

**TVA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
OFFICIAL SIGN IN ROSTER
2 March 2019**

	CLUB	PRESIDENT	SIGNATURE	
1	Colorado River Walkers (AVA-77/TEX-24)	Carol Obianwu	Charles Rogers	1
2	Dallas Trekkers (AVA-34/TEX-11)	Deborah Carter	Deborah Carter	2
3	East Texas Trekkers (AVA-863/TEX-99)	Helen Hull	Helen Hull	3
4	Hill Country Volkssportverein (AVA-23/TEX-9)	John Bohnert	John Bohnert	4
5	Hood County Hummers (AVA-718/TEX-83)	Irene Smith		
6	Houston Happy Hikers (AVA-15/TEX-6)	Catherine Kellner		
7	Kerrville Trailblazers (AVA-106/TEX-29)	Jim McMahon	Donnie King	5
8	LoneStar Walkers (AVA-944)	Heinz Johnson	Heinz Johnson	6
9	McAllen Parks/Recreation Department (AVA-350/TEX-56)	Kori Waters		
10	Midland Walkabout (AVA-897/TEX-103)	Diana Smart	Diana Smart	7
11	NB Marsch-und Wandergruppe AVA-36/TEX-12)	Jan Engel	Jan Engel	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	Barbara Piersol	11
17	Selma Pathfinders (AVA-88/TEX-26)	Mike Schwencke	Mike Schwencke	12
18	Star Trekkers of Irving (AVA-681/TEX-82)	Gary Silkworth	Gary Silkworth	13

19	Tarrant County Walkers (AVA-19/TEX-8)	Brooke Hudson	Brooke Hudson	14
20	Texas County Walkers (AVA-955)	David Sheppard	David Sheppard	15
21	Texas Trail Roundup (AVA-979)	Susan Medlin	Susan Medlin	16
22	Texas Wanderers (AVA-6/TEX-3)	Gerald Kamicka	Gerald Kamicka	17
23	Volkssportverein Friedrichsburg (AVA-1/TEX-1)	David Roberts	David Roberts	18
24	West Texas Trail Walkers (AVA-60/TX-19)	Susan Noonan	Gary Silkworth	19

**TEXAS VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
AAA-TX
TVA General Membership Meeting Minutes
3 August 2019**

**La Quinta Inn – Abilene Mall
3018 Catclaw Drive
Abilene, TX 79606**

1. Call to order: TVA President, Susan Medlin

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by President Susan Medlin.

2. Determination of quorum present: TVA Secretary, Andy Thomas

Nineteen of 24 clubs were represented. The requirement for a quorum was met.

3. Introduction/Opening Comments: TVA President, Susan Medlin

President Susan Medlin welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced all TVA Officers and all credentialed club presidents and club representatives.

- a. Candidate for Treasurer Michael Marke was introduced. A motion was made by Gary Silkworth to elect him. Ellen Ott seconded the motion. No other nominations were made from the floor. The motion carried unanimously. Marke is replacing outgoing Treasurer Kathy Schwencke. Susan Medlin recognized her for receiving a Meritorious Service Award at the AVA National Convention.
- b. New AVA Southwest Regional Director Sammy Hunnicutt was introduced.
- c. First Vice President Brian Fisher is leaving after this meeting because of term limits. Second Vice President Helen Hull is resigning because of becoming too busy. No replacements have been nominated at this time.

4. Approval of TVA General Membership Meeting Minutes

The general membership minutes of 2 March 2019 were emailed to each president and therefore not read during the meeting. There were no corrections. A motion was made by Gerald Kamicka to approve the minutes. Heinz Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Officers' reports

- a. First Vice President, Brian Fisher: Brian said a replacement for his position is needed and he described the duties as listed in the TVA bylaws.
- b. Second Vice President, Helen Hull: Helen is also leaving and described her duties as listed in the TVA bylaws. She said she would still be able to assist with the New Year's events.
- b. Treasurer, Kathy Schwencke: For the year ended 30 June 2019:
 1. Total revenue was \$971.11
 2. Total expenses were \$1,207.85
 3. Net revenue was \$-236.74
 4. Total in checking account was \$2,088.42.
 5. Total in Money Market fund was \$7,133.68
 6. Total funds as of 30 June 2019 was \$9,222.10.

- 7. Notes: Participation fee of \$126.25 for Founder's Day 2018 was billed and paid in July.
 - 8. A motion was made by Ellen Ott to approve the treasurer's vote. Gerald Kamicka seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- c. TVA Webmaster, David Sheppard: The only new feature on the TVA website is a page for special programs.
 - d. TVA Audit Committee, Deborah Carter: Committee, also including Tina Bohnert and Ellen Ott, met earlier in the day. They found that the TVA financial records are in order and that changing banks went smoothly.

6. Special Guests: Bill Hancock, Runnels County Register and Tommy Turney, Ballinger City Manager

These guests spoke about doing volksmarches in the past, and they are working with a health and wellness group in their community to try to start a walking club in Ballinger, which is located between Abilene and San Angelo. The town has had decline since its peak years in the 1920-30s, but now has signs of growth and efforts to revitalize and improve things such as a walking trail along its waterways. David Sheppard mentioned the Texas County Walkers' YRE that was there in 2018 and they were not aware of it. Susan Medlin gave them the initial paperwork for getting a new club registered with the AVA and said the TVA has four people ready to mentor their officers when needed. She also told them that their residents will want to look for more places to walk beyond their county so more clubs will be needed in neighboring counties.

