

**American Volkssport Association**  
**XX Biennial Convention**  
**Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center**  
**Billings, Montana**  
**June 7, 2017 - June 9, 2017**

**Opening Ceremony:**

Color Guard Presentation

Pledge of Allegiance

**Call to Order:**

President Dennis Michele called the Twentieth Regular Membership Meeting of the American Volkssport Association to order at 2:00 p.m., June 7, 2017 at the Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center in Billings, MT

**Credentialing Report:** Sam Korff, Secretary

232 Clubs eligible to vote

189 credentialed club delegates and proxies

13 NEC members eligible to vote

13 NEC members credentialed

202 Credentialed as of 6/7/17

**We have a quorum.**

**Welcome and Introductions:** President Dennis Michele

Welcome to the 20th Biennial Convention in Billings, Montana. We have three interesting days ahead of us and many interesting walks.

**Introduction of the National Executive Council Members:**

Lawrence Lehman (Treasurer); Sam Korff (Secretary); Tom Jackson (Atlantic RD); Linda Neu (Mid-America RD); Chris Mellen (Northeast RD); Jerry Wilson (North Central RD); Nancy Wittenberg (Northwest RD); Suzi Glass (Pacific RD); Frank Sayers (Rocky Mountain RD); Glen Conyers (South Central RD); David Bonewitz (Southeast RD); Susan Medlin (Southwest RD); Paul Lamb (Parliamentarian); Henry Rosales (Executive Director); Dennis Michele (President).

## **Approval of Meeting Rules.**

President Dennis Michele changed Paragraph 6.1.1 Change the date so that it reads:

"Nominations from the floor for National Officers will be permitted immediately after the report of the Nominations Committee during the first General Session on Wednesday, June 7, 2017."

President Dennis Michele changed Paragraph 6.1.4. Change the word Secretary to President so that it reads:

"Where only one (1) candidate for a national office has been nominated, no ballot shall be cast by the members and the President shall call for a voice vote of the members."

No other changes presented.

With no further changes to the Rules, the Rules stand as presented.

## **Approval of Agenda:**

There being no objections, the agenda is approved as presented. (Attachment)

## **Announcement of Official Slate of Officer Candidates:**

Duncan Brantley, 2017 Nominating Committee Chair, announced the slate of candidates:

President: David Bonewitz, Southeast Region and Robert Wright, Atlantic Region

Vice President: Nancy Wittenberg, Northwest Region

Treasurer: Robert Morrison, Northwest Region and Candace Purcell, Southwest Region

Secretary: Sam Korff, Northwest Region

Duncan Brantley concluded his report of the official slate of officer candidates.

President Dennis Michele asked for any nominations from the floor.

Secretary: There were no nominations from the floor. President Dennis Michele asked for a voice vote. Sam Korff was elected by acclamation.

Vice President: There were no nominations from the floor. President Dennis Michele asked for a voice vote. Nancy Wittenberg was elected by acclamation

President: There were no nominations from the floor. Nominations for President were closed.

Treasurer: There were no nominations from the floor. Nominations for Treasurer were closed.

### **Presentations by candidates for office:**

Each candidate for President and Treasurer were given five minutes to present their qualifications for the office being sought.

Elections for officers will be held Friday, June 9, 2017.

### **Presentations and Voting on Bylaw Amendments:** Jerry Wilson, Chairman of the Bylaws Committee

Four amendments made by the committee will be presented. A second to the motion is not needed when the motion is made by the committee.

