

**TVA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
SIGN IN ROSTER  
5 March 2016**

	<b>CLUB</b>	<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>	
1	Castroville Chamber of Commerce (AVA-939)	Catherine Williams Secretary/POC		
2	City of McAllen Parks/Recreation Department (AVA-350)	Richard Krauss		
3	Colorado River Walkers (AVA-77 / TEX-24)	Carol Obianwu	Carol Obianwu	1
4	Dallas Trekkers (AVA-34 / TEX-11)	Deborah Carter	Helen Hull	2
5	East Texas Trekkers (AVA-863 / TEX-99)	Helen Hull	Helen Hull	3
6	Hill Country Volkssportverein (AVA-23 / TEX-9)	John Bohnert	John Bohnert	4
7	Hood County Hummers (AVA-718 / TEX-83)	Bruce Bartlett	Bruce Bartlett	5
8	Houston Happy Hikers (AVA-15 / TEX-6)	Catherine Kellner		
9	Kerrville Trailblazers (AVA-106 / TEX-29)	Patrick Powers	Robert Theis	6
10	Lone Star Walkers (AVA-944)	Heinz Johnson	Priscilla Johnson	7
11	Midland Walkabout (AVA-897 / TEX-103)	Susan Fine	Susan Fine	8
12	NB Marsch-und Wandergruppe (AVA-036 / TEX-12)	Marlin Brendsel	Marlin Brendsel	9
13	Plano Walking Club (AVA-124 / TEX-32)	Maggie Cole	Gary Silkworth	10
14	Randolph Roadrunners (AVA-44 / TEX-14)	Ellen Ott	Ellen Ott	11
15	Rockport City Trailways (AVA-966)	Tom Staley		
16	San Angelo Volkswalkers (AVA-933)	Charles Winkelspecht		
17	San Marcos River Walkers (AVA-411 / TEX- 58)	Barbara Piersol		12
18	Selma Pathfinders (AVA-88 / TEX-26)	Joanne Forinash	Joanne Forinash	13
19	Sparkling City Strollers (AVA-179 / TEX-37)	Myra Verneuil		

20	Star Trekkers of Irving (AVA-681 / TEX-82)	Gary Silkworth	Gary Silkworth	14
21	Tarrant County Walkers (AVA-19 / TEX-8)	Brooke Hudson	Brooke Hudson	15
22	Texas County Walkers, Inc (AVA-955)	Helen Bateman		
23	Texas Wanderers, (AVA-6 / TEX-3)	Gerald Kamicka Secretary/POC	Gerald Kamicka	16
24	Volkssportverein Friedrichsburg (AVA-1 / TEX-1)	Bill Hamilton	Carlin Forinash	17
25	West Texas Trail Walkers (AVA-60 / TX-19)	Linda Fields		
26	Whatever of Texas Sporting Club (AVA-967)	Clay Baulch	Brian Fisher	18

**TVA Meeting Minutes  
5 March 2016**

**TVA General Membership Meeting  
The Old Pump House – Fireman’s Park – McAllen, Texas**

**I. Call to order – TVA President**

The meeting was called to order at 1:01pm by President Heinz Johnson.

**II. Determination of quorum present – Secretary Susan Fine**

17 clubs of 26 active Texas clubs in good standing were represented. A quorum was met.

**III. Introductions/Opening Comments – TVA President Heinz Johnson**

- Introductions of the TVA Officers and Director, Southwest Region.
- Introductions of credentialed club presidents/representatives.

**IV: 2015 TVA Memorial Recognitions – President Heinz Johnson:**

A list of volkssporters who died in 2015 was read by President Johnson.

**V. TVA “Weekend On-the-Border” Leadership Recognitions**

- President Johnson thanked the City of McAllen Parks & Recreation Department Volkssport Club, AVA-350, for hosting the meeting.
- Rick Krauss, Superintendent of Recreation, City of McAllen Parks & Recreation Department, was introduced and he thanked everyone for attending and participating in the meeting, their YREs and the Traditional Walk.

**VI. Approval of TVA General Membership Meeting Minutes - 1 August 2015**

Ellen Ott made motion to approve minutes. Gerald Kamicka second. Motion carried.

