.e.: Morgan Stanley, proud sponsor of "The Invest in Your Health: 401K Program" in addition to having their name on the back of the T- Shirts with company literature.
5. Enrollment fee could be assessed each participant or partially/totally funded by Financial Institutions. EX: \$10 program fee for AVA members, \$18 subsidized by sponsors.
6. Enrollment fee could be assessed differently for AVA members versus non-members.

8(a)

American Volkssport Association
Agenda Item Form

Proposed Motion – The Programs Committee proposes changes to the AVA Policy Manual to allow Clubs to plan, advertise and hold “non-IVV” events as part of their annual activities. These events will be known as AVA-C (community) events.

We Move -

1. That the AVA create a new category of “non-IVV” (AVA-C) event parameters, as found on Attachment #1 and make changes to the AVA Policy Manual and the Electronic Sanctioning System (ESR) to incorporate these events so that clubs can apply to hold them.

- AVA would approve AVA-C events using existing processes, and these events would be covered by the AVA’s liability insurance.
- These events would not offer IVV credit for achievement awards, and not be constrained by IVV rules concerning distance categories. No use of the IVV logo would be permitted.
- Clubs conducting approved AVA-C Events will be permitted to use the AVA logo, DBA, and promotional materials when advertising and conducting the events.
- Clubs will submit After Action Reports on AVA-C events as they do with IVV sanctioned events, to permit the AVA to gather data on the numbers/types of events and total participants.

2. That the AVA market and advertise these new opportunities, by adding the AVA-C events concept to our National Marketing Campaign [Strategic Plan OBJ 3.A.] The AVA will make appropriate resourcing available to clubs, RDs / State Organizations, and Committee(s), to initiate and sustain the program as follows:

- a. Initial costs to be approved: *(for the ESR changes)*
- b. Future costs to sustain the program to be determined and proposed in regular annual budget submission(s) (same as IVV sanctioned events currently.)

3. That the AVA implement this program when the required ESR changes are ready, but starting not later than 1 JAN 2018. The Executive Director will announce this timeframe and associated procedures to be followed in the AVA Checkpoint, when ready.

Submitted By – Deh Kruep, Chairman – Programs Committee

Seconded By --

Summary of Proposed Action –

1. Business Rationale.

The AVA is experiencing declining membership, declining numbers of clubs and declining participation in our events. Clubs, State Organizations and RDs need any/all available tools to reinvigorate the AVA through approaching the fitness walking public, Community partners and interest groups to attract their renewed participation in volkssporting. The motion supports Strategic Plan Objective(s) 1.A., 1.B., 1.D., 2.A, 2.C.

Non-IVV events are intended to extend AVA's reach in the community and fitness market by making it possible for clubs to offer new/different kinds of events, without some of the constraints of traditional IVV rules and without the need to offer IVV Achievement Program credit. Specifically, this program is intended to provide increased flexibility for AVA clubs to partner with local community or non-profit organizations in their areas.

Three categories of non-IVV events are proposed (Attachment #1):

- a. AVA-C "Traditional" event
- b. AVA-C Youth Event
- c. AVA-C Guided Event

Some specific examples of the events envisioned would be:

- Large community events with a shorter walking distance and possibility of emphasis on a community "gimmick" introducing the general public to our sport, possibly partnering with another not for profit, health care provider or business.
- Shorter events that are geared toward handicapped individuals.
- Large Scout events where only a 5k is needed.
- Scout events produced on scout property for scouts and families only and not open to the public.
- School event on school property not open to the public offered as a walking celebration for efforts during the school year.
- Short fun walks that introduce new walkers to our sport
- "Sofa to Sidewalk" start-up fitness efforts that start with very short distances and gradually increase
- Walks in areas where it is not possible to meet the distance requirement for an IVV sanction.

Currently, IVV rules for event distances, manning, and other trail considerations rule out many of these collaborative events that we could be offering to attract non-IVV audiences. Specifically, the minimum sanctioning requirement ["short" distance walk = 10km] is too long in many instances to match-up with the event/fitness goals of other groups, available venues, and/or demographic groups.

