



Maryland Volkssport Assn.
Minutes September 12, 2015

Officers Present: Bob Schmick, President; Darrell Neily, Treasurer; Marie Wisner, Secretary, Sandy Lynch, Vice President, and Phill Wilder, Vice President of Publicity; Ken Wilson, Treasurer Emeritus, and Tom Jackson, Regional Director.

Club Delegates and Members: Frank and Marie Kupres, Baltimore; Lourdes Barcelo and Betty Davis, Annapolis Amblers; Fred Pugh, Freestate Happy Wanderers; Yvonne Pennington and Pat Astill, Greenbelt and Secena; Sandi Cahill, WDCAVC, Bob Wright, former Freestate President. Forgive me if I omitted someone, or if someone did not sign the sign-in sheet.

Meeting called to order by Bob at 12:30 and welcome to attendees.

A special thank you to Mike and Carol Quinlan for their planning and designing of the trails for today's walk at Merkle Wildlife. They spent many hours fine-tuning the trails and displaying helpful signs at the start table depicting the Merkle trails, the AVA walking rating system, and providing bug spray. An excellent tribute to honor Skip Coburn.

Reports

1. **Minutes** of the June 2015 MVA Meeting were distributed, approved and accepted. Minutes are posted to the MVA Website usually within one week of the meeting.
2. **Treasurers Report.**

Darrell Neily distributed a two page Financial Report - Year to Date. Page 1 lists Income, Expenses, Overall Total through September 11, 2015. AAR income to date is \$543.40 (5434 credit participants). This does not include receipts from MVA events, which total \$271 (90 participants plus a \$1 donation).

Page 2 listed Net Worth: our total assets (cash and bank accounts) together with other assets are \$5,843.06. We do not have as much income as it appears. For example, we are carrying a charitable donation from the former Piedmont Club of \$1,005.00.

Darrell said that MVA could no longer afford to supply clubs with FREE start cards, but that he and Bob would maintain an emergency supply to SELL to clubs ... at cost

(rounded it is 10 cents a two-part set) ... in emergency situations (at events or within one week of an event; it takes about a week to get orders from AVA). **Bob announced that this policy would be in effect starting October 1st.**

Darrell and Bob said eventually we will have to raise the per participant fee. Additionally, Darrell said that in 2016, MVA will pay the annual Meet Up fee (@\$90.00 each six months).

3. **Web Master.** Currently MVA hosts the websites for six clubs. Bob thanked Jim McDonald for the service he provides. Check the website for lists of events and brochures. Bob reminded club **presidents to post your event brochure with Rich Long.**
4. **Presentation of Thanks.** Bob presented a plaque to Ken Wilson for his thirty plus years as Treasurer of the MVA. Everyone thanked Ken for his service.

Old Business.

1. **Facebook.** Reminder to clubs to post information about club events on Facebook.
2. **Meet-up.** The current number is 671. 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.
3. **Group Walks.** Bob encouraged everyone to walk YRE's as a club activity. Promote those walks, possibly using a YRE as an event.

New Business.

Atlantic Regional Convention, March 18-20, 2016.

Hotel. Bob said that negotiations with the Clarion Hotel failed due to the caterer did not honor the promise to MVA to hold our verbal reservation until after our September 12th meeting. The second choice for the hotel, visited by Bob, Jim Farley and Frank Kupres, is the Ramada. Room rate will be @\$75.00 per night. Ramada does have a pool.

Brochure. Clubs -- please have your Convention task feedback/input to John Dye prior to Thanksgiving. John, thank you for helping with the brochure. We need to have the Brochure ready for distribution by December. Tom Jackson will email to Bob the 2014 Regional Brochure to use as an example.

Conference Registration-- Annapolis Amblers will handle. Also, Amblers will prepare and distribute the Conference Schedule.

Meet 'n Greet on Friday Night and Banquet on Saturday night. Marie Kupres will work on the meals/menu for the Friday evening meet and greet and the Saturday dinner. Reminder that at the June 2015 meeting, Bob Wolfe said that Linda Hassell and other FHW members will help with these.

