

**TVA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
SIGN IN ROSTER  
1 August 2015**

	<b>CLUB</b>	<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>	
1	Brazos Valley Trailblazers (AVA-957)	Patricia Salzman		
2	Castroville Chamber of Commerce (AVA-939)	Catherine Williams Secretary/POC		
3	City of McAllen Parks/Recreation Department (AVA-350)	Richard Krauss		
4	Colorado River Walkers (AVA-77 / TEX-24)	Carol Obianwu	Carol Obianwu	1
5	Dallas Trekkers (AVA-34 / TEX-11)	Deborah Carter	Deborah Carter	2
6	East Texas Trekkers (AVA-863 / TEX-99)	Helen Hull	Helen Hull	3
7	Hill Country Volkssportverein (AVA-23 / TEX-9)	John Bohnert	John Bohnert	4
8	Hood County Hummers (AVA-718 / TEX-83)	Bruce Bartlett		
9	Houston Happy Hikers (AVA-15 / TEX-6)	Catherine Kellner	Bill Hamilton	5
10	Kerrville Trailblazers (AVA-106 / TEX-29)	Patrick Powers	Robert Theis	6
11	Lone Star Walkers (AVA-944)	Heinz Johnson	Priscilla Johnson	7
12	Midland Walkabout (AVA-897 / TEX-103)	Susan Fine	Susan Fine	8
13	NB Marsch-und Wandergruppe AVA-036 / TEX-12)	Marlin Brendsel		
14	Plano Walking Club (AVA-124 / TEX-32)	Maggie Cole	Maggie Cole	9
15	Randolph Roadrunners (AVA-44 / TEX-14)	Ellen Ott	Ellen Ott	10
16	Rockport City Trailways (AVA-966)	Tom Staley		
17	San Angelo Volkswalkers (AVA-933)	Brownie Roberts		
18	San Marcos River Walkers (AVA-411 / TEX- 58)	Barbara Piersol	Barbara Piersol	11
19	Selma Pathfinders (AVA-88 / TEX-26)	Phyllis Eagan		

20	Sparkling City Strollers (AVA-179 / TEX-37)	Myra Verneuil		
21	Star Trekkers of Irving (AVA-681 / TEX-82)	Gary Silkworth	Gary Silkworth	12
22	Tarrant County Walkers (AVA-19 / TEX-8)	Bill Wigton	Susan Fine	13
23	Texas County Walkers, Inc (AVA-955)	Helen Bateman	Helen Bateman	14
24	Texas Wanderers, (AVA-6 / TEX-3)	Gerald Kamicka Secretary/POC	Gerald Kamicka	15
25	Volkssportverein Friedrichsburg (AVA-1 / TEX-1)	Bill Hamilton	Bill Hamilton	16
26	West Texas Trail Walkers (AVA-60 / TX-19)	Linda Fields		
27	Whatever of Texas Sporting Club (AVA-967)	Clay Baulch	Clay Baulch	17

**TVA Meeting Minutes  
1 August 2015**

**TVA General Membership Meeting  
South Irving Library – Irving, Texas**

**I. Call to order – TVA President**

- The meeting was called to order at 1:05pm by President Heinz Johnson.

**II. Determination of quorum present – Secretary Susan Fine**

- 17 clubs out of 27 clubs were represented. One club is not in good standing. A quorum was met.

**III. Introductions/Opening Comments – TVA President Heinz Johnson**

- Introductions of the TVA Officers.
- Introductions of credentialed club president's/representatives.

**IV: Thanks and recognition were given to the “Hotter Than Hell” weekend leadership:**

Helen Hull, TVA Weekend Chair

Meeting Site: Gary Silkworth & Gary Whitford – Star Trekkers of Irving

Traditional Walk: Gary & Heidi Silkworth and Gary & Donna Whitford – Star Trekkers of Irving

Featured YRE – Fort Worth: Bill Wigton – Tarrant County Walkers

Featured YRE – Arbor Hills: Maggie Cole – Plano Walking Club

Featured YRE – Cedar Ridge: Helen Hull – Dallas Trekkers

Picnic: Maggie Cole – Plano Walking Club

Workshop: David Sheppard – Dallas Trekkers

**V. Approval of General Membership Meeting Minutes, 7 February 2015**

Bill Hamilton made motion to approve minutes; Ellen Ott second. Motion carried unanimously.

