

**DRAFT**  
**American Volkssport Association**  
**National Executive Council Meeting**  
**February 27 & 28, 2009**

**1. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the National Executive Council was called to order by President Curt Myron at 7:15 p.m. at the Best Western Hotel, Tucson, Arizona. Curt would like to go to about 8:45 p.m. and then ask for a motion to recess until tomorrow. He does have one issue to discuss in executive session at 8:45 p.m. For the audience's information, executive session is a closed meeting. There will be no decisions or motions made. Usually executive session is used to discuss matters that are better not discussed in a general meeting, such as personnel matters, awards, or things that have national or international implications. We do not want these matters to show up on the minutes.

**2. Introductions.**

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

Guests Signed In (Friday): Grace Holloway (Placer Pacers), Doris Conyers (Dogwood Trailblazers), Phyllis Hildreth (Tucson Volkssport Klub), Dee Whalen (Tucson Volkssport Klub), Gaylord Fosdick (Cheyenne High Plains Wanderers), Emma Fosdick (Cheyenne High Plains Wanderers), Nancy Stenger (Heartland Walkers), Fred Barton (Tucson Volkssport Klub), Carolyn Barton (Tucson Volkssport Klub), Charlene Brazil (Tucson Volkssport Klub), and Marc Brazil (Tucson Volkssport Klub).

Guests Sign In (Saturday): Gaylord Fosdick (Cheyenne High Plains Wanderers), Emma Fosdick (Cheyenne High Plains Wanderers), Doris Conyers (Dogwood Trailblazers), Grace Holloway (Placer Pacers), Sam Korff (Longview Border Crossers), Bill and Darlene Aspedon (Falcon Wanderers, Colorado Springs), Phyllis Olson (Greater Des Moines Volkssport Assn), Norma Wessel (Greater Des Moines Volkssport Assn), Nancy Stenger (Heartland Wanderers), and Fred Barton (Tucson Volkssport Klub).

**3. Approval of Agenda**

a. **Curt Myron moved to change the order of business and move the consideration of awards to follow New Business. Heinz Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

b. **Becky Forsythe moved to add an item to the agenda. It is a proposed Bylaw change that apparently didn't get mailed out to the clubs prior to this meeting.** Curt suggested that since we can't take action on it anyway (it would be referred to the Bylaw Committee), we add it to the agenda. **It has to do with nominations of the "officers" from the floor of the Convention. Glen Conyers seconded. Motion passed.** The item will be added as item 11a and the rest in that category will be renumbered.

c. Curt would like to combine items h and K into a single report.

**Marvin Stokes moved to approve the agenda as revised. Mike Nelson seconded. Motion passed.**

**4. Consent Agenda**

a. **Approval of Minutes - NEC Meeting – November 7 and 8, 2008**

There were two changes: page 9, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph: Change wording in first sentence to read "Becky said It is a principle of marketing that it takes 11 contacts with someone... Page 1 & 3 correct spelling of name – should be "Heberlein."

**Mike Nelson moved and Phil Hait seconded to approve the minutes of November 7 & 8, 2008, as revised. Motion passed.**

**b. AVA Donations as of 2/4/2009**

**AVA DONATIONS**

**Ending 02/04/2009**

Date	Donor	State	Unrestricted	Restricted	In-Kind	Type
11/04/08	Viola, Marilyn	WA	25.00			
11/13/08	Faulk, Clyde	AK	200.00			
11/19/08	North Central Region	MN	14.20			
11/30/08	Johnson, Bonita	MN	20.00			In Memory of Betty Boyd
11/30/08	Barton, Fred	AZ	200.00			
12/15/08	Weber, Marie	FL	10.00			
12/15/08	Myers, Donald	TX	20.00			
12/17/08	Lohr, William	VA	25.00			
12/22/08	High Plains Drifters, INACTIVE, AVA-0119	CO		500.00		To use for AVA Museum
12/23/08	Wilson, Kenneth	MD		25.00		To use for HQ Christmas Party
12/24/08	McGill, Howard	CA	5.00			
12/24/08	Helm, Michael	MD	25.00			
01/05/09	Horne, Nettie	MD	50.00			
	Mississippi River Ramblers,					
01/08/09	AVA-0407	IL	100.00			In Memory of Yuri Bradley
01/09/09	Kennedy, Teresa	NY	25.00			
01/14/09	Hartman, David	VA	10.00			
01/14/09	Ramsey, Bruce	WA	25.00			
01/14/09	Thomas, Andrew	TX	25.00			
	<b>Totals</b>		779.20	525.00		

**c. & d. Acceptance of New and Reactivated Clubs, Inactivated Clubs**

**American Volkssport Association Acceptance of New and Inactivated Clubs**

**Current Information from 10/21/2008-02/04/2009**

**New**

None

**Reactivated**

None

**Inactive**

06AVA-0924	Palouse Hills Volkssport Assn.	12/17/08
08AVA-0501	Wyoming State Parks and Historic Sites	12/31/08
06AVA-0472	Umpqua Valley Walkers	1/09/09

5. **Audience Comments**

Fred Barton – He has brought instructions for YRE’s in area. Sabino Canyon is OK at this time.

6. **Reports of Officers**

6a. **President –**

1). **FOCUS ON GROWTH.**

a). **AVA Clubs.** We have tracked the net change in the number of AVA clubs, beginning with the clubs shown in the October/November 2007 issue of *The American Wanderer*. The results:

Region	No. Clubs	Net Change
ATLANTIC	38	-3
MID AMERICA	54	-1
NORTH CENTRAL	26	
NORTHEAST	13	-1
NORTHWEST	57	even
PACIFIC	30	+1
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	16	-1
SOUTH CENTRAL	17	+1
SOUTHEAST	25	even
SOUTHWEST	41	+5
<b>NATIONAL</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>-1</b>

It is actually an increase of 14 clubs and a decrease of 13 clubs. AVA has been losing 5 to 10 clubs each year. The Southwest Region has gained 4 new clubs this quarter. There is a detailed list of gain and loss of clubs according to TAW. The figures don’t always agree because of lag time due to deadlines of TAW.

b). **Participation.** I have attached a chart showing participation by region through the middle of 2008. **See attached report.**

There are more Year Round Events in 2008 than ever in history of AVA. If YREs increase and traditional events decrease it is not a good trend. We need to encourage traditional events. A reduction in traditional events hurts the fun and friendship. Trails cannot be marked for YREs, so have written directions and maps. More and more traditional events are going to written directions and maps.

Some participants don’t send in their books. It affects the participation figures. Encourage people to send in their books. We need to encourage the purchase of New Walker Kits. **See attached reports: Total Event Books Processed and Total 10 Event Books Processed by Region.**

2). **ACTIVITIES.**

a) **Conference of the Americas.** Initiative to have North and South American IVV member countries to get together and share the knowledge and pool their efforts to spread IVV to North, Central and South America. What better way to do it then piggy-backing a one day conference on to our convention. He has sent invitations to the Canadian and Brazilian Presidents. He has not heard from either of them and last week sent copies of the registration forms to them. There are two direct member countries with one club each – Argentina and Paraguay. Curt thanked the officers for responding to the poll to approve the funding of this Conference of the Americas. He hopes it works and does what we want it to do. **Additional note:**

After Curt sent out his report he received some communications from IVV. One of them was some informal minutes of a meeting between IVV and the European Union Commission in Brussels. Curt read from the minutes: "Finally, Mr. Raymond Claude, IVV Vice-President from the country of Luxembourg, explained the intention to launch a European IVV Association. The umbrella organization, IVV, shall form continental associations in Europe, Asia, and North America."

