

**American Volkssport Association
National Executive Council Meeting
June 21, 2008**

1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the National Executive Council was called to order by President Curt Myron at 8:00 a.m., at the Renaissance Savery Hotel, Des Moines, Iowa.

2. **Introductions:**

a. **National Executive Council Members Present:** Curt Myron (President), John Ferguson (Vice President), Pat Lucero (Secretary), Edward Tod (Treasurer), Skip Coburn (Atlantic RD), Ginny Drumm (Mid-America RD), Bonnie Johnson (North Central RD), Phil Hait (Northeast RD), Becky Forsythe (Northwest RD), Wayne Holloway (Pacific RD), Mike Nelson (Rocky Mountain RD), Glen Conyers (South Central RD), Marvin Stokes (Southeast RD), Heinz Johnson (Southwest RD), Jacklyn Wilson (AVA Executive Director).

b. **Guests Signed In** (some arrived later): Ron Drumm, *Queen City Skywalkers*, Cincinnati, OH; Phyllis Olson, *Greater Des Moines Volkssport Assn*, Urbandale, IA; Norma Wessel, *Greater Des Moines Volkssport Assn*, Urbandale, IA; Susan Pinneke, *Greater Des Moines Volkssport Assn*, Urbandale, IA; Ardith Ortgies, *Greater Des Moines Volkssport Assn*, Urbandale, IA; Bonnie Christinsen, *Greater Des Moines Volkssport Assn*, Urbandale, IA; Johanna Schmitt, *Greater Des Moines Volkssport Assn*, Urbandale, IA; Phyllis A Manning, *Greater Des Moines Volkssport Assn*, Urbandale, IA; John Bail, *Greater Des Moines Volkssport Assn*, Urbandale, IA; Vicki Comegys (Chamber of Commerce Rep.), *Greater Des Moines Volkssport Assn*, Urbandale, IA; Deb Gaskins, *Greater Des Moines Volkssport Assn*, Urbandale, IA; Mary Young, *Greater Des Moines Volkssport Assn*, Urbandale, IA; Beate Hait, *Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club*, Holliston, MA; Doris Conyers, *Dogwood Trailblazers*, Joplin, MO; Martha Myron, *NW Tulip Trekkers*, Oak Harbor, WA; Jim Leitch, *Happy Wanderers*, Port Orange, FL; Dee Giamichael, *Happy Wanderers*, Ponce Inlet, FL; Lois Shannon, *Happy Wanderers*, Port Orange, FL; Carol Tod, *St. Louis Stuttgart*, St. Louis, MO.

All officers are present. We do have a quorum.

3. **Approval of Agenda:**

Curt Myron, Chairman of both the Partners and Sponsors committees requested the agenda items 9h and 9k be combined for reporting purposes. There were no other changes to the agenda.

John Ferguson moved to approve the agenda as modified. Ginny Drumm seconded and the motion carried.

4. **Consent Agenda:**

a. **Approval of Minutes** - NEC Meeting, March 1, 2008, in Washington DC. Heinz Johnson thought the dates of the first global June 5-6-June, 1981, might be incorrect. He will research that and report later. The minutes will be left as they are for now. Wayne Holloway questioned the wording of the sentence on page 13, item 11d, that is just before the statement [Curt Myron declared the motion "out of order."] The sentence will be deleted.

Skip Coburn moved to approve the minutes as amended. Phil Hait seconded. The motion carried.

At this time Curt explained, for the benefit of the audience, the meeting is run following Robert's Rules of Orders. He explained the procedure for discussing of an item.

b. **Recognition of Donations –List attached.**

Curt thanked the people who made donations to the AVA.

c. **Acceptance of New and Reactivated Clubs –**

d. **Declaration of Inactive Clubs** - Included in above report.

Glen Conyers moved to accept Items 4b, c, and d as presented. Marvin Stokes seconded. Motion carried.

5. **Audience Comments:**

Susan Pinneke asked to hold her comments to allow the representative from the Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau to speak when she arrives.

6. **Reports of Officers**

a. **President** – Curt Myron

The report is about 40 pages. Curt will summarize some of the items.

1). **Focus on Growth.**

First priority in Curt's mind is the growing of AVA. The goal is for each Regional Director to have a net increase of 1 club within their region.

a) **Statistics**

- i. "Official Clubs and Membership" is a spreadsheet that shows the clubs by region, based on the clubs reported in The American Wanderer. It shows the membership reported 1 April 2007 and 28 April 2008 on the Officer Update forms. Curt reviewed the various statistics and what they represent.
- ii. "Event books processed during the first six months of the years 2003 through 2008", using various methods.
- iii. "Quarterly Participation Summary Report" – AVA Regions for 2005, 2006 and 2007.
- iv. Question was asked if the report included only "Credit" or all participation figures. Curt presumed the figures included all participants.
- v. "AVA Clubs With Membership of 5 or Less" About 10 percent of clubs has 5 members or less.
- vi. There was some discussion about these figures. It was pointed out that the total membership of a club may include people who don't participate and don't give a true picture of members available to do the work of the club.

b) **AVA Projects**

- i. Global – Apparently, the Air Force HQ club will renew or reactivate their membership, thanks to Heinz Johnson, Jackie Wilson and Skip Coburn.
- ii. AVA Clubs in Schools – Holly Pelking of California has volunteered to coordinate support for local points of contact who wish to work with selected schools.
- iii. AVA Military Clubs – little to report yet.
- iv. AVA College Volkssporting Course – Becky Forsythe has the lead for AVA in coordinating with local points of contact.

c) **The American Wanderer**

Curt has received some emails over the last month commenting on TAW being more upbeat. Curt has started a new column "The column with no Name" The purpose is to share tips and tricks for conducting events, but ultimately to emphasize how to add quality to our events. I welcome your ideas and suggestions. There was much discussion about marking the trails with tapes or chalk, as opposed to just having maps.

