

CALIFORNIA VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING
May 3, 2014

Call to Order: President Jay LaCroix called the annual meeting of the California Volkssport Association to order at 1:15. He thanked Cynthia Turbin, her committee and the Shasta Sundial Strollers for hosting the convention. He also thanked the attendees from Southern California who made the long drive to attend.

Introduction of Officers: Jay introduced the CVA officers, as well as Suzi Glass, Compass editor; Chris Zegelin and Mike Woodworth, Webmasters, and Stephanie Sinclair, AVA Executive Director, who would greet the attendees via Skype.

Members Present and Quorum: A quorum of 78 percent of membership was represented constituting a quorum. Fourteen clubs were represented, plus five officers.

Minutes: Minutes of the May 11, 2013 Annual Meeting were approved as corrected.

President's Report: Jay complimented California Volkssporters for maintaining the current number of clubs, particularly as lots of clubs nationally have disbanded. The goal should now be to strengthen clubs and grow. Jay spoke of accomplishments of the past four years that included the electronic registration procedures for the 2012 Asilomar annual meeting; development of the new CVA web site, cva4u.org; ability to conduct Compass business online, and the development of the club territory protocol. Jay encouraged the progressive philosophy of California be incorporated into CVA's, e.g., use of social media. Jay thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as president.

VP-North Report: Wayne Holloway reported on the three CVA Sacramento events in 2013 and first quarter of 2014: two walks and one bike event. The total participation for all was 195, including participants from 13 states other than California and from three countries. (See Attachments #1-A and #1-B for details.)

VP-Central Report: Jay reported in Phil Jones' absence. Central region maintains its five clubs that had 40 YRE's and 10 TW's during 2013. Two AVA officers reside in the region: Holly Pelking, VP and Wayne Holloway, PARD. Sierra Gold Striders will host the 2015 Annual Meeting in Tuolumne City near Sonora. (See Attachment #2.)

VP-South: John Cappello reported that the six clubs in the region remain in good standing. There are 54 YRE's.

In addition, Becky Forsythe, a Washington state resident, is still monitoring four YRE's in Southern California. The Low Desert Roadrunners are active with monthly events and bi-weekly walks. Green Valley Gators had three TW's and group walks in 2013. Kathy Bundy will talk about a new pilot program: "Meetup.com" later in the meeting. John thanked the clubs in his region for their enthusiasm and participation, particularly Sue Obradovitz, Dottie Schwieger and Kathy Bundy.

Treasurer's Report: Jill Simmons reported CVA is holding its own financially. The *Compass*, previously a financial drain, is now nearly self-sufficient with some adjustments having been made. (See Attachment #3 for financial details.)

Compass Editor's Report: Suzi Glass is magazine content editor and referred Volkssporters to the Business Editor and Mailing Lists and Donations Manager listed in the *Compass* for other matters. Suzi distributed a reminder list of *Compass* deadlines and a checklist for article content. A sanction number is one of the mandatory items needed for publication. To save space, Suzi suggested using abbreviations for the special programs. Suzi rolled out a red carpet (literally) to make "Academy Awards for 2014". In the category of "Prolific Photographer", Steve d'Adolf won. "Deadline Defyer" winner was Jean Vik. Bruce McDevitt won in the "Detail Deliverer" category. (See Attachment #4 for details.)

The meeting was recessed for a rest break. SSS also held drawings for winners of the dozen baskets donated by the clubs featuring prominent products from their own areas.

Report from Stephanie Sinclair, AVA Executive Director: Jay introduced Stephanie on her first Skype presentation, which provided only audio connection. Stephanie greeted everyone enthusiastically from San Antonio Texas while at the first AVA World Walk Day event. It had 157 participants. She spoke about her background and her goals for AVA - of the importance of building a foundation for innovation in the areas of branding, communication and funding. She took a few questions, such as requests for a simpler event sanctioning procedure and to look into Memorandums of Understanding with various governmental agencies (e.g., BLM, National Forest) as AVA had had agreements years ago. Dennis Michele was complimented for personally acknowledging a new SWS member upon having completed her first event book. Both Dennis and Stephanie expressed interest in attending next year's CVA meeting.

Meeting reconvened

CVA Webmaster's Report: Chris Zegelin described programming he is developing with the goal of making procedures easier and quicker for clubs' and membership use. Features will include convention registration; transference of data automatically from the web site into YRE's with links to roll over YRE number and information from year to year. Linking into the calendar also is in the plan. Jay will develop a related how-to-document for members' guidance.

Pacific Area Regional Director's Report: Wayne Holloway reported the new AVA "Pathways to Excellence" excel program is a valuable tool for clubs of all sizes to assess their club's performance. It would highlight areas where a club could do better in areas of membership, leadership, events and communication. The items are weighted for their importance. Although the program is entirely voluntary, participation is encouraged. Wayne emphasized the need to indicate emergency contact information on YRE's, including law enforcement agencies. It needs to be more than the home phone number of the POC, who is not on site during walks. Wayne mentioned the waiver signature requirement has been a hurdle in implementing the online registration procedure for remote walks. (See Attachment # 5.)

