

**TVA Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2017**

**TVA General Membership Meeting
Best Western Sunday House Inn & Suites
2124 Sydney Baker Street
Kerrville, TX 78208**

1. Call to order: TVA President, Heinz Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 pm by President Heinz Johnson.

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

Twenty of twenty-six clubs were represented. The requirement for a quorum was met.

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

- a. Director, Southwest Region and the TVA officers were introduced.
- b. Credentialed club presidents/proxies were introduced.
- c. Guest Speaker, Charlotte Kahl, representing the Old Spanish Trail Association, was introduced.

4. Approval of TVA General Membership Meeting Minutes:

- a. TVA meeting minutes of 3/4/2017 were previously sent to each club president. A motion was made by Gerald Kamicka to approve the March 4, 2017 meeting minutes as written. Helen Hull seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. TVA Weekend at Kerrville... "HEART OF THE HILL COUNTRY"

- a. Host Leadership Recognitions: Kerrville Trailblazers, AVA-106/TEX-29, Carol Talpey, President. Heinz Johnson introduced Carol Talpey and applauded her and the committee members for all of their time, efforts and hard work to make the TVA Weekend a success. Carol, in-turn recognized and introduced the committee members.

6. Officers Reports:

- a. First Vice President, Brain Fisher. His Report was not available.
- b. Treasurer, Kathy Schwenke

Kathy Schwencke reported and explained the budget status for fiscal year ending 6/30/2017.

- i. Total revenue was \$1,325.00.
- ii. Total expenses were \$1,572.62.
- iii Net revenue -\$247.82. The negative variance was primarily due to payment of 40th anniversary participation fees paid in the current year for an event held in the prior year.
- iv. Total in checking account was \$2,038.31
- v. Total in money Market fund was \$7,076.80
- vi. Total in savings Account was \$5.00
- vii. Total funds at year end were \$9,120.11.

After discussion, a motion was made by Ellen Ott to accept the budget as presented. John Ives seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Webmasters Report: David Sheppard, TVA Webmaster

- a. The bad hyperlinks to past Meeting Agendas that referred to a site not functional were removed. After discussion, it was decided to post 3 years of TVA meetings on the TVA web-site.
- b. The banner photo needs to be resized so that more page content is visible when each page loads. Members were asked to send in interesting photos to be included on the web-site. After discussion, it was decided that David Sheppard would make the decision as to which photos would be posted.
- c. Typos found in some of the text will be cleaned up.
- d. A higher resolution of the TVA logo is needed. Heinz Johnson will send the examples he has to David.
- e. In the future, the meeting agenda and associated fliers for TVA meetings and the Traditional Walk event brochure will be posted on the web-site.
- f. There is difficulty in keeping the list of club officers current on the TVA web-site. Club presidents were advised to update the AVA web-site each November, or upon occurrence, to use for this purpose.
- g. A workshop, "Intro to Map Making for Event Brochures & Fliers," was presented by David prior to the meeting. There were eight participants. Various applications were demonstrated and there was positive feedback. The workshop can be repeated as the need arises.

8. TVA Special Programs Reports:

a. El Camion Real de Los Tejas, Susan Medlin, Chair

The El Camion Real de Los Tejas Challenge is sponsored by the TVA. Seven clubs in Texas have one or more YREs in this program, not including the five Wild Card Events. Forty books have been sold as of August 5, 2017 with 14 completed. The project cost \$276.63. Current sales are \$400.00 for a profit of \$123.37. Special thanks to Brian Fisher, of Guadalupe Signs, who designed the beautiful patch for both this and the Texas Hill Country Challenge Program and also to the supporters of the program. There is also an excellent article in the August/September issue of *Texas Parks and Wildlife* about the Camino Real.

b. Historical Markers, Ellen Ott, Chair

Eighty books have been sold with 13 finished. A flyer for the program is available for distribution. An article about this program was submitted by Martin Callahan and published in *The American Wanderer*.

c. Walk Texas, Ellen Ott, Chair

Forty-nine books have been sold with 37 finished. A flyer for the program is available for distribution. An article submitted by Martin Callahan about this program was published in *The American Wanderer*.

