

**American Volkssport Association
Sixteenth Biennial Convention
Membership Meeting Minutes
June 24 – 26, 2009**

A Opening Ceremonies

Color Guard – Boy Scout Troup #1001, Mesquite, Texas

B Call to order: President Curt Myron at 4:05 pm, June 24, 2009, at the Renaissance Dallas-Richardson Hotel in Richardson, Texas, called the Sixteenth Regular Membership Meeting of the American Volkssport Association to order.

C Introduction of officers and guests:

National Executive Council members present: Jacklyn Wilson (AVA Executive Director), Lynn Clark (Vice President), Pat Lucero (Secretary), Parliamentarian Paul Lamb. Heinz Johnson (Southwest RD), Marvin Stokes (Southeast RD), Glen Conyers (South Central RD), Mike Nelson (Rocky Mountain RD), Wayne Holloway (Pacific RD), Becky Forsythe (Northwest RD), Phil Hait (Northeast RD), Bonnie Johnson (North Central RD), Ginny Drumm (Mid America RD), Skip Coburn (Atlantic RD), and himself, Curt Myron (President). Ed Tod (Treasurer) was absent due to illness.

D Letters of welcome and proclamations –

1. Proclamation from the Mayor of Richardson, Texas. Giving on his behalf is the Mayor pro temp, Bob Townsend. Mr. Townsend stated that Richardson is really proud of their trail system throughout the city and have plans for expanding the trails throughout the city. He read the proclamation from the Mayor. In part it reads:

WHEREAS the City of Richmond welcomes the national convention of the AVA at Renaissance Hotel

NOW, THEREFORE THE WEEK OF June 22 – 26, 2009, as National Volkssport Week in the City of Richardson, Texas.

2. Proclamation from City of Dallas Mayor. Curt read the proclamation welcoming us to Texas.
3. Graham Fawcett - Past President of the Canadian Volkssport Federation. The current President sends his best wishes for a successful convention. Graham underlined the special relationship between the Canadian Volkssport Federation and the American Volkssport Association. The two associations face common challenges and they collaborate and cooperate and share ideas to a very high degree. This was done at the Conference of the Americas on the previous day. Graham thanked the group for the warm welcome he received.
4. Conference of the Americas – Curt reported on the meeting held on the previous day. There are only three member countries in the Americas (Canada, United States and Brazil. The visa application of the Brazilian Volkssport President, Mr.

Ayrton Violento, was denied, so he was unable to attend. Curt indicated that the three countries wished to continue these meetings. He said that the best way for IVV to grow and spread is for us to find new countries, just like the AVA needs to find new members. There are 38 countries in the Americas that have no IVV clubs.

D. Keynote speaker – Jeff Crilley

Jeff spent 25 years as a TV news reporter in Dallas and other locations. He has received many awards for his reporting.

Jeff started his program with a game naming TV show theme songs from the 60's and 70's to illustrate the importance of "Branding."

"Life is a series of sales." Three primary ways to sell are: face-to-face, telephone, email. The most effective way is face-to-face. Call the right person, say the right things, charm them, give them publicity. "News" is seven times more believable than advertising flyers.

The AVA has a "branding" problem. There are too many people out there who have never heard of Volkssporting. Each one of us should be a publicist for the AVA. We should go back home and talk to our neighbors, etc., about Volkssporting and get the name out there. Jeff felt this is a good time to really push the sport because of the recession. People are looking to cut their expenses (gym memberships, etc.). Volkssporting is an inexpensive way to get out and get exercise, get healthy on a budget, and other benefits.

E. Credentialing Report

Mr. President: Attached is the list of the names of the voting members of the convention who have registered up until 11:30 am on June 26, 2009:

| | |
|---|------------|
| Officers: | 3 |
| Regional Directors: | 10 |
| Regular Member Clubs Represented: | <u>205</u> |
| For a total registration eligible to vote of: | 218 |

On behalf of the Credentials committee, I move that the roll of officers, regional directors, and delegates hereby submitted be the official roll of the voting body of this convention. The requirements of quorum are met. The Credentials Report is adopted.

F. Approval of meeting rules. The meeting rules as presented are adopted by a majority vote that exceeds the 2/3 vote requirement.

