



Maryland Volkssport Assn.
Minutes December 31, 2014

Officers Present: Regional Director Tom Jackson; Bob Schmick, President; Skip Coburn, Vice President; Ken Wilson, Treasurer; Darrell Neily, Treasurer-Candidate; Marie Wiser, Secretary.

Club Delegates and Members: Betty Davis, Lourdes Barcelo, Mike Quinlan, Annapolis Amblers; Jim Farley and Sue Osborne, Baltimore Walking Club; Bob Wolfe and Lynn Haffner, Freestate Happy Wanderers; Carolyn Thurber and Jone Parr, Seneca; Sandi Cahill, WDCAVC; John Dye, Ron Looper, Columbia; Jerry Baugher, Piedmont and Jim McDonald, Webmaster. Meeting called to order by Bob at 12:40 and welcome to attendees.

Reports

1. **Minutes** of the October, 2014 MVA Meeting were approved and accepted.
2. **Treasurers Report:** Bob told the group that Ken Wilson has been Treasurer of the MVA for thirty years, and is retiring. Ken will be presented with a plaque commemorating his service and our appreciation. The plaque is expected to be completed within approximately two weeks, and Bob will take it to Ken's home. We expressed our thanks for Ken's many years of service. As of December 18, 2014, the treasury ending balance is \$2,098.38. This balance in Capitol One has been closed and converted to a cashier's check, payable to MVA for deposit to our new bank, PNC. Bob requested that all club presidents inform your club treasurer to check the MVA website for Treasurer-Candidate Darrell Neily's contact information. Bob said that AWA reported that the Greenbelt and Columbia clubs were late with quarterly reports and are fined Twenty five dollars late fee.
3. **Web Master.** Currently MVA hosts the websites for six clubs. Bob thanked Jim McDonald for the service he provides. Most organizations usually pay an expensive fee for web services, and we are grateful for Jim's excellent skills and his time invested for our websites. Check the website for lists of events and brochures.

4. **Regional Director.** Tom Jackson reported that 86 clubs in 41 states participated in the "It's Time to Walk" event on December 13, 2014. At 10:11 a.m., there were 3,074 walkers. Tom said that Governors from Tennessee and Maryland issued Proclamations promoting the 10-11-12-13-14 walk.

At the end of January, the NEC, National Executive Council, will meet in Sacramento, California. As part of the Agenda, here are two issues that will be addressed: 1. How to increase revenue and 2. How to increase the number of paid walkers. If you have any comments, ideas etc., please send Tom an email at: thomasjackson@embarqmail.com. Tom said he inherited the position as Chairman of the AVA Bike Committee and a lot of his focus is on promoting bike events. Tom said "there is more to volkssporting than walking." To that end, Tom mentioned that the White Rose Wanderers will host a walk and swim event in York, PA on Sat. and Sun. February 7-8, 2015. Tom mentioned that any club can host a swim event with only 12 participants to cover the AVA fee. He encourages clubs, such as Columbia, who regularly use Recreation and Parks facilities to determine if it is feasible to host future swim events. Skip mentioned that kayaking and canoeing also are a part of the volkssport activities.

Tom encouraged folks to use Facebook to promote future events. Post details and photos to get the word out for events. Additionally, the use of TAW is a good forum to promote future events, especially to folks outside the immediate area of your event.

Tom presented to Bob and John Dye certificates, streamers, and letters honoring the MVA's and Columbia Volksmarch Club's Thirtieth Anniversary.

Old Business.

1. **Facebook.** Reminder to clubs to post information about club events on Facebook. Bob discussed some terminology utilized on Facebook: **Post:** means what you write is sent to all the people who you have: "friended". **Share:** When you want an item you see or when you post an item or pictures on another group site, when you click on "Share" The item or picture will be sent to all of your friends.

2. **Meet-up.** The current number is 551. Approximately one week before all Maryland walks, these meet up members receive an email informing them of the walk. www.meetup.com/Maryland-Walkers-Hikers-Volksmarchers/. Within Meetup, there is a Maryland Walkers page which has a direct application to our clubs and is locally oriented. There are a half dozen walkers with editing privileges to the page, and the ability to post photos of walks.

New Business.

Election of MVA Officers. Ron Looper, Chair of Nominating Committee, introduced the slate of candidates for MVA Officers for a two year term: Bob Schmick, President, Skip Coburn, Vice President, Marie Wisner, Secretary and Darrell Neily, Treasurer. They were re-elected.

Election of Regional Director. Ron Looper encouraged MVA to support Tom Jackson for Regional Director. Tom said he told Bob Wright, Nominating Chairman, that he will be a candidate. The election date is to be determined. Watch for emails from Bob Wright.

Club Reports

1. Jerry Baugher, President of Piedmont thanked everyone for supporting their walks for the past twenty-five plus years. The treasury funds have been donated to local areas for supporting their walks, and to nonprofits. Jerry presented to Bob a check in the amount of One Thousand dollars for the MVA, if feasible, to be used to fund startup of a new club. Piedmont's walk boxes are intact for the clubs that took over Piedmont's YRE's to resume these YRE's.
2. Annapolis Amblers: Betty Davis said the club has tentative plans to host several events: a walk in Severna Park; St. Michaels; Oktoberfest and Lighted Boat Parade. The club will meet in February to vote on these choices.
3. Baltimore: Sue Osborn said they will host an Event in DuBurns, on March 28, 2015, and are discussing a tentative event in May in Conowingo.
4. Freestate: Bob Wolfe thanked folks for participating in the December 31 and January 1, 2015 Events at Owen Brown. February 21st walk at Beltsville has been sanctioned, with a Black History Month theme and an Event on April 25 at Montpelier Mansion at the tea festival.
5. D.C. Sandi Cahill said the club has sanctioned for 2015 the December Scottish Walk Event and the five evening walks. The club, with only four active members, are also discussing an event tentative for September, to walk across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge,
6. Seneca. Jone Parr passed bookmarks to the group with the club's 2015 walk schedule for events and YRE's. Carolyn Thurber said the club will host an event on January 17, 2015, on the C & O from Carderock to Great Falls. **Credit walkers must pre-register. Send \$3.00 check, payable to SVSVC, to: Carolyn Thurber, 17616 Mill Creek Dr., Derwood, MD 20855-1015. Write "C & O" and your phone number on the check. Please mail check early enough to be received by Tues, Jan. 13, 2015.** On May 2, the club is hosting the Westminster Breakfast Walk. The Club is sponsoring a "Walk 15 in 2015" program. She showed everyone the book which is free, and the award, which is a nice backpack.
7. Columbia. John Dye said Columbia has three sanctioned walks in conjunction with Howard County: March 21, at Cedar Lane Park; August 1, at Blandair Regional Park and October 24, Rockburn Branch Park.
8. Greenbelt. Bob said that Greenbelt has a sanctioned event on August 22, 2015, at Greenbelt Lake.
9. Bob mentioned to Skip Coburn to check out hosting an event at Merkle Wild Life, if feasible.

Next meeting will be held on March 21, 2015, at Cedar Lane Park, Columbia.
The Meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