At least a few clubs are already doing some of these kinds of events on a regular or recurring basis - and bearing the cost of separate insurance. Others have let opportunities to expand AVA through these kinds of events go unfulfilled, because they lacked clear guidance, perceived events that did not meet IVV standards - i.e. not "legal," or, were not prepared to underwrite the liability insurance costs themselves. As the AVA doesn't currently track the success/failure and participation rates of these events, we can't document the volume of "non-IVV" activity and use it in support of grant requests, in negotiations with potential sponsors, etc.

2. Support of our Non-Profit Status.

The AVA is a nonprofit, voluntary membership corporation, organized under the laws of the State of Texas and organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code of 1986, as amended (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), to promote the public health, physical fitness and well-being of the people of the United States, its possessions, trusts, territories, dependencies and overseas military bases and diplomatic missions, by organizing, promoting and conducting scheduled programs of non-competitive, family oriented, participatory lifetime sports including, but not limited to: walking (including jogging and running), bicycling, swimming, cross-country skiing and such other events as may be sanctioned by the IVV.

The AVA has taken on the mantra of "America's Walking Club," and so must adopt new ways of doing business. Creating a new category for "non-IVV" events supports our charitable and educational purposes under section 501 (c)(3), and as expressed in our Charter and Bylaws – specifically – under Purpose:

- (c) to develop and implement a program of public information and education to engender interest in scheduled programs of noncompetitive, family oriented, participatory lifetime sports;
- (g) to provide understanding of the benefits of participation in organized programs of noncompetitive, family oriented, participatory, lifetime sports;
- (h) to foster a preventive maintenance concept in health care;
- (i) to stress the fun and exhilaration of walking (including jogging and running), bicycling, swimming, cross-country skiing and such other events

3. Actions Recommended at Each Level. (National, Regional/State, Club)

- a. AVA Headquarters / Senior Leadership: Aggressively communicate the new guidelines within the AVA Community, including Checkpoint, TAW, speaking engagements, and all available means of communication. i.e. be "All In"

Program Committee Responsibilities –

- Provide materials describing non-IVV Events options and administrative procedures for implementation and operation of the program
- Monitor implementation and sustainment, make recommendations for changes
- Prepare CP and TAW articles to launch the program and educate the volkssporting community
- Work with the Publicity Committee on how to market non-IVV programs

IT Committee Responsibilities –

- Work with the Programs Committee to fulfill required changes in the ESR system supporting non-IVV events; make implementation recommendations
- Provide budget estimates for the cost of initial changes to ESR
- Provide the ED with a timeline for system readiness

Publicity Committee Responsibilities –

- Incorporate AVA-C program into AVA's National Advertising campaign and highlight our expansion into this new market
 - Develop language and products to market/advertise new kinds of events that clubs can eventually tap as "templates"
 - Promote and highlight early "success stories"
- b. RDs/State Organizations – Aggressively communicate the new guidelines within the AVA Community, including Checkpoint, TAW, speaking engagements, and all available means of communication. i.e. bc "All In."
- Assist clubs with education/questions on the AVA-C event program
 - Assist clubs in working through ESR changes because of new program, and work with clubs/National on ESR reporting criteria that adequately describe participation in AVA-C events to (a) satisfy National Insurance requirements (b) provide useful information for national marketing efforts and future donors/sponsors development efforts
 - Provide data supporting future budget estimates supporting AVA-C events
 - Support and encourage clubs to seek local media coverage (newspaper, radio, TV, internet) of new AVA-C events with partnership organizations
 - Support and encourage clubs to submit "success story" articles to TAW, etc. to publicize and grow the new programs
- c. Clubs will – educate their members on the new AVA-C events categories and look for opportunities in their areas to implement these events in partnership with Community organizations, other non-profits, schools, or others
- Register AVA-C events in ESR per newly created guidelines
 - Meet requirements to qualify for insurance coverage under AVA policy
 - Report participation data on AVA-C events using criteria established; work with their RDs to provide input on ways to do this
 - With RD/State support -- seek local media coverage (newspaper, radio, TV, internet) of new non-IVV events with partnership organizations
 - Write and submit "success story" articles to TAW, etc. to publicize and grow the new programs



