



Maryland Volkssport Assn.

December 31, 2016

Attending: Bob Schmick, President; Sandy Lynch, Vice President; Darrell Neily, Treasurer; Marie Wisner, Secretary; Tom Jackson, Atlantic Regional Director and Jim McDonald, Webmaster.

Club Representatives: Bob Schmick, Annapolis Amblers; Sandi Cahill, Washington D.C.; Bob Wolfe, Freestate; Yvonne Pennington, Greenbelt; Kat Dittrich, Antietam Pathfinders; Carolyn Thurber, Seneca; Susan Osborn, Baltimore; John Dye, Columbia.

Guests: Bob Wright, Ron Looper, Pat Astill, Jone Parr,

1. **Greeting.** The meeting began at 1:03 p.m. and Bob Schmick greeted all in attendance.
2. **Reports.**
 - a. **Minutes.** Copies of the October 2016 Minutes were distributed. Marie Wisner said minutes are usually posted to the MVA Website within ten days to two weeks of the meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was proposed and was approved.
 - b. **Treasurer's Report.** Darrell distributed copies of the Treasurer's quarterly report as of December 29, 2016. Darrell said MVA made money from the Hagerstown Silent Auction, and we received residual funds from the former Piedmont club. Under the INCOME category, we currently have \$286.50. Total EXPENSES were \$306.50, and TOTAL ASSETS are \$9,250.41. A motion to accept Darrell's report was passed.
 - c. **Web Master.** mdvolks.org. Jim McDonald reminded clubs to keep sending to him information to post on the site, and he thanked Yvonne Pennington for her web backup assistance. Bob suggested that Jim post on the banner section of our website that Walking is Maryland's State Exercise. When Maryland designated walking as the State Exercise on October 1, 2008, it became the first state in the nation to name a state exercise.
 - d. **Tom Jackson Regional Director Report:**

1. There will be an Atlantic Region Meeting at 1 pm on Saturday, March 18, in Greenbelt, MD. The primary purpose of the meeting is to elect a RD and Deputy RD for the term of office from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019. Make sure your club is represented!

The Great Greenbelt Volksmarch club has sanctioned a traditional event on that day. You will have plenty of time to do the walk, eat lunch, and then attend the meeting.

Up to the Community Center, and across the parking lot from where the meeting will be, there is the Greenbelt Aquatics Center which is the start point for the two Greenbelt YREs and Year Round Swim.

2. Go to the AVA Events Web site for Maryland and make sure all your events (YRE and Traditional) appear. For various reasons, we discovered four events that were approved but do not appear. Two of them are my Haunted Gettysburg events.

We also found one event that identified the town and POC from a Pennsylvania club but everything else about the walk is from Indiana.

If an event is missing, send me an email and I will take care of it.

3. The 2018 Atlantic Region Conference will be held March 16-18 in Sterling, VA. The host hotel will be the Embassy Suites – Dulles North. The current plan is to have three walks, a swim, and a bike event. The room rate of \$99 includes breakfast and a happy hour. That is a great value for the area!

As was done for the last Conference in Hagerstown, no club should schedule a traditional event, group walk of a YRE, or a bus trip over this weekend.

4. AVA Convention is next June in Billings, MT.

- a. Who is going to be the “Delegate” that represents your club? First choice is you as Club President. Second choice is another member of you club as an “Alternate Delegate”. Third choice is to allow someone else to vote for your club as “Proxy”.

b. Necrology Report. This is a reading of the names of all AVA members who died since the last convention. Input will be due in March.

c. Publicity Contest – Submit photos, club newsletters, club web sites.

5. The graveside services for Sam Tollett will be on Monday, January 9 at 11 am at Arlington National Cemetery. All are welcome. Sam is a former Atlantic Region Director. There is a memorial walk for Sam on January 7 in Hampton, VA.

3. Old Business

- a. Meetup is currently **705**. Bob reminded Club Presidents to create a club Facebook page.
- b. Please complete the AVA Fin. Report, Form 102, and IRS 990-N postcard.
- c. Please submit candidates for the AVA Commendable Service Award and Meritorious Award. Suggestions are your club officers, POC's, etc.

