

AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
17TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION
DES MOINES, IOWA
JUNE 18-26, 2011

A. Opening Ceremonies:

Color Guard - Marine Corp Junior ROTC from North High School, Des Moines.

B. Call to Order:

President Dennis Michele, at 3:00 pm, June 22, 2011, at the Convention Plex in Des Moines, Iowa, called the Seventeenth Regular Membership Meeting of the American Volkssport Association to order.

C. Introduction of officers and guests:

National Executive Council members present: Candace Purcell, Interim Executive Director/Financial Director, Dennis Michele (President), Marvin Stokes (Vice President), Pat Lucero (Secretary), Annette Tollett (Treasurer), Patty Proulx (Northeast RD), Sam Tollett (Atlantic RD), Duncan Brantley (Southeast RD), Bonnie Johnson (North Central RD), Kimberly Bradley (Mid-America RD), Glen Conyers (South Central RD), Mike Nelson (Rocky Mountain RD), Sam Korff (Northwest RD), Heinz Johnson (Southwest RD), Bruce McDevitt (Pacific RD).

D. Letters of welcome and Proclamation:

State of Iowa, Secretary of State, Matt Schultz - Proclamation declaring June 18-26, 2011, National Volkssport Week.

E. Keynote Speaker - Tim Lane, from FITNET. Tim is a former fitness consultant with the Iowa Department of Public Health. In that role, he created FITNET, a daily electronic publication, celebrating the benefits of physical activity. He created over 300 articles, focusing on research, health data, history and humor.

He describes himself as a nationally recognized authority on the role physical activity plays in health, a prolific writer and popular speaker.

He spoke about the benefits of walking and exercise and general fitness and how it relates to life experiences. He related several anecdotes about famous Americans, such as George Washington.

F. Credentials Report - Pat Lucero, Secretary

Officers:	4
Regional Directors	10
Regular members Clubs represented:	<u>241</u>
For a total registration eligible to vote of:	<u>255</u>

G. Approval of meeting rules - approved by majority vote.

H. Approval of Agenda - approved by majority vote.

I. Approval of 2009 Convention Minutes:

Editing changes: Correction to page 17, name spelling corrected to "Deva" Simon under Publicity Report. Also under D. Letters of Welcome Correction of spelling of "Richardson."
Minutes are approved as corrected.

J. Review Committee: Dennis Michele, after no objection, appointed a committee to review the 17th Biennial Convention minutes: Ginny Drumm, President of the Queen City Skywalkers; Joan Lampart, AVA Publicity Chairperson and Carl Cordes, President of the Florida Volkssport Association.

- K. President's Report: AVA still in decline. Years ago (1991) there were over 500 clubs. Now there are 300. Participation is still down. We have had problems and differences. We need to work together.
1. Need to select a new Executive Director.
 2. No location for next meeting (2013). Heartland Walkers of Nebraska have submitted a proposal for a modified meeting - along lines of Cherry Hill, New Jersey.
 3. If a problem with staff - go to your RD not to the office.
- L. Executive Director's Report: AVA has five staff members. She recognized need to cut budget without cutting services. Salaries were frozen. Staff is willing to work under stressful conditions. They are doing best work with available resources (limited). They are moving forward with technology.
- M. Nominating Committee report - Ed Tod.

There is a viable candidate for each office:

President: Heinz Johnson and Sam Korff
Vice President: Becky Forsythe and Marvin Stokes
Secretary: Bonnie Johnson
Treasurer: Bob Morrison and Annette Tollett

There was a nomination from the floor made for President. Nancy Stenger was nominated by Bob Schmick, MVA President. Nancy Stenger refused to stand for election. There were no other nominations for President. Being none, the nominations for President were declared closed. Each candidate was given the opportunity to speak.

Heinz Johnson and Sam Korff each spoke and presented their views.

There were no other nominations for Vice President. Being none, the nominations for Vice President were declared closed.

Becky Forsythe and Marvin Stokes each spoke and presented their views.

There were no other nominations for Secretary. Being none, the nominations were declared closed. Bonnie Johnson was the only candidate for Secretary.

There were no other nominations for Treasurer. Being none, the nominations for Treasurer were declared closed.

Bob Morrison and Annette Tollett each spoke and presented their views.

The elections will be held at the general session on Friday.

By our Bylaws, if there is no other candidate for an office, the Secretary will call for a voice vote.

Pat Lucero, Secretary, called for a voice vote for the office of Secretary. Bonnie Johnson was unanimously elected.

