



Maryland Volkssport Association

Minutes

September 28, 2019

1. The meeting convened at 12:45 p.m. Bob Schmick welcomed everyone.

Attending: Mike Green, Regional Director; Bob Schmick, MVA President; Darrell Neily, MVA Treasurer; Marie Wisser, MVA Secretary. Jane Steele, Annapolis Amblers; Tom Mosely, Freestate V. P.; Jeff Giddens, Seneca; Alice Filemyr, Seneca-guest; Yvonne Pennington, Greenbelt; Jim Farley, Baltimore; Ann Shilling, Antietam Pathfinders.

2. **Reports:**

a. **Minutes.** The June 29, 2019 Minutes were approved. Club Presidents: Please forward minutes to your club members.

b. **Treasurer Report.** Quarterly Report 7/1/19 through 9/27/10 Attached below.

Darrell said that under the Income/Expense you will note income of only \$12.00. This is because we received our quarterly online start box funds earlier, in the previous quarter. Also, our expenses exceed income; we are a service club, not a money making club. Darrell reminded everyone that at our December 2017 MVA meeting, the club voted to approve the following items (in an extract of the minutes of that meeting): Darrell emphasized the item -- in bold -- that the treasury balance includes both our bank and inventory.

1. Discontinue assessing clubs ten cents per credit walker.
2. Provide free start cards to clubs.
3. Discount sales of New Walker Packets to clubs.

A general group discussion of each of these proposals ensued. The complete proposal was voted on and passed.

MVA will eliminate the ten cents per credit walker. However, it was agreed that MVA will collect the ten cents per credit walker through the Fourth Quarter.

Beginning January 1, 2018, clubs are requested to use official start cards for traditional walk events. However, Clubs may maintain start cards for their YRE's in the manner in which the club(s) currently use. (a few clubs have printed their own copies).

New Walker Packets will be sold to clubs for \$3.00 each.

Additionally, these reductions in costs to clubs would cease at a time when the MVA treasury drops below \$7,000.

| Category | 7/1/2019-9/28/2019 | OVERALL TOTAL |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| INCOME | | |
| MVA YRE Events | 12.00 | 12.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 12.00 | 12.00 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| AAR Participation and Processing | 118.75 | 118.75 |
| AVA Annual Dues | 75.00 | 75.00 |
| Discount | -14.00 | -14.00 |
| Electronics and Software | 69.99 | 69.99 |
| Internet | 98.94 | 98.94 |
| Sanctioning Fees | 73.00 | 73.00 |
| Shipping | 14.00 | 14.00 |
| TO Insert Cards | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| TO Two-part Start Cards | 60.00 | 60.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 505.68 | 505.68 |
| OVERALL TOTAL | -493.68 | -493.68 |

| Account | 9/28/2019 Balance |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Cash and Bank Accounts | |
| Non-Profit Checking XX4797 | 7,672.09 |
| TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts | 7,672.09 |
| Other Assets | |
| Blue KM Books (500-8000) | 60.00 |
| Brown Bike Books | 48.00 |
| Brown Start Cards | 0.00 |
| Gold Event Books (1501 & Up) | 72.00 |
| Green Event Books (1-50) | 372.00 |
| Insert Cards | 40.00 |
| New Walker Packets | 650.00 |
| Orange KM Books (8001-22000) | 354.00 |
| Other Merchandise | 0.00 |
| Purple Event Books (51-600) | 250.00 |
| Rose Event Books (601-1500) | 234.00 |
| Two-part Start Cards | 182.00 |
| Yellow KM Books (22001 & Up) | 96.00 |
| TOTAL Other Assets | 2,358.00 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 10,030.09 |
| LIABILITIES | |
| | 0.00 |
| OVERALL TOTAL | 10,030.09 |

c. **Web Report.** Yvonne and Jeff responded to Bob's inquiry that Jim McDonald's information remains on the MVA website. They explained that Jim had imbedded materials that they are continuing to discover and attempting to remove. There was a general discussion about brochures. Note: In Regional Director Report below, please note: 5. e. In the future clubs (not the RD) should use the "Sell It" feature to upload approved brochures, etc.

