

**TEXAS VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION  
AAA-TX  
TVA General Membership Meeting Minutes  
13 November 2021  
Canyon of the Eagles Resort  
Burnet, TX**

**1. Call to order: TVA President, David Roberts**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by President David Roberts

- David recognized Nicole Holder, director of sales of the resort, who said some brief welcome remarks.

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

At the time of this determination, 18 of the 25 clubs shown on the roster were present and a quorum was determined to be present. One more club signed in late. After the meeting, TVA Treasurer Michael Marke reconciled the roster and sent an email with the following corrections: The roster count skipped two numbers, and two new clubs on the roster, Kyle and Ballinger, had not yet paid their dues so should not have been included. The roster also did not include the Plano club which did pay dues. Therefore the roster count should have been 22 clubs.

**3. Introduction/Opening Comments: TVA President, David Roberts**

President David Roberts welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced all TVA Officers and all credentialed club presidents and club representatives. He said some administrative notes about the resort-provided lunch not being allowed out of the meeting room, etc.

**4. Approval of TVA General Membership Meeting Minutes**

The general membership minutes of 6 February 2021 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. Ellen Ott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**5. Officers' reports**

- a. Vice President, Donnie King: Due to increased work schedule, he was absent from the meeting. His Southwest Region website has gone out of date and no longer looks nice like it used to, and he has not been seen at walks. The website is an issue that the SWRD, Helen Hull, needs to try to resolve.
- b. Treasurer, Michael Marke: Total funds as of 10/31/21 were \$9,386.75. There is a net loss of \$175.53 for the fiscal year ending 6/30/21. For more details, refer to the documents that were included in the packet.
- c. TVA Webmaster, David Sheppard: Asked for a motion to renew annual web hosting fees for the TVA website. A motion was made by John Bohnert. Susan Medlin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**6. Election of TVA Officers**

- a. There were no immediate nominations for Vice President.
- b. A motion was made by Gerald Kamicka to nominate Michael Marke for a second term as treasurer. Ellen Ott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- c. Later in the meeting, a motion was made by Susan Medlin to nominate Jill Troyer for Vice President. Ellen Ott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- d. With no other candidates, Michael Marke will continue as treasurer and Jill Troyer will be Vice President.

## **7. Special Program Reports**

- a. Texas Hill Country programs, Susan Medlin, Chair: Texas Hill Country: 45 books sold, 14 finished. Texas Hill Country Challenge: 55 books sold, 18 finished.
- b. Historical Markers, Ellen Ott, Chair: Books sold: 88 and books completed: 44.
- c. Walk Texas, Ellen Ott, Chair: Books sold: 53 and books completed: 20
- d. Texas Coastal Cities and Rio Grande Valley, Kathy Schwencke, Chair: Books sold: 20, and books completed: one

## **8. National Update, Helen Hull, SWRD**

- a. Helen mentioned the Online Start Box and the option to sanction YREs as Per Participant Sanction when a club expects a low participation.
- b. She spoke about the AVA liability insurance apparently not covering some walkers if they are not AVA members. This caused a long discussion and need to get more clarification.
- c. Helen presented the following awards:
  - i. Commendable Service to TVA Secretary Andy Thomas and Treasurer Michael Marke
  - ii. 20 Year Club to the Midland Walkabout, represented by Diana Smart.
  - iii. 30 Year Club to the Hood County Hummers, represented by Susan Fine.
  - iv. 40 Year Club to the Colorado River Walkers, represented by Carol Obianwu
  - v. 40 Year Club to the San Antonio Pathfinders, represented by Mike Schwencke
  - vi. 40 Year Club to the Texas Volkssports Association, represented by TVA President David Roberts
  - vii. 45 Year Club to the Volkssportverein Friedrichsburg, represented by David Roberts.
- d. Helen spoke about the Texas County Walkers, which have held 96 one-year YREs in various counties in recent years. These walks, together with other clubs also holding one-year YREs, are allowing several individuals to approach their goals of walking in all 254 counties. The program is expected to finish in 2022 and there will be some kind of graduation celebration at the November 2022 TVA weekend.
- e. Helen gave an update about the Louisiana Explorers program intending to walk in all the parishes. This will be completed in 2 or 3 years. She is also starting a new county program in New Mexico.

