

Keystone State Volkssport Association
22 July 2017
Lansdale Public Library, Lansdale PA

KSVA President Marcy Lucas called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m., thanking the Liberty Bell Wanderers for hosting. Today is perhaps the first time we have met after a group walk, as opposed to a traditional event.

Other officers present were: Vice President – Jane Holmes; Treasurer - Pat Eby; Secretary - Carol Talaga

Club representatives & members: Chester County Red Rovers – Jeanne Clancy; Cumberland Valley Lead Foot Club – Tom for Lorraine Jackson; Liberty Bell Wanderers – Betty Green; Penn Dutch Pacers – Jane for Maria Roshon; Susquehanna Rovers - Sharon Miller, Bill Rhoat; York White Rose Wanderers – Pam Copenhaver ; Atlantic Regional Director – Mike Green

Guests: Jim Copenhaver

KSVA REPORTS

Secretary Minutes from the May meeting were emailed on 22 May; Tom Jackson sent a correction under Regional Director, that the Appalachian Trail passes through 14 states, not 13. Pat moved to approve and Tom seconded; motion carried. The day after this meeting, our President and Treasurer asked that under President’s report, the paragraph on cost-effectiveness of walks be replaced with the following clarification: *Cost Effectiveness of 2018 Year-rounds and Seasonal walks – Consider the fixed costs of AVA sanctioning (\$20) and quarterly fees(\$20), as well as KSVA per page printing(\$37.50). Example: A Year-round event, with only one event on the page, would cost \$77.50. After AVA’s \$1.25 and KSVA’s \$0.10 fees, the club will keep \$1.65 per each paid walker. The walk would need 47 paid walkers to break even. If your walk has been getting enough paid walkers and you think it will continue to do so, then re-sanction it. If it is costing the club money consider not re-sanctioning or making it different so you get more walkers.*

Treasurer The May and June reports were circulated and filed for audit. The balance as of June 30 is \$6125.46.

Vice-President Thanks to Meetup, Jane’s club in California often attracted 30 or more people to Saturday group walks. Although most participants were not interested in earning AVA credits, many donated cash and a few did take New Walker packets. She served as both the website liaison to post events with Meetup.com and as on-site guide. Jane proposes to bring this idea to the Central Pennsylvania area. She is willing to continue the web function, provided that the Clubs take turns offering guided group walks. Marcy asked that each club bring this idea to their membership. There is a modest fee for this service.

President - Marcy was pleased to represent KSVA at the AVA 2017 Convention. Regarding pre-convention walks for Albany 2019, we should think of in-state walks near the major routes to Albany from the South and West. Tom suggested Harrisburg and Morrisville as state capitols and Erie due to Interstate 90 proximity. ...Let’s aim for August 15 as a deadline for the 2018 YRE and Seasonal sanctioning.....The KSVA Special Challenges and AVA Special and National Programs checklist will be emailed to the Club Presidents as a draft. Please advise Marcy of any changes.

KSVA SPONSORED SPECIAL CHALLENGES AND EVENTS

Event / PoC	#	Comments
State Parks & Forests Program / completed - Tom Jackson	68 14	1 st award, features white tail deer. Last one completed January 23 2 nd award, features ruffed grouse. Last one completed November 26
67 Counties - Sharon Miller	0	No completions yet this year
State Parks&Forest / participated	11	Michaux State Forest
	4	Biglerville – Michaux State Forest – Piney Ridge Road snowshoe Pay per Participant
	6	Fayetteville – Michaux State Forest – Smoke Zimmerman XC Ski Area snowshoe Pay per Participant
	9	Pine Grove Furnace State Park
	3	Waterville Tiadaghton State Forest seasonal walk
	2	Waterville Tiadaghton State Forest seasonal bike
Harper’s Ferry WV / Jane Snurr	67	Seasonal walk
Shepherdstown WV / Jane Snurr	22	Year-round walk
Presque Isle State Park / Pat Eby	5	Seasonal walk
Appalachian Trail Penna. / Jane Holmes	44	

REGIONAL DIRECTOR REPORT

1. NEC will likely approve a way for AVA walkers to track the distance they have walked online with the goal of completing 401 km in a year. I expect this will be handled like the Centurion Special Program but registration and walk distances will be done online. This program will most likely start Jan 2018. (See attachment: "401K Invest in Your Health") Comments?

