



Maryland Volkssport Assn.

Minutes March 21, 2015

Officers Present: Bob Schmick, President; Darrell Neily, Treasurer; Marie Wisner, Secretary.

Club Delegates and Members: Betty Davis, Lourdes Barcelo, Deb Peak, Annapolis Amblers; Sue Osborne, Baltimore Walking Club; Bob Wolfe, Bob Lumbert, Freestate Happy Wanderers; Jone Parr, Yvonne Pennington, Alice Filemyr, Jeffrey Giddings, Seneca; John Dye, Karen Dye, Kevin Theall, Columbia; Pat Astill, Greenbelt. Meeting called to order by Bob at 12:45 and welcome to attendees.

Reports

1. **Minutes** of the December, 2014 MVA Meeting were approved and accepted. Minutes are posted to the MVA Website usually within one week of the meeting.

2. **Treasurers Report.** Bob introduced Darrell Neily, who is reporting our financial status at his first meeting as the new Treasurer for MVA. Darrell expressed thanks to Ken Wilson for his years of service.

Darrell prepared an Annual Report for 2014 and a Quarterly Report for Jan-Mar 2015, and distributed copies to the group. First page shows Cash Receipts and Cash Paid Out in 2014. The next page specifies Income/Expense by Category for 1st Quarter 2015. Final page shows MVA net worth as of March 13, 2015. Darrell will continue to prepare financial accountings on a quarterly basis. Our first quarterly balance (cash and bank accounts) is \$3, 476.37 with another \$2,131 invested in our supply of IVV Record Books and NWP's.

Darrell utilizes Quicken (his own personal software). For each transaction, you can attach a spreadsheet file or document which has been scanned. The Quicken file and all supporting documentation can be reconciled on demand with our PNC bank account, and all data is backed up daily to the "cloud" (SOS Backup).

Additionally, Darrell stated that he e-mailed a draft updated MVA Form 3 to Club Treasurers two weeks ago, requesting feedback. Darrell is striving for consistency in club reporting. Darrell also passed two draft examples of report samples, Microsoft and Google Sheets, to attendees to look through. The group recommended that Darrell re-send his e-mail with the draft updated Form 3 to the club presidents, so that they may involve other affected club members in the comments to Darrell.

Darrell stated that Ken handed over a large supply of walk books and new walker packets. Once these discount-priced reserves have been sold, clubs must then purchase them directly from AVA. Start Cards and Insert cards will still be provided to clubs by MVA at no charge. Bob stated that he is looking for a printing company to print start cards at an affordable rate. Any suggestions you have, please let Bob know.

Darrell offered to setup a PayPal on-line payment system for interested clubs. He will discuss this further at the June MVA meeting. One use might be the ability to collect money for pre-registrants for events not allowed to collect money at the Start point.

3. Web Master. Currently MVA hosts the websites for six clubs. Bob thanked Jim McDonald for the service he provides. Check the website for lists of events and brochures.

4. Regional Director. Tom Jackson provided Bob Schmick with information to relay to folks as follows:

Atlantic Region Meeting, May 2, Church of the Ascension, Westminster, MD, and tentative start time is 1:00 p.m., after the Event hosted by Seneca.

Joining IVV Americas. Ballots will be mailed to Club Presidents on May 5. Bob Schmick said your club needs to decide whether AVA should join. For further information, check out the AVA Facebook page.

May is Physical Fitness/Sports Month. AVA has a special patch which can be ordered for traditional events held in May. Please refer to the latest edition of "Checkpoint."

World Wide Walking Day. If your club hosts a traditional, or group walk of a year round, between May 2-16, AVA can provide a "WWWD" slug and certificate at no cost. Refer to April Checkpoint.

Old Business.

1. **Facebook.** Reminder to clubs to post information about club events on Facebook.

2. **Meet-up.** The current number is 600. Approximately one week before all Maryland walks, these meet up members receive an email informing them of the walk. www.meetup.com/Maryland-Walkers-Hikers-Volksmarchers/. Within Meetup, there is a Maryland Walkers page which has a direct application to our clubs and is locally oriented. There are a half dozen walkers with editing privileges to the page, and the ability to post photos of walks.

New Business.

1. **Skip Coburn.** Bob told the group that Skip Coburn died on March 19. Skip had pneumonia that apparently was resistant to the antibiotics that he was given. As soon as his family provides information on funeral arrangements, we will let clubs know.

Skip was the Vice President of the Maryland Volkssport Association and was a former Atlantic Region Director (2007-2009). Skip was actively involved in volkssporting when he was stationed in Germany with the Air Force. He was also the President of the former Potomac River Volksmarch Club.

