

**CALIFORNIA VOLKSPORT ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
April 30, 2011
Folsom, California
Draft**

Call to Order: President Jay LaCroix, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Qeldas Pickett of the Sonoma County Stompers gave a presentation of the Cow Print hats, scarves and hat bands that she makes and sells. A portion of each sale will be donated to AVA.

Judy Stroud, CVA Secretary, gave a presentation of the CVA t-shirts that she is selling. The first 32 shirts she financed herself. The second order of 32 shirts were paid for by the CVA and they are being sold at cost, which is \$13.00 per shirt. The CVA poppy logo with "California Volkssporter" is on the front left side and "California Walks" is on the back.

Introduction of Officers: President LaCroix introduced the following officers: South Vice President John Cappello, North Vice President Don Ratliff, Central Vice President Phil Jones, Treasurer Bev Jones and Secretary Judy Stroud.

Report on Members Present/Absent; Establish Quorum: Secretary Stroud reported that there are 15 clubs and 6 officers represented which constitutes a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting: The minutes of the 2010 meeting were distributed to each club last year. There were no corrections reported. The minutes shall stand as distributed.

REPORTS:

Financial Report: Treasurer Bev Jones gave the following report:

The Treasurer gave her full report.

Suzi Glass moved to approve the financial report. Holly Pelking seconded. The motion passed.

President's Report: Jay LaCroix reported on the status of CVA. Last year we lost 2 clubs, the Hollywood Star Trekkers and the Footsore Fiends. He also spoke about the issue of credit walkers versus free walkers who make donations. Maybe what clubs should do is encourage walkers who make donations to pay the \$3 and be a credit walker, which doesn't mean you have to stamp books. But at least that way part of the money would go to AVA instead of it all being kept by the club.

There has been an issue this year with a club who is "invading" other club's territory. To help resolve these issues he has formed a committee chaired by Joanne Pelz of the Davis Dynamos. The other members are Heidi Foster of the Sacramento Walking Sticks and Jill Simmons of the Vaca Valley Volks.

During the AVA Convention in Des Moines, IA Jay will be attending the State Organization Club Presidents meeting which is being held on Wednesday, June 22nd.

North Vice President's Report: Don Ratliff reported on the numbers for the Sacramento Capital Year Round Walk and Bike. For 2010 there were 142 credit walkers and 67 free walkers. For 2010 the bike had 21 who did it for credit and 1 free. The first quarter of 2011 there were 47 credit walkers and 43 free walkers.

Central Vice President's Report: Phil Jones reported that there are currently 5 AVA clubs in the Central Region, the same as last year. These 5 clubs are hosting 41 Year Round Events and 12 Traditional Walks during calendar year 2011. The Central Region will host the 2012 CVA Convention. The newly elected Regional Director for the Pacific Region of AVA is Holly Pelking of the South Bay Striders, a club in the Central Region of California.

South Vice President's Report: John Cappello reported there are currently 6 clubs in the South Region. These 6 clubs are hosting at total of 47 YREs for 2011. Regular weekend events planned is 4; anticipated 6 and one possible in the Sierra (Bishop and Mammoth) in October. The region lost 2 clubs, Hollywood Star Trekkers and Footsore Fiends.

Pacific Region Director's Report: Bruce McDevitt reported that participation in the Atlantic, Northwest and Pacific is up. The AVA has a new self-instructional Trailmaster Program. And AVA is going to a new trail rating system using numbers and letters. The number will indicate the elevation gain and the alpha will represent the terrain difficulty. Also, in 2012 every route will require its own sanction number.

COMPASS Editor's Report: Editor Suzi Glass reported that the *Compass* is doing well. She passed out the revised Cheat Sheet which lists all the required information for your one-column ad. She also passed out the "Four Points" sheet of handy information. Copies of her handouts are attached.