Fun, Fitness, Friendship

**American Volkssport Association
Acceptance of New, Reactivated, and Deactivated Clubs**


June 2017

New

Reactivated

Deactivated

03-AVA-0229 Bulls Run Ramblers	7/25/2017
04-AVA-0885 Haweye Hikers Volkswalking Club	8/01/2017
11-AVA-0229 Castroville Chamber of Commerce	8/07/2017

 Fun, Fitness, Friendship		AVA DONATIONS	
		Beginning May 11, 2017	
		Ending August 7, 2017	
Date	Donor	State	Type
5/11/17	Glen Conyers	MO	In Memory of Jim Reeves
5/22/17	Robert and Suzanne Wright	VA	In Memory of Wayne Holloway; For IT
"	Janice J. Jerabek	CA	In Memory of Wayne Holloway
5/23/17	Joanne Jensen	CA	In Memory of Wayne Holloway; For IT
"	Donald T. Sloan	CA	In Memory of Wayne Holloway; For IT
5/24/17	Howard Simmons Jr.	CA	In Memory of Wayne Holloway
6/5/17	Jacqueline & Doug Reynolds	NY	In Memory of Wayne Holloway
"	Georgie L. Reed	CA	In Memory of Wayne Holloway
"	Fred Barton	AZ	In Memory of Wayne Holloway
"	Barbara Nuss	CA	In Memory of Wayne Holloway
"	Theresa Ihara	CA	In Memory of Wayne Holloway
"	Judy Stroud	CA	In Memory of Wayne Holloway
"	Judy Gordon	NV	In Memory of Wayne Holloway
"	Carol Shields	CA	In Memory of Wayne Holloway
6/7/17	Doug Davis	WA	
"	Rita Jones	SC	
"	Kathy B. Szczesiak	DE	
6/8/17	Elisabeth A. Wittenberg	WA	In Memory of Wayne Holloway
"	Bonita Johnson	MN	In Memory of Wayne Holloway
"	Terry A. Bennett	IN	
6/15/17	John Garrett	AZ	
6/19/17	Michael Shay	TX	
"	Sheila Sartin	WA	
"	Bruce Uhl	AZ	
"	Lynda Thomas	AZ	
6/22/17	Rozy Weatherby	OR	In Memory of Wayne Holloway
"	Myrna L. Jackson	CA	In Memory of Wayne Holloway
"	Thomas Lee	VA	
"	Carolyn Lai	UT	
"	David Johnston	CO	
"	Heather Majernik	NC	
"	Leon LeVan	TX	
"	Robyn Koerschner	VA	
"	Carole Owens	IN	
6/23/17	Tracy Craven	OH	
7/6/17	Beverly Russell	OR	
"	Ruth Holter	PA	
"	Pauline Evans	TX	
"	Leo Bourque	MA	
6/27/17	Gail Samcoff	CA	In Memory of Wayne Holloway
7/11/17	Donald Ratliff	CA	In Memory of Wayne Holloway; For IT
7/18/17	Robyn Koerschner	VA	
"	William Southard	OK	
7/20/17	Thomas B. Jackson	PA	Donating Travel Expenses
"	Thomas B. Jackson	PA	Donating Travel Expenses
"	Chris Mellen	MA	
7/25/17	Emery Cox III	MO	
"	Carol Yegerlehner	OH	
"	Russell Smeds	TX	
"	Delta Tule Trekkers	CA	In Memory of Wayne Holloway
8/7/17	Nancy Wittenberg	WA	For Facility
"	Frank Sayers	CO	
		Unrestricted Total: \$1,849.44	
		In-Kind Total: \$1,410.00	