

California Volkssport Association
2015 Annual Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2015

1. CVA Annual Meeting Official Opening

The 2015 California Volkssport Association (CVA) annual meeting was opened at 1:00 pm by Phil Jones President. Phil thanked everyone for coming to 2015 CVA convention. He recognized Armed Forces veterans attending and thanked them for their service.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Lieutenant Colonel Herb Webber US Army (ret) led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Introductions

Phil recognized and introduced AVA officials - President Dennis Michele, Vice President Holly Pelking, Pacific Regional Director Wayne Holloway, AVA Executive Director Henry Rosales and Chris Mellon candidate for AVA President. He also introduced members of the CVA State Executive Board.

4. Special Award to AVA

Phil Introduced Mary Ptacek of the *Tator Tours* Company who presented a check for \$2,000 to the AVA. The check was accepted by AVA president Dennis Michele and Executive Director Henry Rosales.

5. Report of Quorum

John Cappello, CVA Secretary reported that we have a quorum. Eighty-six percent (86%) of the voting members were present (60% required for quorum).

6. Approval of 2014 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the 2014 CVA Annual Meeting were reviewed and approved.

7. President's Report and Commentary

- We had 118 pre-registered members and 46 walk-in members attending this convention.
- He discussed the July 15 due date for 2016 sanction requests.
- He recognized the Shasta Sundial Strollers club, who donated money from the profits of the 2015 CVA convention, to the committee financing this 2016 convention.
- Phil discussed his disagreement of AVA convention delegates having to pay the mandated convention fee to attend the convention. He feels that is identical to a *Poll Tax* for clubs exercising their right to vote. He stated that he would like to discuss this with other state organizations and bring it up at the next AVA annual meeting.
- He asked for a show of hands of those agreeing with him. Agreement was unanimous.
- He asked if anyone knew the whereabouts of the original CVA logo artwork. It is required for certain projects and would be costly to replace.

8. Vice President – North (Betsy McDevitt) Report

- The VP-North is in-charge of the CVA's YRE events; Sacramento Capital Walk (144 participants in 2014 and 179 participants so far in 2015), American River Tour (19 participants in 2014 and 10 participants so far in 2015) and Sacramento Riverfront Tour (27 participants in 2014 and 14 participants so far in 2015) . They had 113 walkers in the NEC Friendship Walk on January 31.
- She thanked Barbara Nuss (Sacramento Walking Sticks) for their enticing Walk Alerts, complete with pictures. The SWS has a Book Club where they read a book and then go walk an event that pertains to that book.
- Betsy thanked Don Ratliff and the Placer Pacers for their Friendship Bikes. That program encourages members to go out biking.
- The Tahoe Trail Trekkers club prior to start of the capital reconstruction project has been re-routing the Sacramento Capital 6K and 11K YRE walks. The new routes include going by neighborhood businesses, the State Capital and building, the Rose Garden with a variety of memorials, Sutter's Fort and old Sacramento.
- She is working on new CVA sweatshirts with zippers and collars. More information on this next year.
- Most northern clubs walked a YRE to celebrate the 10-11-12-13-14 event.
- Betsy mentioned just one of each of the Northern region clubs events from May 1, 2014 to present:
 - . Shasta Sundial Strollers – CVA Convention, May 2-4.
 - . Pacer Placers – Fallen Leaf Lake Walks, June 28 and 29.
 - . Tahoe Trail Trekkers – Lake Tahoe's West Short, July 19.
 - . Delta Tule Trekkers – Winters Walk from town's gazebo, Sept 13
 - . Vaca Valley Volks – Benicia Click Tower Walk, Nov 15 and 16.
 - . Sierra Golf Striders – Rohnert Park, March 7.
 - . Sacramento Walking Sticks – Pi Day – March 14.

9. Vice President – Central (Joan Sykes) Report

- Joan has been to several traditional walks in her region, and has visited with club Presidents and POC's. The Central Coast Peregrine Pathfinders (CCPP) does not have traditional walks. She plans to meet with the CCPP president.
- There are approximately 35 year-rounds in the central region. Few have had some problems, i.e. missing payments for credit walks, lost or "taken" walk stamp and starting point relocation. In all cases, the club presidents and POC's took care of these issues.
- Holly Pelking of the South Bay Striders has created walks in areas far from the South Bay Striders (SBS) home base using the internet based new pilot project *On-line Start Box System*.
- The Delta Tule Trekkers have all new to AVA and relatively new-to-the-club officers. They need more guidance in creating, sanctioning and running traditional walks; and maintaining their YREs. Most other clubs in this area have seasoned members.