**VI. Reports**

**A. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Helen Hull**

Helen represented the TVA at the 19<sup>th</sup> AVA Biennial Convention in Salem, Oregon, 15-19 June 2015.

- Several people were recognized including Ellen Ott for being elected to the AVA Hall of Fame, Joanne Forinash for receiving the President's Award and William J. Radigan, Jr., for being honored posthumously with the AVA Distinguished Achievement Award.
- Dennis Michel was re-elected AVA President (this was the only contested election). Other officers elected: Holly Pelking-Vice President; Sam Korff-Secretary; Lawrence Lehman-Treasurer.
- Several AVA Bylaws changes were made. One that did not get approval is for Bylaw changes to be made by a 2/3 vote. It will remain a majority vote.
- There were a number of Texas clubs that donated to the silent auction.
- There were two clubs making presentations to host the 20<sup>th</sup> AVA Biennial Convention in 2017 in Billings, Montana and Albany, New York. Billings, Montana won the next convention.
- One workshop Helen attended was hosted by Walking Adventures and focused on the fact that different cultures are perceived in different ways. Attendees learned that travel can help break down stereotypes.
- Another workshop was hosted by the California Volkssport Association regarding online registrations. There is still a great deal of work to do, but the online registrations will be great for remote year rounds. At this time a download will show date registered, location, stamp, etc. Payment can be made by PayPal.

## **B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – John Bohnert**

- One “Texas in 10” patch has been sold, and 2 petals
- Zero “20 in Texas” patches have been sold, and 14 petals
- Patches from 1983 to 2015 are available for “Texas in 10”
- Patches from 1992 to 2015 are available for “20 in Texas”
- Cost is \$2 for petals, and \$4 for patches
- John asked to let him know the names of any volkssporters who have died in 2015, so they can be honored at the TVA Memorial Walk on 31 December.
- TVA pins are available

## **C. Treasurer – Pat Gunter**

- Total income for 2014-2015: \$1,970.15. Including \$1,622.84 in checking account = \$3,592.97 income
- Total Expenses for 2014-2015: \$2,209.49
- Total in Checking Account at end of FY 2014-2014: \$1,383.48
- Net income was -\$239.36. It was budgeted to lose \$400, so better than originally thought.
- Total Assets: \$8,424.12
- Income and expenses for Brady and San Saba walks on 7 March: net income of \$143.53. Gerald Kamicka moved to approve the Treasurer’s report. Ellen Ott seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## **D. Webmaster – Gary Whitford**

- Gary could not attend the meeting and his Webmasters Report was attached to the Agenda
- Gary is switching the website to Joomla, a content management system.
- He will use the same hosting company and the price will not change.

## **VII. Special Reports**

### **A. Marketing the TVA – Ellen Ott, Chairperson**

- 43 Walk Texas books have been sold, with 6 finished
- 74 Texas Historical Landmarks books have been sold, with 26 finished
- 80 Old Spanish Trail books have been sold, with 23 finished
- Ellen reported that over \$9,000 was raised at the AVA Convention silent auction
- Ellen reported that quite a few Old Spanish Trail books were sold to non-Texans.
- Joanne Forinash reported that Las Cruces YRE is back (as is the club) so it will be easier for people to do the Old Spanish Trail. She also reported that Las Cruces will have 8-10 year rounds in 2016.

### **B. 2015 TVA Audit and Finance Committee – Tina Bohnert, Chairperson**

- No deficiencies were found, and the committee recommended a clean audit.
- It was suggested that the compilation report be included with the treasurer’s report.

