



## Maryland Volkssport Association

### Minutes

December 31, 2019

1. **Greeting.** The meeting convened at 12:30, Savage, Md, and Bob Schmick welcomed the following attendees:

Jeff Giddings, Deputy Regional Director; Bob Schmick, President, Maryland Volkssport Association; Sandy Lynch, Vice President, MVA; Darrell Neily, Treasurer, MVA; Marie Wisner, Secretary, MVA.

Kat Dittrich, Antietam Pathfinders; James Farley; Baltimore; John Dye, Columbia; Bob Wolfe Freestate; Yvonne Pennington, Greenbelt; Tony Laing, Seneca.

Guests: Jone Parr; Carolyn Thurber; Susan Barna;

Author's Note: If an attendee missed the signup sheet and is inadvertently omitted, my apology.

### 2. **Reports**

a. **Minutes.** Marie Wisner mentioned several items contained in the September 29, 2019 Minutes as follows:

Beginning October 1, 2019, clubs must post brochures on AVA in a PDF Form\*

\*See Treasurer Report for instructions.

As of today, December 31, 2019, we are awaiting further information from PA regarding details of the April 24-26, 2020 Atlantic Region Convention.

On-line start box available on [my.ava.org](http://my.ava.org).

John Dye's current Columbia newsletter has an excellent critique of the new AVA Logo.

Bob asked the group to make a motion to accept the September minutes, a motion was requested and passed.

b. **Treasurers Report.** Attached is the Treasurer Report, July 1, 2019 through December 30, 2019.



12/30/2019

Income/Expense by Category  
7/1/2019 through 12/30/2019

Category	7/1/2019- 9/30/2019	10/1/2019- 12/30/2019	OVERALL TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>			
MVA YRE Events	12.00	0.00	12.00
Unspecified Book Sales	0.00	99.00	99.00
FROM Blue KM Books (500-8000)	60.00	0.00	60.00
FROM Gold Event Books (1501 & Up)	0.00	6.00	6.00
FROM Green Event Books (1-50)	0.00	12.00	12.00
FROM New Walker Packets	30.00	36.00	66.00
FROM Orange KM Books (8001-22000)	30.00	0.00	30.00
FROM Purple Event Books (51-600)	60.00	30.00	90.00
FROM Rose Event Books (601-1500)	0.00	60.00	60.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>192.00</b>	<b>243.00</b>	<b>435.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
AAR Participation and Processing	118.75	0.00	118.75
AVA Annual Dues	75.00	0.00	75.00
Credit Balance	0.00	-137.00	-137.00
Discount	-14.00	-44.00	-58.00
Electronics and Software	69.99	0.00	69.99
Internet	98.94	0.00	98.94
Sanctioning Fees	73.00	0.00	73.00
Shipping	14.00	18.00	32.00
TO Blue KM Books (500-8000)	0.00	120.00	120.00
TO Gold Event Books (1501 & Up)	0.00	30.00	30.00
TO Insert Cards	10.00	0.00	10.00
TO Two-part Start Cards	60.00	10.00	70.00
TO Yellow KM Books (22001 & Up)	0.00	60.00	60.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>505.68</b>	<b>57.00</b>	<b>562.68</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>-313.68</b>	<b>186.00</b>	<b>-127.68</b>



1. Select SAVE AS, select PDF from the drop down list of file types.
2. Select Print, select Microsoft Print to PDF.

c. **Web Site.** Bob discussed his and Jeff Giddings recent experiences with the MVA Website as managed by Network Solutions. Due to Jim McDonald's death, Network required estate information from Marylou McDonald. Finally, after considerable negotiations, Jeff Giddings was able to work with Jim's son, who was instrumental in getting Jeff logged on their system. Jim McDonald's name will appear on the MVA web through 2023.

d. **Regional Director's Report.** Jeff Giddings.

Fourth Quarter YRE and Seasonal Reporting. Jeff said that there will be a new participant entry form that will be available on Jan. 3 or slightly later. There was extensive discussion among the group about this "New Method" of reporting. When your club treasurer submits totals, they will receive a PDF invoice from AVA with your fees. Club Presidents should advise your treasurer of these new procedures. If your club Treasurer needs help, please contact Jeff Giddings or Mike Green.

Jeff reminded everyone as of January 1, 2020, to only post brochures on the **AVA** website. Bob Schmick will still need to approve your club brochure. After Bob has approved a brochure, the club should post it on [my.ava.org](http://my.ava.org). Also as a means of promoting your event, you can post up to four (4) photos.

Also, there is a feature, a 200 character elevator pitch for "why I should walk this event." Select the "sell it" feature.

The MVA website will be reworked to be more phone friendly. It will look something like the Sugarloafers site. The MVA website functionality will remain (mostly) the same.