- b) Curt responded to a letter from the Evergreen State Volkssport Assn (Washington) regarding an incident concerning wanting to have a "hosted year round." (There is nothing in our bylaws that deals with "Hosted Year Rounds.") The RD for that region, Becky Forsythe, had said she wouldn't sanction a hosted year round event because it is part year round and part traditional event and it's not in the rules and you're not paying a sanction fee. An agreement was worked out for the event to be done as a traditional event. When Becky arrived at the event, it wasn't being conducted as agreed. She took the stamp as it was being misused. The people in the club got upset and decided to close the club and all of its YREs for the balance of 2008 and all of 2009. Curt met with the people and explained what they should have done and the action they needed to take if they wanted to change the rules.
- c) **By-Laws Committee.** Curt attempted in December, January, and February to contact the By-Laws Chair and for whatever reason they never made contact. He sent a final message to the chair with a deadline for his response. The chairman did not respond by the deadline given. Curt proceeded with his course of action. Curt is asking us to approve Curt's withdrawal of that appointment. Curt has two people who have volunteered and have done some preliminary work: Wayne Holloway from California and Bob Wright from Virginia have both looked at the changes. Curt would like to have someone, not an officer, volunteer to join this committee. The proposed changes have to be reviewed, and submitted to the clubs 30 (or 45?) days prior to the convention. **Heinz Johnson moved to approve withdrawal of the chairman of the By-Laws Committee and find a new Chairman. Motion seconded by Glen Conyers and passed.**

### 3). IVV NEWS

- a). Curt says IVV should change rules to allow event credit for people who work on events – planning, organizing and staffing of the event. We need to get this approved and clarified into the IVV rules.
- b). Curt received notification that all workshops at the Congress in April have been cancelled. (Curt had been asked to present one.)
- c). Curt has received draft rules for how to bestow IVV honors, Disciplinary Board and the Arbitration Court. The Disciplinary Board settles disputes between individuals or an individual and IVV. The Arbitration Court settles disputes between countries. (The chair must be an attorney and two others.)
- d). There has been some talk (informal) about consolidating books. Curt pointed out they would be cutting income in half.
- e).. There is no news on the situation with Guam.

### 6b. Vice President –

Curt Myron reported that John Ferguson is not doing well. Curt is concerned about John's health.

He talked to the acting chair of the convention and brought her up to date on John. Heinz Johnson (SWRD) needs to be kept in the loop on the convention.

### 6c. Treasurer – Ed Tod –

- 1). **Activities** Reviewed Latest financial reports. No significant issues. Revised Budget to reflect additional cost for Conference of the Americas
- 2). **Concerns** Revenue and Participation fees are at the lowest levels in several

years. Based on this we need to start thinking about ways to control expenses or raise revenue.

3). **Recommendation** Approval of revised budget

**Marvin Stokes moved to approve the budget as revised. Phil Hait seconded and motion passed.**

**6d. Secretary** – Pat Lucero

Major task is the minutes. Secretary is also responsible for updating the Index of Motions. Curt explained what the Index of Motions is.

## **7. Report of Executive Director**

- a. Spanish translation of the business cards has been completed. Grabber brochure will be next.
- b. The cost for the new banner has risen to about \$150.00 each. So far, only a few clubs have purchased the banner from HQs. I will put a reminder in Checkpoint that it is available.
- c. E-commerce store update is complete and will be deployed shortly. It is a “canned” software program. No more changes can be made to it.
- d. Staff are working on the final leg of their cross-training.....invoicing.
- e. College Campus program has ended and we have ordered the remainder of the patches that we need. Books will be processed as long as we have patches and certificates in stock. We will not reorder.
- f. A-Z program is going well and there were no major snags in the transfer to HQs.
- g. The following clubs have not submitted the required Financial Report. I recommend inactivation as I cannot include them on the 501(c)(3) listing and our policies require they be non-profit. They have not submitted any information to indicate they have become non-profit under any other organization.

AT AVA-0082, Pentagon Pacesetters

SW AVA-0940, Rainbow Rovers

**Wayne Holloway made a motion to inactivate the two clubs on the list - Pentagon Pacesetters and Rainbow Rovers – for failure to file mandatory reports.** Heinz Johnson said Rainbow Rovers is connected to the Escapees. Jackie Wilson said Ron Hamner has moved to Alabama and had indicated his intention to inactivate the Pentagon Pacesetters. **Motion passed.**

Jackie said the list from IRS has all the clubs they consider ok. There seem to be problems.

Heinz asked about the Spanish translation of the business cards. The translation has been done, but not the printing.

## **8. Reports of Standing Committees**

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

**AVA Audit Committee Report Prepared for AVA NEC Meeting February 27, 2009**

### **1). Chronological Actions:**

On November 1, 2007, AVA President Curt Myron requested that I chair the AVA Audit Committee pending approval of the AVA NEC on December 1, 2007. Our responsibility was to engage a public CPA firm to audit the AVA books and records for the period of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. On January 30, 2008, Carneiro, Chumney & Co., L.C., certified public accountant firm mailed an audit engagement letter and tax engagement letter dated January 28, 2008 and received by the AVA Audit Chair on February 2, 2008. The Audit Chair sent notification (on that day) to AVA Executive

Director, the AVA President and selected other interested AVA members of the AVA concerning the CPA firm's solicitation. In this email, pertinent matters were summarized and the Chair's intent to sign the two engagement letters and to commit the AVA the CPA fees, unless there were any objections. On February 5, 2008, the engagement letters were signed and returned to Carneiro, Chumney & Co., L.C., CPA firm. On September 8, 2008, AVA Financial Director sent to members of NEC and the Audit Chair the AVA in-house financial statements, as well as notifying that the CPA firm had completed their on site review on September 5, 2008. On November 24, 2008, AVA Financial Director notified the CPA firm of the accessibility of the AVA Audit Chair by email and the Audit Chair's authority to release the report. On December 2, 2008, the Audit Chair received the CPA firm draft audit report from CPA firm representative Gilbert Cremar. This draft report was reviewed by distinguished Audit Committee members Annette Tollett and James Geith. In addition to draft report, the committee requested the draft management letter, the results of additional procedures that were based upon new audit standards that became effective during this audit period, and any assessment of internal controls. That information was provided to the audit committee on December 10, 2008. On December 11, 2008, the AVA Audit Committee notified Gilbert Cremar that he had approval to release the AVA Audit Report to the AVA Management and Officers.

**AVA Audit Committee Responsibilities:**

reviewing qualified candidates and selecting for employment, the individual/firm to perform the annual audit of the AVA,  
receiving the annual report prepared and submitted by the individual/firm accomplishing the audit. and  
reviewing the audit report and making appropriate recommendations regarding its contents to the Executive Council.

**2). Recommendation to the AVA National Executive Council:**

We recommend that the AVA Executive Council accept the AVA Audit Report of the Financial Statements prepared by Carneiro, Chumney & Co., L.C., for the period ending June 30, 2008 and signed November 8, 2008. We have reviewed the report and the accompanying management letter.