2). **Activities.**

- a) I spoke at the California State Convention, May 1-3, in Santa Rosa, CA. There was much enthusiasm.
- b) I represented AVA at the Canadian convention and Annual General Meeting in May in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. There is a new President of CVF - Benoit Pinsonneault. CVF staggers their elections by electing half of the officers each year. Perhaps AVA should consider this approach.

3) **AVA Advisory Commission**

The work of the Advisory Commission is being brought to a close at this meeting. **Curt Myron moved that the work of the AVA Advisory Commission be concluded as of this date. Ed Tod seconded. Motion carried.**

Susan Pinneke introduced Vicki Comegys, representing the Chamber of Commerce. She welcomed us to the area. She thanked us for being there and will be supporting us in our efforts with the 2011 Convention.

4) **IVV Report**

Curt reviewed the IVV reports that go along with his President's Report. I have summarized the text. Please refer to the reports in the packets Curt gave you.

- a). **Communications.** Formal notification of the 2008 Congress of Delegates was sent to all countries. The AVA/CVF motions were not included with the notice, but they were added to the

- IVV website and sent in English in Early June. Proposed IVV rules revisions and motions from AVA/CVF, Austria and Luxembourg are posted at the www.ivv-web.org website.
- b) AVA Delegates. AVA will have four delegates and one alternate at the Congress meeting. The delegates are: myself, former AVA President Shirley Lindberg, Becky Forsythe and Martha Myron, with the alternate being our IVV Liaison, Hands Deter Fuhr. AVA reimburse the President for costs, but not other delegates.
 - c) Ruling of the IVV Arbitration Court. Austria appealed the 2007 Congress decision to award the 2011 Olympiad to Turkey. The Arbitration Court reviewed the matter and confirmed the award to Turkey as proper.

Curt gave a brief description of the Arbitration Court and the Disciplinary Board. The Arbitration Court deals with disputes between countries. The Disciplinary Board deals with disputes between individuals.

- d) IVV World Report. Is currently being produced by Italy at their own expense, six times a year. It is written in the two official languages: English and German. The report is available at www.ivv-web.org. Curt was invited to submit an article about AVA and responded with an article on how AVA organizes its national special events.

At this time Curt moved to suspend the rules for the purpose of discussing AVA's sanction of events in non IVV countries. John Ferguson seconded the motion. Motion passed. The chairman gets to speak first and last.

IVV has ample justification to revise their rules. There have been some areas that needed rules and didn't have any. Some people have started clubs in other countries and promoted tourism. That is not what IVV is about. IVV is about achieving its purposes, which are twofold. Number one is to promote world-wide popular sport for all, meaning a healthy lifestyle through non-competitive events. And second to promote understanding and cultural exchange among countries that are members of IVV. So any walk, done anywhere, is under the umbrella of these two purposes, and what AVA does fits those purposes. IVV does not entirely agree. They want to have a club in that country first.

Curt has reviewed the rules and in his opinion feels AVA needs to have a little bit of a course change. He feels that at least in the Americas that we should consider sanctioning valid events that conform to the purposes of IVV in other countries. He has two requests right now from clubs that are also touring or traveling clubs, to do events in Antarctica and Costa Rica. He thinks AVA needs to set some standards so as to avoid having events that don't meet the IVV criteria. There was discussion about what guidelines there should be so that the events would meet with the purposes of AVA and IVV. They must be "open" and publicized so that anyone could attend.

Curt concluded the discussion by saying that in addition to what has been said before, looking at the situation internationally, we are on a subject that he personally believes does not violate any of IVV's rules, but does meet its purpose. He does feel that the President should give the final approval, so that he will know what events there are in case any questions come up. He would change the approval process a little in order to give better control. Skip commented once an event is approved, there should be coordination with Embassies, tourist bureaus, etc.

- e). Motions before the IVV Congress.
 - i. The eight motions that were approved at our March 1, 2008, NEC meeting. Copies of the motions are in the previous NEC meeting.
 - ii. Luxembourg. Motion to hold the 2010 IVV Congress of Delegates in their country. Curt is in favor of this motion.
 - iii. Austria. The motion identifies some of the abuses of the IVV stamp among some clubs (European). While the motion is a good idea overall, Curt will oppose it because of the provision to allow the international leadership to overrule a country association that has to sanction events for a visiting club from another country. Passage of this motion reduces that independence by moving final authority over events to the IVV leadership.
- f) IVV Rule Changes. Curt has completed a line-by-line review of all the proposed changes. Many are both needed and good for the sport. But in general, he opposes any change that awards greater voting power to the central European countries. The proposed change of the method

used to calculate votes for each member country(Article 9),7 gives the nine central European countries 51% of all IVV votes. Countries with more than 300 clubs will benefit and countries with 150 or less will have a decrease in the number of delegates.