Speaker for Saturday. Bob Schmick and Sandy Lynch will handle this.

Walks. Sign up for and directions to walks will be manned at the hotel lobby on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. All walks will be available each day. **Clubs sponsoring the walks need to ensure that there is a firm roster of workers each day.** SVC will handle a local Hagerstown walk. Baltimore Club will handle the Antietam walk. Sunday, the walk will be in Sheperdstown. Tom Jackson will handle this walk. Bob said Skip Magee will bring walk information to the hotel for the C & O walks should folks care to do a few of these.

Swim and Bike. Bob will find out the length of the Ramada pool and lap equivalents for a swim event. There is a free two hour bike rental near the C & O canal Williamsport location.

Design Award. Sandy Lynch will contact Nightmare Graphics for prices re: a lariat bottle holder commemorating the 2016 Regional Convention. Each club that is sponsoring a walk, bike or swim event will create a design for a pin. Bob will handle the award ordering with a vendor.

Workshops. To date, we only have one workshop, conducted by Bob Wright: "Picture a Picture Perfect Event." **We need to work on hosting additional workshops.**

Atlantic Regional Meeting. Tom Jackson will host a meeting at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 19. Tom said that clubs need to submit Recognition Awards to him by January 31, as well as the VIP Award (one per club). These awards will be presented at this meeting.

Silent Auction* -- Sandy Lynch will head this project. Prior to MVA selecting the March 2016 dates for Regional, Sandy made travel plans during that time. She will work on the Auction, right up until her trip. She will seek a Co-Chair and additional volunteers. **Please ask your club members at your meetings, via your newsletters, to donate items for the auction.** Items do not have to be walk related. Please bring the items to the hotel. Examples of items: books, wine/wine glasses, gift baskets, baked goods, etc. Descriptions of items should be emailed to Sandy so she can prepare separate sheets for each at the Auction. Winners of auctioned items will need to pick them up after the dinner Saturday evening. Darrell Neily will handle payments from those purchasing items.

*Post Meeting comment: Sandy Lynch said she would have something ready to give to the clubs when she get back in October and will compile what she believes will be necessary to send to our clubs.

Club Reports

Tom Jackson, our Regional Director, passed to attendees an "Input" sheet. One of the items included the 40th Anniversary of Volkssporting in the United States to be celebrated June 10-12, 2016. Freestate will host a walk commemorating the 40th Anniversary on Saturday June 11, 2016, in Laurel.

1. **Annapolis Amblers:** Marie Wiser said the Amblers will host we host an Event on Sunday, September 27, at the Oktoberfest in West Annapolis and an Event on December 13, the Lighted Boat Parade in Eastport.
2. **Baltimore:** Frank Kupres stated that Baltimore club will host an event in Forest Hill -- Friends Park on November 7 and an event on December 19, to see the holiday lights in Hampden.
3. **Freestate:** Fred Pugh said Freestate will host an event in Mt. Airy and an event on December 31 and January 1 at Owen Brown in Columbia.
4. **D.C.** Sandi Cahill said an event enabling folks to walk over the Woodrow Wilson Bridge is set for September 19. An evening Alexandria walk is set for September 28, and the Scottish walk Event is set for December 5.
5. **Seneca.** Seneca will host a Seasonal event from August 1 through September 30, in Silver Spring/Takoma Park. An event on October 3, the Oktoberfest in Frederick, the seasonal fall Kensington event will begin on October 17, with two trails, including the Mormon Temple, on October 31 an event in Corydon Creek, and on November 14, an event at Woodlawn Manor.
6. **Columbia.** An event is set for Sunday, September 13, at the Howard County Farm Heritage Museum. An event is set for October 24, at Rockburn Branch Park and on December 14, the Columbia Club holiday party and walk, residence of President John Dye.
7. **Greenbelt.** New directions for the College Park walk will be available in early October.

Next meeting will be held on December 31, 2015, 12:30 pm. at Owen Brown in Columbia.

The Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.