AVA Vice President Holly Pelking's Report: Holly thanked Volkssporters for their support for her work on the NEC. Using the Pathway to Excellence checklist is a good way to mentor club leadership relating to chores, deadlines and goals. Using the Special National Officer Book (SNOB) special program at a \$10 cost supports AVA. Holly reported her project during the past quarter has been the search for a national Executive Director. She and her committee received a large number of applications, of which 25 or more were from apparently qualified candidates. The decision was difficult, but Stephanie Sinclair was chosen partially because of her extensive experience with a large Girl Scout Council. An agreement is being reached with Frazier Insurance, AVA's liability insurance carrier, regarding event waiver signatures. Adults' waiver would be in force for two years; minors would be tracked by birthdates. AVA is being asked to waive the quarterly reporting requirement for two years for online registration as participation

results will go directly to AVA.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CVA Brochure: Chris Zegelin circulated a draft of a CVA brochure and discussed its importance in publicizing AVA in a wide variety of locations. The back page will be left blank for individual clubs' own use. After the committee receives responses from Volkssporters they will work on its development, including taking necessary legal steps regarding copyright. Chris suggested 5000 could be printed for less than \$500. Steve Hughart raised a caution regarding ongoing maintenance after distribution. (See Attachment #6.)

Motion: Following considerable discussion, Chris made the motion that after the committee has finished the CVA brochure, the CVA leadership would approve printing 5000 copies of the brochure. Motion passed nearly unanimously (with one "no" vote).

CVA Banners: Don Ratliff asked about the current whereabouts of the CVA banners. No one present had an answer. Jay suggested the new leadership could undertake the purchase of new ones.

NEW BUSINESS

The 12-13-14 Event: Jay's idea of clubs developing walks on 12-13-14 (an unusual calendar occurrence) has gained interest nationally. AVA has a goal of attempting to set a record for the Guinness Book of Records. AVA will be publicizing clubs promote an YRE or special event walk beginning at either 10:11 am or 10:11 pm on 12-13-14.

POC Instructions: Jeff Stoermer, President of Delta Tule Trekkers, circulated copies of the club's guidance sheet for YRE POC's. Joan Sykes, DTT Walk Coordinator, developed the checklist to mentor the numerous new members and as a reminder to older members. (See Attachment #7.)

Meetup.com Report: Kathy Bundy, Low Desert Roadrunners, reported on the online method of organizing walk dates called Meetup.com. She uses it with her club at the modest cost of \$72/six months. She touted its popularity with younger generations. Meetup.com has its own liability waiver requirement walkers must sign. Steve Hughart brought up a concern over a meetup.com group in Sacramento wanting to use the SWS's walk directions.

2015 CVA Meeting Location: In Phil Jones' absence, Jay announced the location for next years' meeting will be at the Black Oak Casino in Tuolumne City near Sonora May 1-3, 2015. Phil will distribute information within a month. Jay urged Volkssporters make hotel reservations early in this popular venue. Information will become available on the CVA web site.

2016 CVA Meeting Location: Jay had not received any offers by meeting time. John Cappello mentioned that it will be the Southern California region's turn to host. Jay requested John to pursue the matter.

Elections: John Cappello, Nominations Committee Chair, thanked his committee members, Don Deal, Suzi Glass and Cathy Bundy, for their help. John presented the following slate:

President	Phil Jones
VP-North	Betsy McDevitt
VP-Central	Joan Sykes

VP-South Kathy Bundy
Secretary John Cappello*

*A floor nomination of Judy Gordon was regrestfully rejected because she fails to meet the CVA Bylaws California residency requirement

Treasurer Jill Simmons (re-election)

Motion: John Cappello moved that the slate as submitted by the committee be accepted by acclamation. Motion passed.

New Officer Email Addresses: Jay reported that email addresses will be assigned to each CVA office that will move forward to new officers as they are elected. They are:

President: President@CVA4u.org
VP-North: VP-North@CVA4u.org
VP-Central: VP-Central@CVA4u.org
VP-South: VP-South@CVA4u.org
Secretary: Secretary@CVA4u.org
Treasurer: Treasurer@CVA4u.org

Award Presentations:

Wayne Holloway presented Certified Trailmaster Certificates to Sherry Colvin, Don Deal and Myrna Jackson. Wayne also presented Meritorious Service Awards to Qeldas Pickett and Jay LaCroix

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2015 AVA Convention: Sam Korff discussed details of the 19th Biennial AVA Convention in Salem, Oregon June 15–21, 2015 hosted by the Oregon Trail State Volkssport Association. It will be based at Salem's Grand Hotel. He described several of the walks planned for the convention and the pre-walks on June 13 & 14, 2015. Planned walks include: Silver Falls State Park, a Portland Gardens Walk, Lincoln City rhododendrons, President's walk in Salem and Mt. St. Helens. Bus transportation will be available for some of the walks. Registration will be handled electronically. Workshops will be put on by AVA Training Committee.

Roads open: According to Nancy Alex walks in Mono, Madera and Inyo counties opened early due to warm weather and popular demand. Lee Vining/Mono Lake and Mammoth Lakes and Mosquito Flat to Chickenfoot Lake walks are available. Snow still closes the roads to the Mammoth Lakes and Mosquito Flats walks. The Bishop YRE is available anytime.

Special Programs: Don Deal announced the *Cities in Song*; previously a California special program, had become a national program this year. The *49'er* special program is missing walks in four counties needed in order to do a complete program. He asked that clubs consider organizing walks in those counties: Kern, King, Sierra and Lassen.

Half Moon Bay Walk: Mark calendars for this walk on May 17, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT: Jay adjourned the annual meeting at 4:55 pm.

Georgie Reed
CVA Secretary