Starting October 1, 2019, to post a club brochure it needs to be in PDF form. We can no longer accept word documents. Also keep in mind with the new AVA web site (my.ava.org) you can add them along with 4 pictures directly.

d. **Regional Director Report.** Printed copies were provided to those present, and are attached hereto. Club Presidents - please provide Mike's report to your members.

Note: Item 7. b. Group Works. Please make sure your club as a Group Works account.

Item 8. b. iii. Bylaws. Final version of proposed bylaws will be sent for group approval. . .

8. e. AVA fiscal year to begin January 1, 2020.

8. f. Mike Green has been elected to be the RD representative on the AVA Executive Committee (composed of the President, Vice President, Treasure, Secretary, Executive Director, and a representative RD).

9/27/2019

Mike Green, at_rd@ava.org

1. 2020 Atlantic Region Conference – Next year’s AT Regional Conference, sponsored by the KSVVA, is tentatively scheduled for April 24 -26, 2020 in Columbia, PA in conjunction with the 2020 Susquehanna Rivertowns Weekend event. The hotel for the conference has been narrowed down to 2 possibilities but has not yet been chosen.

2. Renewal of 2019 YRE/SEs for 2020 - This year Hector has indicated he will likely begin laser cutting stamps starting as soon as October 1st , since there is no intern to help do this work like last year (with the goal of distributing nearly 2,000 YRE/SE stamps to all AVA clubs during the first week of December). This means you may not be able to edit a 2020 YRE/SE stamp text after October 1st.

3. The Online Start Box (OSB) is now on my.ava.org

a. The OSB has been moved from the California State Association page (cva4u.org) to the new AVA site my.ava.org.

b. A number of OSB features have been improved. One of the more significant changes is the use of EVO (the AVA approved credit card processor) to add funds to a user account’s “Event Bank”. EVO requires a user to enter their credit card on each use and, unlike Paypal, does not require the creation of login account.

c. If you had an account on cva4u.org, your account (and Event Bank credit) has been transferred to my.ava.org, but upon your first login to my.ava.org you will be prompted to again sign the AVA Athletic Waiver.

d. The Help button content has been improved, there is new wizard/guide feature for new/inexperienced users, and a new FAQ (authored by Darrell Neily, OSB customer support) is available by first clicking on the “Find a…” tab then the FAQ tab.

e. Eventually all legacy ESR features used by clubs will be imported/improved and deployed on my.ava.org (like event stamp editing and the ACE-WG participation form).

4. New Event View web page

a. A new AVA event view page has been deployed using my.ava.org.

See, for example, <https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?sn=112298>

b. Clubs may find it useful to reference (and display event details for) a YRE/SE by its stamp # on their website (since stamp #s do not change every year for renewed YRE/SEs like the 6 digit event ID).

See, for example, <https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=1839>

- c. This new web page is smart phone friendly. You can see this on a PC display if you sufficiently narrow the Browser window causing event info to be displayed in a single column.
- d. Some folks have become quite attached to the old/legacy event details display. The new webpage now has a button at the top of the page to view the legacy event details page.
- e. Notice there is a “Point of Contact” button that is an image of the event POC’s email and phone# making it more immune to web bots scraping the POC’s info from this webpage. Clicking on this button brings up a form to submit an email on a particular topic.

5. New “Sell It” features on the Event View webpage

- a. Just this past week, a new capability has been released to help sell/enhance events. This new my.ava.org “Sell It” feature provides the clubs a web interface to upload an event brochure, add an “Elevator Pitch” and add up to 4 pictures to an event that are then displayed (or made available) on the event view page on my.ava.org.