CVA Website Report: Webmaster Steve Hughart reported that the CVA website is still using GoDaddy.com which is working out very well. He has a template he fills out before entering the information in the ESR. Email him if you would like to get a copy. His email address is: hugharts@sbcglobal.net There was some discussion about making a Facebook presence. Steve Hughart said he does not have the expertise, but it really is a good idea that someone should pursue. Steve d'Adolf said he would send some information about the process to Jay and Steve.

WEBSITE CREATION AND PUBLICITY FOR CVA CLUBS REPORT: Committee Chairman Steve Hughart reported there has not been much interest.

NEW BUSINESS:

Date/Location of the 2012 CVA Convention presented by Holly Pelking, South Bay Striders and Phil Jones, Sierra Gold Striders

A video of the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove was shown. They have nice all-inclusive package deals for rooms/meals. All the walks would start from there. Phil Jones made a motion to have the 2012 CVA Convention there. It was seconded by Jean Lucas. The motion passed.

Officer Nominating Committee – Jay LaCroix, CVA President

Don Ratliff volunteered to chair the committee. John Cappello will ask for a volunteer from his South region and Suzi Glass will represent the Central region.

Free Walk With Guest Day presented by John Cappello, VP South

John reported that the South region clubs have come up with a *Free Walk with Guest Day*. They thought that money is not too much of a problem for their clubs, but new members are. They picked October 22nd. The basic premise is that club members can walk free provided he/she brings along a guest, who also walks free. Clubs could determine that if that guest joins the club that day, they could get a free October patch, or a free New Walker Packet, or a free membership to the club. As a real special incentive the club could give all 3.

The event will end up costing clubs some money, but if it works to get new members then it will be worth it. Publicity needs to get in local media, the *Compass* and *The American Wanderer*. The CVA board and Pacific Region Director will be in charge of contacting AVA to see what they can do to help us out. **See attached**

Cities in Song Special Program presented by Don Deal, Sonoma County Stompers
The Sonoma County Stompers are starting a new Special Program *Cities in Song*. This program is authorized in the Pacific Region but any sanctioned AVA event in the U.S. that passes through a city or town that is in a song title or mentioned in a song would qualify. The books are \$10 and upon completion you will receive a patch. **See attached**

By-Law Changes presented by Jay LaCroix, CVA President

A motion for an addition to the By-Laws 8.4 Convention Standards was made by Judy Stroud. It was seconded by Phil Jones. It was to add State Executive Council (SEC) approval authority for the award design for the CVA Convention brochure and patch. After much discussion it was determined that this was not necessary and the motion was withdrawn by Judy Stroud. Further By-Law Changes that were on the agenda were also withdrawn by Jay LaCroix.

CVA Insurance Proposal (A proposal for consideration by CVA) presented by Barbara Nuss, Sacramento Walking Sticks

The proposal is to set up an application process that will insure clubs against financial losses for an event. The club would need to apply and be approved for this insurance before an event is planned. It was determined that CVA will set up an investigative committee to see if this is something the CVA would like to adopt. Barbara Nuss and Jay LaCroix will head up the committee, with other members to be selected by them. **See attached.**

AWARDS: Presented by Bruce McDevitt, AVA Pacific Region Director

These awards are approved by the Regional Director

The Certificate of Appreciation Award recognizes individuals, organizations and businesses for service to AVA on a regional, state or local club level. **The Certificate of Service Award** recognizes individuals who have given at least 3 years of significant service to AVA. **The Meritorious Service Award** recognizes individuals who have given at least 5 years of outstanding service to AVA. Bruce read the names of the all the recipients These will be printed in the publication put out by AVA and distributed at the National Convention and will also be available on the AVA website.

Lastly, he presented anniversary awards to clubs who have reached their 15, 20 and 25 year milestones.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Stroud, CVA Secretary

Clubs Represented: BBVC, CB, DD, DTT, GVG, LDR, PP, SBR, SBS, SCS, SDCR, SGS, SWS, TTT, VVV

Officers present: President, VP North, VP Central, VP South, Treasurer and Secretary

Clubs not represented: CCPP, LTSW and SSS