**3). Standards for the Audit Committee:**

Our responsibility to is access that CPA firm reached the proper conclusion that the financial statements represent the AVA books and records in all material and significant matters. The audit committee members can best help a nonprofit organization such as AVA and fulfill their function by being knowledgeable about their responsibilities and the activities of the nonprofit, as well as diligent in their inquiry and oversight of the significant accounting and audit functions. For public companies, the 2002 Sarbanes-Oxley Act has given audit committees greater responsibility for overseeing public companies' accounting, financial reporting, internal controls and audits. Though there are no national standards on the responsibility of a nonprofit audit committee, some states may have a nonprofit integrity act that covers those responsibilities. Those significant accounting and auditing functions normally include:

- ❖ .Retention and termination of the outside auditor;
- ❖ Consideration of the outside auditor's independence;
- ❖ .Oversight of the non-audit services performed, if any, by the outside auditor;
  
- ❖ Oversight of the audit planning and annual audit by the outside auditor;
- ❖ Review of the annual audit, the accounting and financial affairs, and the internal controls with the outside auditor;
- ❖ Consideration of whether to recommend that the board accept the annual audit;

- ❖ Oversight of the accounting and financial internal controls;
- ❖ Oversight of the accounting function, including staffing, qualifications and tone at the top; and
- ❖ Oversight of the (anonymous) whistle-blower process for accounting matters.

After review of the above and our research of the stated responsibilities of the AVA Audit Committee, we have no other recommendations for modification of the current stated standards for the AVA Audit Committee.

//signed//

FREDRICK S. SHEETS, CPA, CGFM Chair AVA Audit Committee – 2008

Dated: January 25, 2009

**Marvin Stokes moved that we accept the Audit Report for the period ending June 30, 2008 as presented. Ed Tod seconded. The motion passed.**

**8b. AVA Biennial Convention**

**1). 2009 Convention, Heinz Johnson Liaison**

**a). ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- i). Committee has been very successful in accomplishing its goal. The subcommittees are functioning in accord with time line.
- ii). The advertising sub committee, a member of this committee, is advertising the publications parts of the Publicity activities for the Convention.
- iii). The registration packets should be to the printer the first week of February.

**b). ACTIVITIES:**

- i). .Ongoing detail planning for operation of '09 Convention is underway.

**c). CONCERNS:**

- i). The scheduling of speakers. Jeff Crilley will be the Wednesday session speaker.
- ii). Notify AVA Hq of the names of those who have passed away since the last convention for inclusion on the "In Memoriam" list.
- iii). Silent Auction chair gave Heinz information needed to donate to the Silent Auction.
- iv). Chair of Convention is asking for pictures of each of us. Jackie Wilson said she had pictures of most of the officers and could send them.
- v). There will be five stations at the Convention for the IVV Certification Stamp on Tuesday through Friday. They need help:  
Tues: 6 - 9 pm, Wed. and Thurs: 10 am – 5 pm, Fri.: 8 am – 5 pm

**d). RECOMMENDATIONS: None**

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

**a). ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

No new accomplishments since November 2008.

**b). ACTIVITIES:**

- 1). Working on the preliminary budget
- 2). Working on convention awards and specialties, including preconvention items.
- 3). Planning & organizing committees for specialized tasks.
- 4). Continuing to work on walk arrangements.

**c). CONCERNS: None**

**d). RECOMMENDATIONS: None**

**e), GOALS (by next NEC):**

- 1). Preliminary budget
- 2). Committee organization
- 3). Web site live
- 4). Awards finalized

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

REPORT OF THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2009  
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

**1). ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- a). Joan Lampart, who is a member of this committee, is doing the publication parts of the Publicity Awards. All of the ground rules and submission procedures for photographs, brochures, community events, etc. will be in the next Checkpoint.
- b). Leslie Bowen has volunteered to help organize the presentation of these awards at the Convention
- c). There will likely be one change at the Convention. We can discuss this more under the Awards Committee. The AVA Hall of Fame and Distinguished Service will continue to be only given at the Convention. Formerly the Meritorious Service Awards were given at the business session. The change in Awards delegated the approval of Meritorious Service Awards to the Regional Director level. The Regional Director would decide when and how to present the awards. One option would be to present them at the Regional Meetings at the Convention.

**2), ACTIVITIES:**

- a). The planning of future major AVA publicity participation at national conferences/exhibitions is on-going. Under consideration and planning for 2009 are the AARP Exhibition in Washington DC and the ACSM Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. They need to look at other organizations also. He has spoken a nurse about the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses. She is checking to see if they have workshops and if they are interested in having one about AVA.
- b). Prioritizing the visits by the AVA national officers to major publicity events is on-going.

**3). CONCERNS:** None

**4). RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- a). Any recommendations from the NEC pertaining to any publicity effort and the scheduling of National Officer visits will be welcome.

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

The following changes are recommended to the AVA Event Handbook:

Part II: Planning

A. A good event will :

4. Have a well marked trail **or clearly written directions and trail map.**

Part III: Trails

B. Marking a Trail

1. A complete trail marking kit is provided to each club ~~through the generous support of New Balance Athletic Shoes, Inc.~~ This kit contains signs for the trail and the start finish area, trail marking arrows and trail marking tape.

Part V. Start/Finish Area

- D. Start Stamp Table. Number the start cards to track how many people are on the trail. Some clubs use a two-part start card with the participant keeping part one

and part two **retained at the start or** attached to the award at the finish table.

**Two-part start cards are available from AVA at no charge.**

Part VII: Year /round (YRE) and Seasonal (SEA) Events

C. Event Sanction

1. General

a. Award Design. AVA Policy Manual paragraph ~~4-04~~ 4.08 gives details on event awards.

d. Submission Procedures. (Delete verbage referring to use of Sanction Request Forms and insert): **Year Round/Seasonal ESR's should be submitted electronically following the guidelines in the AVA Policy Manual, Paragraph 4.06 Event Sanctioning.**

e. Annual Renewal – Delete this paragraph.

f. Second Chance Seasonals – Delete this paragraph.

D. Event administration

6. Event Listing in AVA's *Starting Point*. All YRE's and SEA's that **arrive at the AVA National Headquarters are submitted electronically** PRIOR to September 1<sup>st</sup> and **approved** are included in the next edition of *Starting Point*.

CHANGES TO THE WEBSITE:

Remove links to YRE Sanction Request form and Event Sanction Request; add link to electronic sanctioning instructions.

Delete link to Year Round Event Participation Report – it is not an active link.

Remove link to Certificate of Insurance Application Form; add link to electronic instructions for Certificate of Insurance.

Remove link to AVA Specialties Order; add link to E-business Instructions for Clubs.

**Motion was made to adjourn the meeting until 8:00 am tomorrow (2/28/2009). Meeting was adjourned.**

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**Meeting was called back to order at 8:00 am.**

**We will begin today with Reports of Special Committees.**

**9. Reports of Special Committees**

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

1. Curt asked Steve Hughart to create an AVA (member country) page for the IVV website. It is almost ready to send to IVV. We need to promote tourism to the United States. Curt asked that the pages that will be part of the IVV website be produced before the 2009 AVA Convention. That should be an attainable goal.
2. Steve (with Curt's assistance) has been working on compiling a document about what we want the AVA website to do and what we want the AVA Office Systems to do. They are two distinctly different things, but there are some things that come in through the website, such as event sanction requests, that once approved are part of the AVA Office Systems.
3. Curt wrote a document called "The Future of AVA," which is nothing more than a compilation of everything he had ever heard about the AVA Website or AVA Office Systems. It's a nine page document. If you look at the Website under AVA Leadership you will see a list of officers. Under Curt's name is a web address. On that is listed the Future of AVA.
3. The website reorganization is an ongoing project that may have some significant progress prior to the Convention. The Website Committee chair has obtained and installed "Expression Web 2," the Microsoft program that has replaced Front Page

and is their leading Website development product. It is hoped that this will significantly speed up the process of rebuilding the website. Jackie Wilson expressed concern about the change of program. The office staff only knows "Front Page."