4. New Business

- a. Bob requested folks please bring upcoming event brochures to each event to help promote our walks. Also, please include information on your brochures to help new walkers: describe the trail—many do not understand or have knowledge of the rating system; wear good walking/hiking shoes; bring a walking stick; water, etc.
- b. YRE's. Please turn in your fourth quarter reports. Are all bills from AVA paid?
- c. Maryland has new On Line Start Box Events for 2017. Darrell Neily said that he has been working with a gentleman from California regarding on line start box registration. Currently, Maryland has eight on line start box YRE's available for walkers, beginning January 1, 2017. Visit the following site: www.cva4u.org The web address on the AVA Event Search web page is not "clickable", i.e., you will have to cut and paste this web address into your browser, as this is not clickable. Darrell has worked with Tom Jackson for the past six months to provide specific step by step procedures on how to use the on-line start box. Finally, in early December, CVA provided this information. Darrell will work with Jim McDonald to update that on our MVA website. We will announce the availability of online registration for our C & O and western Maryland YRE's.
- d. 2017 Traditional Events. Please refer below to club reports regarding events sanctioned to date. Also, please discuss hosting additional events with your club members.
- e. AVA 2017 Convention in Billings, MT from June 3, 2017 through June 11. Please review Tom Jackson's Item 4 a. above. Bob Wright said while clubs are encouraged to refrain from hosting events in your area during the Convention week, there are no AVA caveats prohibiting this.

5. Club Reports.

- a. Annapolis Amblers. Bob Schmick said the club has a new trail on the North Side of the American Chestnut Land Trust, created by Tom Dehetre. We will host an Event at Piney Orchard Street Festival on June 10, 2017. The club will meet in February and choose additional events for 2017.
- b. Antietam Pathfinders. Anne Kat Dittrich said the club has a 2017 YRE at the Antietam battlefield. The walk box will be available on the porch of Anne Kat Dittrich. Additionally, the club has discussed creating a YRE in Williamsport, Md. The club is planning to host an event in Hagerstown.
- c. Baltimore. Sue Osborn said that Frank Kupres is looking for a start point for the event which formerly started at DuBurns. The club was again contacted by Havre DeGrace to repeat the Oktoberfest event. Discussions are ongoing for a walk/bike event in Chesapeake City, and the club will again host an event at Conowingo. Another possibility will be to host the evening walk in Hamden in December.
- d. Columbia. John Dye said the club has an event on April 8, in Catonsville, and on November 4, the club will host an event at Patapsco/Avalon. Also, the club is planning to host events in June, June and August.
- e. D. C. Club. Sandi Cahill said the club is not hosting any summer events. Sandi is working with U. S. Parks representatives and has planned a Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and 7, event at Great Falls – trails in both Maryland and Virginia. She will need volunteers from the MVA clubs to help with this endeavor. The club will end operations in December, 2017.
- f. Greenbelt. Yvonne Pennington said the club will host an event on March 18, at the Greenbelt Youth Center, followed by the Atlantic Region meeting. On April 15, the club will host an event in College Park airport at the new operations building. Also, the club will host an event on September 4, in Greenbelt.
- g. Freestate. Bob Wolfe thanked folks for attending today's event. As of the time of the MVA meeting, the trails have 152 & 54 walkers. On January 1, the club hosts an event at the Faith Center, in Savage. Bob said he has updated updated the ESR and notified AVA of temporary changes to the Wheaton Brookside Gardens YREs (0144 and 1619). The 10 Km trails for both events are affected, and he has removed the directions from the walk box. Wheaton Regional Park has construction by Pine Lake, and the back gate to Brookside Gardens is locked. That gate is used by all the 10 Km trails to re-enter the gardens. The 5 Km routes for both events are not affected, and can be walked twice for 10 Km. Bob will also include in the 10 Km route directions that stays in the gardens that can be used for either event, when he puts in 2017 slugs,

earlier next week. They could not tell him when the construction (trail renovation) would be done, but it should be completed this winter.

On April 29, Freestate hosts an event at Montpelier and on June 3, at Kinder Park.

Bob requested the MVA take over the annual meetup fee of \$80.00. A motion was passed and MVA will pay this fee.

- h. Seneca. Carolyn Thurber said the club has eleven new members from a recently hosted a power point presentation on Volkssport activities to OASIS (a center for lifelong learning for seniors). On January 14, 2017, the club will host an event on the C & O at Carderock. Bookmarks were distributed which designate 2017 Events and Seasonal Walks. Upcoming events are set for April 22, in historic Rockville; May 20, at Lake Frank & Meadowside Nature Center; September 30, Oktoberfest in Frederick; and October 28, at the Agriculture History Farm Park in Derwood. Additionally, "Walk 10/20/30 in 2017" Books were distributed to the group.

Next MVA Meeting will be on March 25, Cedarville State Park group walk. Time and specific location will be provided in a reminder email.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Marie Wisner,

Secretary, Maryland Volkssport Association