**VII. Review of TVA Board of Directors Meeting - 31 December 2015**

Board approved the minutes in January.

**VIII. Reports**

**A. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Brian Fisher**

- There were 158 participants at the Memorial Walk on 31 December 2015 and 81 participants at the Midnight Walk on 1 January 2016.
- Based on the 10-year average, the Memorial Walk attendance was a little less than average and the Midnight Walk was a little more than average. If free walkers in past events are not counted, the numbers would be on target.

**B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – John Bohnert**

- Two Ten in Texas Award Program patches were sold last year including 3 petals.
- One Twenty In Texas Award patch was sold last year along with 15 petals.
- \$48 was collected in 2015.
- There was lots of food for the Memorial and Midnights walks. John thanked Charlotte Phillips and Pat Rogers for donating food.

**C. Treasurer – Kathy Schwencke**

- Total income for July – Sept. 2015: \$290.00. Total Expenses for July – Dec. 2015: \$673.93, for total deficit of \$383.93.
- Total Assets with checking account and money fund: \$8,050.83 for July – Dec. 2015.
- The net revenue for the Memorial and Midnight walks was \$80.69.

- Kathy presented a budget for 2016-2017 of \$1,875 in revenue and \$1,875 in expenses. This is based on 200 walkers at the Memorial/Midnight walks, and 100 walkers between the August and March walks. Gerald Kamicka made motion to approve budget, Ellen Ott second. Motion carried.

#### **XI. Webmaster – Gary Whitford**

- Gary could not attend the meeting and his Webmasters Report was attached to the Agenda
- Gary is switching the website to Joomla, a content management system.
- He asks that people with a smartphone test the website for being mobile-friendly. Site is [www.walktexas.org](http://www.walktexas.org).

#### **X. Celebrating 40 Years of American Volkssporting, Events Planning Report – Brian Fisher**

- 4 events are planned: 2 walks, 1 bike and 1 swim.
- Walk #1 will be called: “40th Anniversary Footsteps for the Founders” Walk and the routes will be based on the original route in 1976. An “A” award medal will be available for this event. Walk #2 will be the “40th Anniversary Vereinskirche Volksmarch.”
- These events will be promoted along with several YREs in the surrounding area.
- Question – why are there 2 walks at the same time? Answer: to give options for the hard-core volkssporters. The early start time will help participants do both events during the coolest part of the day.

#### **XI. TVA Seasonal Events Report – Helen Hull, Chair**

- Llano YRE had 22 walkers to date for Jan. and Feb, and 3 patches were sold.
- Mason YRE had 20 walkers to date for Jan. and Feb.
- Total of \$49 has been submitted to TVA Treasurer.

#### **XII. TVA Special Programs Reports:**

##### **A. El Camino Real de Los Tejas – Susan Medlin, Chair**

32 books have been sold for a profit of \$43.70. This is a one-year special program. If there is interest to continue, and clubs agree to do walks, it may be extended.

##### **B. Historical Markers – Ellen Ott, Chair**

75 books have been sold, 21 people have finished.

##### **C. Walk Texas - Ellen Ott, Chair**

44 books have been sold, 9 people have finished.

#### **XIII. Randolph Roadrunners Special Program Report: Texas Hill Country Challenge - Susan Medlin, Chair**

- 35 books have been sold, for a profit of \$135.37.

#### **XIV. TVA Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee Final Report - Bill Hamilton, Chair**

- Bill could not attend this meeting. He emailed the Bylaws to the TVA President on 2 March and a copy of them are attached.
- Heinz thanked Bill Hamilton, Carlen Forinash and Bill Wigton for serving on the committee, and to Gary Silkworth for his expertise in electronically formatting the document.
- Carlen noted that the changes are considered minor; otherwise, they would have to be reported on the annual 990 IRS tax form.

## **XV. Special Southwest Region Recognition Awards – Susan Medlin, Director, Southwest Region**

AVA Milestone Anniversary Certificates in recognition of chartered service were given to Midland Walkabout, AVA-897, for 15 years; Selma Pathfinders, AVA-88, for 35 years; Colorado River Walkers, AVA-77, for 35 years; and the Texas Volkssport Association for 35 years.