- g) Size of IVV members. IVV has distributed a chart which shows the official number of clubs for the current year back to 1996. This is the list from which the number of voting delegates is determined for each country.
- h) IVV Office. IVV has established its headquarters in Altötting, Germany, co-located with the German federation offices.
- i) IVV Budget. IVV's financial year runs from January 1 through December 31. For 2009, IVV's net worth as of December 31, 2007 is about 384,000 Euros or about \$640,000. IVV's budget is 91,000 Euros, or about \$150,000 per year.
- j) IVV felt the need to rewrite the regulations – new set of officers – and some changes are required because of changes in German club law. There are five sets of regulations being revised. See *Curt's summary of these changes contained in his President's Report*. The first is IVV Statutes (same as our bylaws). Subsidiary to that is Routine Orders (these specify how the Presidium works, running of meeting, elections, etc.). The third is Arbitration Regulations and the fourth is Disciplinary Board Regulations. The fifth is Finance Regulations. They broke out all matters pertaining to finance and put them in a separate document. This includes budget, duties of the Treasurer, audits, dues, and payments. Curt feels in general he believes these revisions are a major improvement over the current rules. Obviously, that doesn't apply to everything. There are some things he is opposed to. One major improvement is the requirement that minutes be in English and German and be sent out within three weeks after each meeting.

b. **Vice President** – John Ferguson

John works closely with Jackie Wilson and staff at headquarters and also with Curt.

John went on record that the meeting on Friday is an informal meeting. There are no minutes or formal agenda. It is an open meeting and anyone can attend. Audience members can contribute.

There was a change in the structure of the 2009 Convention. John has inherited the General Chairmanship.

c. **Secretary** – Pat Lucero

Nothing new to report.

d. **Treasurer** – Ed Tod

The projected 2008-2009 budget has a total revenue of \$855,000, with expenses of \$819,000, for a net income of \$36,000. It is a pretty tight budget. The numbers are all higher than last year, due to the convention. He has incorporated the comments he has gotten back. Ed reduced the estimated income from Special Programs to \$7,000 . The previous estimate has always been a little high. A change is being proposed to Marketing in the amount of \$13,500, which leaves a net income of \$22,500. **Ed Tod moved to add \$13,500 to Marketing, which reduces the Net Income to \$22,500 and approve the budget as amended. Pat Lucero seconded. Motion passed.**

7. **Report of Executive Director** –Jackie Wilson

The new server was installed without any problems and as far as I know, went unnoticed on the public side. The new backup system is up and running without problems. We have lined up a new Access Programmer as well as two companies to provide IT support when needed. Work is still ongoing on the e-commerce site.

The IRS letter approving the clubs under our umbrella was received and the letters to the clubs have all gone out.

The problems with the Global club have been worked out, and the club will be reinstated as soon as payment is received. Upon receipt of payment information, the Air Force is supposed to send out the global information for the bases.

Now that we have new stamp handles, the damaged stamp fee has been reinstated but will only apply to those new stamps.

The YRE window is open and will stay open until midnight Central Standard Time on 8/31/08. Please encourage your clubs to enter their Year Round and Seasonal events so they will appear in Starting Point.

Cross training is on-going and Kevin has completed training in all areas. Linda, Connie and Cathy only lack the accounting side which is temporarily on hold while the upgrade is installed and Kevin gets familiar with any changes.

Jackie mentioned a brochure put out by the City of San Antonio called Lifelong Recreation – 50+. It is done in English and Spanish. AVA is mentioned in it.

8. Reports of Standing Committees

8a. **Audit**, Fred Sheets, Chair; Marvin Stokes, Liaison –

Fred Sheets is still looking for bids for the audit.

8b. **AVA Biennial Convention**

1) 2009 Convention, Heinz Johnson, Liaison, John Ferguson, AVA Vice-President

Since the organizational meeting in January several people have stepped up head subcommittees. The committees are fleshing out.

There has been good cooperation from the 2007 Convention folks. He is still looking for a General Chairman. The logo has been finalized. Souvenir pins have been designed and ordered. The event awards have been designed and are ready to look at prices.

Curt asked about the fund raising effort – “Kiss the Pig.” Will there be one this year? He would like to see the training workshops be two-thirds on subjects on how we do AVA and one-third on tourism, etc. He suggested they name the topics. In the current Checkpoint the committee is asking for presenters on the topics.

2) 2011 Convention, Susan Pinneke Chair; Bonnie Johnson, Liaison

Bonnie reported they are having their committee meetings and everything is coming along. Susan Pinneke reported she and Jackie are working through the contract for the rental of the convention facility. The building is a couple of blocks away if anyone wants to go by and look at it. Curt has made a suggestion to Jackie that rather than have an After Action Report prepared by each convention committee given to the next committee, to have a professional writer with convention organizational experiences prepare from these After Action Reports to give to all future conventions.

Phil Hait asked a question related to both conventions. Would the exhibit (trade) hall would be open simultaneously with the business meetings. John Ferguson said that for the 2009 Convention the finish table for the walks during the meeting days would be in the exhibit hall. This will force the walkers to come into the exhibit hall. It will be open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 p.m. Phil thought that would be a little bit challenging. Pat Lucero said the 2007 committee had found out you can't get any commercial exhibits unless you have access to the hall. She suggested perhaps the non-commercial exhibits – regional, club, etc. could be stand alone and not need to be staffed the full time. There was much discussion about leaving a booth unstaffed – leaving materials, etc. Jackie said she had thought of bringing office staff to convention to help with the booths. Perhaps the non-commercial booths could be grouped together for easier management. Curt asked Jackie to prepare a proposal to bring to the next meeting regarding office staff at the convention.