The current MVA website contains a link to the list of TEs in the Atlantic Region. It does not contain Seasonal or YREs.

### 3. **Continuing Business**

- a. **Meet Up.** Bob Schmick said 1113 folks are receiving notices of our walk events.
- b. **Facebook.** Maryland Walks. Club please promote all Clubs walks.



c. How to add **new members** to your Club. Bob Schmick suggested publicity, flyers posted in various facilities, such as rec centers and libraries. Promote **frequent** group walks to get the word out about our sport.

#### 4. **New Business**

a. **CheckPoint.** Club Presidents please make sure you forward AVA Checkpoint to your members.

b. **New system** to view events on AVA site. Jeff Giddings said take a look around the AVA web to familiarize yourself with the changes.

c. **Fourth Quarter.** YRE totals are due 1/15/20.\* See Deputy Regional Director comments above

d. Two clubs do not have a website: Greenbelt and Antietam. Clubs: please reach out to them to give assistance, guidance and expertise.

5. **Club Reports.** Events Sanctioned: 31 for 2019, and 10 to date for 2020.

a. **Antietam.** Kat Dittrich said Antietam will join Seneca on October 3 Oktoberfest event in Frederick, and on October 31 with the Easterday Farm Event, Myersville. She said the club continues to walk their YRE's.

b. **Annapolis.** Bob Schmick said the club has a meeting on February 8, and will discuss 2020 events.

c. **Baltimore.** Jim Farley said that the following events are sanctioned:

March 28 – two trails: Downtown Baltimore – Harbor East and Downtown Baltimore – Patterson Park.

September 26, Conowingo Dam.

Date to be determined in October 2020 – Havre deGrace Oktoberfest.

d. **Columbia.** John Dye said in December, 2019 the club celebrated their thirty-fifth anniversary. John thanked Mike Green and Bob Schmick who attended the celebrations.

The club will host an event on April 18, 2020 in Arbutus.



**e. Freestate.** Bob Wolfe thanked everyone for supporting today's Savage event, and the January 1, 2020 event, also at Savage. He said the club is in the planning stages of selection of potential events.

**f. Greenbelt.** Yvonne Pennington said the club had recent successful events in Laurel, the Freedom Festival and in Alexandria. Please join the club on January 18 and 19 at the D. C. Health Fair.

March 29 – HUG (Help Unite Greenbelt) guided walk. Near the Shell behind Beltway Plaza, 5707 Cherrywood Lane, Greenbelt MD. Start: 12:45pm.

May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19 and September 16. Night walk. Greenbelt Community Center.

Additional events will be planned by the club.

**g. Seneca Valley.** Tony Laing gave the following report:

2019 SVSVC Sanctioned Events

Sept 28 – Frederick Oktoberfest – 114 walkers

Oct 12 – Muddy Branch Greenway Trail, Gaithersburg – 118 walkers

Nov 16 - Seneca Creek Moonlight Walk, Gaithersburg - 90 walkers

Bookmark Available Listing five 2020 SVSVC Sanctioned Events:

Apr 4 - Westminster Breakfast Walk

May 2 – Washington Grove/Olde Towne Gaithersburg

Jun 6 - Germantown

Oct 3 – Oktoberfest, Frederick

Oct 31 - Easterday Farm at Myersville

Seneca has added three YREs for a total of 15 in 2020 plus three seasonals.

- OptOutside on Black Friday, November 29 at Seneca Creek State Park – 14 walkers



- Group walks to Holiday Lights at Mormon Temple in December & C&O Canal on Jan 4
- Airport Special Programs ready for January 1, 2020. Over 50 books have been sold.
- Discontinuing Free Walkers effective January 1, 2020.
- Revised bylaws scheduled for approval at the January 14, 2020 club meeting.
- Jone Parr is retiring as Trailmaster/Event Coordinator after 12 years of dedicated activity. Still actively looking for a replacement(s)
- Planning a bus trip to Cambridge, MD on April 18

Tony also discussed that among his other volunteer activities, he is involved with the C&O Canal Association. A World Canal Conference is scheduled for August 2021 in Hagerstown. This is a conference of canal enthusiasts that is held annually. This year it was in China, and next year it will be in Leipzig, Germany. Our theme will be Historic Canals Today: Education, Recreation & Tourism. Our website is [wcc2021.org](http://wcc2021.org).

The MVA is an active user of the towpath for Volksmarches: 103 walkers/bikers as of September 2019. At our April MVA meeting, Tony will give us an update on the 2021 Conference.

6. Jeff told everyone that there is a group walk on Saturday, January 4, 2020, at the C & O, Carderock. Please meet 10:30 am at the third parking lot. Darrell said this walk is under the auspices of the MVA, and will have a stamp provided by MVA.

7. Next meeting April 4, 2020, SVSL Event , at Ascension Episcopal Church, Westminster, MD.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.