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

**1. ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- a). AVA Form 302 was redeveloped to show that the Meritorious Service and Certificate of Service are regional awards. The new form is available on line, and it is a fillable pdf form. A revision of the AVA policy manual was not necessary.
- b). AVA Form 302 for Hall of Fame and Distinguished Service awards is available one line, and it is a fillable pdf form.
- c). Nominations have been solicited from the regional directors for Hall of Fame, Distinguished Achievement, IVV Honors, and Trailblazer Award. Those nominations are enclosed.

**2. ACTIVITIES:**

- a). Nominations from regional directors for Meritorious Service, Certificate of Service, and Certificate of Appreciation are due to the committee by March 1, 2009. A list containing name and hometown are all that is required for Certificate of Service and Certificate of Appreciation. A short citation as well as name and hometown are required for Meritorious Service. A copy of the Regional Director approved nomination is the easiest way to accomplish this action.
- b). Work is going forward on the preparation of the awards booklet which will be used at the June 2009 AVA convention. It is approximately half complete. Upon completion, it will be forwarded to the AVA President and on to the Convention Committee Chairman.
- c). Consideration of the Star Club award has been shelved for the next Awards Committee.

**3. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the NEC review the enclosed nominations for Hall of Fame, Distinguished Achievement, IVV Honors, and Trailblazer Award and render its judgment for these awards.

Sam also reports the award forms have all been revised and are all fillable.

Sam said he was surprised there weren't more "Impact" awards. It is an award for someone who has done something really special that deserves recognition right now. The "impact" awards will still be in the awards packet and they will still be recognized, even if it is not on the spot.

**9c. Bylaws, Leonard Wojtysiak, Chair; Pat Lucero, Liaison**

Curt will report on this. We have the beginnings of a reconstituted Bylaws committee. Curt is an ex-officio member of the committee. He has three people who have agreed to be on the committee. From the West coast is Wayne Holloway. From the East coast Bob Wright is on the committee. Doris Conyers has agreed to serve on the committee. The committee now has two officers and two non-officers.

Curt reminded us we had voted yesterday to withdraw the appointment. For the sake of efficiency, he thinks the most logical choice is to ask us to approve him as chair of the Bylaws committee.

The Bylaws committee's tasks will be to evaluate whatever is referred to them, to find

out what the real issues are, flesh them out, and come back to this group and make recommendations, first, as to whether or not it is a valid motion or suggestion and secondly, they will recommend to us whether we recommend it to the AVA clubs. There is a time table. This has to go out to the clubs in advance of the Convention. The final product of the Bylaws committee needs to be put into a script, done in such a way that people can read the changes on the screen while it is being read to them. The parliamentarian will make whatever necessary comments need to be made.

**Curt submitted his name to be chair of the bylaws committee. Heinz seconded. The motion passed.**

Marvin Stokes asked if Curt was putting too much on his own shoulders. Curt responded if someone else volunteered to chair the committee, he would thank the person and step back.

Curt has already done a summary of the five motions that have been presented. He thinks the maximum number to be dealt with is five.

**9d. History, David Toth, Chair; Curt Myron, Liaison**

**1) ACTIVITIES:**

Committee projects are:

- a) Registry of AVA events- This a long term to list every event that AVA has ever sanctioned. By the convention David hopes to have the list of every Year Round AVA has ever done – something like 37,000 events –including every Special Event qualification - through 2008. Curt asked Jackie to get some prices on producing CDs.

We need to keep up with technology. He is thinking about offering a CD of the Starting Point to supplement the book. We need to ask the walkers if there is any interest in getting a CD along with the Starting Point book. Several questions were asked: what if someone wanted only the CD; could the book be broken into sections.

- b) Bibliography of AVA related articles
- c) Biographies of AVA Notables: This now combines the EC biographies with the AVA Who's Who in Volkssporting.
- d) 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.
- e) AVA Museum Inventory – directed by Jackie Wilson, Executive Director AVA: The History Committee seeks a new volunteer for that task at AVA HQ.
- ❖ Projects initiated in the past are continuing with activity by all active members.
  - ❖ Registry report is very time consuming and should be easier but will discuss this in a future report.
  - ❖ Executive Council bios – there is no expected format for this. Several members have not sent in a bio waiting to see the standard – Curt has given me permission to use his as a sample and I will send it on to all who requested guidance.
  - ❖ AVA History – got a call a couple of days ago, from a club in Nebraska asking what to do with “historical items” found in a cleanup of storage area (first call in 18 months).
  - ❖ Encourage all levels of responsibility to keep a history at their level for future use by Historian or History Committee.

- 2) **CONCERNS:** Most volunteers for this committee have become inactive.
3. **RECOMMENDATIONS:** Will see you all at convention with samples of what has been finished by that point. Please let me know if you have any folks in your ken who would like to help with the History Committee efforts.

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

Becky modeled a sweatshirt, from the NW Regional Conference, with “branding” material. Could use on shirts, pins, etc.

**1) OBJECTIVE:**

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

**2) ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

The digital projector was purchased by the AVA office and a policy has been outlined for borrowing and use of the AVA Digital projector.

**Policy for use of the digital projector**

1. The purpose of the purchase is to provide an avenue of presentation for the promotion of volkssporting.
2. The projector will be loaned out and monitored by the chairperson or NEC Liaison of the AVA marketing committee.
3. That person will be financially responsible for the whereabouts of the projector and the projector will be consigned to them.
4. The marketing committee will coordinate the shipping and scheduling the projector. Borrower and sender should be able to expense the shipping from the marketing budget. Shipping will include insurance.
5. The projector will be for NEC and AVA office use.
6. If a club would like to use the projector for a marketing presentation, the user for the club will assume responsibility for the projector.
7. The borrower will need to submit a request in writing to the Marketing chairperson.
8. Requests for use should be submitted a minimum of 30 days in advance of the event.
9. Requests will be approved on a first come first served basis. Negotiation will take place between the borrowers if there is a date conflict.

**Becky Forsythe moved that the digital projector loan policy outlined in the above report be approved. Phil Hait seconded. Motion as amended passed.**

Wayne Holloway said that he would need to use one for training purposes and would like to see the projector available for the training committee also.

Curt said he was bothered by having the RD financially responsible if a club in the RD’s region had the projector.

Curt also thought maybe it was time to have a wish list again – a projector for use by the training committee. If any clubs or individuals would like to make a donation they could earmark for this item.

Jackie will check on the warranty and insurance.

**Curt Myron moved to amend the Digital Projector Policy - Item 6, to replace**

**“RD” with “user” and make the “user” responsible. Ginny Drumm seconded. Amendment passed.**

Bids have been requested for display boards for the regional use. Displays are being developed for the visual story of the AVA.

Banners have been ordered and distributed to the regions and the responsibility for reorders has been transferred to the AVA office. The cost for ordering an individual banner is considerably higher than the per banner price if a larger quantity of banners is ordered. The vendor reports that the set up fee is what causes the per piece price to escalate on single orders. Due to concern for keeping the cost down, the marketing committee also got an additional bid to determine if the vendor should be changed. The price of the estimate was 75% higher for the single banner with the prospective bidding vendor.

Several years ago the NEC received a suggestion that the AVA adopt a mascot. It has been suggested that the sheep dog become the official mascot of the AVA on several of our new publicity materials. A contest to name the dog would offer a great kick off for using the mascot in AVA publicity.

**Becky Forsythe moved that the sheep dog become the national mascot of the AVA. Glen Conyers seconded. Motion failed.**

Per our discussion at the June 2009 meeting, the AVA office has secured a translator and had the grabber and the AVA business card translated into Spanish. Becky has a motion to present regarding the printing of the translated materials. She has not presented the motion.