Curt reviewed the time line for presentations to host the next convention. They are usually approved four years in advance. Anyone interested in hosting the 2013 convention should be prepared to do a “concept” presentation at the first meeting of the NEC in 2009 and planning towards a full presentation at the 2009 convention.

3) 2013 – Anyone interested – start thinking. Curt does have a possible interest in the Northwest.

8c. **Publicity**, John Ferguson, Chair

John said the NEC had been trying to define and focus on major meetings of other organizations where AVA should have a presence and a presentation. So far this year we had participated at the National Conference of Sports Medicine this past month. Reports were positive.

The next item is the 50th year AARP Convention in DC in September 4-6, 2008. Results last year were quite good. John feels it would be beneficial for there to be an AVA delegate. We already have reserved a booth. **John Ferguson moved that an AVA national officer be sent to the AARP 50th Anniversary meeting in Washington, DC, September 4-6, 2008, as a delegate. Skip Coburn seconded. Motion carried.**

LUNCH RECESS

8d. **Standards and Evaluation**, Ginny Drumm, Chair

Ginny had some information for John about the ACSM Conference in Indianapolis. Don Vartanian made contact with a woman who represented a product called Elations (manufactured by Proctor and Gamble). It's a liquid supplement that contains Glucosamine. Ginny made contact with the woman. They are not interested in a Sponsorship, but possibly interested in a Partnership. They are already partnered with the National Association of Baby Boomer Women (NABBW). Ginny is going to look around for five or six people who would be willing to try the product for a month. They would supply the product. When Ginny mentioned she was going to a meeting of national officers, the lady said maybe there would be other people interested in trying it. If you have any names, let Ginny know and she will pass them on. Their website is: www.elations.com www.nabbw.com

Curt mentioned he would like to thank Don Vartanian, Clarence Wright and others from the Indy G Walkers who worked in the booth at the ACSM Conference.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Ginny sent out her report with two forms attached: a revised Brochure Checklist and Event Sanction Worksheet

The Event Sanction Worksheet is for use by those who don't enter their sanctions online. It includes all the information needed to complete the sanction.

The Brochure Checklist needed revising. Some items were no longer applicable.

She has begun reviewing the Event Handbook. They hope to have the first draft ready by the November meeting.

Ginny Drumm moved to adopt the Brochure Checklist. Wayne Holloway seconded. No action taken.

John had some suggested changes. Ginny mentioned that she had left it as a Brochure. Some may want to still do a regular brochure and others do an announcement. Skip mentioned some changes he was recommending. Curt suggested Ginny make the changes and email it to all of us for review.

9. **Reports of Special Committees**

9a. **AVA Website**, Steve Hughart, Chair; Jacklyn Wilson, Liaison

Curt said Steve initially submitted a plan for revising the website. Committee needed to form a global list of any kind of change to AVA systems. Examples:

Texas Volkssport Assn website has an interactive map with stickpin where every event is scheduled. As you move the cursor over the stickpin a little flag pops up with information: location, distance.

On-line registration for year round and traditional events available on the internet. Have a system to bill the participant.

Becky related she had contacted a vendor regarding programming on-line registration. They said \$15-20,000 to build the site. Would list all events, have on-line registration, waiver, credit-debit processing, distribution of the money collected (club & AVA), provide lists of walks in a certain area or certain trail ratings, etc.

Jackie reported Linda finished training on web site pages and is 100% maintaining the web pages – not the interface, but the pages themselves.

9b. **Awards & Recognition**, Sam Korff, Chair; John Ferguson, Liaison

1. AVA Form 302 is being redeveloped to show that the Certificate of Appreciation, Certificate of Service and Meritorious Service are regional awards. The redeveloped form will also allow RDs to recommend that an award be upgraded. These may be awarded at any time during the year.
2. It will not be necessary to revise the AVA Policy Manual. The Policy Manual already reflects the fact that Certificate of Service and Meritorious Service awards are regional awards.
3. Past awards books have been scanned and a list of AVA award recipients developed. (To be available at the June NEC meeting).
4. Reminder that the awards are due to Regional Directors by November 1, 2008. The upper level (DSA, etc.) awards need to be to the Awards Committee by November 15th.

5. If you want your Regional Awards to appear in the Awards booklet, that information needs to be turned in to the committee by March 1st, 2009, (of the convention year).

9c. **Bylaws**, Leonard Wojtysiak, Chair; Pat Lucero, Liaison
No report

9d. **History**, David Toth, Chair; Curt Myron, Liaison –
What is the History Committee working on:

1. Registry of AVA events: The raw data received from the National Office is still being collated and when at least one or two quarters of 2007 are completed they will be delivered to the RDs for review in the near future. If there are folks who are keeping their own personal records of events to include Date, Location, sponsoring Club, Event number and IVV Stamp number and would be willing to share this information, please have them contact this committee at dntoth@sbcglobal.net.

2. Bibliography of AVA related articles: A few articles have been received; the committee volunteer who said she would be able to generate such a list from *the Reader's Guide to Periodic Literature* has not yet sent in a report on her project. We still welcome submissions from all Clubs, RDs and National officers.