- N. Meeting recessed until Thursday at 3:15 pm. Phyllis Olson announced the city had cancelled the wine tasting scheduled for this evening due to wet weather.

Meeting called back to order at 3:15 pm, Thursday, June 23, 2011.

O. Necrology - Joan Lampart, past AVA Vice President, will read the names of those who have passed on since the 2009 convention. A chime was sounded once after each name in their memory. "The following names were read that did not appear on the list (they died after the printing of the names). John C. Gale (Jack was listed in error) and Joretta H. (Jo) Breland."

Trudy Adams	Robert (Bob) Flickinger	Amy Neuvelle
Kathleen M Alvord	H. Ford Forster	James (Jim) E. Niffenegger
J. David (Dave) Andrews	Barbara M. Foster	Raymond H. Norman
Carole L. Auger	John C. Gale	Richard (Dick) L. O'Connor
Cheryl Ann Babb	Tina J. Gerard	Jeffrey W. Page
Dan Backer	Carol M. Giesecke	Elizabeth J. Payne
Art D. Batten	Joseph Gigl	Bobbie J. Pommer
Willette Bauer	James L. Giglioti	Cindy L. Preston
Cecile N. Beal	Cleo Norman Girouard	Tom Quesnell
Lorraine (Pixie) Behrens	Brian Grumbling	Cheryl Lynn Quinn
Judith (Judy) C. Bennett	Dale M. Ferrington	Dr. Robert E. Reeder
Margie O. Bickford	Patricia (Pat) A. Gray	James Davis Renner
Edward L. Bland	Mary Green	Margaret P. Roberts
Paul E. Blanton	F. Richard (Dick) Hawes	Lee C. Rock
Judith A. Bowne	Bill Healey	Hank Rossi
James E. Boyd	Erna Heinrichs	Joan Louise Schlosser
Robert (Bo) Brianas	Paul Hewitt	Lynn A. Schreiber
Margaret Peggy M. Butz	Lois C. Hooker	Roy H. Scull
Eileen C. Byrne	Arthur (Art) Humphrey	Irwin I Selig
Gladys I Calderwood	Charles (Charlie) A. Hunsucker	Shirley
Marlene Charneski	Henrietta (Happy) Jackson	Bob (James Robert) Simonsen
Sue Chatterton	Delphine D. Johnston	Robert Socha, Jr.
Irene Cline	Cathryn M. Jordan	Ruth South
Robert L. Cody	Bob Keese, Jr.	Robert F. Stahley
Francis J. W. Cullen	Runhild (Runi) Koestel	Alva G. Stone
Andrew (Andy) G. Cunningham	Hugh Lavery	Violet K. Taubenberger
Chester (Chet) Cunningham	Dr. Walter R. Lawrence	Judith E. Taylor
Edward L. Davies	Donald (Don) B. Lelere	Bertha Thurman
Janet Davies	Barbara M. Locke	Bertha Tolbert
Gail C. Davis	Don Lovell	Robert (Bob) Trone
Steve Denton	Raymond (Ray) W. Lucan	Kenneth L. Ulmer
Bunker Ehlert	Gerald Lynch	Roba K. Walker
Kenneth (Ken) L. Ehrle	Jack McConnell	Joan Wazlavek
Lonnie R. Engelhardt	J. C. McGee	Lillian E. Webber
Lloyd L. Erickson	Rena L. McMahon	William (Bill) N. Wenrich
Carolyn M. Evenson	Rosemary Medley	'Phyllis Whitford
R. Frank Ferrandino	Frank H. Mencsik	Pete Williams
Kenneth (Ken) T. Finney, Jr.	Kenneth (Ken) P. Moderow	S. Vivian Windell
Howard C. Fleming, Jr.	Katherine N. Mongeon	John W. Witkowsk
Naomi T. Fletcher	Teri E. Morosco	Ernest A. Wykes
	Len R. Moyer	Patricia A. Young

THEY ARE JUST AWAY; THEY ARE NOT LOST TO US. THEY ARE ONLY ON A DIFFERENT TRAIL; THEY WILL BE THERE AT THE DAWNING OF A BRIGHTER, FUTURE DAY.

P. Treasurer's Report - Annette Tollett

AVA is financially stable with \$115K in checking, \$818K in investments. AVA was 99K in the red the end of May, but expect more revenue in. At the end of last year AVA was about 10K in red. In 2012 AVA expects to be 33K in red. AVA will receive + or - \$15K in interest income on investments. Participation fees are down about \$50K.

