

**TVA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SIGN IN ROSTER
4 August 2018**

	CLUB	PRESIDENT	SIGNATURE	
1	Colorado River Walkers (AVA-77/TEX-24)	Carol Obianwu	Carol Obianwu	1
2	Dallas Trekkers (AVA-34/TEX-11)	Deborah Carter	Deborah Carter	2
3	East Texas Trekkers (AVA-863/TEX-99)	Helen Hull	Deborah Carter	3
4	Hill Country Volkssportverein (AVA-23/TEX-9)	John Bohnert		
5	Hood County Hummers (AVA-718/TEX-83)	Bruce Bartlett	W.S. Byington	4
6	Houston Happy Hikers (AVA-15/TEX-6)	Catherine Kellner		
7	Kerrville Trailblazers (AVA-106/TEX-29)	Vorsha Sherfield	Vorsha Sherfield	5
8	LoneStar Walkers (AVA-944)	Heinz Johnson	Priscilla Johnson	6
9	McAllen Parks/Recreation (AVA-350/TEX-56)	Kori Waters		
10	Midland Walkabout (AVA-897/TEX-103)	Sammy Hunnicutt	Sammy Hunnicutt	7
11	NB Marsch-und Wandergruppe AVA-36/TEX-12)	Jill Troyer	Jill Troyer	8
12	Plano Walking Club (AVA-124/TEX-32)	Maggie Cole	Gary Silkworth	9
13	Randolph Roadrunners (AVA-44/TEX-14)	Ellen Ott	Ellen Ott	10
14	Rockport City Trailways (AVA-966)	Brittany Elkins		
15	San Angelo Volkswalkers (AVA-933)	Charles Winkelspecht		
16	San Marcos River Walkers (AVA-411/TEX- 58)	Barbara Piersol		
17	Selma Pathfinders (AVA-88/TEX-26)	Mike Schwencke	Mike Schwencke	11
18	Star Trekkers of Irving (AVA-681/TEX-82)	Gary Silkworth	Gary Silkworth	12

19	Tarrant County Walkers (AVA-19/TEX-8)	Brooke Hudson	Gary Silkworth	13
20	Texas County Walkers (AVA-955)	David Sheppard	David Sheppard	14
21	Texas Trail Roundup (AVA-979)	John Ives	Pat Roberts	15
22	Texas Wanderers (AVA-6/TEX-3)	Gerald Kamicka	Gerald Kamicka	16
23	Volkssportverein Friedrichsburg (AVA-1/TEX-1)	David Roberts	Pat Roberts	17
24	West Texas Trail Walkers (AVA-60/TX-19)	Linda Fields	Gary Silkworth	18
25	Whatever of Texas Sporting Club (AVA-967)	Clay Baulch	Clay Baulch	19

TEXAS VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION

TVA General Membership Meeting Minutes “Gathering of the Members” 4 August 2018

Red Lion Inn & Suites
441 Rio Concho Drive
San Angelo TX 76903
Ballrooms C, D & E

1. Call to order: TVA President, Heinz Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm by President, Heinz Johnson.

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

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

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

President Heinz Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced all TVA Officers, Susan Medlin, Director, Southwest Region and all credentialed club presidents and club representatives.

4 . Approval of TVA General Membership Meeting Minutes:

The previous meeting minutes of 4 March 2018 were recently emailed to each club president were therefore not read during the meeting. Gerald Kamicka pointed out an error at paragraph 16(d). The sentence should read “Future TVA....” rather than TAV. There were no other corrections. A motion was made by Gerald Kamicka to approve the meeting minutes as amended. Clay Baulch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Officers Reports:

a. First Vice President, Brain Fisher. Brian submitted the following written report and comments. “I feel that Texas is too big not to have a State organization and I think we can do a lot for the clubs. I also feel that we owe it to the clubs to keep the tradition of a first of the year walk, as well as a memorial walk. I know we need to increase attendance and will entertain any idea that will help boost attendance.”

Founders Day I and II statistics for the events held in 2016 and in 2018 are as follows:

2016:

Footsteps of the Founders: 231
Vereinskirche: 130
Total: 361 start cards sold.
There were also 18 Swim and 9 Bike participants

2018:

Footsteps of the Founders: 40
Vereinskirche: 65
Total start cards sold: 105
No swim or bike events held.

b. Treasurer, Kathy Schwencke for the Year Ended 30 June 2018.