G. Approval of Agenda. The following changes were submitted:

On Wednesday, delete the Executive Director's report as it is in the 2009 Biennial Report.

On Thursday, delete the Office System Report as it is in the Biennial Report and AVA Website Committee Report. The Chairman of the Website Committee was not able to be here and his report will be incorporated into the President's Report.

On Friday, the Out-Years Convention Committee Report “Looking Forward to Des Moines” shall follow the Featured Speaker. There being no objection, the revised Agenda was adopted.

- H. The 2009 AVA Convention is now officially in session with the approval of the Agenda, Credentials Report and Meeting Rules.
- I. Approval of Minutes of the 2007 meeting. The Minutes are printed in the Official Program. Curt asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, the minutes are approved.

Curt would like to appoint a minutes approval committee to review and approve the minutes of this convention. Dawn Gruber asked if the minutes would be sent out prior to the approval process? Jeff Blossey asked why we would need to have a committee to review the minutes? Curt responded that after two years it would be hard to remember if anything needed to be changed. Dennis Michele asked if corrections are necessary would committee have the power to be able to make corrections? Curt answered yes, but need to pass by EC. Bob Schmick asked where will the minutes be posted? Website? Curt responded they would be posted to the Website. Curt asked again if there were any objections. Hearing none, Curt will go ahead and appoint the members of the committee, subject to NEC approval.

- J. President’s Report – It is the Biennial Report. Curt’s report was in two parts: the written report in the Biennial Report and a supplement which he gave at this time. His written report provided details of accomplishments at home and at the international level. His supplemental report will deal with the future. The AVA is financially healthy right now. Our highest should be gaining new members. Word of mouth is still the best recruitment tool. Clubs must make events and meetings more attractive. Change routes frequently. Public appearances and website must be targeted t those who have never participated, while at the same time make it easy for the clubs to conduct their business. Have happy volunteers.

Reviewed four initiatives the current officers have started.

1. Review AVA structure, policy and procedures. Perhaps stagger elections, and look at term lengths and term limits. Perhaps hold smaller annual conventions. Look at bylaws – time frame for conventions, etc.

2. Rework AVA website.

Three sections: a) Home area – must be aimed at new walker; b) Explore AVA –bulk of current website, policy, publications, minutes; c) Club administration – aimed at AVA clubs, state organizations, located behind a logon page. Prepare written procedures to standardize methods of making changes, etc.

3. International cooperation – Promote volkssport in the Americas. Promote tourism to USA. Create AVA visitor’s bureau that works with foreign visitors to match them to AVA events.
4. New members for the future. Look at having more school clubs. They would be a low cost alternative to current higher cost options.

- K. Nominating Committee Report – Chelane Priller

On behalf of the committee, Chelane gave the results of the Regional Director's elections: Northwest: Sam Korff; South Central: Glen Conyers; Northeast: Phil Hait; North Central: Bonnie Johnson; Mid America: David Bradley; Pacific: Bruce McDevitt; Southwest: Heinz Johnson; Rocky Mountain: Mike Nelson; Southeast: Dennis Michele; Atlantic: Sam Tollett.

The following were placed into nomination for National Office: President: Curt Myron; Vice President: Wayne Holloway; Secretary: Patrice Lucero; Treasurer: Marvin Stokes. That concludes the report of the Nominating Committee.

There were no nominations from the floor for any of the National Officers. Each candidate made a short presentation.

A voice vote was held for each of the offices. As a result of the voice vote, President Curt Myron, declared the candidates for National Office elected: President: Curt Myron; Vice President: Wayne Holloway; Secretary: Patrice Lucero; Treasurer: Marvin Stokes.

Announcements:

The Sheriff and his Deputies will be selling discounted "Get Out of Jail Free" Dillo Dollars for \$10 until 4:00 pm on Thursday. The arrest warrants will be sold for \$5.

Awards – Sam Korff, Chair. There are no Ted Ballman Youth Awards this year.

- L. Trailblazer Awards. The Trailblazer Award is presented to the Placer Pacers, Auburn, CA. The Placer Pacers is commended and recognized for over fifteen years of service to the AVA and the public for constructing and maintaining trails on both public and private lands and for contributing monetarily to the purchase of lands for recreational trails and for constructing new trails.