See for example: <https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?sn=115557>

- b. The upcoming AVA Checkpoint email will formerly announce this new feature, but the “Sell it” feature is available right now.
- c. A club may access this feature by using their club legacy ESR events nav page and clicking on the “Enhance Approved Events” button OR by logging into the club account on my.ava.org, then clicking on the “Sanctions” and Sell It” tabs.
- d. Event brochures for all of the AT Region’s TEs (that I have access to) have been uploaded to their corresponding TE on my.ava.org using the Sell It feature.
- e. In the future, clubs (not the RD) should use the “Sell It” feature to upload approved brochures, etc.
- f. All clubs are encouraged to take full advantage of the other Sell It features (Elevator Pitch and up to 4 pictures) to enhance their events.
- g. Event brochures will no longer be placed on the mdvolks.org site nor the AT Region Calendar. Instead users will be able to download brochures using the supplied event detail links to my.ava.org.

6. New quarterly participation data entry form and procedure – The new single page participation form (on my.ava.org) for clubs to enter their quarterly participation data for all of their YRE and SEs is now likely to be deployed for Q4 2019. This single page form will automatically include the participation numbers from a club’s Online Start Box (OSB) events and provide entry boxes for the data for a clubs non-OSB YRE/SEs as well as entry boxed for any participation of an OSB event where a club has logged walkers outside of the OSB system.

7. Group Works

- a. The AVA National Office create Group Works for all AVA clubs based on the Club’s POC email.

- b. Clubs may choose to opt in or out of Group Works.
- c. Before opting out, Clubs should consider the benefits of having a Group Works account especially given a new pilot program is being initiated in selected states. If/when this program is adopted nationwide, it is likely to provide club specific, high quality referrals of individuals interested in walking in that club's geographic area. See the ava.org home page for a newly posted introductory YouTube video about Groups Works.
- d. Even if a club does not intend to use any other feature of Group Works, they should still have a Group Works account with a designated leader account in order to receive referrals in the future.

8. August 2019 AVA BOD Orientation and Meeting

- a. The AVA BOD held an Orientation session for new and returning RD/DRDs and a brief formal meeting in San Antonio from August 15-18, 2019.
- b. The AVA BOD approved the general approach developed by the AVA President to get AVA club approval for necessary AVA bylaw changes in order to make AVA bylaws compliant with current Texas law (where the AVA is incorporated as a 501.3(c))
 - i. Once the BOD has reviewed the proposed bylaws (including the redlined version), the proposed revised bylaws will be sent out (emailed) to the clubs with a cover letter indicating the most significant changes and a red-lined version of the current bylaws showing the proposed changes for comment.
 - ii. Comments will be collected. Changes may be made based the comments.
 - iii. A final version of the proposed bylaws will be sent out for club approval. Approval responses will be tallied and upon achieving the required approval percentage under the current bylaws, the proposed bylaws will become the official bylaws of the AVA.
- c. The AVA BOD will continue to hold monthly Electronic Board Meetings (EBMs) using MS Teams. New Issues raised during an EBM requiring a BOD vote can only be voted on during a following EBM or face-to face BOD meeting.
- d. There will be no January face-to-face BOD meeting in 2020 as a part of the general agreement to reduce expenses for BOD meetings in the current AVA budget. The next face-to-face BOD meeting is currently planned for July 10-12, 2020 in Madison, WS.
- e. The AVA National Office will proceed with changing their financial year to begin on Jan 1st starting Jan 1, 2020. Clubs are NOT required to change their financial year. But if a club wishes to do so, Erin Grosso, the AVA Financial Manager, has volunteered to help clubs to make the change.
- f. Your RD has been elected to be the RD representative on the AVA Executive Committee (composed of the President, Vice President, Treasure, Secretary, Executive Director, and a representative RD). Executive Committee infrequently meets to deal with pressing issues effecting the AVA (usually via electronic meetings).