Q. Youth Program - Nancy Wittenberg

We need to increase the cost of the patch to \$2.00. Proposed changes are:

1. Patch not be an award
2. To clubs on consignment. Clubs have been over-ordering. Only ordering 500 patches this year.
3. Master Program - It is difficult for groups (ie, Scouts) to do 12 group events in a 12 month period.
4. Clubs hold contest with local Girl Scout Councils to design next patch.

R. Publicity - Joan Lampart

Annual Publicity Program:

1st Place - NorthStar Trail Travelers, Donna Seline.

Club Newsletters:

1st Place - Tulsa Walking Club, 2nd Place - Asheville Amblers, 3rd Place - Susquehanna Rovers, Honorable Mention - Greater Des Moines Volkssport Association, Tarrant County Walkers.

Community Relations Program:

1st Place - Randolph Roadrunners Volkssport Club, 2nd place - Mid-Florida Milers Walking Club.

Logo/Mascot:

1st Place - Sonoma County Stompers, 2nd Place - Treasure Valley Volkssports, 3rd Place - Texas County Walkers, Honorable Mention - Central Minnesota Volkssport.

Photography-People:

1st Place - Sonoma County Stompers, Vaughn Pickett, *I Can't Believe I Walked the Whole Thing*, 2nd Place - Valley Vagabonds, Deva Simon, *E. "Al" Simon Walking*, 3rd Place - Valley Vagabonds, Jan Weeks, *On the Trail to Lake Erie*, Honorable Mention - Greater Des Moines Volkssport Association, Norma Wessel, *Ring Around the Rosie*,

Photography-Places:

1st Place - Kitsap Volkssporters, John Streitt, *Columbia Gorge Walk Festival - Dry Creek Falls*, 2nd Place - Mid-Florida Milers Walking Club, Mike Lanpher, *Green Springs*, 3rd Place - Kitsap Volkssporters, Sharon Streitt, *Lake Sacajawea - Bridge to Japanese Island*, Honorable Mention - Valley Vagabonds, Deva Simon, *Reflections of Building*.

Photography - Things:

1st Place - Northstar Trail Travelers, Donna Seline, *Bottom's Up*, 2nd Place - Kitsap Volkssporters, Sharon Streitt, *Sunlit Ferns Along Trail*, 3rd Place - Liberty Bell Wanderers, Ron Nelson, *Old Mill - St. David, PA*, Honorable Mention - Kitsap Volkssporters, Sharon Streitt, *Reed Canyon Squirrel*.

Single Event Publicity:

1st Place - *Walk 'N Mass Volkssport Club*, 2nd Place - *Greater Des Moines Volkssport Association*, 3rd Place - *NorthStar Travelers*.

Traditional Event Brochure:

1st Place - Greater Des Moines Volkssport Association, *All 2010 Traditional Events*, 2nd Place - NW Tulip Trekkers, *2010 Whidbey Walking Festival*, 3rd Place - Walk Seward Club, *2010 July 4th Walk*, Honorable Mention - Falcon Wanderers, *2010 Christmas Walk*.

Websites:

1st Place - Volkssport Club of West Point, <http://www.ava.org/clubs/WestPoint/>

2nd Place - Columbia River Volkssport Club, <http://www.walking4fun.org/>

3rd Place - Dogwood Trailblazers, <http://www.ava.org/clubs/DogwoodTrailblazers/Index.htm>

Honorable Mention - East Texas Trekkers, <http://www.walktx.org/EastTexasTrekkers/>

Year Round/Seasonal Event Brochure:

1st Place - *Falcon Wanderers*, 2nd Place - *Lilac City Volkssport Association*, 3rd Place - *St. Louis-Stuttgart Volksmarch Club*, Honorable Mention - *Mid-Florida Milers Walking Club*.

S. Standards and Evaluations - Heinz Johnson

Heinz reported on problems with event brochures:

1. Changing form - info about starting location: hours, etc. descriptive data on trail be more concise and complete.
2. Changing rating system: incline 1-5, terrain A-E; new info will aid people. Effective with January 1, 2012 events.

T. Bylaws - changes proposed:

1. **ARTICLE IV, MEETINGS, 4.1 Regular Membership Meetings**, 1st sentence to read "A regular meeting of the AVA shall be held in April, May or June of every odd-numbered year, unless ordered by the National Executive Council".

Rationale: this provides more flexibility in scheduling conventions.