7. Special Program Reports

- a. El Camino Real de los Tejas, Susan Medlin, Chair: 43 books sold, 14 books completed. Profit is \$153.37
- b. Historical Markers, Ellen Ott, Chair: Books sold: 83 and books completed: 45. Program had total expenses of \$275 and total revenue of \$830 for a profit of \$555.
- c. Walk Texas, Ellen Ott, Chair: Books sold: 50 and books completed: 18
- d. Texas Coastal Cities and Rio Grande Valley, Kathy Schwencke, Chair: 10 books sold, no books completed. \$100 total profit.

8. Texas Incentive Awards Program, Joanne Forinash, Chair

Joanne was absent so this was skipped.

9. SWRD Website, Donnie King, Webmaster

This website, www.ava-southwest.org, resulted from a suggestion that Susan Medlin made at the Comfort Easter walk. Donnie from the Kerrville Trailblazers stepped up and built it. He did a presentation about all the content that is now on the site. It has all upcoming traditional walks with all information and relevant related links that can be found. He also has many YREs listed. Donnie asked walk POCs to provide detailed information about their walks. There is also information about all the clubs, an index of cities, special programs, a calendar format, a news blog, a small photo gallery. He is trying to find a good free database system.

10. National Update, Sammy Hunnicutt, SWRD

- a. Recognize Joanne Forinash, former SWRD and new AVA Hall of Fame member from the 2019 AVA convention in Albany, NY
- b. Goals
 - i. Bring new walkers into the AVA
 - ii. Focus on younger walkers

- iii. Creating new clubs/rejuvenating older clubs
To achieve this we need to develop partnerships with organizations that could potentially bring in new walkers
 - i. REI/Dicks/Bass Pro Shop
 - ii. Local outing/adventure clubs such as Adventure Club of San Antonio
 - iii. Medical/health care (health benefits of regular walking)
 - iv. Other charities such as Fisher House (SA Christmas Lights 2019)
 Family walking events in conjunction with
 - i. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Navigators
 - ii. YMCA
 - iii. 4-H
 - iv. Churches
- c. Development of new YREs in state or national parks
- d. The Lone Star Trail is the only long-distance hiking trail in Texas. This 96-mile trail has an additional 32 miles of loop and crossover trails. Located in the Sam Houston National Forest and private lands starting near Richards, Texas and ending northwest of Cleveland, Texas.
- e. Creating new clubs, rejuvenating old clubs
 - i. Waco?
 - ii. Runnels County—2019/2020
 - iii. Abilene, August 2019
 - iv. The Woodlands/Huntsville
 - v. Houston/Galveston, only one club
 - vi. Del Webb San Antonio, at one time had a walking club, not an AVA club
- f. AVA Board of Directors
 - i. Teleconference on July 16
 - ii. Changes to articles of incorporation per Texas state law
 - iii. MassMedia – Henry Rosales will have a full briefing at August meeting
 - iv. Several issues tabled until August meeting in Texas
 - v. Proposal of “how to” videos for YouTube
 - vi. CharityMiles app: participation in walking events for donations to various charities listed in app
 - vii. Expect a post-convention report sometime in August
- g. Board of Directors orientation and meeting in New Braunfels August 14-18
- h. Reports of challenges: (Secretary note: some of this report duplicates item 7 above and is omitted here) Texas County Walkers have hosted 88 events since the start of the program in 2010. Nine more sanctioned walks for 2020. Current membership is at 45. Participation at events is generally between 25 and 35. Data for the first two quarters of 2019 show like participation numbers.
- i. 2023 AVA convention: Derrill Rothermich and the Las Cruces club have volunteered as the host club for the convention. Volunteers will be needed and most of the attending club presidents/representatives indicated they would support the effort. Susan Medlin will send out a 4-page writeup about the convention which will be in early May 2023.

11. AVA Awards Presentation, Susan Medlin, TVA President, and Sammy Hunnicutt, SWRD

Awards were nominated to the AVA by the Colorado River Walkers, Selma Pathfinders, Randolph Roadrunners, Houston Happy Hikers, and Texas Trail Roundup. Susan Medlin said more clubs need to nominate members.

A Distinguished Achievement Award was presented to Pat Gunter, who has served the Randolph Roadrunners for 30 years and has served as treasurer for the TVA and Texas Trail Roundup.

Meritorious Service Awards were presented to:

- a. John Bohnert, longtime president of the Hill Country Volkssportverein who also hosts the annual calendar meeting to prevent scheduling conflicts in the southern half of Texas.
- b. Helen Hull, President of the East Texas Trekkers, who established the Louisiana Parishes YRE program and also served as second vice president of the TVA.
- c. John Ives, President of the Texas Trail Roundup and played a key role in helping to create an IML event
- d. Ellen Ott, longtime president of the Randolph Roadrunners, the largest club in the Southwest Region, and for encouraging innovation, and worked on the Texas Trail Roundup.
- e. Derrill Rothermich, a key member of the Sun Country Striders in Las Cruces, NM, who maintains the YREs in El Paso and established a new multiple event weekend in Ruidoso, NM.
- f. Kathy and Mike Schwencke, who have helped grow the Selma Pathfinders, are involved with the Texas Trail Roundup, and Kathy has served as TVA Treasurer.