2. Another formal motion to be considered by the NEC is support sanction of "AVA-C" event types where the "C" stands for Community. These events would be AVA only (not IVV) sanctioned events. These events would be sanctioned in the same way events are currently sanctioned, but there is no minimum distance requirement (IVV requires ≥ 10 km). So an AVA=C event is non-IVV event and there is no event stamp issued by the AVA. (See the attachment: "American Volkssport Association Agenda Item Form".) Is there any objection to this motion?

3. The TAW editor, Donna Seline has a request that clubs only provide city and no other information in the CITY ESR entry field: Here is the text of her request: Inform your clubs there is no reason to put the state in their event location UNLESS it's a different state than they're in. Baltimore, Susquehanna Rovers, US Freedom Walk, Wood and Dale Walkers and Freestate all have states and even a zip in some of their location listing. Also, Columbia has the location typed in all capitals ... big No-No as caps take twice the space as upper/lower case. I have to manually remove all that before formatting the TAW, and while I'd like to think I'm perfect, truth be told, it could result in an error.

4. Tom Jackson has graciously volunteered to continue to handle the formation of new clubs in the region. We currently have 2 prospects for the news in western PA, Steel Turtles (ST) and Mon Valley Trailblazers (MVT). Donations for the MVT have been solicited. I assume ST will need some financial help also.

5. There are rumors that the Penn Mary Walkers are considering closing. Is this true? *See Club Reports below.*

6. The KSVa should consider thinking about (forming a committee?) to investigate which KSVa YREs or TEs should be promoted (and how would this be done) for those traveling to the 2019 convention in Albany. NY.

7. As some you may already know, the Washington DC Area Volksmarching Club (WDCAVC) is closing as Dec 31, 2017. I attended their club meeting Alexandria, VA on July 19th to work on the closing logistics. Marcy should expect to be contacted by the WDCAVC treasurer. WDCAVC voted to send \$500 to KSVa, \$250 for each of the 2 new PA clubs. Many DC Club walks are being transferred to the Great Greenbelt Volksmarchers.

8. During our (Betty and I) road trip to and from the 2017 AVA convention, we did a number of AVA YREs (mostly capital walks). We were amazed at the low quality of the walk directions provided for a number of these walks which often did not include maps with their directions. In general, we have found the quality of the walk directions and maps for walks in the Atlantic Region to be much better. Please encourage your clubs to update their YRE/SE directions to reflect possible route changes. Also, all walk directions should include the following three items a. A copyright statement having the following format: Copyright 2017 should be included in your directions, possibly as page footer element. b. Contain the statement "In case of Emergency: Dial 911" and should contain as well as the name and phone number of the event POC for walk related issues. Below is the graphic element recently suggested by the AVA for this purpose where "John Doe" is the walk POC. c. Contain the statement, "These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited." This statement helps to protect the AVA, the sponsoring club and its officers, and event POC from walkers who fail to sign the waiver. In order to emphasize this statement, it should be distinctly formatted perhaps as shown below framed in a box. The above Text elements are available in a MS Word Document on my website: http://nodegreen.com/olsb/x_graphics.docx

9. I have found the plotaroute.com web mapping service to be quite powerful to create route maps. I often create a map then use the print screen feature of my PC to get a copy of the map into a paste buffer. Then I paste the map image into a MS Word document for further editing. If you edit a map image so as to remove the Google maps attributions you should restore these attributions to the final image. The x_graphics.doc

file referenced contains the standard Google attributions which can be cut and pasted in to the image.
<https://www.plotaroute.com/>

10. Another PC tool that I have found quite useful is PDFBinder. This free app allows one to join multiple pdfs into a single pdf file. For example, I use this to join walk directions and map files. Use the following link to download this utility. <https://pdfbinder.en.softonic.com/> or the following is a direct link to the download page (then click on PDFBinder-v1.2.msi)<https://code.google.com/archive/p/pdfbinder/downloads>

11. The OLSB video presented at the Tech Bar for the 2017 convention as well as document for clubs wishing to sponsor an AVA sanctioned event as an OLSB event can be found at <http://nodegreen.com/olsb/>

12. We will continue to use the current ESR system for sanctioning events. The new ESR system (discussed at the 2017 convention) will only be put in place after it has been thoroughly tested and documented.