9. Randolph Roadrunners Special Program Report: Texas Hill Country Challenge, Susan Medlin, Chair

The Texas Hill Country Challenge is sponsored by the Randolph Roadrunners. Eleven clubs in Texas have one or more YRE's in this program. Forty-six books have been sold as of August 5, 2017, with 13 completed. The project cost \$214.63. The current sales are \$460.00 for a profit of \$245.37. Thank you for your support of this program.

10. TVA 2017 Audit and Finance Committee Report: Tina Bohnert, Chair. Members, Helen Hull and Pat Roberts.

Tina Bohnert, Chair and committee members, Pat Roberts and Helen Hull, reviewed the financial records for the fiscal year 7/1/2016 – 6/30/2017. Tina reported they found everything to be in order.

11. Guest Speaker: Charlotte Kahl, Chair, OST 100.

Charlotte Kahl was introduced by Ellen Ott and spoke about the “AVA Along the Old Spanish Trail (OST) Auto Highway.” Ms. Kahl is from Florida but now resides in San Antonio and is currently working on OST events to be held in Texas. She is affiliated with the Old Spanish Trail Association. The purpose of the Association is to promote a paved highway across the southern United States connecting six centers of historical interest between San Augustine, FL and San Diego, CA. The OST events will take place in Texas in 2019, 2020 and 2021. Events include walk events and other activities. She hopes to partner with local volkssport clubs in the various areas for walk events. Following her presentation, Ms Kahl was presented a Certificate of Appreciation from the TVA by Susan Medlin.

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

a. Susan Medlin reviewed the handout, “Overview of AVA’s Insurance.” All documentation of an incident must go through AVA National Headquarters to the insurance company. The required documentation includes:

- i. An incident report:
- ii. An event brochure/flyer, walk directions, and a map. All events need to have maps to document that the injury occurred on the route. There can be one map posted at the event Start Point rather than giving one to each walker.
- iii. A signed waiver (Official Event Start Card or Signature on YRE Log Sheet)
If a child is involved, a signed Parental Permission must be included. This permission slip is available on the AVA website.

b. NEC XX Meeting: August, 10 -13, 2017

An NEC XX meeting will be held August 10-13, 2017 at the Tapatio Springs Hill Country Resort and Spa outside of Boerne, TX. All Texas volkssporters are welcome to attend the meeting because it will be a chance for them to meet the new NEC XX members and Deputy RDs.

c. Deputy SWRD: Ruthi Worsham

At the 2015 Convention, the NEC approved the creation of Deputy RDs. The position was announced with no response. During walks at the MLK event in Las Cruces, Susan met Ruthi Worsham and subsequently asked her to be the Deputy RD. Ruthi accepted. Her term of office started 7/1/2017. She is an enthusiastic Volkssporter and lives in Carrollton, TX. She is currently working on options to improve the number of walkers and strengthen the clubs along the southern Texas coast.

d. Partnering with a City: World Heritage Festival

The AVA is partnering with the City of San Antonio for its annual World Heritage Festival in September, 2017. The Selma Pathfinders is the lead club in conducting the walk portion of the five day event. Walk routes are done and many contacts were made with City and County officials. Plans are being made to promote AVA to hundreds of local walkers. Early registration has closed, and registration now will cost \$25.00. Currently, there are 91 registered walkers. This is a fund raiser for the San Antonio Missions.

e. International Marching League (IML) in San Antonio

The first event to achieve IML Accreditation in San Antonio was held last February. The number of Start Cards sold was 399. Many area clubs staffed checkpoints over the 3-day event. This year improvements are being made to the 10km route on Friday with an optional evening at the San Antonio Live Stock Show. Also, next year will be the second year of participation. It takes three years of events to receive IML Accreditation. If anyone has IML experience and/or would be interested in working on this event, please contact Susan at sueammed@aol.com.

f. Mascot. At the 2017 AVA Convention, clubs voted overwhelmingly to have no AVA Mascot.

g. Adding Medium, Long and Extended Distance Events

i. The Appalachian Trail Special Program is on-track to begin on Jan. 1, 2018. The booklet is scheduled to go on sale in September. A gorgeous patch will be awarded on completion.

ii. Wisconsin's Ice Age Trail Special Program is still being worked on. Hopefully the program can start on Jan. 1, 2018 with the Seasonal Events opening on April 1, 2018, if the ice has melted.

iii. The Pacific Crest Trail is a more difficult challenge. Some segments opened in 2017 but the official launch date for the Special Program has slipped. Walks done in 2017 will count towards completion of the program.