Meeting recessed until June 25, 2009

Meeting called back to order at 3:30 pm, June 25, 2009.

Announcements:

Reminder to turn all cell phones off, in accordance with meeting rules.

Sheriff and his deputies are in the area and looking for infractions.

He has appointed the committee to review the minutes: Sharon Moats, the President of the Interlaken Trail Blazers in Seattle, Washington; Don Vartanian, the President of the Indiana State Volkssport Association; and Tom Doyle, who is with the Madison Area Volkssport Club in Madison, Wisconsin. After the unofficial minutes of this meeting are prepared, they will be given to the committee members to review.

The first face-to-face meeting of the 2009-2011 NEC will be November 13-15, 2009, in Orlando, Florida. Curt's intent is to receive the report from the minutes review committee at that time.

- M. Necrology. Joan Lampart, past AVA Vice President, will read the names of those who have passed on. A bell was rung once after each name in their memory.

Tim Allen, Ralph Andreas, William Austin, Carl Baranski, Charlene Barrows, Lillian Baugher. Ferne Baumgartner, Lee Bell, Irene Reynolds Bessette, Emil Bircher, Pete Bolme,

Betty Boyd, James Boyd, Jr., Thomas O. Boyd, Delmar Bowers, Yuri Bradley, Oscar Brandmeyer, Art Brett, William Buford, Mary Burd, Walt Camp, Bert Campbell, Milton Camps, Louis Castro-Conde, Elayne Chambers, Nicole Chappelle, John Chase, Barbara Clapp, Margaret Claverie, Robert (Bob) Creamer, Bill Crittendon, Wanda Cutsforth, Valerie Day, Boyd Decker, Sally Dees, Sidney Disend, Helen Donaldson, Thomas Doran, Karen Duffy, Fred Evans, Mary M. "Dusty" Fehner, John Ferguson, Albert (Al) Finley, Larry Foran, Craig Foster, Edwin Gabel, Augusta (Gussie) Gerhardt, Phoebe Gilbert, Elliot Gluek, Susan Godshalk, Marion Grabe, John Grega, Milton Haberman, Alvin Hanson, Maryellen Hanson, Joseph Harlow, James Heath, Merval Hinricks, Doren Holzborn, Rita Jackson, Carmela Jacobsen, Norma Jones, Shirley King, Olive Knowles, Willard Kolb, Willard (Bill) Larson, Steve Line, Mary Ruth Lippy, Richard (Dick) Lucero, Roger MacAskie, Steve Mackey, Joan Mason, John Mathis, JoAnn McAllister, Phillip McVey, Billy Dean Miller, Martha Minahan, Dawn Miyashiro, Jeanne Newman, Kathryn Nitta, Jack Nixon, Arta Mary Norviel, Gilbert Okada, Michael Peirano, Dr. Perry Post, Willard Raiffeisen, Elizabeth (Betty) Ranc, Fred Renner, Betty Richter, Raul Sanchez, Steve Schauer, Sandra Schlueter, Gertrude Schroeder, Ronald Schuchardt, Jamie Scott, Arthur Sederholm, Bettie Sheelar, Daniel Siwula, David Skinner, Allison J. Stafford, Lee Stasky, Joan Talbot, Nell Tipton, Cliff Urbanas, Hugo Van Paassee, Irene Vasques, Wilson Watts, John Wetmore, Lois Wilson, Beryl Wolf, Everett Wood, Margaret Woodcock, Phyllis Woodworth, Nettie Zimmerman

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.

Treasurer's Report - In the absence of the Treasurer, Curt Myron did the report. The 2009-2010 budget was adopted at the NEC meeting held the previous evening. This budget projects a loss. It is only an estimate. It's a guideline. There is a Budget Narrative that explains each item.