Daryl Pulley, Rose City Roamers, asked about "unless ordered by NEC." Lois Head, Central Minnesota Volkssporters, said insert "otherwise" before "ordered".

Motion Passed as amended.

As passed: A regular meeting of the AVA shall be held in April, May or June of every odd-numbered year, unless otherwise ordered by the National Executive Council.

2. **ARTICLE V, OFFICERS, 5.7 Term of office**, Change to read "The term of office shall begin on July 1 following the close of the regular membership meeting at which National Officers were elected."

Rationale: this would provide for standard two year terms no matter when regular meeting held. It would allow turn-over time for new officers.

Motion passed as presented.

3. **ARTICLE VI, REGIONAL DIRECTORS. 6.7 Term of Office**, 2nd sentence - change to read "The term of office shall begin on July 1 following the close of the regular membership meeting at which the election of the Regional Director was announced."

Motion passed as presented.

4. **ARTICLE III, MEMBERSHIP, Regular Membership, State Organizations** - delete the phrase "or annual fees" from the end of the last sentence.

and

5. **ARTICLE III, 3.6 Fees and Dues, (d) Annual Dues. (1) Regular**, 1st sentence be changed to read "Regular. Regular member clubs, state associations and all associate member clubs shall pay annual dues."

Rationale: the NEC voted to have state associations pay dues as one measure to reducing deficit. This change allows for this.

There was discussion both pro and con. Annette Tollett didn't feel 12 or more "required" a State Organization to be formed.

Vote was 130 "for" to 97 "against". Not a 2/3 majority. It was pointed out that Article XII said that amendments to the AVA Bylaws can be made by a "Majority" vote.

Motions on both 4 and 5 passed as presented.

**6. ARTICLE X, COMMITTEES, 10.3 Standing Committees - change to read:
"There shall be the following standing committees: Audit, Bylaws, Convention, Publicity,
and Standards and Evaluation."**

Rationale - The Bylaws are the governing rules of the AVA. To recognize the importance that Texas law places on the Bylaws and at the suggestion of the Audit Committee, this change ensures that a committee is instantly available to consider all bylaw changes which may arise and make appropriate recommendations.

Amendment passed.

Dennis commented Bylaws are never fun - can be boring. Thanked everyone for support.

U. Awards: Thursday

IVV Honors Award - presented by Heinz Johnson

Thomas A. Spencer - Arlington, VA. Over thirty years of dedicated service in the United States and Europe. He laid the foundation for the Volkssporting program in the United States.

President's Award - presented by Dennis Michele

David Toth - San Antonio, TX. David has been actively involved in Volkssporting for over 35 years. He was extremely active during the early days of the AVA culminating in service as AVA President. He took over the thankless job of AVA Historian and has done a magnificent job in updating the history biographies, and bibliography of our sport.

Meeting recessed until Friday at 3:15 p.m..

V. It was announced that Ghost, Cora Belle, Phil and Mikey, the losing "cows" in the Regional Director Cow Contest fundraiser will buss tables at the social event tonight.

Meeting called back to order at 3:15 p.m., Friday, June 24, 2011.

W. Awards (continued): Friday

1. Certificate of Service Award to the National Executive Council.

2. Trailblazer Award

Chesapeake Bay Country Wanderers, Odenton, MD

Happy Wanderers, Port Orange, FL

Mid-Florida Milers Walking Club, Winter Park, FL

Suncoast Sandpipers Volkssport Club, Largo, FL

3. Distinguished Achievement Award

Dottie Baars, Cheyenne, WY

Bonnie Christensen, Des Moines, IA

Virginia Drumm, Cincinnati, OH

Phil Hait, Lighthouse Point, FL

Karl Kittinger, Copperas Cove, TX

Dennis Michele, Fairview, NC

Phyllis Olson, Urbandale, IA

Susan Pinneke, West Des Moines, IA

Sally Ross, Springfield, OR

Nancy Wittenberg, Puyallup, WA

Jim Carlo, Dallas, TX

Francis Demolli, Albuquerque, NM

Patricia Eby, Camp Hill, PA

Bonnie Johnson, Fridley, MN

Chris Mellen, Tyngsboro, MA

Martha Myron, Oak Harbor, WA

Ardith Ortgies, Des Moines, IA

Jack Rogers, Midland, TX

Ed Tod, Florissant, MO

4. Hall of Fame Award - presented by Wayne Holloway

Preston Johnson, Joan Lampart and Curtis D. Myron

X. Election of Officers:

Voting and turning in ballots to be counted.