10. Vice President – South (Kathy Bundy) Report

- Kathy reported that of the six Southern California clubs, only two clubs are strong clubs with traditional walks and many YREs. The remaining four clubs are *YRE Only*.
- There are a total of 47 YRE events for the region.

- She is very concerned about the future of Southern California clubs. She personally is involved with various networking groups. She is promoting the “Meet-up” website internet club. She has seen remarkable results. The cost of developing a Meet-up website is \$92 for six months.
- She reported that she is interested in getting a smart phone app for Volkssporting.
- She is exploring a new concept with YREs called *Hop-on, Hop-off*. This will use city buses and trolleys to *hop-on* then *hop-off* and walk a little distance, then *hop-on* again for a while, and then *hop-off* again.
- She reminded everyone that her home town Wildomar has a traditional walk planned for June 6, and could be used for those working on the A to Z Special Event book.

11. Treasures Report

- CVA Treasurer Jill Simmons reported the CVA checkbook balance as of April 30, 2015 is \$9,826.46 and the CD Balance as of April 30, 2015 is \$11,289.01. The total CVA cash is \$21,115.47 (Attachment 1).
- Jill reported that using the Amazon automated payment system is working well.
- She thanked the clubs for paying their bills on time. This makes her job much easier.

12. Appointment of Auditor

CVA President Phil announced that he has contracted with the accounting firm of Fred Bohmfalk to audit the CVA books for the periods FYE 04/30/14 and 04/30/15.

13. Secretary’s Report

CVA Secretary John Cappello requested that clubs give him names and email addresses of any key members of their clubs that should be included club in his contact lists.

14. Compass Report

- Compass Editor Suzi Glass briefly spoke about the details on the handout distributed to all the delegates (Attachment 2).
- She read a poem she had written regarding clubs and the Compass (Attachment 3).
- Suzi agreed to continue as editor for another year.

15. Webmaster Report

- CVA Webmaster Chris Zegelin reported that there were a few technical issues with the CVA website.
- Often people trying to access the website assume that they are making mistakes, when it could be a technical issue. Chris informed members that they should contact him if they experience problems that cannot be readily corrected.
- He is working on system improvements regarding helping with Compass subscriptions, convention registration and the newly projected on-line start box program.
- Chris agreed to continue as CVA Webmaster for the coming year.

16. Pacific Region Director’s (PaRD) Report

- Wayne Holloway reported that the Pathway to Excellence project was implemented in 2004. Only three clubs responded with results; none from the Pacific Region. He said that he would like to see more participation in the program.
- He spoke in favor of AVA joining IVV-Americas. He mentioned that his recently published blog contains pros and cons regarding AVA joining IVV-Americas.

- He spoke against the AVA proposed amendment requiring 2/3 majority votes to change AVA bylaws and amending the AVA constitution to create Deputy Regional Directors positions.
- He discussed that the Pacific Region has more walking events, but has lower participation. He emphasized that we need to work on increasing member participation.
- He gave out Meritorious Service awards to Kathy Bundy, Suzi Glass, Sheila Steinberg, Phil Jones, John Cappello and John Sikes. Certificate of Service awards were given out to Jill Simmons, Bev Jones, Jay LaCroix, Suzi Glass and Betsy McDevitt.
- Wayne recognized the following clubs for their 30 year anniversary; Green Valley Gaiters, San Francisco Bay Bandits and the Sacramento Walking Sticks.

17. PaRD Election

- Don Ratliff, Chairman of the PARD Nomination Committee reported receiving 16 votes for Suzi Glass. She was approved as the next PaRD by CVA member acclamation.
- Phil Jones presented Suzi with a pair of gold colored walking shoes signifying she has to work hard to fill Wayne's shoes.
- Wayne was presented a "California Bear Flag Republic" baseball cap, and a copy of the *Historic Atlas of California*. Wayne's wife Grace was presented with a beautiful bouquet of fresh flowers.