- N. Special Events Report – Phil Hait – Pages 36-38 of the Biennial Report. There were 20 programs at the 2007 AVA Convention. Today at the 2009 AVA Convention there are 23 programs, including nine exciting new programs to pursue. Additionally, there are four new programs poised to start January 1, 2010. Through 2009 over 2,000 special event books have been sold. Clearly, the popularity of the program continues.
- O. Website Committee – Steve Hughart. Curt had included the website committee report in his President's Report.
- P. Youth Program Committee – Nancy Wittenberg – The focus areas of the committee were on the Master Program, the Girl Scout Program, and the School Program. Nancy has answered many questions on those programs. They have sold 1,676 Girl Scout Patches since January of 2008. The Master Program was one that any youth under the age of 18 could participate in.
- R. Publicity Committee Report – Joan Lampart – Acting Chair – She knows how important publicity is. We need to publicize our events by any means possible. Joan has the Publicity Awards to give out. Year Round/Seasonal Event Brochures: 3rd – Wisconsin Volkssport Clubs for 2008 YRE/Seasonal Events; 2nd – North Virginia Volkssmarchers for 2008 YRE events; 1st – Walk 'N Mass for 2nd Tuesday Summer Walks. Regular Event brochures: 3rd – Dallas Trekkers Walking Club for hiking Great Trinity Forest; 2nd – Dallas Trekkers Walking Club for the Azalea Walk;

1st – Walk ‘N Mass for Vineyard Light House Walks. Photos – People: 3rd – Donna Seline – Those Snowshoes Are Pretty Big; 2nd – Jan Weeks – Not All Who Wander Are Lost; 1st – Michael Jay Lanpher – Grinnell Glacier Trail. Photos- Places: 3rd – Donna Seline – Scouting a Trail in the Woods; 2nd – Ronald Nelson – Balancing Tree; 1st – Leslie Bowen – Inside the Window at Big Bend National Park, Texas. Photos – Things: Honorable Mention – Norma Wetzel– Artichoke; 3rd – Ronald Nelson – Desert Flower, White Sands, New Mexico; 2nd – David Simon – Banyan Tree, Palm Beach, Florida; 1st – Ronald Nelson – Tree in White Sands, New Mexico. Single Event Publicity: 3rd – Tulsa Walking Club; 2nd – Kerrville Trailblazers; 1st – Tulip Trekkers. Local Sponsorship: 1st – Central Minnesota Volkssport. Community Relations Program: 2nd – Lilac City Volkssport Association; 1st – Central Minnesota Volkssport. Annual Publicity Program: 3rd – Peninsula Pathfinders of Virginia; 2nd – Central Minnesota Volkssport; 1st – North Star Trail Trekkers. Joan acknowledged Donna Seline for her extraordinary effort in the Annual Publicity Program. Club Newsletters: Three Honorable Mentions: Albany Fit Walkers, Rocky Mountain Wanderers, Freestate Happy Wanderers; 3rd – Madison Area Volkssport Association; 2nd – Mid-Florida Milers Walking Club; 1st – Mid Nebraska Trail Seekers. Club Logos: 3rd – Central Minnesota Volkssport; 2nd – Freestate Happy Wanderers; 1st – FS Family Wanderers. Websites: 3rd – Mid-Nebraska Trail Seekers; 2nd – Happy Wanderers Walking Club; 1st – Northwest Tulip Trekkers.

S. Sponsors and Partnerships – Curt Myron. Curt’s written report was in the Biennial Report. He presented some additional information. Thank YAMAX for their sponsorship. They recently renewed their contract for another four years. A new organization is called Foot Matters. We have been working on a licensing agreement with them: we will endorse their products and they will pay AVA a flat fee based on sales of their products. They do not sell shoes. The Walking Company has partnered with AVA and has produced thousands of Start Cards more than once. Some of our website advertisers also have booths at this convention: Walking Adventurers International, Volksware Clothing, Volkstaf, and Tater Tours. He also reported on signing an agreement with AARP. There are a number of Convention sponsors as well. Curt also mentioned there had been a number of good ideas for sponsors presented to him. Due to time limitations he has only been able to work on a few of them.

T. Bylaws Committee – Wayne Holloway. Wayne thanked the members of the committee: Doris Conyers, Bob Wright, Sam Korff, and Curt Myron. The committee had only one bylaw amendment for consideration. This bylaw amendment deals with Intellectual Property. Wayne Holloway moved to approve the bylaw amendment pertaining to intellectual property. Add Article XII. Intellectual Property.

Annette Tollett moved to amend paragraph 2b following the word “member” to add “in the performance of their duties.” Dennis Michelle seconded. Amendment is adopted.

Chelane Priller 2a after non-exclusive in first sentence to add “, and perpetual license to use.” Delete last sentence “Furthermore, etc. Seconded by Nancy Wittenberg. Amendment is adopted.