Y. Donation:

Accepting \$1,000 donation from AVA on behalf of the Iowa National Heritage Foundation were Lisa Heim, Director, and Andrea Chase, Trail Coordinator.

They are working to be the "Trails Capitol of the World". There are 8,000 miles of trails - multi-use, water, snowmobile, including the High Trestle Trail - 25 miles long. 1/2 mile long, 13 story bridge.

Z. New Business:

1. Motion presented by Robert Wright:

Whereas

- Regular exercise is acknowledged to improve fitness,
- Volkssports are an excellent means to obtain regular exercise,
- An individual should be able to choose which event to complete for credit on a given day, and
- The IVV's guidelines now permit national volkssport federations to grant IVV credit daily for completion of any IVV event.

Motion submitted by Sam Korff on behalf of Dick Baker, Rose City Roamers and Burt Paynter of the Vancouver USA Volkssport Club move that:

Effective July 1, 2011, the AVA Policy Manual, Policy 4.12, Section II, Paragraph D, be changed to read, "The IVV Event Stamp shall be placed in the IVV Distance Record Book each time an individual completes the distance of an IVV event. The IVV Event Stamp shall be entered in the Event Record Book once each day an individual completes the distance of an IVV event."

Rationale: This change would treat regular and year-round and seasonal events equally in terms of IVV stamp use: one stamp in the IVV event record book on each day of participation. This change would bring the AVA in line with what other national volkssport federations elected to do in response to the change in IVV guidelines and make for transparency across the IVV. This change eliminates the need to continue using the + for year-round and seasonal events.

There was much discussion both pro and con.

A vote was taken with 117 "for" and 101 "against"

Motion carried.

2. Motion presented to move: 2013 AVA Convention be two business days only.

Motion died for lack of second.

AA. Election Results:

President: Heinz Johnson with 139 votes and Sam Korff 116 votes. Heinz Johnson elected.

Vice President: Marvin Stokes with 147 votes and Becky Forsythe with 108 votes. Marvin Stokes elected.

Treasurer: Bob Morrison with 143 votes and Annette Tollett with 112 votes. Bob Morrison elected.

Secretary: Bonnie Johnson - unopposed. Elected earlier in meeting.

There were 255 votes cast.

2011-2013 AVA Officers & Regional Directors:

President: Heinz Johnson

Vice President: Marvin Stokes

Secretary: Bonnie Johnson

Treasurer: Bob Morrison

Atlantic: Sam Tollett

Mid-America: Kimberly Bradley

Northeast: Doug Reynolds

North Central: Phyllis Olson

Northwest: Sam Korff

Rocky Mountain: Mike Green

Pacific: Holly Pelking

Southeast: Dennis Michele

South Central: Ken Miles

Southwest: Bill Hamilton

BB. Audience Comments:

Preston Johnson - thanked the convention for great directions to events.

Ellen Ott - presented check for \$350 to AVA for "35 on 35" Special Program.

Charlotte Phillips - Thanked NEC for stepping up and pulling together.

Thanks to person(s) who wrote the directions for the convention walks and the direction writers were introduced.

CC. Officer Comments:

Marvin Stokes -He has been given an honor. Congratulated Des Moines for putting on a great convention. Keep on walking.

Glen Conyers - Was opposed to term limits, but now in favor. Loves the organization.

Mike Nelson - Thanked Des Moines for a great convention.

Heinz Johnson - Thanked for a great convention.

Duncan Brantley - Thanked for support of cows.

Patty Proulx -Thanked for great convention.

Bonnie Johnson - Thanks for great support during her tenure on the NEC. Thanked Des Moines for a great convention.

Sam Tollett - Thanked individuals who put on convention and all participants.

Bruce McDevitt - Thanked AVA Organization. It was a steep learning curve. Super convention.

Sam Korff - Thanks for support. Northwest will continue to be biggest and best.

Annette Tollett - Thanked current NEC for having faith in her.

Pat Lucero - Thanked AVA for support. It was a great ride.

Kimberly Bradley - Thanked AVA for support and Des Moines for great convention.

Dennis Michele - Thanked everyone for support during his short term as President. He also thanked Duncan Brantley for stepping up to fill the remainder of Dennis's term as Southeast RD.

DD. Closing Ceremony:

Color Guard - Marine Corp Junior ROTC from North High School, Des Moines.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Lucero, Secretary