A suggestion was received for a possible fund raiser by the NEC for upcoming conventions. Although marketing is a stretch for this idea, it is included here because it does promote volkssporting to credit walkers. We have previously discussed a special program to collect the stamps of the NEC officers – Special National Officers Book.. The special program would be taken care of by a committee of NEC members.

In the Northwest Becky has been doing something similar to the Star Award for their publicity efforts. This year she had a problem arise with two clubs wanting the same date. Becky suggested they each publicize their events. Becky showed a great article that was published in the paper. The clubs could submit their news articles to Becky. The winner got a ribbon and she had gift cards for all the entrants.

The committee now has five members.

### **3. CONCERNS:**

**Committee members are needed.**

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Becky had two motions that were dealt with during her report. A third motion was not presented.

### **9f. Nominating, Chelane Priller, Chair**

The following individuals have been placed on the ballot for the national election so far:

President:	Curt Myron
Vice President:	Wayne Holloway, Becky Forsythe
Secretary:	Pat Lucero
Treasurer:	Marvin Stokes

The Regional Nominating Committee Chairs report the following candidates have been placed on their ballots so far:

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:	Skip Coburn

Since Chelane submitted her report, a second name has been presented for Vice President: Becky Forsythe.

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

As you all know we have a digital projector. A hard case is being researched.

Mike mentioned upgrading Front Page to the 2003 version (from 2000). Ed Tod mentioned Microsoft is coming out with a new product.

**9h. Partners**, Curt Myron, Chair, and

**9k. Sponsors**, Curt Myron, Chair

Curt will combine the reports at this time.

PARTNERSHIP/SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE

**1). ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE:**

- a). Membership application submitted to TAFISA.
- b). Signed a new five-year sponsorship contract with YAMAX Corporation. Value of contract is \$8,000.
- c). Completed a second printing of AVA Start Cards provided by The Walking Company.

**2). ACTIVITIES:**

- a). Discussions with eCountryLifestyle and The Active Network continue.
- b). Requested feedback from RDs regarding the usefulness of the eCountryLifestyle website.  
eCountryLifestyle is a website that is fairly new. They had 300-400 hits per day, which is more than the AVA website gets. It is a form of social networking for clubs. Curt doesn't know exactly how they make their money. They aren't talking about that at this point. They do have advertising on the site. They invite clubs to join the site (may have fee) and use it as a way to publicize their events.

Curt reported he got some feedback. Some thought it would be useful, but others thought it was duplicating information that was available on the AVA website. Jackie suggested establishing a "link" with eCountryLifestyle, if they are agreeable. More discussion followed.

- c). Requested feedback from RDs and officers on the use of Active Network's event registration software for future AVA convention. Based upon response, we may choose to refer this issue to the Marketing Committee.
- d). Made contact with AARP-Washington.

**SPONSORSHIP**

- a). YAMAX. We are discussing ways to expand our sponsorship with YAMAX to include use of their Personal Walking Program.  
YAMAX is coming out with a pedometer for pets. They also have one that just fits in your pocket.  
Question was asked about GPS usage. Curt uses his quite a bit. He uses it for laying out trails and makes extensive use of the "waypoints." He suggests

putting the GPS coordinates for the event start point on the flyer. GPS coordinates are also used for “geo-caching.” It is like a treasure hunt and is international. There some 800,000 geo-caches in the US alone. Phil asked if the GPS would show elevation changes. Curt has a Garmin Colorado 400T that listed for \$480 when he bought it. It is a “cross-over” unit. This model can be used in a car, on a bike or boat, or while walking (on a trail). It can be set to use metric or standard measurements.

b). Another proposal is underway with a potential sponsor.

## **PARTNERSHIP**

Discussions in progress include:

a). AARP – Washington – promoting a partnership to sponsor Washington Volkssport events as a healthy exercise choice for AARP members.

Curt has received a Memorandum of Understanding to have AVA sign. He has been working on this for three years. He is interested in their “10 Week Walking Program. Current program is “Getting Fit on Route 66.”

Curt suggested AARP & AVA in Washington state make an agreement to publicize Volkssporting to AARP members. Concept is: we have a New Walker Kit and Curt’s idea is in July, August and September for the Washington state association to offer to all of it’s clubs a “free” New Walker Kit that has been customized to show “AARP” on the cover and AARP on the IVV books. Publicize to AARP members that they can go an AVA event anywhere in Washington and get a free New Walker Kit.

AARP would get a “free” booth at the Convention. The Partners and Sponsorships committee has money in its budget to pay for the booth.

Curt has spoken with Jackie Wilson about the cost of producing the New Walker Kit (about \$2). It won’t be a problem to get the books printed with “AARP” on them. Curt ordered 1,000 of them. The state association will pay for half of the production cost. The distribution of these will be closely monitored. Each club that uses them must return to the state association the unused kits with a list of who got them.

Curt would like to market this concept to all the state associations. He would like the next target to be on the East coast.

Curt is proposing the agreement in Washington with AARP be for a period of three years with 2 events per year.

Curt asked that we not make the announcement yet – could possibly be done at the Convention.

Heinz Johnson asked if it would be feasible to have these special New Walker Kits available at the AARP booth at the convention. Curt pointed out that most of the people who would be there would already have books.

b). eCountryLifestyle – Outcome depends upon RD feedback.

c) The National Recreation and Parks Association is a partner of AARP that the committee will pursue for a partnership agreement.

## **3) RECOMMENDATIONS: None**

**There are a couple of administrative items that need to be taken care of at this time.**

- 1). Introductions of officers and guests were done at this time. See lists at beginning of minutes.
- 2). Jackie asked what kind of food we want for lunch. It was decided to have Mexican food. Jackie took a head count and will get back to us.

- 3). Becky Forsythe has, after due consideration, decided to withdraw her nomination for AVA Vice President.

**9i. Special Programs, Phil Hait, Chair**

**AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE  
February 27-28, 2009 National Executive Council Meeting**

**1. ACTIVITIES:**

- a). Report attached with all Special Event programs participation numbers for the period ending December 31, 2008.
- b). Graph attached showing start & end dates for all existing & approved programs.

**2. RECOMMENDATION:**

- a). The Point of Contact for the American Authors and Literary Landmarks Special Event has requested a new end date. This was originally approved to start on July 1, 2006 with an end date of June 30, 2011 (5 years). A new end date is requested for December 31, 2010, six months earlier.

**AVA Special Event Policy paragraph 3C gives the NEC the authority to “extend or curtail” a particular special event based on “popularity or other circumstances”**

**Phil Hait moved that the revised end date of December 31, 2010 be approved for the American Authors and Literary Landmarks Special Program. Ed Tod seconded the motion and it passed.**

- b). **NEW SPECIAL EVENT PROPOSAL: Carnegie Libraries** The Holy Family Walkers of Lawton, Oklahoma are proposing this Special Event. From the late 1800's to the early 1900's Andrew Carnegie donated money to create libraries in the US and other English speaking nations. In all, over 2500 Carnegie Libraries were established. 1400+ were in the US and 156 additional in Canada. Many of these remain active today, in small towns across the country. Examples exist in 47 states, thereby allowing for a national audience. Qualifications are to participate in 20 events that pass by a Carnegie Library. The Braddock, Pennsylvania library pictured on the award was first in the USA. The program is proposed to start on January 1, 2011 and end December 31, 2013.

**RECOMMENDATION: Phil Hait, Committee Chair Special Events, moves that the Holy Family Walkers “Carnegie Library” proposal be approved.**

**Glen Conyers seconded. Motion passed.** Phil stated it doesn't need to be an active library. (This has been changed to start January 1, 2010 and end December 31, 2012 following passage of item 11g regarding Special Events.)