## **9. Special Reports**

- a. AVA Vice Chair Susan Medlin spoke about the 2023 Olympiad with planning under way. The AVA is likely to make a contract with San Antonio Sports to cover logistics and volunteers, but experienced volkssporters will still be needed to help SAS volunteers understand what is going on. Michael Marke has been working on the routes and he spoke about doing separate sheets from the directions with points of interest.
- b. Ellen Ott urged not to overlook the 2022 Texas Trail Roundup. The international participation is uncertain but travel restrictions are being lifted. Susan Medlin mentioned the leaders of the Freedomwalk Festival came up with an idea for a North American Cup, a type of special program book that walkers can stamp by attending the elite

walking events including the IMLs, the Olympiad, the AVA and Canadian conventions, and Crazy Horse.

- c. World Heritage Festival: Mike Schwencke said the Tour de los Misiones had 194 AVA walkers included in about 600 registrants for the walk, run and bike events. The festival had to close registration due to running out of materials for participants. Michael Marke led the walk and a picture of him by Martin Callahan appears in the AVA Checkpoint. The 2022 Tour de los Misiones will be on September 10.

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## **10. Old Business**

- a. Location of New Year's Eve/New Year's Day walks: Helen Hull offered Marshall/Jefferson for East Texas Trekkers. Susan Medlin offered San Antonio (northwest side area) David Roberts offered Fredericksburg. Some informal test votes were held. A motion was made by Susan Medlin to hold the walks at either Marshall and Jefferson, or San Antonio. Gerald Kamicka seconded the motion. Marshall/Jefferson received the most votes. Helen said Marshall has good Christmas lights to see and the area also has a walk at Canton with First Monday Trade Days, plus several other one-year county walks that start on Jan. 1.
- b. February 2022 TVA meeting location: Susan Medlin suggested offering it to the new Kyle club and also offered San Antonio. John Bohnert offered Kerrville. After some discussion, Kyle and San Antonio were withdrawn, so the meeting will be held in Kerrville.

## **11. New Business**

- a. 2024 Eclipse walks on 8 April: Ellen Ott is chair of an eclipse committee and submitted a proposal: "That all Total Eclipse activities be sponsored by the TVA, not an individual club, unless a club's YREs were being featured during National Walking Week and the eclipse weekend." Deborah Carter said the Dallas Trekkers wants to have a walk on that day, so this was discussed and acknowledged. The TVA's traditional walk would be somewhere in the Hill Country but the location has not been determined yet. Susan Fine seconded the proposal. The proposal was carried unanimously.
- b. Ellen Ott submitted a second proposal to have the TVA support total eclipse activities with a budget of up to \$1,000 for eclipse glasses, printing, save the date cards, flyers, sanction fee, water, etc. Michael Marke agreed to serve on the committee and the TVA would receive funds from the eclipse day walk. Susan Medlin seconded the proposal. In discussion, some members objected because it is 3 years away and the budget for that year has not been done yet. Ellen has already purchased eclipse glasses as she expects they will become too hard to obtain later. A motion was made by Gerald Kamicka to table this proposal and reimburse Ellen for what she spent on the glasses after Michael Marke revises the FYE 06/30/2022 budget for the expected eclipse expenses during that time frame and has the revised budget approved at the February 2022 TVA meeting. This motion was seconded and carried unanimously.
- c. Gerald Kamicka representing the Texas Wanderers offered to host the November 2022 TVA weekend in the Sulphur Springs area, where that club is having several one-year county walks. There was no formal action taken on this.

## **12. Misc. business**

Gerald Kamicka said the TVA finances need an audit and an audit committee is needed. The second meeting of 2020 was canceled due to Covid-19 and the February 2021 meeting was virtual so that messed up the audit schedule. By email after the meeting, Michael Marke asked David Roberts to appoint a 3-person audit committee to audit the TVA's financial records for FYE 06-30-2021.

**13. Final announcements**

David Roberts said the Canyon of the Eagles resort would be eager to have the TVA return and encouraged attendees to complete feedback cards when they leave.

**14. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andy Thomas