13. President's Time: Heinz Johnson

a. Texas Volkssport Clubs: Heinz explained that we had 27 active volkssport clubs in Texas at our last meeting in March. However, in the interim the Castroville Chamber of Commerce Volkssport Club, AVA-939, has gone out of business so now there are 26 active Texas clubs. The Castroville club was chartered on 1/28/2008 and ceased operations on 6/30/2017. The actual inactivation date is pending. The two Traditional Walks sponsored by the club have been transferred to the Selma Pathfinders and YRE Y1659 was transferred to them on 7/01/2017.

b. Volkssport YREs: Renewals/New/Non-renewals

i. Clubs planning to not renew some of their YREs should publish a flyer announcing a last chance to walk them before closure. A number of SEs and YREs are being discontinued this year. Do not delete these walks in the applicable Electronic Sanctioning Request (ESR).

ii. The 2016 YRE window for new and renewals closes 8/31/2017 for them to be included in the *2018 Starting Point*.

iii. The Brook Hollow Neighborhood YRE Y1659 (San Antonio) that is sponsored by the LoneStar Walkers reopened last month after a two month closure because of the complete renovation of the coffee shop facility.

c. AVA Due Dates:

i. The required annual club officers update is from 1/1 to 11/15 each year or whenever a leadership change takes place. The last update for one club was 7/26/2016. Fourteen clubs have updated their information since 1/1/2017 and 12 clubs have until 11/15/2017 to update their information. Clubs with elections later this year are to immediately notify the TVA President and the Director, Southwest Region with the name and email address of the new club president.

ii. The Annual Financial Report is due 11/15.

iii. The IRS form 990 is due 11/15.

iv. Clubs need to be aware of due dates required by the AVA because there are late fees assessed if deadlines are not met (i & ii above).

d. 2017 TVA Memorial Recognition Program

A memorial book is kept for display at the 12/31 Memorial Walk event as a way to honor and recognize Volkssporters who died during the year. More complete information is needed. If at all possible, send in an obituary, picture, or any other information you may have about the individual. A submission form and reminder will be sent to all club presidents shortly.

e. YRE Expansion

Heinz Johnson asked Helen Hull to describe the new walks she is establishing in Louisiana. Helen explained that she has held walks in all the Texas counties east of I-35 and is now branching out to Louisiana. She has printed an event brochure describing the new YREs that are being established in seven Parishes in the north central part of the State. A special Group Walk will be held over the MLK weekend in that area.

14. Recognizing People for Their Contributions to Texas Volssporting: Susan Medlin, Director, Southwest Region

Susan Medlin recognized Texas Volkssporters who provided outstanding service to the AVA, TVA and their local clubs as follows.

a. Distinguished Service

- Helen Bateman
- Joanne Forinash

b. Meritorious Service

- Randy Baker
- Pat Gunter
- Donna Hall
- Helen Hull
- Linda McDonald
- Jan Parker
- Judy Perry
- Pat Roberts
- David Sheppard
- Rick White
- Gary Whitford

c. Commendable Service

- Bob Alton
- Susan Alton
- John Bohnert
- Tina Bohnert
- Leslie Bowen
- Martin Callahan
- Carol Castlebury
- Evelyn Cole
- Kathy Daly-Stratemann
- Diane Duesterhoeft
- Brina Fisher
- Carlton Forinash

