

**TVA Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2017**

**TVA General Membership Meeting
Coldspring Community Center
101 E. Cedar Avenue
Coldspring, Texas 77331-7626**

1. Call to order: TVA President, Heinz Johnson

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

2. Determination of Quorum Present: TVA Secretary, Mary Zeitler

Nineteen of twenty-seven clubs were represented. The requirement for a quorum was met.

3. Introductions/Opening Comments: TVA President, Heinz Johnson

- TVA Club Officers and the Director, Southwest Region were introduced.
- Credentialed club presidents/proxies were introduced.
- A new club, Texas Trail Roundup, AVA-979, was chartered 01/24/2017.

4. 2016 Memorial Recognitions: TVA President, Heinz Johnson

TVA President, Heinz Johnson read the names of the nine members from various Texas clubs who passed away during 2016.

5. TVA Weekend “Deep, Deep in the Heart of East Texas” Leadership Recognitions:

President Heinz Johnson thanked Helen Hull, President of the East Texas Trekkers, and her team for the many hours they contributed to make the current weekend of walks, luncheon and meeting a high success.

6. Approval of TVA General Membership Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by John Bohnert to approve the 8/16/16 meeting minutes as written. Gerald Kamicka seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Officers Reports:

a. 1st Vice President – Brian Fisher

New challenges for the 2016 Memorial Walk and the 2017 Midnight Walk were encountered due to the vacant office of the 2nd Vice President. A volunteer Hospitality Team was set up to carry out the various duties of the office. The team included:

- Table Decorating: Priscilla Johnson
- Food: Susan Medlin and her family
- Beverages: Pat Roberts

They did an outstanding job and everyone had a great time at the Midnight Celebration.

Walk participation was as follows:

- Memorial Walk – 7 Awards with IVV Credit, 85 IVV Credit Only, 34 Non-IVV Credit for a total of 126 walkers. This is slightly above average participation compared with previous years.
- Midnight Walk – 6 Awards with IVV Credit, 42 IVV Credit Only, 35 Non-IVV Credit for a total of 83 walkers. This is average participation compared with previous year.

Revenue from the above two walk events was \$265.25

b. Treasurer – Kathy Schwenke

- The current budget status was discussed. The month ending 12/31/2016 showed a checking account balance of \$1,823.67 and Balance Money Fund balance of \$7,066.29 for a grand total of \$8,894.96.
- A proposed budget for the year starting 6/30/2017 was presented and explained. Gerald Kamicka made a motion to accept the proposed budget. Clay Baulch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- Late dues were discussed. Gerald Kamicka stated a suspense date had been established in the past and would be shown in past meeting minutes. He offered to research and find out when this policy was established. A suspense is needed to eliminate carry-overs to the next budget year. Follow-up action is needed.
- Funding to help defray expenses of the TVA president at the forthcoming 20th AVA Biennial Convention was discussed. Gerald Kamicka made a motion to allocate \$750 for the TVA president for convention expenses. John Bohnert seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Webmasters Report: Gary Whitford

In the absence of Gary Whitford, President Heinz Johnson explained that Gary Whitford had been the TVA webmaster for many years and did not wish to continue in this role. David Sheppard volunteered and was appointed to fulfill the position.

9. TVA Seasonal Events Final Report: Helen Hull

The Seasonal Events (SEs) that were established in Mason and Llano by Helen Hull were a big success. There were 122 walk participants with a total revenue of \$138.00.

10. TVA Special Programs Reports:

- a. El Camino Real de Los Tejas, Susan Medlin, Chair. Susan Medlin reported that this program has done well generating \$138.00 in revenue.
- b. Texas Historic Landmarks, Ellen Ott, Chair. In the absence of Ellen Ott, Pat Roberts reported that 78 books have been sold and 35 have been completed.
- c. Walk Texas, Ellen Ott, Chair. In the absence of Ellen Ott, Pat Roberts reported 48 books have been sold and 13 have been completed.

Ellen Ott recommended that the Texas Historic Landmarks and Walk Texas programs continue. She has asked Martin Callahan to write an article for TAW and she will attempt to have information to promote them at future Traditional Events.

11. Randolph Roadrunners Texas Hill Country Challenge Special Program Report: Susan Medlin, Chair. Susan Medlin reported a profit of \$235 from the program. She will continue the program as long as there are participants.

12. Special Southwest Region Recognition Awards: Director, Southwest Region, Susan Medlin
There were no awards to present but there will be at the next TVA meeting in August.

13. National Update: Director, Southwest Region, Susan Medlin

Susan Medlin reported:

- The National Executive Council (NEC) is recommended to become a Board of Directors. This change of organizational structure will allow for better functioning of the AVA with establishment of committees to handle specific functions. This issue will be voted on at the forthcoming 20th AVA Biennial Convention at Billings, MT and if successful, it is expected to be put in effect on 7/1/2017.
- AVA is purchasing new office software that will greatly improve AVA operations.
- A new system for Event and YRE stamps is being implemented. Each club will be issued a wooden stamp handle to which a thin laser printed strip will be affixed. This strip will contain the year date, AVA-IVV logos, sanctioning number, and if desired, special information. The handle will be retained by the club with the laser strip discarded at the end of the Traditional Event/YRE or SE. This system will save money and eliminate sending stamps back and forth.
- The Northwest Region is testing a way for clubs without sufficient participation to cover sanction fees. Clubs will submit a small fee for each person registered for an event instead of the upfront sanctioning fee.
- An application for electronic devices is being developed to facilitate walk participation.
- Occasionally there is a “troublesome volkssporter” who is overly critical about the walk directions and he often gets very vocal and somewhat threatening. If this case, local authorities should be called. Also, it is highly recommended that check points be staffed with two people, preferably one being a male to help diffuse such situations.