9. Charity Miles

- a. A number of Volkssporters are starting to use the “Charity Miles” app, available for both Apple and Android smartphones. This app allows you to make your accumulated walking distance for a specific event or exercise session (upon first activating the Charity Miles) to result in a small donation (proportional to the distance walked) to a designated charity.
- b. John McClellan has formed a Charity Miles team, “#AmericasWalkingClub!”. John has also applied with the founders of Charity Miles to allow users to select the AVA as the target for their donation.
- c. Until the AVA becomes available as a target for Charity Miles donations, you are encouraged to go ahead and download the Charity Miles app and join the team and for now select another charity for your walking donations. John is hoping that as the member count for the #AmericasWalkingClub! team grows, the more likely/sooner the AVA will be approved as Charity Miles donation target.

3. Continuing Business.

- a. **Meet up.** Current 1087 participants. Bob suggested that at your club event start table, have a volunteer ask folks if they found out about us through meetup.
- b. **Facebook.** Club Presidents, please promote all club events.

4. New Business.

- a. CheckPoint. Club presidents, please forward AVA Checkpoint to your members.
- b. There is a new view on AVA to view events. You also have the opportunity to click "legacy" to view the previous format. See RD Report above, No. 3. Online Start Box section.
- c. **Please turn in your third quarter YRE totals prior to October 15.**
- d. Membership. Bob said clubs need to have "visibility". Promote your club activities.

5. Club Reports.

Seneca. Jeff Giddings reported for Seneca. We wish Seneca President, Tony Laing a speedy recovery with his new knee.

Special Programs and Stamp Editing appears to have been completed for 2020.

OptOutside on Black Friday, November 29 at Seneca Creek State Park.

Voted to discontinue Free Walkers effective January 1, 2020.

Conducting ByLaws Review.

Jone Parr is retiring as Trailmaster after 12 years of dedicated activity. We're actively looking for a replacement(s).

Adding three YREs for a total of 12 in 2020.

2020 Events

April 4 - Westminster Breakfast Walk

May 2 – Washington Grove/Olde Towne Gaithersburg

Oct. 3 – Oktoberfest, Frederick

Oct. 31 - Easterday Farm at Myersville

Nov. 14 – North Branch Valley Park, Olney

Greenbelt. Yvonne Pennington said the club just completed their 2019 night walks.

Event on November 2 at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge.

Event on December 7 and 8, in Alexandria, in conjunction with the Northern Virginia club.
Contact Helen Garamone at hkgaramone@hotmail.com.

Bob thanked Seneca and Greenbelt for sanctioning events in 2020.

Freestate. Tom Mosely said the club has updated their Bylaws. Please join Freestate on December 31 and January 1 at their events in Savage, Maryland.

Columbia. Darrell Neily said please join Columbia for their event, Sunday, October 13, at the Howard County Living Farm Museum. Also, reminder: **October 2 is Walk Maryland Day.** Walking is Maryland's state sport.

Baltimore. Jim Farley said Baltimore is hosting an event on October 26 at Conowingo. A 5/10k walk and a 20k bike. But of course, Bob Schmick will grill his famous brats.

On December 7, Baltimore will host an evening 5k/10k walk in Hampden.

On March 28, 2020, Baltimore will host an event at Harbor East 5/11k, or your choice to walk Patterson Park, 5/10k.

Annapolis. Jane Steele said Annapolis will host an event on October 5, in St. Michaels. There is a new trail.

On December 14, we will host the event in Eastport to coincide with the lighted boat parade.

At the Amblers February 2020 meeting, the club will choose events to be sanctioned.

Antietam. Ann Shilling said that no events have been sanctioned for 2020. However, the club will be participating with Seneca for the Easterday Farm Event on October 31, 2020. Ann said the club is looking at Ft. Frederick for a possible walk location. There was a general discussion of how to get the word out to promote walking. Publicize your club by distributing flyers, brochures which list your YRE's and events. Suggested venues to use: libraries, senior centers, recreation centers, sporting good/athletic stores, etc. local newspapers.

The next meeting will be on Saturday, December 31, at the Savage, Maryland event. At 12:30.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.