#### **1. Motion to Change the name of the National Executive Council to Board of Directors (effective July 1, 2019)**

Change "national Executive Council" to "Board of Directors" throughout the bylaws. (Affects sections 3.2; 3.3(b); 3.5(b) and (f); 3.6(b), (d), (d)(3)-(5); 4.1 and .2; 5.2(b); 5.3(a)(1) and (4), 5.3(b)(1) and (4), 5.3(c)(1) and (4), 5.3(d)(3); 5.4; 5.5; 5.6(a) and (b); 6.1, 6.2(b), 6.3(b), (c), (i) and (j); 6.4; VII; 7.1 - .5; 7.6(b); 9.1; 9.2(b), (i) and (l); 9.3 and .4; 10.1, .2 and .4; 11.2(c); 13.1; 14.2; 15.2 and .3

Vote taken by count of ballots - Yes (in favor) 133 No (Not in favor) 52

**Motion for proposed amendment passed.**

#### **2. Motion for Evaluation of Candidates for NEC Service**

**Current 5.6 (b)** It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for the National Offices to be filled by election at the regular membership meeting. No member of the Nominating Committee may accept nomination for a National Office. If a committee member does choose to run for National Office, such candidate's membership on the Nominating Committee shall terminate and the National Executive Council shall immediately elect a replacement.

**Current 6.6 (b)** It shall be the duty of the Regional Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for Regional Director in that Region. No member of the Nominating Committee may accept nomination for Regional Director. If a committee member does choose to run for Regional Director, such candidate's membership on the Nominating Committee shall terminate and the Regional Director shall immediately appoint a replacement.

**New 5.6 (b)** It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to seek and nominate qualified candidates for the National Offices to be filled by election at the regular membership

meeting. No member of the Nominating Committee may accept nomination for a National Office. If a committee members does choose to run for National Office, such candidate's membership on the Nominating Committee shall terminate and the National Executive Council shall immediately elect a replacement. Candidates shall be evaluated in terms of the following, but not limited to:

- (1) passion for the AVA mission;
- (2) leadership and communication skills;
- (3) prior board experience;
- (4) understanding of the nonprofit sector through service and/or alternate means;
- (5) specialized expertise required to achieve the AVA's strategic goals;
- (6) understanding of the responsibilities and expectations of the office being sought;
- (7) willingness to commit the time necessary to the position.

**New 6.6(b)** It shall be the duty of the Regional Nominating Committee to seek and nominate qualified candidates for Regional Director in that Region. No member of the Nominating Committee may accept nomination for Regional Director. If a committee member does choose to run for Regional Director, such candidate's membership on the Nominating Committee shall terminate and the Regional Director shall immediately appoint a replacement. Candidates shall be evaluated in terms of at least the qualifications listed in section 5.6(b).

Vote taken by count of ballots - Yes (In favor) 10 No (Not in favor) 159

**Motion for proposed amendment failed.**

### **3. Motion to Separate National and Regional Responsibilities of Directors**

#### **Current 6.3**

**Duties.** Each Regional Director shall:

- (a) coordinate and promote the AVA program of activities within the represented Region;
- (b) maintain liaison between Members in his Region, the National Executive Council and the National Headquarters
- (c) review applications for membership from groups in the Region and recommend action to the National Executive Council
- (d) approve Volkssport event scheduling for Members within his Region or appoint a designee to do so;

(e) approve event sanctioning and provide notice of sanction approval to the National Headquarters or designate someone to do so;

(f) review delinquency reports and follow up to ensure that all reports have been submitted and debts to the AVA have been paid;

(g) implement disciplinary action against AVA members in the Region for violations of the AVA or IVV rules;

(h) promote the development of new clubs within the Region by visiting, corresponding with or making presentations to interested groups to promote the growth of the AVA;

(i) recommend to the National Executive Council disciplinary action against Members within the Region for violation of the AVA or IVV rules;

(j) perform such other duties as are prescribed by the AVA President and the National Executive Council.

**Current 6.6(a)** A Nominating Committee shall be appointed in each Region by the Regional Director at least nine months prior to the regular membership meeting.

**Current 6.6(b)** It shall be the duty of the Regional Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for Regional Director in that Region. No member of the Nominating Committee may accept nomination for Regional Director. If a committee member does choose to run for Regional Director, such candidate's membership on the Nominating Committee shall terminate and the Regional Director shall immediately appoint a replacement.