14. President’s Time: TVA President: President, Heinz Johnson

- In reference to dealing with “troublesome” people, The AVA attorney was consulted and it was learned that a legal opinion about this matter had been rendered in 2015. This is available to any club. Accordingly, no one can be restricted from purchasing a start card.
- Clubs must be in good standing as of 4/24/2017, i.e. have all bills paid and reports submitted, to vote at the upcoming 20th AVA Biennial Convention.
- The Randolph Roadrunners will have a booth at the Convention. Attendees were asked if anyone else would like to host a booth. There was no response..
- It is suggested that when a club sponsors a Featured YRE, it should be announced in the Extended Description OR Event Comments field of the applicable ESR. The information that is added should specifically include the Featured date and registration time. This is another marketing tool that is easy to use. After the Featured YRE, the data must be deleted from the ESR.

- The date and location for a Traditional Event and YRE/SE can only be changed by the Director, Southwest Region. Everything else can be edited by a club in the ESR system.
- Mugs and Award Medals from the 40th Anniversary weekend are available for purchase at a reduced rate.

15. OLD BUSINESS

a. Texas Awards Program: Joanne Forinash

The Texas Awards Program with Petals and Patches that was started in 1982 has had decreasing participation over the past few years. It is currently losing money. Each year the minimum of 50 Patches and 50 Petals are purchased and with only a few being sold, TVA has a \$1,200 inventory on hand. It is proposed to phase out this program at the end of 2017. Until then, the remaining Patches will be sold for \$2 and the Petals for \$1 to anyone who has completed 10 and/or 20 walks in Texas in the past or they will complete them this year. There are also pins available for \$2.50.

b. Future TVA Memorial Walk & TVA Midnight Walk Program: President, Heinz Johnson

The annual Memorial Walk and Midnight Walk program has been held at St. Joseph's Halle in Fredericksburg for a number of years. This year, the Halle is undergoing extensive renovation and it will not be available for our two events at the end of the year. A new venue is needed that does not cost more than \$150 rental fee. Suggestions for consideration included Bethany Lutheran Church. Brian Fisher will be in charge of finding a suitable venue and he and Heinz Johnson will contact the Fredericksburg Convention & Visitors Bureau for assistance as well as the Fredericksburg City Hall and Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce.

16. NEW BUSINESS

a. Meet the AVA National Candidates for Office 2017- 2019

President Heinz Johnson invited the six candidates who are running for a national AVA office to attend the meeting and provide Club presidents and members with their qualifications, the reason they want to be elected to office and what they plan to accomplish if elected. Those accepting his invitation were:

- Candace Purcell, who is running for Treasurer. She is a recently retired 20-year AVA employee that has held several key positions and she has extensive professional finance experience. She explained her many experiences and accomplishments within AVA that uniquely qualify her for the position. She now has time and great interest in AVA to help the organization stay on budget and find new sources of funding.
- Robert Wright, a long time AVA member who related his international and national background and experience as well as being a member of several clubs, starting new clubs, holding office at local and national levels, and serving on numerous AVA committees. He played a key role as the AVA Representative to the IVV-Americas Organizing Committee beginning in 2012. He has extensive insight into guiding AVA to become America's Walking Club.

b. IVV Awards Program. Changes Coming in 2018.

Major changes to the IVV Awards Program will be implemented as of 1/1/2018. The new system will include new levels for the IVV Record Books and the IVV awards. Bob Wight has developed a table to show the changes and he will send this to Heinz Johnson for distribution to TVA Club

President's.

c. Appointment of TVA Audit and Finance Committee

The Bylaws require a 3 member Audit Committee. Appointed were Tina Bohnert, Chair, Pat Roberts and Helen Hull, members.

d. Appointment of TVA Nominating Committee for August Elections

The Bylaws require a 3 member Nominating Committee. Officers whose terms expire in August are TVA 1st Vice President and TVA Treasurer. The vacant TVA 2nd Vice President position also needs to be filled. Appointed were Clay Baulch, Chair and John Bohnert member. Clay Baulch will recruit a third member.

e. Selection of meeting site for TVA General Membership Meeting on 8/5/2017.

Kerrville Trailblazers, AVA-106/TEX-29, submitted a bid to hold the next TVA meeting on 8/4,5,6/2017 in Kerrville. Club President, Carol Talpey, presented information related to the meeting site, walk events, hotel arrangements and social events. She asked for volunteers to staff check points. Gerald Kamicka made a motion to accept the proposal. Gary Silkworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

17. Miscellaneous Business:

There was no miscellaneous business.

18. Final Announcements:

a. Featured YREs Helen Hull

Helen Hull announced that she will be at the YRE Starting Points for the walks on Sunday, March 5, 2017 in Groveton and in Warrenton for a short period of time. If she is not there, participants were told to follow the regular YRE registration procedure.

19. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zeitler, Secretary