13. After the meeting I will get together with Marcy to provide her a copy of a SW app, WMI (Walk Manager Interface). I developed WMI for Betty and she found quite useful when she served as NE-RD. WMI allows an RD or SA rep to easily determine if there any unapproved YRE/SEs or TEs and provides one-click interface to easily access/edit a club's ESR info without having to enter SA or Club credentials. WMI will only work with the current ESR interface, the new ESR interface is expected to have a number of WMI features.

CLUB REPORTS

Reminder: after entering a traditional event email Marcy, so she can sanction. Also, send her the brochure for approval. Use the new logos provided on the AVA.org web site under Administrative, AVA Graphics/Logos. When approved, she will send back to submitter, club president and MVA web site.

Chester County - Jeanne

Hibernia County Park, our first traditional event, attracted 75 walkers and may be converted to a year-round event in 2018. We are seeking replacements for vice-president and secretary.

Cumberland Valley – Tom for Lorraine Jackson

Year round events for 2018 are Caledonia State Park, and Chambersburg walk and swim – in season. The Renovo seasonal walk will remain with York.

Liberty Bell Wanderers -VP Betty for Dave Brown

We are on a summer hiatus of group walks until August “Shady walks”...Meeting to be scheduled soon to plan YREs/Seasonals and Traditional Events to sanction for 2018...

Remaining traditional events are: [1] Sept 9 – LBW Annual picnic at Norristown Farm State Park; [2] Oct 7-10 - LBW Three Capitals Bus trip Columbus Day weekend, waiting list. Stopping at: - Harrisburg, Flight 93, John Glenn house, Columbus, Charleston WV, Harpers Ferry; and [3] October 20-22 - State Parks Weekend II - with Chester County Red Rovers: Nolde Forest State Park- Hopewell Furnace / French Creek State Park - Marsh Creek State Park

Nittany Nomads: no report

Penn Dutch Pacers Jane for Maria Roshon

Remaining 2017 traditional events are: [1] Landis Woods on October 1; and [2] Christmas in Elizabethtown on December 16. Few changes to our roster of year round walks are anticipated in 2018 because of the new layout this year.

Penn Mary Walkers. Marcy

Sarah informed me that she plans a membership meeting shortly to access interest and commitment in the Penn Mary Walkers. There is a shortage of help and she is particularly troubled by low attendance at the year-round and seasonal walks, despite her extensive efforts to publicize them.

Susquehanna Rovers : Sharon

Next event is Mifflintown on August 26, followed by our 30th anniversary walk and bike in Harrisburg. Hershey as usual will take place this year, on Thanksgiving weekend, November 24-25. There are no plans this year for a traditional event coupled with the Oktoberfest at Carlisle Barracks.

York White Rose Wanderers Pam

Remaining 2017 traditional events: Keystone State Games next weekend – photo of patch award for walkers circulated today; Gettysburg – November 10-12. The 2018 YRE's have been submitted to Marcy. In 2018 the annual winter walk in York is February 3-4 and the memorial walk for John McCoy is August 4-5.

OPEN ISSUES:

By-Laws ad hoc Committee – To review, at the last KSVA meeting we adopted changes concerning Purpose [Article IV], Membership [Article V], and Officers - Article VI. Marcy asked that proposed changes to the remaining sections be distributed to club presidents by October 1. This will allow time for comments by the membership of each club. Voting will then take place at Hershey.

KSVA web site – we are seeking your suggestions to update and improve KSVA.net. Mike Green is offering technical assistance

Atlantic Regional Conference 2018 –the conference organizers have not yet resolved insurance applications, etc. Therefore KSVA has not yet been approached for an assignment.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tom Jackson announced that two volksmarch clubs are emerging in Southwestern Pennsylvania! He has offered to guide them in the AVA Starting a Club process. The Mon Valley Trailblazers has an EIN [tax id number] and may be approved by the AVA in time for the Starting Point deadline. The Steel Turtles near Greensburg may or may not be approved by September 15 but we can have another club sanction their walks and at a later date, transfer the events to the Steel Turtles. Tom motioned that a grant of \$250.00 be awarded to the Mon Valley Trailblazers and the Steel Turtles after EIN issue, with \$250.00 to follow after AVA approval. This is in accordance with our Support for Clubs Policy 3. Sharon Miller approved the motion and Pam Copenhaver seconded. Motion carried.

Next Meeting – the next quarterly meeting will be at a November event.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Talaga
Secretary