**Current 7.6(a)** Membership. The elected National Officers, a representative of the Regional Directors who has been elected by the Regional Directors, and the Executive Director shall constitute the Executive Committee. Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote, except the Executive Director who shall have no vote.

**New 6.3** Duties. Each National Director shall:

(a) apply their regional familiarity to the general national supervision of the AVA;

(b) with regional assistants coordinate and promote the AVA program of activities;

(c) with regional assistants promote the development of new clubs within the Region;

(d) perform such other duties as are prescribed by the AVA President and the National Executive Council

**New 6.6(a)** A Nominating Committee shall be appointed in each Region by the respective National Director at least twelve months prior to the regular membership meeting. It shall work in coordination with the National Nominating Committee to ensure the Board of Directors has members with the expertise it needs to lead the AVA strategically.

**New 6.6(b)** It shall be the duty of the Regional Nominating Committee to seek and nominate qualified candidates for National Director from that Region. No member of the Nominating Committee may accept nomination for National Director. If a committee member does choose to run for National Director, such candidate's membership on the Nominating Committee shall terminate and the National Director shall immediately appoint a replacement. The Regional Nominating Committee shall consider the same criteria as in section 5.6(b) when evaluating candidates to be nominated.

**New 7.6(a)** **Membership.** The elected National Officers, two representatives of the National Directors who have been elected by the National Directors, and the Executive Director shall constitute the Executive Committee. Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote, except the Executive Director who shall have no vote.

Vote taken by count of ballots - Yes (In favor) 0 No (Not in Favor) 194

**Motion for proposed amendment failed.**

#### **4. Motion to Reorient Standing Committees**

**Current 10.1** Committees, standing and special, as deemed necessary by the National Executive Council to carry on the work of the AVA shall be appointed by the AVA President with the advice and approval of the National Executive Council.

**Current 10.2** All committees . . . shall consist of at least one member of the National Executive Council. A majority of the members shall not be members of the National Executive Council. No member of the National Executive Council shall be on the Nominating Committee. The AVA President shall be a member ex-officio of all committees, except the Nominating Committee.

**Current 10.3** There shall be the following standing committees: Audit, Bylaws, Convention, Internet Technology, Publicity, and Standards and Evaluation

**Current 5.3(a)(2)** [The President shall] serve ex-officio as a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee

**New 10.1** Board committees, standing and special, as deemed necessary by the National Executive Council to carry on the work of the NEC shall be appointed by the AVA President with the advice and approval of the National Executive Council. All committees dealing with day-to-day operational subjects shall be established and overseen by the Executive Director.

**New 10.2** All committees, standing and special, shall have a majority of members from the National Executive Council. One member of the National Executive Council shall be on the Nominating Committee. The AVA President shall chair the Governance Committee and be a member ex-officio of all other board committees except the Nominating Committee.

**New 10.3** There shall be the following standing committees: Audit, Executive, Governance, Finance and Investments, and National and IVV Awards.

**New 5.3(a)(2) [The President shall] chair the Governance Committee and be a member ex-officio of all other board committees except the Nominating Committee.**

Vote taken by count of ballots - Yes (In Favor) 5 No (Not in Favor) 192

**Motion for proposed amendment failed.**

**Necrology:** Lynette Reagan

Friends come into our lives and friends leave our lives but AVA friends never walk out of our hearts. These are our friends who have departed since the 2015 Convention.