## **VIII. Special Southwest Region Recognition Awards – Past Director, Southwest Region, Joanne Forinash**

- Because there were no Regional meetings scheduled at the 19<sup>th</sup> AVA Biennial Convention, the TVA President asked Joanne to publicly present the awards to Texas volkssporters at this meeting:  
Meritorious Service Awards, Certificates of Service, and Certificates of Appreciation were presented to several Texas volkssporters.
- Heinz presented Joanne with a plaque for her exemplary service to Texas Volkssport Clubs during her term of office as the Director, Southwest Region, 2013 - 2015.

## **IX. National Update – Director, Southwest Region, Susan Medlin**

- Susan presented the Star Trekkers of Irving and Gary Silkworth a certificate for their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a chartered AVA club.
- Susan is creating a Southwest Region Director's website that will include information from NEC meetings, and more.
- Susan asked that all TVA clubs to send her their traditional walks, group walks or membership meeting dates for 2016 so she can plan to attend some of these.
- The NEC is meeting in mid-August followed by the Strategic Planning Meeting. Susan Ives will represent the Southwest Region. Her email is [suives@texas.net](mailto:suives@texas.net). Send her ideas or best practices.
- The electronic Walk Box will be discussed at the forthcoming NEC Meeting. It is best for remote Year Round Events (YREs), or to help clubs that lose stamps or Walk Boxes.
- NEC will discuss per-participant sanctioning for clubs that are isolated and will have a hard time getting people to Traditional Walks. The "per participant Sanctioning" is \$1 + \$1.25 for each participant. The sanctioning fee would not need to be paid.

## **X. President's Report – Heinz Johnson**

- There are 27 clubs in TVA, one is not in good standing, and one is going inactive shortly. The YREs for the latter will be picked up by other clubs.
- Thanks to the TVA Bylaws Committee for their hard work: Bill Hamilton, Carlen Forinash and Bill Wigton. Semi-annual meetings are now March and August. Budget approval will be in March and elections in August. Founders Day walk will be second Saturday in June except in any year that conflicts with the AVA Biennial Convention.
- The Memorial Walk and Midnight Walk continue to be on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. This year it will be held in Fredericksburg again with a rental cost of \$125 for St. Joseph's Halle. Also, the TVA has invested \$150 with the St. Joseph's Society as a "rolling deposit" and this gives the TVA priority for rental of St Joseph's Halle on 31 December and 1 January every year.
- The hands-on workshop called "Plotting, Capturing, and Pasting it to 'em!" was successful today, and the President thanked David Sheppard and Deborah Carter for conducting the workshop. It was very successful and the President plans to sponsor it again at our next TVA meeting in March of 2016. Also, it was suggested to have a Trailmaster Training Workshop as well sometime.

## **XI. Old Business**

- The San Angelo Volkswalkers were contacted about hosting the March 2016 TVA Membership Meeting and they declined because of their limited membership and expertise.
- Heinz was contacted by McAllen Convention & Visitors Bureau to hold a future TVA Membership Meeting in McAllen, Texas. After discussion and the inability to hold a meeting in San Angelo, Ellen Ott moved to have the 5 March 2016 meeting held in McAllen. Helen Hull second. 15 voted Yes, 1 voted No. Motion carried. Heinz will immediately get the ball rolling by contacting the POC for the local volkssport club sponsored by the City of McAllen Parks & Recreation Department, AVA-350 and discuss a meeting site and support requirements.

## **XII. New Business**

### **A. World Walk Day 2016**

- Henry Rosales, AVA President, asked if TVA would be interested in hosting the annual World Walk Day event for AVA. The actual date is 8 May, so the Saturday before or after 8 May is approved.
- It was discussed that all clubs should do a walk, but not one sponsored by the TVA.

- Gerald Kamicka moved that TVA not sponsor a World Walk Day special walk. Deborah Carter second. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **B. Celebrating 40 Years of Volkssporting in the United States – June 2016**

- The first volksmarch in the U.S. was held on 12–13 June 1976 at Fredericksburg, Texas as a part of the celebration of the American Bicentennial.
- The new TVA Founders Day event will be held on the second Saturday in June next year and it is expected to be a commemorative walk (and maybe other events) in Fredericksburg . Also, there is a strong possibility that the AVA National Executive Council will hold its quarterly meeting at Fredericksburg and be a part of the celebration
- The NEC will encourage all clubs in AVA to sponsor a walk, but Texas would be the “official” walk.
- A TVA special committee was formed to recommend what should be done. Clay Baulch, Joanne Forinash, Ellen Ott, Bill Hamilton, and Helen Hull volunteered to be on the committee The TVA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President also is on the committee because events are a part of his duties. Susan Medlin, Director, Southwest Region, will be an ex-officio member of the committee.
- The committee will make their first report by 1 October.
- Susan Medlin will ask the NEC what they expect the TVAs role to be in the 40 Years of Volkssporting in the United States celebration.