- Joanne Forinash
- Bill Hamilton
- Sam Harris
- Sandi Harris
- Pat Heller
- Hector Hernandez
- Helen Hull
- John Ives
- Susan Ives
- Heinz Johnson
- Priscilla Johnson
- Herb Laing
- Leon LeVan
- Suzanne Markgraf
- Stephanie Mentee-Knight
- Marilyn Nash
- Darlene Oner
- Ellen Ott
- Eileen Roberts
- Charles Rogers
- Henry Rosales
- Derrill Rothermich
- J. Robert Rountree
- Sharon Roy
- Samanta Sanchez
- Kathy Schwenke
- Mike Schwenke
- Greg Sells
- Daphne Simpson
- Jo Ann Slaven
- Siba Spencer
- Caryl Swan
- Theresa Swett
- Jim Tree
- Henriett Vargas
- Audrey Vertucci
- Mary Zeitler

In addition, members of various clubs acknowledged others who had made contributions to Volkssporting.

15. Old Business

a. New Year's Eve Celebration Hospitality Team

Heinz Johnson recognized all of those on the Celebration Hospitality Team who made last New Year's Celebration a memorable occasion. Thanks go to Priscilla Johnson for table decorations,

Susan Medlin and family for food, and Pat Roberts for beverages. There was a lot of planning, personal time and hard work used by these individuals.

b. Late Dues

It was thought that a suspense date had been established in the past regarding late dues. Heinz researched the issue. The TVA Bylaws, Paragraph 3.3 state, in part, “an annual membership fee may be established by the Board, and shall be delinquent after 30 days following the Treasurer’s notice that the annual membership fee is due.” The due date is 7/31

Late fees are not addressed in the Bylaws. There is one club that has not paid dues for 2016 and 2017. The Board of Directors recommended a late fee of \$10 for each delinquent year. After discussion, a motion was made by Gerald Kamicka to establish a \$10.00 fee for each year of delinquent TVA dues. The motion was seconded by John Ives. The motion carried.

c. Funds for TVA President to attend 20th AVA Biennial Convention.

At the 3/4/2017 TVA Meeting, \$750.00 was allocated to Heinz Johnson to defray costs for attending the AVA Convention. He was unable to attend and gave his proxy to John Bohnert to act in his stead. John’s club had reimbursed him for his expenses; therefore, no cost was incurred by TVA for AVA convention expenses.

He noted that 21 out of our 27 clubs were represented at the convention: Club President’s – 14 and Club Representatives (proxies) – 7.

d. Texas Awards Program.

The Texas Awards Program, Petals and Patches, ceased as of 12/31/2016. No patches and petals were purchased for 2017. Ninety dollars of merchandise was sold during the past year with an inventory of \$1158.58 on hand. Joanne Forinash has order forms available for anyone wishing to make a purchase. She will promote sales at future walk events.

e. Future TVA Memorial Walks and TVA Midnight Walks

An extensive search for a new place to hold the annual Memorial Walk and Midnight Walk this year was made by David Roberts and Heinz Johnson. David located a possible new venue at the Pioneer Museum Complex. Heinz subsequently met with Dr. Jeryl Hoover, Executive Director of the Gillespie County Historical Society, to finalize using the Pioneer Museum facilities and he was successful. Special thanks go to David Roberts for his time and extra efforts to find this location. The cost to use this facility is \$125 (same as last year at St. Joseph’s Halle) with a \$250 refundable deposit.

The facility consists of a historic sanctuary (previously a First Methodist Church), a social hall in the rear of the building and the headquarters for the Gillespie County Historical Society. It is located at 512 W. San Antonio St. Both the sanctuary and the social hall are available for our use; however, it was decided that we would use only the social hall. The facility is located one block north of our previous venue, St. Joseph’s Halle.

Parking will be on the street. There is no parking lot other than the one at adjacent St. Mary’s Catholic Church which is restricted for the church.

We will have access to the social hall on the afternoon of 12/30 for set-up. Current walk routes can be adjusted to reflect the Starting Point. There is also an option to create new walk routes. The Pioneer Museum probably could be used in the future; however, the rental fee would likely increase.

A Celebration Hospitality Team will be needed for the New Year's Eve Celebration (like last year) if there is no volunteer for the Second Vice President's position.

16. New Business

a. Office of Second Vice President

The office of Second Vice President has been vacant for the past year. In the interim, no volunteer has stepped forward or offered to fill the position. Heinz Johnson asked for a volunteer to fill the vacant position for just one year but no one responded.