## **XVI. Presentation of Trailmaster Certification Awards – Susan Medlin, Director, Southwest Region**

Marlin Brendsel was certified as a qualified Trailmaster after completing the workshop on Trailmaster Training & Certification and presented a Trailmaster Certification Patch and special certificate.

## **XVII. National Update – Susan Medlin, Southwest Region Director**

- Susan is working with Henry Rosales, AVA Executive Director, to bring an International Marching League (IML) event to San Antonio in Jan/Feb next year. Event will be multi-day with a minimum distance of 20km and it must be hosted for a minimum of 3 years.
- The Celebrating 40 Years of American Volkssporting committee is working hard on the celebration. Ellen Ott is acquiring door prizes. Mayor of Fredericksburg will present a city proclamation. The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary patch is pre-selling now.
- Susan is considering having the TVA become a Regional Association, so New Mexico is included. It will be discussed and voted at the August TVA meeting.
- Susan distributed maps of Texas and New Mexico showing where clubs are located. There are large areas where there are no clubs. After much discussion, the membership agreed to look at having new clubs in the next 3 years in Nacogdoches, LA; Lubbock or Amarillo; Waco; and Louisiana (Susan will ask the RD for Louisiana). Another club will be considered in New Mexico, too (Susan will ask NM Presidents). Susan asked TVA Presidents to look at their start cards and send her names to contact volkssporters in the areas.
- AVA is considering a fee increase to \$4.00, due to annual deficits for the past 5 years. At \$4.00, AVA would get \$2.00 and clubs would get \$2.00. Susan may propose that there be no free walkers: clubs will pay the AVA fee if they have free walkers. Unofficially, she asked for a vote: 11-Yes; 5-Opposed.
- Susan included a report on policy changes for AVA Special Programs (attached).
- Susan will be out of country for several weeks. During this time, Joanne Forinash will be the RD Emeritus, to sanction event walks.

## **XVIII. President's Time – Heinz Johnson, President**

- Heinz asked if we wanted to continue the format established by Helen Hull for the "Hotter Than Hell" weekend last August. This would be a multiple event weekend that includes a Traditional walk on Saturday morning with featured YREs on Friday and Sunday. It was agreed to continue with this format.
- Heinz also asked if we want an official meeting hotel. If so, it would be important for the hotel contract to contain a non-attrition room clause to protect us from having to pay for any rooms that did not meet the number specified in the contract. This was agreed.
- Heinz reminded everyone that the new TVA Bylaws include Founders Day events on the second Saturday in June except in years when conflicting with the AVA Biennial Convention. This would be every other year. As a result, there will be a decrease in TVA event revenue during the odd years. Joanne Forinash suggested continuing to host seasonal YREs for revenue.

## **XIX. Old Business**

### **A. Celebrating 40 Years of American Volkssporting**

The event brochure for the four events will be completed shortly and it will include a preregistration form. Preregistration is needed due to having an A award. There is also a commemorative mug that can be pre-ordered. Start-cards will be prepared in advance for all preregistrants.

### **B. 2016 TVA Memorial Walk & 2017 Midnight Walk**

Question to stay in Fredericksburg or not: the city advertises it for us, and we get new walkers. The walks were moved to Austin a few years ago, and it did not work out. Brian mentioned the Coffee Shop will open at midnight as a checkpoint. It was agreed to continue in Fredericksburg.

## **XX. New Business**

### **A. Appointment of TVA Audit and Finance Committee**

Heinz appointed Pat Gunter, Chair and Pat Roberts and Darlene Oner as committee members.

### **B. Appointment of TVA Nominating Committee**

Heinz appointed Joanne Forinash, Chair and Bonnie Avonrude and Eveline Evans as committee members.

### **C. Appointment of other Special Committees**

TVA Event committee will need volunteers and this will be dealt with later.

### **D. Selection of meeting site for TVA General Membership Meeting on 6 August 2016**

Both Hood County Hummers and Kerrville Trailblazers made presentations. A vote of 14-3 was in favor of Hood County Hummers hosting the event in Granbury, Texas.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan Fine  
Secretary  
Texas Volkssport Association