#### **C. El Camino Real de Los Tejas**

- Susan Medlin presented a new TVA Special Program to benefit the TVA called El Camino Real Mission Trail. It is part of the El Camino Real de los Tejas, which was a national historic trail.
- Participants complete one walk, Traditional or YRE, in each of 15 eligible locations between Natchitoches, LA to the Rio Grande.
- This will be in conjunction with the 100 anniversary of National Parks.
- Ellen Ott made a motion that TVA sponsor the El Camino Real Mission Trail as a new Special Program. Clay Baulch second. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **D. Texas Hill Country Challenge Special Program**

- Susan Medlin presented a program hosted by Randolph Roadrunners to explore the geographically diverse 19-county area of South Texas. This is planned to be a club Special Program.
- Walkers must complete one walk, traditional or YRE, in each of 15 locations.
- This will start 1 January 2016.

#### **E. International Marching League (IML) in San Antonio in 2018**

- Susan Medlin is investigating that a San Antonio club may host an IML event.
- IML events must include at least one marathon.
- Timing would be in February 2018. More information to follow.

#### **F. August 2016 TVA Membership Meeting**

- Helen Hull, President of the East Texas Trekkers, is exploring potential locations for the August 2016 meeting to include San Jacinto and Trinity Counties, which are north of Houston, south of Dallas and east of Interstate 75. The meeting site will be selected at our meeting at McAllen on 5 March 2016 and the President plans to canvas all TVA clubs for any recommendations/bids.

#### **G. 2015 TVA Nomination Committee and Election of New Officers**

- A slate of officers was not submitted by the committee.
- Nominations were taken from the floor.

- Gerald Kamicka nominated Kathy Schwencke from San Antonio as Treasurer. She agreed and was introduced earlier. Ellen Ott second. Heinz asked if there are other nominations. After a minute, Helen Hull made a motion to close nominations, Gary Silkworth second. Motion carried unanimously. Clay Baulch made a motion that the vote be by acclimation, Gerald Kamicka second. Motion carried unanimously.
- Priscilla Johnson made a motion to elect Brian Fisher from Kerrville as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. Helen Hull second. Heinz asked if there are more nominations. After a minute, Bill Hamilton made a motion to close nominations and vote for Brian by acclimation. Ellen Ott second. Motion carried unanimously.

### **XIII. Miscellaneous Business**

- Heinz presented a plaque as a token of appreciation to both Helen Hull and Patricia Gunter, outgoing officers, for their outstanding service 2013-2015.
- Clay Baulch announced that Whatever of Texas Sporting Club has been part of the pilot program for bike events. They have six bike events. Next one is 29 August at Walnut Creek in Austin. Other clubs should try the bike program.
- Gerald Kamicka announced that the Fort Sam Houston YRE will not be returning due to the difficulty of getting on-base, unless you have a DOD or military ID. Susan Medlin said she will walk with anyone wanting to do the YRE before the end of year, as she has a DOD ID.
- Gerald Kamicka said that Texas Wanderers have agreed to host the Universal City YRE in 2016, in place of the AVA Headquarters.

### **XIV. Final Announcements Regarding “Hotter Than Hell” Weekend**

- Gary Silkworth passed out directions to the picnic in Plano, and said walkers can do the Arbor Hills Nature Preserve before or after eating
- Dallas Walkers are hosting the Cedar Ridge Preserve Sunday morning at 7:00am.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57pm.

Respectfully Submitted

//Signed//  
Susan Fine  
Secretary  
Texas Volkssport Association