- 1) Total revenue was \$1,148.00.
- 2) Total expenses were \$861.15.
- 3) Net revenue was \$286.85
- 4) .Total in checking account was \$2,325.16
- 5) Total in Money Market fund was \$7,096.07
- 6) Total in savings Account was \$5.00.
- 7) Total funds as of 30 June 2018 were \$9,428.23

Note: AVA dues of \$75.00 were not paid due to a change in AVA billing in July instead of June. The Participation fee for Founders Day II of \$126.25 was billed and paid in July. The Budget was amended for \$700.00 for travel reimbursement for the TVA President to the 20th AVA Biennial Convention in 2019 and the \$25.00 increase in AVA dues.

6. Webmasters Report: David Sheppard, TVA Webmaster:

Activities of the webmaster included:

a. Purchased security certification for website:

- Encrypts communication between browser and server.
- Primarily used for sensitive information, purchasing, financial transactions.
- Will keep web browsers (e.g. Chrome) from flagging website as “unsecure”
- <https://walktexas.org>.

b. Still under development.

- Under Events, add multi-day Texas events such as IML (suggested by Ellen Ott).
- Under Events, add link(s) to AVA Convention Website.
- Under Incentive Awards, add links to AVA for more info/details on Achievement Awards, New Walker Packet, and Special Programs.
- Add Page for TVA Programs such as Hill Country Challenge, El Camino Real, Landmarks, etc.
- Under Clubs, add club logos with link to club websites.
- Add History of Volkssporting in the U.S.A. 1976 – 1989 by Charlene Agne-Traub, Ph.D, CHES, AVA Historian © 1991, American Volkssport Association.
- Add IVV Book Guide (©2012, American Volkssport Association, Inc.)
- Add AVA “New Walkers Program Packet” order form.
- FAQ – rewrite and add Frequently Asked Questions page.

7. TVA Special Programs Reports:

All TVA Special Programs will continue with no ending date. Pat Roberts suggested to provide patches at sign-up to prevent a back log of inventory if the program was not completed. After discussion, Heinz Johnson said this issue needs to be sent to the NEC for review at their next meeting.

a. El Camino 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-three books have been sold as of 2 August 2018 with 14 completed. The project cost \$276.63. Current sales are \$430.00 for a profit of \$159.97. A special thanks to Brian Fisher of Guadalupe Signs for designing the beautiful patch for both this and the Texas Hill Country Challenge Program and also to the supporters of the program.

b. Historical Markers, Ellen Ott, Chair:

As of 3 August 2018:

Books sold: 82 Books completed: 41

c. Walk Texas, Ellen Ott, Chair:

As of 3 August 2018:

Books sold: 49. Books completed: 17

8. 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. Fifty-two books have been sold as of 3 August 2018, with 17 completed. The project cost \$214.63. The current sales are \$520.00 for a profit of \$305.37. We thank all of you for your support of this program.

9. Texas Incentive Awards Program, Joanne Forinash, Chair:

Joanne Forinash was unable to attend the meeting. She submitted a written detailed report showing total deposits of \$19.00 from 2 March 2018 – 4 August 2018 from the Petals and Patches program. A total inventory value of \$1308.02 remains. The TVA Board of Directors voted to hold an immediate "Close-Out Sale" by substantially reducing prices on all items. There will be more on this matter under President's Time.

10. TVA 2019 Audit and Finance Committee Report: Tina Bohnert, Chair, Members: Vorsha Sherfield and Ellen Ott:

Tina Bohnert was unable to attend the meeting and submitted the following report: "The Review Committee met in Kerrville, Texas July 28, 2018 to examine the financial records of the Texas Volkssport Association for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. We find all records to be in good order and commend the Treasurer, Kathy Schwencke, for a job well done."