3. BIOGRAPHIES of AVA Notables: This now combines the EC biographies with the AVA Who's Who in Volkssporting – there were nearly no submissions for either project so they were combined. All EC members are reminded to submit their own biography and to encourage others to do so as well.

4. Local and State organization Histories: All levels of AVA organization are encouraged to keep a history file or file box and to keep it up to date, and most importantly to pass it on within their organization as new leaders are elected or appointed.

5. THIRTY YEARS of Volkssporting in the United States -- idea on hold

6. AVA Museum Inventory – directed by Jackie Wilson, Executive Director AVA: Jackie has informed me that the volunteer who was doing this job left the area several months ago. She has been unable to find a replacement. The History Committee will continue to seek a new volunteer for that task.

CONCERNS: There are few volunteers for this committee; but this seems to be a universal problem for those committees which need volunteers. We will increase our efforts to recruit new members to this committee and will cheerfully accept recommendations from any EC member.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Each of this committees projects will require weeks and months of data entry and will occur very slowly the fewer folks who are working on it.

- I recently attended a State Meeting where a very interesting set of statistical data sheets were shared with the audience. If such statistics are prepared, it would be appreciated if they were shared with the History Committee and they show a small or large picture of our HISTORY and required hours of work that should not need to be repeated.
- I hope that all RDs are keeping track of the activity in their own Region. If true the capture of historical event data will become that much easier. Not the mountain of data it currently appears. Each of the RDs is currently reviewing the data for their regional events that is needed in the Registry of Events on a regular basis. Let's gather up those small databases and merge them into the AVA Registry.

9e. **Marketing**, Becky Forsythe, Chair

OBJECTIVE:

The Objective of the Marketing Committee is to create value in the AVA for participants, clubs, potential participants and sponsors/partners.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

There will be an article in TAW on the value of clubs. The accomplishments of the Marketing Committee have been to publish marketing articles in the TAW, have a sample AVA banner made that continues to brand the look of the AVA as presented on the grabber. Becky has applied to a community program, rather than a College program, for teaching a class. She has been piloting a publicity award in the Northwest Region. The criteria is to distribute 100 brochures on their event outside of the local volkssporting community. Prepare an announcement to be distributed within the volkssporting community.

Becky showed the 4 ft by 6 ft banner that is available for purchase \$100 (includes shipping). She has ordered new ones that are 3 ft by 6 ft. There will be a banner for each of the RD's.

ACTIVITIES:

Review of the Presidents Council for Physical Fitness program and how it would benefit the AVA to have members log into website and track walking activities.

CONCERNS:

Committee members are needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The committee recommends the AVA develop a daily walking program.

Becky Forsythe moved that the marketing committee be approved to pursue the development of a daily walking program. Marvin Stokes seconded. Motion carried.

Becky said that many of our "competitors" have daily walking programs. Other officers mentioned programs they were aware of.

The committee recommends the work on the AVA website include a way for individuals to log onto the site and track daily walking.

Recommend that each region have the ability and equipment necessary to make a professional presentation at a health expo or other local festival.

Becky will take back to the committee and recommend that they develop material in languages beyond English.

Jackie asked Becky is she would send something to her for the Checkpoint about the President's Council for Physical Fitness.

9f. **Nominating**, Chelane Priller, Chair - Nothing at this time.

Curt said that Chelane would probably be contacting us before the next meeting as to our intentions.

As Chair of the National Nominating Committee, I submit to you the following names to serve as members of the National Nominating Committee:

- Pacific Region: Phil Jones (Twin Harte, CA)
- Northwest Region: Charles L. Garrison (Auburn, WA)
- Southwest Region: William (Bill) J. Radigan, Jr. (Helotes, TX)
- North Central Region: Phyllis Olson (Urbandale, IA)
- Northeast Region: Polly Meltzer (Sudbury, MA)
- South Central Region: Teresa Arnold (Tulsa, OK)
- Rocky Mountain Region: Martha Minahan (Morrison, CO)
- Southeast Region: Helen Addison (McCalla, AL)

9g. **Office Systems**, Mike Nelson, Chair; Jacklyn Wilson Liaison

A member of this committee, Jacklyn, Wilson, has been successful in obtaining Access software support for AVA Headquarters Systems.

Quotes have been requested for a AVA Computer Backup System. The system will consist of five hot swappable 160GB disk drives in a external enclosure. This system will provide a reliable backup solution for our critical data. Jackie added: Its up and running.

Quotes have been requested for a server to replace our failed unit. Jackie added: Its up and running.

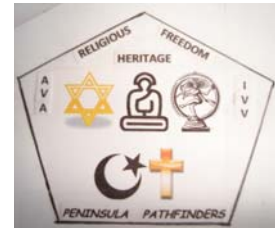
Quotes have been requested to update our Anti-Virus Software. Jackie added: It was installed last week.

9h.& k. **Partners/Sponsors**, Curt Myron, Chair

The first thing he wanted to tell us was the good news. We have another sponsor. Yamax has renewed their contract at \$4,000 annually for next five years. As part of this sponsorship contract they get

advertising in the American Wanderer. They also get a free booth at the convention. They have a very accurate pedometer.

Next President's article in the next TAW he will talk about: charity begins at home. We try as national officers to find sponsors and put out new merchandise. Very frequently it doesn't move very fast. What we also need to be doing is encouraging our clubs to use products from AVA for door prizes, gifts, etc. We need to support our sponsors.