- c). **NEW SPECIAL EVENT PROPOSAL: Hillside Letters** The Black Hills Volkssport Association of Rapid City, South Dakota are proposing this Special Event. Giant capital letters adorn the hillsides near many towns and cities in the West. These modern geoglyphs were well suited to this part of the country with many treeless hills and mountains. Hillside letters have a history dating back to 1905. There are about 400 hillside letters still in existence. They continue to be the pride and joy of the school/community where they are located. The club will maintain a website listing the locations of all existing communities where “hillside letters” exist. Currently AVA has walks in 13 states which would qualify for this special event (list available in handout).

The program requires 12 different sanctioned events. If approved, the program will start on January 1, 2010 and continue until December 31, 2012. The sponsoring club has agreed to abide by the recently approved Special Event Policy

**Phil Hait, Committee Chair for Special Events, moves that the Black Hills Volkssport Association proposal “Hillside Letters” be approved to start January 1, 2010 and continue until December 31, 2012. Bonnie Johnson seconded. Motion passed.**

- d) NEW SPECIAL EVENT PROPOSAL: Honoring America’s Law Enforcement**  
Kitsap Volkssporters of Washington state are proposing this Special Event honoring America’s law enforcement personnel. In honoring a second set of American heroes, it makes a nice companion to our Walking America’s Firehouses challenge. We propose to run this event from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2012. **Phil Hait moved to approve the Special Program Honoring America’s Law Enforcement to run from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2012. Skip Coburn seconded.** There was much discussion. **The motion passed.**

Curt mentioned something Wendy Bumgardner had mentioned. She made a point that bears repeating: when planning a walk route to qualify for a special event should never be sacrificed. He can imagine some law enforcement agencies you probably would not want to plan a route through.

It should be a matter of record that safety is paramount.

There was discussion about the backlog at the finish tables at walks. Heinz said there would be a separate table for stamping of special event books. That idea was met with favor and might be used at other multiple walk/and or bike events.

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

**9i. Strategic Plan – Marvin Stokes, Chair**

Marvin passed out drafts of the Strategic Plan for the period from the end of 2009 through 2011. **See attached.**

The major responsibility of the Strategic Plan committee is to audit the plan and revise as needed. The Strategic Plan will continue the concept of looking to the future of our organization and how to achieve goals and objectives established by the National Executive Council; the Standing Committees; The Special Committees; and the Executive Director. The central theme of this future will be “FOCUS ON GROWTH.”

Early in our term each committee chair was asked to provide him with goals for their committees. These goals have been incorporated into the plan. Marvin touched on each committee and their goals.

**CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- A. The overall conclusion reached by the Strategic Planning Committee is that in order for the AVA to “FOCUS ON GROWTH” the above goals/objectives must be vigorously pursued.
- B. The goals/objectives must be reviewed on a regular basis for status and revised, modified or edited; and additional goals/objectives made a part of this plan as needed.
  1. Recommend that committee chairs conduct a review of their goals at a minimum of once each quarter.
  2. Recommend that results of reviews be submitted to NEC for discussion and approval/disapproval.
- C. It is not the intent of this Plan to be the solution to all situations which may occur within the AVA.
  1. Recommend that AVA Executive Committee call for additional information when an unaddressed situation/complication arises.

2. Recommend that the Strategic Planning Committee be tasked with monitoring this call.
- D. It is not the intent of this Plan nor of the National Executive Committee/Council to micromanage the functions and performance of the AVA Standing Committees or the AVA Special Committees.
1. Recommend that Committee Chairs be assigned their tasking and then be allowed to carry out functions of their respective committees using the AVA Policy Manual, NEC Handbook and this Strategic Plan as guidelines.
  2. The Committee Chairs were selected based on their demonstrated knowledge and leadership abilities and, with the confidence shown in them by AVA Leadership, will perform their tasks in a most commendable manner. Give them a chance.

### CLOSURE

To determine an overall strategy for a highly complex organization such as the American Volkssport Association filled with knowledgeable and motivated volunteers is not to be taken lightly. Reducing the strategy to three huge, meaningful words was a sign of the leadership we have been lucky enough to experience in the AVA. So reach down and grab your bootstraps; pull hard and let's all

### **“FOCUS ON GROWTH!”**

**Marvin Stokes moved to accept the Strategic Plan as presented with the removal of the date in item 7 under AVA Biennial Convention. Ginny Drumm seconded. Motion passed.**

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

- 1). ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
  - ❖ Submitted draft AVA Region Director Web Site Guide for comments.
  - ❖ Developed and submitted Club Web Guide – Adding Special Events for use/comments.
  - ❖ Developed and submitted Club Web Guide – Submitting an Electronic Sanction Request for use/comments.
  - ❖ Developed and submitted Club Web Guide – Renewing Year Round Events for use/comments.
  - ❖ He provided a copy of training packages, for president and other club officers, to members of the National Executive Council. (This package is to be used by the Region Directors and others to train club leaders.)
- 2). ACTIVITIES:
  - ❖ Work on the event guide abandoned.
  - ❖ RD and club website guides continue under review (review activity unknown – no reports).
  - ❖ Development of a Web Guide for State Association and Club Presidents is in planning (thinking about it).
  - ❖ Work on training packages and web guides will continue as comments are received and changes become necessary to accommodate web design/program changes.
  - ❖ Work on Awards Procedures with the Awards Committee continues. He presented a CD containing past award books and a list of AVA Award recipients to members of the NEC.
  - ❖ (Hold over from March and June Reports) 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 2009. It is envisioned

that this product will provide guidance and helpful hints, but may include direction or rules.

- ❖ (Hold over from March and Reports) Contemplating, and welcoming suggestions on what training “notes” from the Policy Manual and Events Handbook to place in the Checkpoint and TAW.

3). CONCERNS:

There’s a long way to go and an even shorter while to get there.

4). RECOMMENDATIONS: None

Heinz Johnson reported yesterday he had passed out a draft of the Convention schedule. There is a one hour RD Instruction block on the schedule. Heinz asked if one of the approved workshops is covering the material mentioned by Wayne. Heinz also inquired when the web training for RDs would be. Is it a workshop?

Heinz also inquired about how many Regional Meetings there would be and how many spaces to reserve. Curt asked for a hand count and sis hands were held up.

**9n. Youth Program, Nancy Wittenberg, Chair**

1). ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- a) 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.
- b). Worked with Connie Runkel on updating Master Program information.
- c) With greatly appreciated help from Clarence Wright, president of the Indy “G” Walkers of Indianapolis, IN we set up and staffed the AVA booth at GSUSA’s national convention October 30-November 2. Fifteen walkers walked the Indy “G”’s YRE altered start from the convention center with ten receiving the Participation Patch for Girl Scout Walks. Others walked from the normal start point a couple of blocks away. Clarence provided club members to staff the booth, provided brochures and patches to give away and came to help take the booth down at the end of the conference.

**2). ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT PERIOD:**

- a). 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.
- b). 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 have done nothing on this item as yet.
- c). Work with the AVA office to rethink the way the Girl Scout participation patch ordering is done. It is very difficult to get accurate information about how many girls will come to an event, and often clubs return large numbers of patches. This makes it difficult for the AVA office to gauge how many patches to have on hand. In some areas, Girl Scout councils are reluctant to do the registration for events, due to the cost of their own personnel. This puts more of the burden on AVA clubs. Although girls like to have the patches at the event, it may be necessary to order them after the fact and distribute to a troop leader.
- d). Find a volkssport club who will be willing to work with their Girl Scout council to design the 20092010 Participation Patch for Girl Scout walks. This is getting critical.
- e). Create a patch to use for other youth groups in place of the Girl Scout participation patch. It has been suggested that the first Girl Scout patch,

designed by the AVA could be altered to serve this purpose.