18. AVA Vice President (Holly Pelking) Report

- Holly informed all that she was very concerned with saving those special walks when there is no one left to take charge of them. She introduced a special pilot program using the internet to maintain those special walks.
- Holly discussed her favoring the proposed AVA amendment to create Deputy Program Directors.

19. AVA Executive Director (Henry Rosales) Report

- Henry is fairly new to AVA. He mentioned how happy he was to be associated with a non-profit organization whose main objective is healthy living through exercise.
- He along with AVA President Dennis Michele acknowledged and presented 30 year anniversary awards to Green Valley Gaiters, San Francisco Bay Bandits and the Sacramento Walking Sticks.
- He reported his top priority was to bring AVA to another level of success. He mentioned that one of his main goals is recruiting new national sponsors. He also would like to implement club support projects as well as research the organizational fee structure. This would include having corporate sponsors totally supporting AVA conventions.
- He briefly discussed some ideas about using social media to help connecting with club members.

20. Candidates for AVA President

Phil Jones introduced Chris Mellon and current AVA President Dennis Michele, both of whom are running for election and re-election to AVA president.

- **Chris Mellon:**

Chris has worked in many positions within AVA.

He spoke about recognizing POCs as the backbone of AVA. He mentioned that POCs represent 45% of attendees at conventions.

He discussed using special days as reasons for having special walks. He mentioned Grandparents day (September 13 this year), as an example. He added that we need to find ways to increase event participation. He would like to see AVA participate with AARP in events.

- **Dennis Michele:**

Dennis has served in about every level in AVA. He feels strongly about recruiting good people and training them in various duties of the organization. He said that a major concern in AVA is selecting the right people with care.

Strong clubs should help weaker clubs who are struggling to keep afloat.

He mentioned that next year is AVA's 40th anniversary. Not sure of the date, but there are plans for some sort of big celebration in Fredericksburg Texas.

21. **Candidates for AVA Vice President**

Holly Pelking is the only candidate running for reelection to this office.

Holly spoke about having more traditional events. She liked the idea of expand special walk days such as Grandparents Day.

She discussed May 5 as being the BIG GIVE day. This is the national day of contributing to a non-profit organization. Certain big companies and individuals will match donations to non-profits' made on May 5. She encourages everyone to donate to AVA on May 5 thereby allowing AVE to take advantage of the matched donations.

22. **Old Business**

- CVA Brochure:

Chris Zegelin described the new CVA brochure. The text in the brochures focus' around *who, what, when* and *why*. There is a page left blank for clubs to print their own information. He emphasized that this overprinting can only be done by a laser printer or copy machine. The texture of the brochure will not work with *Ink-jet* printers. Copies of the new brochures will be distributed to clubs at 15 copies per each registered club YRE. He requested that clubs give feedback to him on the effectiveness of the brochure.

- On-line Walk Box

Chris briefly discussed the purpose of the On-line Walk Box project. The concept is using the internet to register and getting necessary maps for Volkssport events. A full presentation at 9:00 am on Sunday, May 3, will be held for those who are interested.

- 10-11-12-13-14 National Event

Jay LaCroix reported on this event. He thanked all the California clubs that participated in making this event successful. He added that 86 clubs in 41 states participated and cumulatively had approximately 3,074 walkers. Some notable facts were that each event averaged 35.7 walkers; a Chicago club reported 550 walkers; nine California clubs participated and the Maryland governor declared 12-13-14 as "It is time to walk" day.

23. New Business

- Motion to approve location for 2016 CVA Annual Meeting (Attachment 4).

Motion made by Bob Gebo, President/Green Valley Gaiters club. Motion seconded by Heidi Foster of SWS.

Bob Gebo, president of Green Valley Gaiters announced that the SEC had approved April 29, 30 and May 1 as the dates for the 2016 CVA convention and annual meeting. Bob made a presentation of approving Beaumont, Southern California as the location for next year's CVA convention and annual meeting. His presentation included a slide show of the hotel facilities and surrounding area. The motion passed unanimously

- Motion to amend CVA by-laws to Increase Reimbursement Rates (Attachment 5).