12. Special Reports

- a. World Heritage Festival Update, Mike Schwencke, President, Selma Pathfinders: This is the fourth year for the festival and the third year as an AVA walk. Some volunteers are needed at the checkpoints and start/finish. The routes are established and will be the same as the runners' route. The discounted early registration deadline was extended to August 10.
- b. San Antonio IML Update, Susan Medlin, President, Texas Trail Roundup: Susan thanked everyone for their help. Online registration is now open. A schedule of events was included with the meeting packet.
- c. Louisiana Parish Update, Helen Hull, President, East Texas Trekkers: In 2018, the first year, the program had 35 to 44 walkers for each of the 7 walks. There were 31 program books sold. In 2019 so far, each of the 11 walks in Louisiana has had 28-30 walkers. They also have a walk in Vicksburg which had 52 walkers. They plan to renew that one next year. There will be 8 new walks next year in Louisiana, plus another one in Natchez, MI.
- d. 2019 Big Give Update, Susan Medlin, Member, AVA Fund Development Committee: The AVA raised a total of \$81,665.70. In 2018, total was almost \$75,000 from 108 clubs and 328 individuals. The 2019 goal was \$78,000 with 125 clubs and 450 individuals. Actual 2019: 109 clubs and 343 individuals.

13. Old Business

- a. TVA Bylaws Change: Change spring TVA meeting date: Change was proposed by Deborah Carter of the Dallas Trekkers. The current meeting date often falls on the weekend after the Texas Trail Roundup which is difficult for those who travel and are not yet retired, so she proposed moving it to the first Saturday in February. Gerald Kamicka raised a point of order saying this proposal could not be voted because the bylaws required 90 days notice and not enough notice was given. Therefore, this proposal was tabled.

(Secretary note: The bylaws actually require 30 days notice. Paragraph 7.4 reads, "Amendments to these Bylaws may be presented by the Board or by the membership at a regular or special meeting, and must be ratified by a majority vote of the membership present, and qualified to vote; provided, however, that the amendment had been furnished to the members of the TVA at least 30 days prior to the date on which the vote was taken.")

- b. TVA Bylaws Change: Consolidate VP positions: Gerald Kamicka proposed this motion and said it was getting more difficult to fill positions and that some of the vice president duties are rarely if ever needed. A motion was made by Ellen Ott to approve this amendment. Gerald Kamicka seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The TVA Bylaws will be updated to reflect this change.
- c. Discussion: New Year's Eve walks: There was some discussion of having them in the Austin area, but it is hard to find a good start/finish location. When Susan Medline invited club presidents/representatives to offer to host this event, none did. Then Susan called for a motion on whether to have it in the traditional location of Fredericksburg. A motion was made by Donnie King to hold it in Fredericksburg. Ellen Ott seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- d. Discussion: Did Groupworks improve participation? Selma Pathfinders were using it but weren't getting much response. Other clubs had a similar story. Donnie King was the "guru" adding people onto it, etc., but has stopped maintaining it as it was experimental and not getting good response. Susan Medlin said the AVA is not putting much effort into it anymore.
- e. Discussion: Founders' Day walks location change: Will be on the second Saturday in June 2020. Heat is an issue. There was discussion of an indoor location such as a shopping mall or the Houston downtown tunnels on the Friday. However, there was an idea to have it in Ballinger and support the new club that is likely to be starting up there. A motion was made by Ellen Ott to hold the event in Ballinger. David Sheppard seconded the motion. The motion was approved with two votes against.

14. New Business

The only item of new business was selection of the meeting site for the next TVA meeting on 7 March 2020. There was one proposal submitted by the Randolph Roadrunners to host it in Boerne at the Comfort Inn and Suites. Meeting room costs \$150, there are YREs at the hotel that can be done Friday and Sunday, and the club will create a new route for a traditional event on the 7th. They will plan a social event which is TBD, and a dinner on the 7th at a German restaurant called Little Gretel. A motion was made by Ellen Ott to have the March 2020 TVA meeting in Boerne. Gary Sheppard seconded the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

15. Miscellaneous business

Ellen Ott talked about the upcoming Old Spanish Trail conference in San Antonio at the El Tropicano Hotel. There is a banquet on November 14 and then a breakfast on the 15th. The Texas Wanderers will feature their YREs on the River Walk. There will be an antique car motorcade going up Interstate 10 to Boerne and Comfort and the Roadrunners are looking at doing an afternoon walk in Boerne.

16. Final announcements

Sunday's walk featuring Abilene Christian University will have the registration at Frontier Texas!, not at the hotel.

17. Collection of Voting Plates and Table Tents

All voting plates were collected and returned to Andy Thomas.

18. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Thomas