Status of goals by June 21:

Have new written criteria for acceptance of sponsors and partners. It is going into a marketing and partnership package.

Review and revise existing endorsements of AVA from the World Health Organization, the US Surgeon General, President's Council on Physical Fitness. These three endorsements are not as old as some others. He doesn't feel any action needs to be taken at this time.

The Walking Company is interested in doing the start cards again. The remaining start cards from the last printing are still usable, but the coupon needs to be removed since it expires June 30. Jackie has passed around a suggested change to the start card. Please write your comments. Becky asked for clarification with the Walking Company as to whether the same person could present a coupon on separate visits. Apparently some of the stores are saying no.

Curt announced that with the approval of the 2008-2009 budget, we will be joining and TAFISA.

The Washington Health Foundation has a personal walking program in it. It has a way to monitor several types of activities: walking, weight, smoking, sleep, water consumption, etc. The Governor has challenged the people to walk 25 million miles in 2008. Out of the 20 million miles that were done last year, the Evergreen State Volkssport Association and its clubs logged over a million and a quarter of those miles. So far this year they have already reached that amount. The highest person in the program last year was a volkssporter. He got dinner in the Governor's mansion. Curt encourages the RD's to surf the net and see if other states have health programs or grants available for health related projects.

9i. Special Programs, Phil Hait, Chair

ACTIVITIES: No report due for existing programs. Next status report due following the period ending June 30, 2008. He has asked the POC's to get their June 30, 2008, reports submitted in a timely manner.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Three new proposals for programs to commence January 1, 2009 ending on December 31, 2011 if approved by the National Executive Council are outlined.

America's Historic Churches sponsored by The Germanna Volkssport Association, Fredericksburg, VA. Qualifications are to participate in 15 events where the route passes a historic church, or a former church that is now used for another purpose. Buildings must be at least 75 years old & have had historical significance. Examples include Old North Church in Boston, Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg, VA, and the Mission in San Juan Capistrano, CA. In doing these walks, participants would become familiar with the history of the area. All regions of the US will be able to participate since there are qualifying events in all states.



RECOMMENDATION: Phil Hait, Committee Chair Special Events, moves that the America's Historic Churches proposal be approved to start January 1, 2009. Glen seconded. Discussion about the proposed Religious Freedom Heritage Program took place at this time due to possible overlap of the programs. There was also discussion about the number of Special Events. See below Motion carried.

Religious Freedom Heritage Program sponsored by The Peninsula Pathfinders, Hampton, VA. Qualifications are to participate in 15 events that pass by a facility of worship for one of the religious

bodies on a list attached and also available on the club website. Participants can observe the diversity of religious expression in the US, allowed by our basic right to freedom of religion. Only one religious body can be credited per event even if the route passes by multiple facilities. All regions of the US will be able to participate since there are qualifying events in all states.

RECOMMENDATION: Phil Hait, Committee Chair Special Events, moves that the Religious Freedom Heritage Program proposal be approved to start January 1, 2009. Ginny Drumm seconded. Wayne Holloway expressed concern that this might be a problem if some religious organization (including athiest) is not listed. Curt suggested letting the club decide if something qualifies or not. There was much discussion about whether this was appropriate for us to do. **Motion failed.**

Walking America's Fire Houses sponsored by The Kitsap Volkssporters, Silverdale, WA. Qualifications are to participate in 24 events that pass an existing or historical fire house. This should be an exciting and educational event for all ages, because many of our fire houses have historical plaques, displays of historic equipment, firefighter memorials, etc. Firemen have been and continue to be heroes to people of all ages. All regions of the US will be able to participate since there are qualifying events in all states.



RECOMMENDATION: Phil Hait, Committee Chair Special Events, moves that the Walking America's Fire Houses proposal be approved to start January 1, 2009. Skip Coburn seconded.

Wayne Holloway moved to amend the motion to have a start date of January 1, 2010. Marvin Seconded. Jackie expressed concern about delaying the start. We voted last meeting to not limit the number of programs. **Motion to amend failed.**

Vote on original motion: Motion passed.

Phil has received a request for a one year extension for the Spirit of America (Cemetery Stroll). **Phil Hait moved to extend the Cemetery Stroll program to June 30, 2010. Wayne Holloway seconded. Motion carried.**

Curt said he had received a request to extend the Great Lakes Program for one additional year. Phil had not received it. Curt will send Phil the information. It will be handled later.

FOLLOW UP ITEM: At the last NEC Meeting, the Special Events Policy for reporting timeframes was changed. A companion explanation document to the form needs to be developed outlining the acceptable items so that a non accounting person will be able to comply with the AVA and audit requirements. Phil said part of the problem with these programs is that the revenue comes in in the first year or two and the expenses occur in the last year or two. Phil will get together with Ed and Curt to take care of them.

9j. **Special Funds Development**, Jacklyn Wilson, Chair (Inactive at this time) - No report

9l. **Strategic Planning**, Marvin Stokes, Chair

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: One of the tasks of the committee this period of time was to assign each one of the committee members a certain group of national committees on which they would be support and advisor to help the committees stay on track with the goals that they had established early on. Committee members have been assigned to their respective committees as advisors. The various committees have been notified. Marvin's committee members are Fred Sheets, Nancy Stenger, and Lois Shannon.