Barbara Alston	Bill Aspedon	Gardner Bailey	John Balco
Joe Robert Baulch	Darrell Beason	Marlys Beck	Christa Bellefleur
Lloyd Berry	Susan Berry	Geraldine Brassfield	David Breen
Kitra Burnham	John Burns	Bruce Cary	Joan Chandler
Larry Clark	Leona Clark	Cynthia Colter	Edith Connally
Larry Cook	Ed Cottrill	Junis Cregar	Raymonda Dane
John Deibel	Thomas P Denton	Raymond G Diedrich	Nina Dominguez
Melvin Pete Dowling	Tom Doyle	Albert Drackert	Dottie Dunn
Sherman Edwards	Beverly Faunce	Eddie Filina	Iona Flagan
Barbara Fletcher	Emma Fosdick	Phil Foster	Earl Franks
Norma Gilchrist	Irene Gilmore	Victor Green	Joyce G Gross
Lynne Haffner	Clifford Hahne	Philip Hait	Bob Hellers
George Henderson	Paula Henderson	Paul Herner	Bob Hicks
Donna Hicks	Jerome Hierholzer	Lisa Holt	Wayne Holloway
Lynn Humble	Winogene Ivins	Vivian Jenkins	William Jenkins
Charlene Jensen	Donald Jones	Charles Jordan	Phyllis Kale
Steve Kehoe	Al Kilburn	Mario Klein	Susan Korejwo
Eleanor Kronlund	Lillian Landon	Walter Lang	Joan Larson
Chuck Layton	Charles Lear	C H Leifeste	Lynwood Lindsey
Col Harry Long	Patrice Lucero	Margaret Lunghofer	Ava Mahaffey
Suzanne McCarthy	Tim McCarthy	John L McCoy	Ken Meinheit

Larry Middleton	Tosie Dorothy Miller	Marcia Mohn	Perry Morse
Judy Mueller	Tom Mummey	Valerie Nishimura	Shannon L AnzjonPaddock
Bill Parker	Nola Pearson	Bob Pianowski	Clara Wind Pilzga
Howard Platte	Ed Polsdorfer	Patrick Powers	Daryl Pulley
Jim Reeves	Charles Reid	Carole Richmond	Lori Rossi
Helen Simmons	Sharon Smetzer	Janice Sunde	Oscar Swinney
Raymond Titus	Sam Tollett	James Trask	Richard Truax
Barbara Uppole	Sid Walker	James Weaver	Marion Wiehe
Norma Wilson	Skip Wolfe		

**There was a moment of silence to honor our colleagues and friends. May they rest in peace.**

**Recess 3:42 p.m.**

## **20th AVA Biennial Membership Meeting: Reconvened 2:32 p.m., June 8, 2017**

### **Second Session**

#### **Change to the agenda: President Dennis Michele**

If there are no objections, I would like to make a couple of minor changes to the agenda. The first is to add the Publicity Awards at item 5. The second change is to reverse items 7 and 8 so that the last item will be the presentation of the President's Award.

Hearing no objection, the changes to the agenda are made.

#### **Credentialing Report: Sam Korff, Secretary**

232 Clubs eligible to vote

194 Credentialed club delegates and proxies

13 NEC members eligible to vote

13 NEC members are credentialed



207 Credentialed total as of 6/8/2017

## **We have a quorum.**

### **Treasurer's Report:** Larry Lehman, Treasurer

Six of the past seven years, there has been a loss. The Audit last year was good. There was a brief discussion on free walkers and a fee increase.

### **Introduction of the Convention Committee:**

Sherry Sayers, Committee Chair      Frank Sayers, Rocky Mountain Regional Director

Lynette Reagan                              Lois Peterson

Frank Pratt                                      Dale Boone

Kevin Ross

### **Selection of Mascot:**

There were 160 votes cast. 126 votes were cast for None of the Above.

### **None of the presented mascots were selected.**

### **Publicity Awards:** Andy Bacon and Dawn Gruber

#### Newsletter

1st Place	Walk N Mass	Footnotes 6/2015
2d Place	Asheville Amblers	Newsletter Dec/Jan 2016
3d Place	Vaca Valley Volks	Newsletter Fall 2015

#### Traditional Event Brochure

1st Place	Walk N Mass	Brookline
2d Place	Upstate Pathfinders	Thank a Vet
3d Place	The Happy Wanderers	Azalea Walk

#### Year Round/Seasonal Event Brochure

1st Place	Walk N Mass	2016 Walk and Bike
2d Place	Two Town Walking Club	YRE 2016
3d Place	Falcon Wanderers	YRE/Seasonal 2016