Motion made by Philip Jones, President/ CVA. Motion seconded by John Cappello, Secretary/CVA. (Attachment 5)

Phil Jones spoke in favor of this motion. He stated that the reimbursement rates have not changed in 15 years. He described the proposed amendment as attendance by SEC members at the annual CVA meeting be reimbursable to a maximum amount of \$100.00, and that attendance by the CVA delegate to the AVA National meeting be reimbursable to a maximum amount of \$500.00.

There was some discussion on the effective date of the bylaws amendment. PaRD Wayne Halloway mentioned that if no effective date is mentioned in the motion, then the effective date is immediate upon passage of the motion.

President Phil Jones asked if anyone wanted to amend the existing motion to include an effective date. No one responded. The motion as proposed was passed unanimously.

NOTE: Immediately following the unanimous yea vote, Phil asked Parliamentarian Jay LaCroix to verify that if indeed there is no effective date in the motion, then it is effective immediately following the yea vote. Jay could not find anything specific to that case, and that Robert's rules appear to leave it up to the president. President Phil decided that this amendment will be effective following this meeting.

Reimbursements for the CVA meeting just held would be at the old rate. And anything thereafter would be at the new rate.

- Motion to allow SEC to commit up to \$1,200 per year for marketing materials (Attachment 6).

Motion made by Chris Zegelin of South Bay Striders. Motion seconded by Kathy Bundy VP-South/CVA.

Chris Zegelin stated that CVA needs additional marketing materials. These may be created by teams of individuals to address specific needs or a state wide event.

Marketing materials are no longer difficult to create, nor expensive to publish. We should not have to wait multiple years, presenting each step to a membership vote. The motion passed unanimously.

- Motion to direct CVA Delegate to 2015 AVA meeting to vote yea regarding AVA joining IVV-Americas (Attachment 7).
Motion made by Philip Jones, President/CVA. Motion seconded by John Cappello of SEC.

NOTE: See remarks in the next motion (...appoint CVA President Philip Jones as CVA delegate and ...).

- Motion to appoint CVA President Philip Jones as CVA delegate and VP-South Kathy Bundy as alternate delegate to 2015 AVA meeting (Attachment 8).
Motion made by John Cappello, Secretary/CVA. Motion seconded by Joan Sykes, VP-Central/CVA.

The motion passed unanimously

NOTE: During the motion voting period of the meeting, two issues were put to a written ballot:

The first was a choice of whether or not AVA should join the IVV-Americas - the vote on this issue was overwhelmingly in favor of AVA joining the IVV-Americas. So when the request for a mail in ballot comes from AVA later this week, CVA delegate Philip Jones will be casting the ballot of the CVA club in favor.

The second item was a choice between two candidates for AVA President, which will be made at the upcoming AVA Convention in Salem OR, in June. Both candidates, Dennis Michelle and Chris Mellen, were with us at our CVA meeting, so we all had a chance to meet them and hear from them.

The result of the balloting was very close, and came down in favor of Chris Mellen being the choice to be the next AVA President. Therefore the CVA club ballot will be cast in favor of Chris Mellen.

- Motion to donate item to AVA Convention silent auction (Attachment 9).
Motion made by Phillip Jones, President/CVA. Motion seconded by John Cappello, Secretary/CVA.
- Motion made to amend the original motion; that the amount donated not to exceed \$200 (Attachment 10).
Motion made by Holly Pelking, South Bay Striders. Motion seconded by Tom Smith of VVV.
- A second motion was made to amend the original motion; to add a \$100 donation to BIG GIVE (Attachment 11).
Motion made by Don Ratliff of Placer Pacers. Motion seconded by Wayne Halloway of Sierra Gold Striders.

All three motions; donate item to AVA convention silent auction; amount not to exceed \$200 and an added \$100 donation to BIG GIVE were passed unanimously.

24. Announcements

- Betsy McDevitt announced that she needs to hear from two more clubs to complete the North/South CA Event scheduling for 2016.

25. Adjournment

- Don Ratliff moved that the meeting be adjourned. Motion seconded by Bud Simmons of VVV.
- 2015 CVA Annual Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

/s/ John Cappello

John Cappello, Secretary, California Volkssport Association