ACTIVITIES: A review of the current AVA Strategic Plan 2005-2008 is in progress as well as a review of the 2001-2005 Plan.

CONCERNS: None

RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue review and use current guidelines to continue development of AVA Strategic Plan 2008-2012.

9m. **Training Development**, Wayne Holloway, Chair

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Conducted limited training of new club and state association officers at the local, Pacific Region, level. Gained valuable understanding of needs.

Developed draft AVA web site guide for RDs.

ACTIVITIES:

Work on the event guide on hold.

RD web site guide (draft) under review. Similar guide will be developed for State Association and Club Presidents.

Work on training packages for president and other club officers continues and will follow in the lines of the package for club presidents.

Working on a guide for ESR submissions for both Conventional events and YREs/Seasonals. The target completion date of March 2008 for deliverable(s) was missed. Extraordinary effort will be made to have this and the RD web guide on CD at the June meeting. This will be similar to the RD web guide...if not part of it.

Work on Awards Procedures with the Awards Committee continues. Past award books have been scanned and a list of AVA Award recipients developed. These files will be available on a CD at the June meeting.

(Hold over from March Report) Submit excerpts from the Policy Manual and the Events handbook for review, or as attachments to the CHECKPOINT, with a "work in progress" product by Spring 2008. It is envisioned that this product will provide guidance and helpful hints, but may include direction or rules.

(Hold over from March Report) Contemplating, and welcoming suggestions on what training "notes" from the Policy Manual and Events Handbook to place in the Checkpoint and TAW.

CONCERNS:

There's a long way to go and a short while to get there.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None.

9n. **Youth Program**, Nancy Wittenberg, Chair; Bonnie Johnson, Liaison

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. Responded to inquiries from Girl Scout Councils, Girl Scout troop leaders, volkssport clubs and individuals regarding volkssports, Girl Scout Walk-Togethers, and the AVA Master Program. I receive inquiries daily. I am hearing of more clubs involved with Girl Scout walks.
2. Used the volkssport@yahoogroups.com email group to communicate with clubs and individuals about their youth activities on a couple of issues, including a request for pictures of clubs and Girl Scouts walking that I can use for the booth display at the GSUSA convention and to update the website. I have received a few, but would like more.
3. Bob Wright of the Loudoun Walking and Volkssport Club has worked with Girl Scouts of the Nations Capitol council to hold a patch contest to design the 2008-2009 Participation Patch for Girl Scout Walks. The Loudoun club has selected a couple of designs for Jackie and my consideration for the next patch, and we will finalize the design in May and will get the information out to clubs in July's Checkpoint.
4. The Indy "G" Walkers of Indianapolis, IN will participate with me at GSUSA's national convention October 31-November 3. They will use their YRE in Indianapolis for a walk for the convention, altered to start at the convention center and will help me staff the AVA booth at the convention.
5. I have received information monthly from AVA about numbers of participation patches sold. I should have some statistics for year end. For the first time, the AVA has had to order more participation patches. Clubs and Girl Scout councils don't often know how many will show up at walks and clubs tend to over order on consignment and then return a lot at the end of their walk. This makes it difficult for the AVA office to have the right number of patches available for use.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT PERIOD:

1. Continue to respond to inquiries about the AVA Youth Program and provide support for AVA clubs, Girl Scout Councils and leaders, families and others who want to participate in AVA youth programs.
2. Work with the GSUSA to get the Indy "W"'s walk into the program for the 2008 National Convention to be held October 31 – November 3 in Indianapolis, IN. Determine with GSUSA how this will be presented. One method will have people register at the booth and walk when

3. Advertise to recruit members to the Youth Committee who will be willing to work on other ways we can involve youth, develop a plan for action, and carry out the work. I know that guidelines for schools have been developed and advertised to clubs through the *Checkpoint*.
4. There is concern that Girl Scout troops do not want to walk more than one event a year for several reasons:
 - They already have the year's patch.
 - The cost of walks is too high – some councils are charging as much as \$9/walker when they include this in their literature.

There is a concern that Girl Scout Councils are making more money on walk togethers than we do. I have not found that this is the case. There are several issues on this last point. The Triangle Trailblazers club charges first time walkers \$9 for the patch because they include a New Walker packet automatically with the patch after the girls have completed the walk. Molly Taylor is trying to get information in that Girl Scout council's literature about what should happen when someone registers for additional walks. This is the council referred to in the email that was circulated to Curt and Jackie. Some clubs are clearly not following guidelines saying that girls must walk for credit and are charging a fee for credit in addition to a fee for the patch. I have seen this be as much as \$6 -- \$3 for credit and \$3 for a patch that only cost them \$1. Girl Scout councils can tack on a fee to include the walk in their literature and provide registration services. In my area this is \$1. The club gets a list of troops and girls who have registered and are to attend. This does cut down on patches required. Although there is information on the website about how all this should work, I clearly need to have a short bulleted memo to clubs. I'll have something for the July *Checkpoint* with the new patch information. Unfortunately, clubs will do what they want in this area and councils are all independent organizations.
5. I'm working with Connie Runkel at the AVA office to rework the Youth Brochure. We want to make it more usable for other mentoring organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs. The Master Program patch is still specific for Girl Scouts.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None at this time.

10. Unfinished Business

Becky Forsythe said I would like to retrieve the motion from the table: "I move that Metric stamp holders be available to clubs through the AVA on-line store for cost plus shipping and handling.