- f). Finish reworking the Youth Brochure with Connie Runkel at the AVA office. We want to make it more usable for other mentoring organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs. The Master Program patch as it is designed still specific for Girl Scouts. It's possible we could alter it or make a more generic version.

**3). RECOMMENDATIONS:** None at this time.

## **10. Unfinished Business –**

None

Curt reported two meetings ago we tabled a motion. Last meeting we declined to take that motion back to the table. Under Roberts Rules of Order if it was not taken back (the meeting following the tabling action) it disappears.

No action taken.

## **11. New Business**

### **11a. Nominations from the floor**

**I move that: Article V, Officers – 5.6, Election Procedures – (e) Nominations from the floor shall be permitted” of the Bylaws be stricken.**

Summary of Proposed Action:

Nominations for the officers would have to come through the Nominating Committee and be known to the clubs before the biennial meeting.

- ❖ When candidates from the floor of convention are nominated, club members are unable to direct their club representatives as to how they want their vote to be placed.
- ❖ The opportunity for the club representatives to learn of the candidate's strengths and weaknesses is limited to the time between the nomination and the vote (two days).
- ❖ There is no opportunity to put forth another candidate in opposition.
- ❖ If someone willingly puts their name into nomination, it should be done with forethought and openness.
- ❖ Our Bylaws state that it is the duty of the Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for the National Offices. Nominations coming from the floor counter this responsibility.
- ❖ Often the process for nomination includes authentication of the candidates' qualifications. It is unfair for some to go through the process and others to come in at the last minute, putting forth no effort.

**SUBMITTED BY: Interlaken Trailblazers Volkssport Club, seconded by Phil Hait.  
Motion rejected.**

Curt said he understands the club's points and he has to agree with them that when you have a vetting process, and a process that helps distribute information about candidates, that allowing nominations from the floor appears contrary to that process. His difficulty with this particular motion is that just by eliminating nominations from the floor, one does not guarantee the candidates will be more timely. Perhaps if this referred to the Bylaws Committee, perhaps the Bylaws Committee ought to consider this together with what many other organizations use, and that is a filing deadline. Generally speaking, even with municipal and national elections you have to file your candidacy, in this case with the Bylaws Committee, by a certain date. That, together with elimination of nominations from the floor, could produce the change that this club has identified. If there are no further changes to the Bylaws, the impact of that is you could have no nominees and no nominations from the floor, therefore you can't fill the office. By Bylaws then the NEC has a

vacancy and the NEC has to fill that vacancy. Curt prefers we don't go there. He suggests referring it to the Bylaws Committee and letting them consider all these ideas and come up with a Bylaws motion that incorporates something that actually does have candidates declare themselves earlier.

There was discussion of the pros and cons.

The vote is a little different on this since we don't have the authority to say yes, do that. A "yes" vote will refer it to committee and a "no" vote effectively kills the motion. Motion rejected.

**Skip Coburn moved that we refer the above motion to the Bylaws Committee and they will also establish filing deadlines. Glen Conyers seconded and motion passed.**

### **11b. Affiliate club proposal**

**I move that: AVA create a category of "affiliate club" for organizations that want to affiliate with the AVA. This requires a change to AVA By-Laws.**

Summary of proposed action:

This will help AVA grow by having U.S. organizations be able to sponsor once-per-year fund raising events.

The purpose is to achieve growth for AVA by the creation of a lesser category of club to allow a variety of US organizations the opportunity to participate in volkssports. Suitable organizations include fraternal, health and wellness-related organizations, parent-teacher groups, chambers of commerce or government entities such as parks and recreation departments. An affiliate club should be a non-voting member of AVA and the privileges of membership should be less than for a full AVA member club.

Application procedures for becoming an AVA affiliate club should be similar to those for AVA member clubs.

Requirements for an affiliate club ought to include:

- ❖ An affiliate club is a non-voting affiliate of AVA
- ❖ The affiliate club must meet all federal and State requirements as a non-profit organization, part of a parent non-profit or part of a government entity.
- ❖ An annual fee less than that required of AVA member clubs, but high enough to cover the cost of AVA's per club annual dues to IVV and the cost of materials/subscriptions to be given to the affiliate club.
- ❖ A limitation on the number of events per year that an affiliate club may hold. (Recommend one event per year, either traditional or year-round/seasonal).
- ❖ The club must show that they consulted a certified AVA trailmaster to create their event/trail route.

This concept provides a low cost means for many organizations to qualify for holding a once-per-year fund-raising event. While the affiliate gains access to AVA volkssporters, AVA and member clubs gain access to the affiliate club's membership, exposing many new participants and local volunteers to volkssporting. The creation of affiliate clubs also increases the value of what AVA has to offer to national partnerships.

The availability of certified Trailmasters provides expertise to affiliate clubs and assures that event quality stays high when the AVA name is added to an affiliate's event. Once the concept is approved, the appropriate AVA Committee should be tasked to market the 'affiliate' concept to suitable organizations.

**Motion Made By: Wayne Holloway** for Training Committee and Longview Border

Crossers, AVA530 **Motion withdrawn by maker.**

#### **11c. National Trailmaster**

**I move that AVA appoint a National Trailmaster with specific duties. This is within the authority of the AVA President.**

##### **Summary of Proposed Action:**

The Trailmaster position would be established as an appointed position the same as Chairs of AVA committees, appointed by the President and confirmed by the National Executive Council.

Specific duties of the Trailmaster:

- ❖ Primary responsibility for the AVA Event Handbook – develops changes and improvements to event procedures.
- ❖ Provide oversight over the quality of traditional and self-guided AVA events.
- ❖ Participates with the AVA Training Committee to implement and operate a certification program for AVA Trailmasters.
- ❖ Administers the testing and certification of trailmasters, including periodic recertification.
- ❖ With input from Regional Directors, appoints regional trailmasters.
- ❖ Promotes marketing to non-AVA organizations of AVA's ability to act as consultant in creation of quality trail and event routes.
- ❖ Promotes recognition of local trailmasters.

**Motion Made By: Wayne Holloway** for Training Committee and Longview Border Crossers, AVA530. **Seconded by Skip Coburn. Motion failed.**

There was much discussion on this issue – both pros and cons. General reaction of the clubs was opposition to another level of management.

Curt felt that the club Trailmasters should have an advocate (or ombudsman) at the national level they can go to with questions about event planning, etc.

**Ed Tod moved that AVA appoint a national Trailmaster to assist clubs requesting help in planning trails. Ginny Drumm seconded. Motion failed**

#### **11d. Introduction of Business:**

**I move that: AVA create a national certification program for AVA Trailmasters.**

Summary of Proposed Action: This action requires funding from AVA to develop training and certification materials. Once implemented, the program should be self-sustaining.

The purpose of the certification program is to improved the quality of AVA event routes through comprehensive training and give recognition to those with exceptional route planning expertise.

The first step would be to appoint a National Trailmaster to work with the AVA Training Committee to develop a Trailmaster training program.

The program must be rigorous and detailed, with written course materials and a required final examination for satisfactory completion. Completion of the certification course should provide positive recognition for the participant, including at least a completion certificate, a “certified” Trailmaster patch and an ID card. A course fee would be established to help offset the cost of continuing certification. AVA should consider offering an initial discount to member clubs to promote the program. But there should be a course fee to add to the perception that the course has value.