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

a. Appalachian Trail (AT) Special Program, Susan Medlin is POC for this program. She reported that, so far 203 books have been sold or are out on consignment. One couple from Pennsylvania has completed the program. The AT Special Program requires 14 walks/hikes, one in each of the 14 states that the trail goes through. She urges all who are going to the 2019 AVA Convention to buy a book to take advantage of the Northeast location. She plans to spend two weeks there doing seven Capital walks, six AT hikes, and eight to 11 Convention walks. She will share her draft itinerary for anyone interested.

b. International Marching League (IML) in San Antonio. Next year, 2019, will be the third year of hosting the proposed Texas Trail Roundup (TTR) IML. The AVA will be asked to pay the IML its annual sanctioning fee. A briefing by Susan Medlin was presented at Boras, Sweden in May, 2018. The IML was very excited to have a new location and the TTR is now an official Candidate Member and will be inspected at the 22-24 February event in 2019. The inspectors will be IML President, Marc Muller from Luxembourg and the IML Vice President, Chaim Shoshan from Israel. The IML expects to see 400 new walkers each day. Everyone's help is needed to reach that goal. The AVA will get the standard Participation Fee of \$1.25 per walker. Trail Masters are needed to assist with trail marking and clearing during the 3-day event. Anyone wanting to volunteer to help should contact Susan Medlin.

c. A new 3-Year Challenge: Creating 5 New Clubs.

At the last TVA meeting on 3 March 2018, the addition of five new clubs in the Southwest Region over the next three years was discussed. After discussion, the members voted to start new clubs in four cities: Waco, Nacogdoches, and either Lubbock or Amarillo and a club in either New Orleans or Baton Rouge. Currently, Susan Medlin is a candidate for TVA President, with Helen Hull as a candidate for 2nd Vice President. Their main goal will be to form new clubs in the Southwest Region and to improve event participation numbers. Work will continue on the establishment of a new club in El Paso, TX and setting up a new club in Waco, TX.

d. AVA Promotional Calendar:

The AVA headquarters is working on a new AVA Promotional Calendar for publicity purposes that will feature two or three events from each of the 10 AVA Regions every month. There is additional space on the November calendar, the month that Susan Medlin is assigned. Susan suggested to start with the two TVA meetings, the Parish walks in Louisiana, the West Texas Trail Walkers events, the Ruidoso weekend, New Years Eve, and the IML in San Antonio. Please contact Susan Medlin if you have other suggestions.

e. Awards for the 20th AVA Biennial Convention in 2019:

Let's all pull together and recognize the dedicated people who keep volkssporting alive and well in the Southwest Region. Award submission must include the person's name, the name of the club, the city, the state and the award received. Meritorious Service Awards also require a qualifying nomination paragraph. Send all National Award nominations to Susan Medlin by 1 November 2018 for the following:

- AVA Hall of Fame
- AVA Distinguished Achievement Award
- Ted Ballman Youth Award
- Trailblazer Award
- IVV Honors
- President's Award (Send directly to AVA President)
- By 1 March, nominations for the following awards that were issued between 20 July 2018 and March 2019 will be collected:
 - Meritorious Service
 - Commendable Service
 - Certificates of Appreciation

For further information about the awards, please see the following:

- 1) The Policy Manual, Section 3 Recognition Awards can be found under Administration.
- 2) The AVA Recognition Awards Program – Guide of Nominations can be found under Administration.
- 3) Forms are listed on the forms page. Go to Clubs, Clubs only, Club forms.

e. Help For New Clubs:

A short discussion took place about what assistance could be provided to aid new clubs to become viable. What should be provided to new clubs? Should the TVA fund start-up costs for new clubs? This topic will be further explored under New Business.

f. Increased Fees:

The NEC increased club dues from \$50.00 to \$75.00 effective 1 July 2018. Gerald Kamicka stated that clubs should be notified of any increases well in advance of the effective date rather than "springing" it on them when they are invoiced. Susan Medlin explained the process.

12. President's Time:

a) As a reminder, President, Heinz Johnson, reviewed "Reminders of Due Dates" that apply to clubs:

- 1) Club Officer Updates are due between 1 January and 15 November OR within 30 days of a leadership change.
- 2) Annual Financial Report is due: Between 1 July and 15 November. There is a late fee after 15 November. Clubs are "Not in Good Standing" after 31 December. This does not apply to Any club that is not a 501C(3) club.