### Photography

1st Place	Jan Weeks	Thing
2d Place	Lois LaFleur	Soldiers
3d Place	Linda Morzillo	Boy and Lady looking at sign

### Logo

1st Place	Upstate Pathfinders	Greenville, SC
2d Place	Nebraska Trailblazers	Omaha, NE
3d Place	Gateway Milers	O'Fallon IL

### Website

1st Place	Nebraska Wanderfreunde	<a href="http://www.netrailblazers.club">www.netrailblazers.club</a>
2d Place	East Tennessee Wanderers	<a href="http://www.easttennesseewanderers.org">www.easttennesseewanderers.org</a>
3d Place	Happy Wanderers, Florida	<a href="http://www.happywanderersfl.org">www.happywanderersfl.org</a>

### **AVA Awards Presentations:**

Presented by President Dennis Michele and Linda Neu, Awards Committee Chair

### **Hall of Fame**

Phyllis Olson                      Donna Seline

Annette Tollett

### **Distinguished Achievement**

Helen Bateman                      Maryann Brown

Deborah Carter                      Joanne Forinash

Ed Hainline

### **Trailblazer Award**

Daffodil Valley Volkssport Club

### **Ted Ballman Youth Award**

Debbie Kruep

**Presentation by Kevin Kooistra, Executive Director, Western Heritage Center, Billings, Montana**

**Presentation of President's Award**

Chris Zegelin

Dolores Grenier

**Recess 4:25 p.m.**

**20th AVA Biennial Membership Meeting reconvened 2:00 p.m., June 9, 2017**

**Final Session**

**Credentialing Report:** Sam Korff, Secretary

232 Clubs eligible to vote

201 Credentialed club delegates and proxies

13 NEC members eligible to vote

13 NEC members are credentialed

214 Credentialed total as of 6/9/2017

**We have a quorum.**

**Election of Officers:**

Ballots for election of President and Treasurer were collected.

**Presentation by Russ Palmer, Montana Warrior Run, Billings, Montana**

**Donation to Local Nonprofit**

President Dennis Michele: On behalf of AVA, I'd like to present this \$500 check to Andrew Pearson American Legion Post #117

**Presentation by Empire State Capitol Volkssporters to host the 2019 Biennial Site.**

**David Bonewitz made a motion: I move that Albany, NY host the 2019 Convention.**

**Motion seconded by: Al Korejwo**

**Site selected by acclamation.**

**Election Results:**

<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Robert Morrison</b>	<b>104</b>
	<b>Candace Purcell</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>President:</b>	<b>David Bonewitz</b>	<b>186</b>
	<b>Robert Wright</b>	<b>17</b>

**Presentation of New National Executive Council:**

<b>President</b>	<b>David Bonewitz</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Nancy Wittenberg</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Robert Morrison</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Sam Korff</b>
<b>Atlantic Region</b>	<b>Mike Green</b>
<b>Mid America Region</b>	<b>Andy Bacon</b>
<b>North Central Region</b>	<b>Jerry Wilson</b>
<b>Northeast Region</b>	<b>Chris Mellen</b>
<b>Northwest Region</b>	<b>Tom Baltes</b>
<b>Pacific Region</b>	<b>Suzi Glass</b>

<b>Rocky Mountain Region</b>	<b>Sherry Sayers</b>
<b>South Central Region</b>	<b>Lucy Yother (absent)</b>
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>John McClellan (absent)</b>
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>Susan Medlin</b>

**Audience Comments:**

Charlotte Phillips - Those clubs that came from all around to put on these walks should be congratulated.

Chris Mellen, NE RD - Northeast Region will need help with the 2019 convention. If you can, please contact the convention committee to offer your help.

**Closing Remarks** - President Dennis Michele - Thank you for your help; good luck to the new NEC. I challenge you to put on more and better traditional events.

**Meeting adjourned: 2:59 p.m. June 9, 2017**