Course materials would be based on the AVA Event Handbook, safety considerations,

elements which add quality to events, administration requirements for AVA events and general knowledge of all aspects of volkssporting. The materials must be thorough, making use of photos and visual graphics to illustrate points. They must also be packaged so that the participant can study and his/her own pace to prepare for the certification exam. The exam must contain both written and oral questions, on-the-ground practical tasks administered by certified Trailmasters. A system of periodic re-evaluation or certification renewal is also required.

Once the reputation of "Certified Trailmaster" is established, AVA may choose to market the training program to non-AVA organizations for a fee – its certified ability to create safe, quality event routes. AVA may later wish to require the participation of a certified Trailmaster in the planning of any event to which AVA lends its name.

For recognition, AVA should consider a national award (Trailmaster of the Year or Trailmaster of the biennium – to be presented at the biennial convention) to recognize excellence in creation of quality events.

**Motion Made By:** Wayne Holloway for Training Committee and Longview Border Crossers, AVA530 **Motion died for lack of a second.**

#### **11e. Term of Office - Officers**

**I move that: The By-Laws Committee present the following recommended change of the AVA By-Laws to the Membership at the 2009 Biennial Convention in Richardson. It is recommended that Paragraph 5.2.f be deleted.**

**Summary of Proposed Action:** Paragraph 5.2.f is misplaced in Paragraph 5.2 Eligibility, and is better placed in Paragraph 5.7 Term of Office, where it becomes redundant.

Together, Paragraph 5.2.f and existing Paragraph 5.7 creates an ambiguity concerning the term of office for Officers; are they gone after two terms, or do they "hold until relieved." Deleting Paragraph 5.2.f effectively removes the ambiguity; and, while maintaining the aim of two consecutive terms limit, empowers the Membership to retain effective Officers willing to continue their service past two terms...God Bless 'em (editorial comment).

**Motion Made By:** Wayne Holloway, Pacific Region Director **Seconded By:** Pat Lucero. **Motion as amended passed.**

**Motion was made by Pat Lucero to amend the motion to read: I move that this issue (11e) be referred to the Bylaw committee for further study. Mike Nelson seconded. Motion as amended passed.**

**Skip Coburn moved that the issue (11e) be referred to the committee which the President feels is appropriate. Glen seconded. Motion passed.**

#### **11f. Term of Office – Regional Directors**

Introduction of Business

**I move that: The By-Laws Committee present the following recommended change of the AVA By-Laws to the Membership at the 2009 Biennial Convention in Richardson. It is recommended that Paragraph 6.2.e be deleted.**

**Summary of Proposed Action:** Paragraph 6.2.e is misplaced in Paragraph 6.2 Eligibility, and is better placed in Paragraph 6.7 Term of Office, where it becomes redundant.

Together, Paragraph 6.2.e and existing Paragraph 6.7 creates an ambiguity concerning the term of office for Regional Directors; are they gone after two terms, or do they "hold until relieved." Deleting Paragraph 6.2.e effectively removes the ambiguity; and, while maintaining the aim of two consecutive terms limit, empowers Region Members to retain

effective Directors willing to continue their service past two terms...God Bless 'em (editorial comment).

(It should be understood that this change would not apply to Regional Directors being termed out in June 2009...unless a replacement has not been elected, in which circumstance someone would have to rule on the ambiguity mentioned above.)

**Motion Made By: Wayne Holloway, Pacific Region Director. Motion withdrawn.**

#### **11g. Special Event Proposal**

**I move that: the NEC consider Special Event program proposals only at fall, winter or spring meetings and said proposals not begin until January 1 of the following calendar year.**

Summary of Proposed Action: Special Event Programs proposed and voted on during the sanctioning window do not allow clubs a fair amount of time to seek locations for inclusion in Start Point.

**Submitted By: Glen Conyers, South Central Director. Seconded by Marvin Stokes.**

Becky Forsythe expressed concern that it would limit Special Event flexibility for new clubs.

Phil Hait is concerned if the Special Event was approved at the fall meeting it wouldn't give much time for the club to get it started.

Curt asked if the intent of this was to not interfere with the Year Round time table? Glen responded that was the case. There was concern about the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Curt suggested saying "they would be considered at the first NEC meeting of the calendar year. If approved they would take effect January 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year."

Ginny was concerned that we would be catering to the Year Round Events.

**Phil Hait moved to amend the motion to read that the NEC consider Special Event proposals only during the first NEC meeting of the calendar year, with an event start no sooner than the following January 1. Seconded by Heinz Johnson.**

The motion now reads the same as the amendment. **The motion passed.**

#### **11h. Special Event Policy**

**I move that: the Special Event Policy reviewed and approved at the November NEC Meeting effective January 1, 2009 for all new and/or existing special events be implemented only to those special events with approved end dates after December 31, 2010 or with starting dates of January 1, 2009 or later.**

**Submitted By: Jacklyn Wilson and Phil Hait Seconded By: Marvin Stokes**

**Summary of Proposed Action:** This action will allow those programs that are close to ending to continue reporting in the old format that they have been using all along.

**Motion passed.**

#### **12. Audience Comments:**

Phyllis Olson (Greater Des Moines Volkssport Assn), said they are working really hard on the 2011 convention in Des Moines. They are looking to seeing everyone. Everyone come and have fun.

#### **13. Officer Comments:**

Phil Hait – He is looking forward to convention.

Becky Forsythe– this is basically her last meeting. Serving the AVA has definitely been a growing experience for her. She is not the same person that she was when she first came in here and that's a good thing.

Mike Nelson said May 2 is a walk at the Air Force Academy.

Jackie Wilson thanked everyone for their work on the Board.

Pat Lucero said she has really enjoyed being Secretary and hopes to do that again. She is looking forward to the convention in Texas.

Curt Myron thanked the Regional Directors and Officers. As with any organizations, mistakes can be made and some priorities have to move faster or slower. We've been thrown some curves and some fast balls. We started this term with an international crisis, which reflected itself in how our organization was divided in opinions, quite polarized I believe. Yet here we are, at the end of our term stronger than when we went into the term, with more enthusiastic clubs than at the beginning of the term. What he most proud of is that this is truly a functioning team, and he cannot think of a council that has functioned better than this one.

Ed Tod – He is retiring at the end of this term. He has done this for six years. Despite some of the headaches he has enjoyed every minute of it. He has one lingering concern for the AVA and that is the lack of youth. He would like to see the emphasis on family and getting families more involved.

Wayne Holloway - We have to remember John. God bless him.

Heinz Johnson – He asked if there was an IVV policy concerning pasting a piece of paper with an IVV stamp into books? Answer was yes. You would have to keep it on the Insert Card or other paper and put the whole sheet or card in the book. These are California events. The people are sent the page with the stamp electronically

Glen Conyers – He said we have come up with many solutions in the last couple of years. He reminds us about the pre-and post-convention events.

Bonnie Johnson – Come to Crazy Horse, South Dakota in June.

Ginny Drumm – She would like to encourage everyone to come to Ohio and West Virginia and do the Lincoln Highway events sometime in 2009 or 2010. If you walked all six of them you can request an "I Walked Them All" patch. The Illinois and Indiana state associations are working on events for 2011 and 2012. Eventually there will be events in all of the states where the highway went.

Marvin Stokes - He has a preliminary flyer on the Savannah events for Jan 14-18, 2010. Marvin also has a letter from the Mid-Florida Milers Walking Club inviting the NEC to Orlando in November 2009 for their fourth quarter meeting.

At this time we go into Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing and approving the award nominations that will be presented to us by the Awards Chair.

## **Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Lucero, Secretary