Joanne Forinash recommended that this position be eliminated because of the great difficulty that she experience last year as Chair of the TVA Nominating Committee (Even Year). She could not find anyone who was interested in being a candidate for the position in spite of the committee's extra recruiting efforts. Heinz explained that eliminating the position would require a change to the TVA Bylaws and it could not be done by a vote now. Therefore, the position will continue to be listed as vacant.

b. Founders Day II, June 9, 2018

Founders Day II is coming up next year. It was suggested to have one walk event and possibly one swim event. This event is needed to generate Income for TVA. Although Founders Day I was held in Fredericksburg, there is nothing in the TVA Bylaws to prevent it from being held somewhere else. Last year there were four events: two walks, one bike, and one swim.

It is believed that one of the same walk routes could again be used next year. David Roberts explained that he has searched high and low for new routes in the Fredericksburg area are, but to no avail. Traffic has greatly increased in the smaller rural areas over the years much of which is due to the increase of wineries in the county. David believes that it is not safe to use rural roads for walk routes any more. This issue was discussed and will be brought up at the next meeting.

c. TVA Special Program: Port Cities of Texas

Joanne Forinash is proposing the establishment of a new TVA Special Program: Port Cities of Texas. This program would primarily help clubs in cities along the Texas coast, some of which are struggling to survive due to lack of participation in walk events and YREs. It is thought a TVA Special Program would spark interest in the designated areas. The proposed criteria would include a 15 walk requirement to complete the program and receive a special Patch. Ellen Ott volunteered to be the point of contact. After discussion, a Motion was made by Gerald Kamicka to have Ellen Ott do a feasibility study and present a proposal to establish a TVA Special Program- Port Cities of Texas. The motion was seconded by John Ives. There were 17 votes for the motion and two abstentions. Motion passed.

17. Selection of next meeting site for TVA Membership Meeting Weekend, March 2-4, 2018

No bids to host the 3/2-4/2018 meeting were received. Heinz suggested McAllen, Texas as a possible site since a highly successful meeting was held there in 2016. The local volkssport club was responsive by providing an excellent meeting facility and a site for the Traditional Walk without any cost. Also, the club has five YREs in the area, The official hotel had been newly renovated and provided a daily hot breakfast and a "5:30 Kickback" with three complimentary drinks and plenty of hot food in the evening. This arrangement was lauded by everyone who stayed there.

Helen Hull advised that she could make arrangements for the meeting in Gladewater, Texas if a host club was not found. No decision was made regarding a host club and city for the meeting. A motion was made by Gerald Kamicka for Heinz Johnson to contact the McAllen Parks & Recreation Volkssport Club and find out if they would be willing to serve as host for the next meeting. If not, the Gladewater option will be pursued. John Ives seconded the motion. There were 17 for and one against the motion. The motion carried.

18. Election of Officers: John Bohnert, Member, TVA Nominating Committee (Odd Year)

John Bohnert presented the slate for nominees for First Vice President and Treasurer in absence of the committee chair. The current officers, Brian Fisher, First Vice President, and Kathy Schwenke, Treasurer, both agreed to run for another term for their respective offices.. A call for nominees from the floor received no response. Gerald Kamicka made a motion to close the nominations. Ellen Ott seconded the motion. Gerald Kamicka made a motion to elect the nominees presented by the committee. John Ives seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

19 Miscellaneous Business

Because no one volunteered to serve for one year as the Second Vice President, volunteers were solicited for the Celebration Hospitality Team for the Midnight Walk this year. Susan Medlin volunteered to be responsible for food, Pat Roberts volunteered to be responsible for beverages and David Roberts volunteered his wife, Raylene, to be responsible for the table decorations.

20 Final Announcements:

- a. The Saturday evening dinner at Bella Sera will begin at 5:30 pm.
- b. Hotel breakfast on Sunday will begin a 6:00 am.
- c. The Featured YRE for Sunday's walk will be the Guadalupe River Trail Walk YRE Y1365. It will start at Louis Hayes Park.

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Zeitler, Secretary
Texas Volkssport Association