Wayne Holloway seconded. Motion to retrieve the tabled motion failed. The tabled motion remains on the table.

11. New Business

11a. **Wayne Holloway said: *I move that:***

AVA Policy Manual Paragraph 4.03.A be changed to read:

Year Round Events. Year Round Events (called YREs) are events sanctioned for at least eleven (11) continuous months during a calendar year. These events will have a continuous start time that allows the completion of the event during daylight hours. ~~The general rules for events apply to all Year Round Events.~~ In general, the rules for events apply.

and that:

AVA Policy Manual Paragraph 4.03.B be changed to read:

Seasonal Events. Seasonal Events (called SEs) are events sanctioned for less than eleven (11) continuous months during the year. These events will have a continuous start time that allows the completion of the event during daylight hours. ~~The general rules for events and the rules for Year Round Events apply to all Seasonal Events.~~ In general, the rules for events and Year Round Events apply.

Mike Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

Summary of Proposed Action:

This motion more accurately captures the meaning of the IVV Rules Paragraph VII) 2) which provides that "The regulations for RLDW and the IVV rules in general must be observed." See attached extract. (Note that the IVV Rules does not address Seasonal Events.)

As it currently reads, Paragraphs 4.03.A & B allow no deviation from AVA Policy Manual Paragraph 4.05 and sub-paragraphs, some of which cannot be observed and are not excluded.

This motion applies and restores the ambiguity of the IVV rules pertaining to YREs.

11b. Ginny Drumm said: *I move that:* The processing fee for YRE/Seasonal events be changed from \$5.00 per quarter to \$1.75 per month that the event is available, to be billed on a quarterly basis.

Summary of Proposed Action: The current fee structure discourages clubs from sanctioning seasonal events to start other than in the first month of the quarter.

Seconded By: Pat Lucero Motion failed

12. Audience Comments

Lois Shannon teaches the AARP Driver Safety Program. The booklet has a reference to AVA in the manual.

Susan Pinneke – re: trail marking. Her club uses the small flags on wire stake. She has the driving directions to tomorrow's walk. The hotel is providing a complementary shuttle at 9:00 am to the walk start point. It is about five miles.

Phyllis Olson said she enjoyed the meeting.

13. Officer Comments

Heinz Johnson – Global report – When the global program was envisioned, they decided to have one club that would handle the paperwork. The club (AVA #55) was chartered Feb. 10, 1981. There have been many problems over the years. Last year the dues weren't paid when due or when reminder notices were sent. There was no response to phone calls, letters, etc. Following deactivation of the club, the Air Force responded with an apology and payment of dues. It was subsequently reinstated.

This is Global 28. It will be held on September 20 & 21. The Air Force wants no deviation from that weekend. Up until May 22nd we didn't know if they were going to have the Globals. We need to have exceptions this year because of events already sanctioned. There are valid exceptions – base alert, etc.

Curt: This year we have deviations. We need to muddle through this fall. We need to have a proposed written policy concerning the Global program by late this year. It would then be sent to the Air Force. There could be several options suggested. Presently Headquarters approves the sanctions. This needs to be with the RD's because Headquarters doesn't know the dynamics of each region.

Heinz: We need to decide if the RDs need to be handling the sanctions. After this year, we need to have a written policy in place.

Skip: He feels we need to look at this year's problems to lay the groundwork for the future. These are the lessons we learned in 2008. For the long term plan, he feels they need to be coordinated through the RDs so that they know what is going on in their region. Maybe they can help insure that they are quality events. Its in our best interest to be sure it is a quality event.

Curt: He will form a committee with Heinz and Jackie to develop a policy.

Heinz: This year there will be a special Global stamp.

Marvin: New club is being formed in the city of Albany, GA. It is being sponsored by the Downtown Merchants Association of Albany, the Visitors and Convention Bureau of Albany, the Parks and Recreation District of Albany, and the Thronateeksa Heritage Center. All four are heavily money organizations and are going to be a superb club for southwestern part of Georgia.

Phil: Columbus Day weekend and day after, in New York. Walk all five boroughs: Manhattan (4 YREs), Bronx (Seasonal), Brooklyn (day), Queens (day), Staten Island (day). There will be a special patch (not an award) for everyone who completes the walks in all five boroughs in that time frame.

Glen – His burning issue is trail marking – trail marking.

Wayne – New club in California

Pat – Great to see so many in audience.

Ed – Thanked our hosts: local club, chamber, etc. Great job.

Jackie – Has copies of the memorandum of understanding with Forest Service.

Mike – New club – Buffalo Pathfinders in Wyoming. First event starts July 1.

Bonnie – Worked at Crazy Horse earlier in June. Don't forget the Black Jack 21 over Labor Day in Rapid City. Thanked the Des Moines club for all their hospitality and setting this up.

Becky – Really glad she came back from England for this meeting. The NW Regional Conference is September 20 & 21, 2008. There will be a more days group walk across the Idaho Panhandle: 73 miles over 4 days.

Ginny – Thanked hosts. Also she appreciates having an audience.

Skip – Mentioned he had submitted a late request for reimbursement after the August 2007 meeting. Curt said he would convene the Executive Committee by email to take care of that.

14. Adjournment

Glen moved and Marvin seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Next meeting November 8th 2008, in Oklahoma City.

Respectfully submitted,

signed

Pat Lucero
AVA Secretary