This motion required a two-thirds vote for adoption. Motion passed.

U. Introduction of 2009 Convention Committee – Deborah Carter.

The *Honorary Chairman* was John Ferguson; *Secretary*: David Sheppard; *Treasurer*: Gary Whitford; *AVA Liaison*: Heinz Johnson. *Committee Chairs*: Lesley Bowen, Gary Silkworth, David Sheppard, Diane Duke, Sharon Roy, Maggie Cole, Leslie Penton, Susan Fine, Jim Carlo, Ellen Ott, Bob Roundtree, Helen Hull, Helen Bateman, Donna Hall, Deborah Carter. *Finish Table*: Texas Volkssport Association, Heinz Johnson. *Registration and Program Editors*: Leslie Penton, Beverly Peters, David Sheppard.

V. President's Awards – Curt Myron

Clarence Wright, John McClellan, Ron Weaver, Jane Jensen Holmes, Barbara Nuss, Sam Korff, Don Conway, Phill Wilder, Chuck Garrison, Becky Friedrichs, Black Hills Volkssport Club, Empire State Capitol Volkssporters.

Curt presented End of Term awards to the outgoing team and thanked them for their continued hard work.

W. Introduction of new officers: President – Curt Myron; Vice President – Wayne Holloway; Secretary – Pat Lucero; Treasurer – Marvin Stokes; Atlantic Region – Sam Tollett; Mid America Region – David Bradley; North Central Region – Bonnie Johnson; Northeast Region – Phil Hait; Northwest Region – Sam Korff; Pacific Region – Bruce McDevitt; Rocky Mountain Region – Mike Nelson; South Central – Glen Conyers; Southeast Region – Dennis Michele; Southwest – Heinz Johnson;.

X. Featured Speaker – David Bezanson, The Nature Conservancy. He works with the North and East Texas regions. He spoke about the importance of conservation, and the various areas where acreage has been acquired by the Nature Conservancy. David also mentioned websites where you can get information about walking trails: TexasHiking.org, NatureRocks.org and Nature.org.

Y. Local donation. At the conclusion of David Bezanson's presentation, Curt Myron presented David with a check for \$1,000 from the American Volkssport Association.

Z. Looking Forward to Des Moines - Suzy Belle

A skit was presented talking about the various historic and cultural places to visit while in Iowa.

V. Awards (Continued)

Distinguished Achievement.

Dick Baker, Vancouver, WA

Betty Green, Cheyenne, WY

Wayne Holloway, Rescue, CA

Loren Little, Winston-Salem, NC

Patty Proulx, Jaffrey, NH

Annette Tollett, Hampton, VA

Lester Frantzen, Fredericksburg, TX

Ronald Green, Cheyenne, WY

Joan Lampart, Quakerstown, PA

Ellen Ott, San Antonio, TX

Jill Simmons, Vacaville, CA

Beryl Wolf (Posthumous)

Portland, ME

Hall of Fame

Names of previous winner were read:

| | | | |
|------|--|------|------------------|
| 1985 | Ken Knopp | 2005 | Wendy Bumgardner |
| 1989 | Carl Coffee | | Lynn Clark |
| 1995 | Tom Boyd | 2007 | Nancy Stenger |
| | | | John Ferguson |
| 2009 | Heinz Johnson | | |
| | Shirley Lindberg – received by Becky Forsythe | | |
| | David Toth | | |
| | Ben Wilkes (posthumously) – received by Berta Wilkes | | |

Announcement:

A smaller part of the Executive Council is the Executive Committee:
It consists of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one of the RD's chosen by themselves.

Audience Comments:

Sandy Cahill – Washington DC Volksmarch Club – This has been her 13th Convention. This has been a wonderful Convention.

Bob Schmick – talked about a couple who met on the C&O canal walk. He introduced the groom – Tom Jackson.

Closing Remarks – We've all faced challenges. The 2009 Convention Committee has faced some special challenges, too. Curt is proud of the work the committee has done. They have done an excellent job. We all face the challenge of "growing" our sport.

It was announced that the Silent Auction raised \$5,257. The Jail raised \$941.

Retiring of the Colors – Boy Scout Troop 1001.

The meeting is adjourned.