- 3) E-Postcard is due between 1 July and 15 November OR the fifth month after the tax year ends for non-501C(3) clubs. There is a late fee and “Not in Good Standing” after 15 November.
NOTE: Failure to file for three consecutive years and a club automatically loses its tax-exempt status. There is no recourse.
- 4) Annual AVA Dues are now \$75 and they are due between 1 July and 1 September. After 1 September they are declared “Not in Good Standing” if not paid by 1 October. A club is declared inactive as of 31 December.
- 5) Add or Renew a Year Round or Seasonal Event by 31 August for inclusion in *2019 Starting Point*. Otherwise, the standard sanctioning rules apply.
- 6) Award Deadlines. National nominations that are due by 1 November: AVA Hall of Fame, AVA Distinguished Achievement, Ted Ballman Youth Award, Trailblazer, and IVV Honors. The deadline has passed (24 July) for awards issued between the 19th AVA Biennial Convention in 2017 and 30 June 2018.

b) TVA Texas Incentive Awards Program:

The Texas Incentive Awards Program (Petals and Patches) has been in effect for many, many years. Joanne Forinash has been spearheading this program for several years in an attempt to increase interest in it. However, her detailed report of sales and inventory from 31 March 2017 through 4 August 2018 shows minimal return for all her efforts with little decrease in the inventory. The Board of Directors decided to hold an immediate “Close-Out Sale and lower costs as follows: Patches: 50 – cents, Petals – 25 cents, and TVA Pins \$1.00. Also a free TVA pin will be given to anyone finishing a TVA Special Program.

Joanne is commended for her excellent work to overhaul the Texas Incentives Awards Program. Her time and efforts are deeply appreciated.

c) Founders Day II: 9 June 2018:

Founders Day, that is held every other even-year in June, did not generate as much participation this year as in 2016. The Footsteps of the Founders Walk drew 40 participants versus 231 in 2016. The Vereinskirche Walk had 65 participants versus 130. There was no Swim or Bike events this year. It was pointed out that June in 2016 was the 40th Anniversary of Volkssporting in the United States and with the National Executive Council holding its meeting in Fredericksburg, the event drew walkers from all of the United States. The Board of Directors decided that an alternate location needed to be used because Fredericksburg is “walked out” and no new walk routes are available. A location change, even temporarily, is warranted. Since this is a TVA sponsored event, the TVA would fund the expenses and receive the proceeds. The TVA First Vice President is responsible for this event.

13. Old Business:

a) TVA Facebook Page:

Susan Fine and Clay Baulch reported that TVA is still on Facebook; however, more volunteers are needed to help keep it current. Posting of events should be done and updated weekly. With additional volunteers, a different person could be assigned to post once a month on a specific week. Andy Thomas volunteered to assist.

b) TVA Bylaws Observation, John Bohnert.

Reference Meeting Minutes 3 March 2018, Paragraph 17b that state In part: John Bohnert proposed changes to the TVA Bylaws “(i) discontinuance of the Midnight Walk and continuation of

the Memorial Walk; (ii) hold one TVA General Membership Meeting per year and hold it in August.” These issues were to be formalized and submitted 30-days prior to the 4 August meeting. No report was received thus no action was taken.

c) TVA 2018 Memorial Walk & TVA 2019 Midnight Walk

Reference Meeting Minutes, 3 March 2018, Paragraph 16d which state, in part: “The participation History of the Memorial Walk and Midnight Walk since 2005 has been dwindling and shows a decline in participation resulting in insufficient participants to covers event costs.”

After discussion, it was decided to ask local clubs to volunteer on a rotating basis to host these walks in different locations each year. The Midnight Walk can be held on New Year’s Day as a test since the TVA Bylaws specify a Midnight Walk on New Year’s Day i.e. one minute after midnight. As a one-time test, it would eliminate the need for an immediate change to the TVA Bylaws. Deborah Carter and Gary Silkworth volunteered to host the two walks and hold a social event on 31 December 2018 and 1 January 2019.

A proposal was made by Ellen Ott for a test walk to be held during the day on 1 January 2019 instead of the Midnight Walk. Jill Troyer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. If successful, the Bylaws will need to be changed.

d) Early Edition IVV Distance Record Books:

Heinz Johnson has a few early edition IVV Record Distance Record Books left and they are on sale for \$3 (half price). These early edition record books are valid and can be used like any other IVV Record Book. Contact Heinz if you would like to purchase one.