Skip also was president of the Ramstein Roadrunners in the mid-1980s. Bob Wright met Skip more than 30 years ago on a TDY to Europe. Bob recalls that Skip started volkssporting as a teen in the late 1960s in the infancy of the IVV—not many American volkssporters can make that claim.) He was committed to volkssports and took on many projects not only for the RR, but also for other American clubs in Germany in conjunction with the DVV, even continuing as editor and publisher of IVV World. In the States, Skip is also known for producing one of the earliest videos about volkssporting (using an event in Baltimore if Bob's memory is correct) and working with Bolling AFB MWR through the Potomac River Volksmarching Club, which Skip founded, to ensure our area had annual AF Global events, with bratwurst, continuously for 20+ years.

2. **AVA Convention.** Bob reminded folks that if your club is not sending a representative to the Convention, please advise him of your proxy voting preferences. Also, a motion was proposed to contribute Five Hundred Dollars towards Bob Schmick's Convention attendance fees. The motion was passed.

3. **2016 Atlantic Regional Convention.** It is Maryland's turn in the rotation to host the 2016 Atlantic Regional Convention. After a brief discussion in an effort to choose a location, Bob suggested Hagerstown, Maryland as the site of the convention. There are walks nearby, hotels are usually less expensive there. The date will be March 18 through 20, 2016. The tasks necessary to host this will be distributed through all clubs, with club representatives helping on various committees. Several people volunteered: Bob Wolfe said Linda Hassell will be a representative from Freestate. Sue Osborn, from Baltimore Club will help. Pat Astill and Yvonne Pennington, Greenbelt/Seneca also offered their help. Marie Wiser, Lourdes Barcelo, and Betty Davis from Annapolis Amblers will help. **Clubs – please let Bob know who will also help with the Convention. Club representatives will meet, at a date to be determined, to form Committees to work on various tasks.**

The following is a list of tasks, and as we meet, there will undoubtedly be other items to handle:

Conference Registration

Choose Hotel

Meet 'n Greet on Friday Night

Speaker for Saturday night

Walks: Choose walks; staffing Start/Finish, checkpoints. Consider a bike event, and swim event (depending on pool availability at hotel)

Workshops

Atlantic Regional Meeting

Silent Auction

Banquet on Saturday night

Club Reports

1. **Annapolis Amblers:** Betty Davis said the club has sanctioned several events. On May 16, join us for an Event in Piney Orchard, during Piney Orchard's Street Festival. On June 27, there is a walk, bike and swim event in St. Michaels; on September 12, there is an Event at Merkel Wildlife, on September 27, the Oktoberfest in West Annapolis and on December 13, the Lighted Boat Parade.
2. **Baltimore:** Sue Osborn said they will host an Event in DuBurns, on March 28, 2015. Bob commented that due to another scheduled activity at DuBurns, walkers must finish by 2:00 p.m. Books will be stamped at the Start. Another event is set for April 18, at Conowingo Dam. Sue has designed a new trail for the YRE which uses her home in Aberdeen as the site for the walk box. The new trail goes through the waterfront on the Bay, Swan Harbor Farm.
3. **Freestate:** Bob Wolfe thanked the folks who braved the rain and walked Brookside Gardens for "Pi Day" -- 3.14.15. He said there is an Event on April 25 at Montpelier Mansion at the tea festival.

On June 6, the club will host an Event at Kinder Farm Park. (Note: after the walk, MVA will have our next MVA Meeting).

4. **D.C.** Bob said the evening Alexandria walks have been sanctioned, the first walk is set for April 27. Also sanctioned is the event enabling folks to walk over the Woodrow Wilson Bridge on September 19. The Scottish Festival walk Event is set for December 5.
5. **Seneca.** Jone Parr passed free walk books to the group for Seneca's "15 walks in 2015" program. When you complete the 15 walks, you receive a back pack. The club will host the Bethesda/Kenwood Spring Cherry Blossom YRE, from March 13 through May 11, 2015. On May 2, the club is hosting the Westminster Breakfast Walk. Jone asks folks to continue to support the YRE's in Damascus and Westminster.
6. **Columbia.** John Dye said Columbia has three sanctioned walks in conjunction with Howard County. He thanked folks for supporting today's (March 21) Event at Cedar Lane Park. Also sanctioned are events on August 1, at Bandair Regional Park, Sunday, September,13, 2015 Howard County Living Farm Heritage Museum, West Friendship and October 24, Rockburn Branch Park.
7. **Greenbelt.** Bob said that Greenbelt has a sanctioned event on August 22, 2015, at Greenbelt Lake.

Next meeting will be held on June 6, 2015, 12:30 pm. at Kinder Park.

The Meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Marie Wiser,

Secretary, Maryland Volkssport Association