14. New Business:

a) A new Kind of Stamp, Carol Obianwu:

The Colorado River Walkers proposes to pilot a new type of AVA walking stamp, Traveling Exploratory Guided Walk Stamp. This is done in the spirit of innovation, to increase participation and revenue, and to keep up with changing times. The rational for this program includes an opportunity to walk closer to home, primarily on Sundays, when there are no nearby walk events, to introduce new walkers to volkssporting, to walk new and different routes other than local YREs that have been walked many times, to explore new routes for future walk events, to provide spontaneity and flexibility in all aspects of putting on a walk, and to eliminate long lead time, flyers, instructions, maps, last minute cancellations, start time window, need of restrooms and parking, etc. The walks would be primarily for local club members/walkers, although any one would be welcome to take part.

These walks would be initiated by sending out an e-mail notice to club members and other interested parties about a week in advance. It would not show up on the AVA Website calendar. Maps would be provided via smart phone, registration logs signed, \$3 fee collected and record books stamped. Walks would be guided by a club member who had researched and planned the route. Distance would be determined by the location/route. These walks could be held on weekdays or Sundays and would not be in competition with Traditional walk events put on by other clubs within about an 80 miles or 1.5 hours driving time. The suggested cost of the stamp would be \$75 and would be good for one year.

b. Starting New Clubs in Texas, Susan Medlin:

- 1) A TVA priority for the upcoming years will be to start five new clubs in the Southwest Region. To this end, work is in process with someone located in El Paso and efforts will begin to locate someone in Waco. To help new club leaders, a team of seasoned members could partner with their counterparts to provide advice and direction until the club is well established.

- 2) Because of the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey, the new TVA Special Program, Texas Coastal Cities and Rio Grande Valley, was put on hold. This program was designed to bring more walkers to the South Texas Coast and to increase membership in the area clubs. The program requires 16 walks. All of the YREs were reopened as of 1 July 2018. It is recommended that the TVA start this Special Program on 1 Jan 2019.

15. Selection of next meeting site for TVA Membership Meeting Weekend, 1-2-3 March 2019:

There was no bid received to host the next TVA Weekend on 1-2-3 March 2019. Susan Medlin suggested Waco as a possible location because there are a number of YREs in the area. Gary Silkworth of the Star Trekkers of Irving volunteered to host the next TVA Weekend in Waco. The vote taken was passed unanimously.

16. Election of Officers:

Kathy Schwencke, Chair, TVA Even-Year Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers for the term of office beginning 4 August 2018 (end of meeting) to 1 August 2020 (end of meeting) :

- a) Secretary, Andy Thomas. There were no nominations from the floor.
- b) Second Vice President, Helen Hull. There were no nominations from the floor.
- c) Susan Medlin, President. There were no nominations from the floor.

Gerald Kamicka made a motion to accept the nominations as presented. Ellen Ott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and all candidates were elected by acclamation.

17. Miscellaneous Business:

a) Considering the difficulty in finding volunteers to fill TVA offices, Gerald Kamicka suggested combining the duties of the First and Second vice presidents and having the Secretary assume some of the duties. More investigation on this topic is needed and the Bylaws would need to be changed. Gerald will develop this idea and discuss it with Brian Fisher, First Vice President, and Helen Hull, the incoming Second Vice President.

b) Mary Zeitler, TVA Secretary, was cited for her outstanding work as the organization's secretary during this two-year term of office. Heinz Johnson presented her with a "Texas Plaque" in recognition of her outstanding service. Mary will not seek reelection to a second term.

c) This meeting marked the completion of two terms and the ending of the term of office for the TVA President, Heinz Johnson. In acknowledgement of his outstanding leadership, Susan Medlin presented him with a "Texas Plaque."

d) Susan Medlin presented AVA Milestone Certificates to the following clubs for providing years of Fun, Fitness and Friendship:

- 1) Texas Wanderers, AVA-6 as a "40 Year Club." They were chartered on 17 October 1978.
- 2) LoneStar Walkers, AVA-944, as a "10 Year Club." They were chartered on 11 June 2008.

18. Announcements:

- a) The Saturday Evening Dinner will start at 5:30 pm in the Black Sheep Restaurant located in the hotel.
- b) The featured YRE on Sunday Morning will be Concho River Walk YRE.

19. Collection of Voting Plates and Table Tents:

All voting plates were collected and given to Andy Thomas. All Table Tents were collected and given to Heinz Johnson.

20. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Zeitler
TVA Secretary