

# **TEXAS VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION**

## **TVA General Membership Meeting Minutes “Gathering of the Members” 3 March 2018**

**Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College  
Auditorium, Room 105, Building M  
205 Wildcat Dr.  
Del Rio, TX 78840-8402**

### **1. Call to order: TVA President, Heinz Johnson**

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 pm by President, Heinz Johnson.

### **2. Determination of Quorum Present: TVA Secretary, Mary Zeitler**

Seventeen of twenty-five clubs were represented. The requirement for a quorum was met.

### **3. Introductions/Opening Comments: TVA President, Heinz Johnson**

The following were introduced:

- a. AVA Executive Director, Henry Rosales.
- b. Southwest Regional Director, Susan Medlin.
- c. TVA officers. The treasurer was absent due to a death in the family
- d. Credentialed club presidents/proxies.

### **4. 2017 TVA Memorial Recognitions**

The members of TVA who passed away during 2017 were as follows:

- a. Leona Clark, (not included in the 2016 listing.) DOB 8/11/1934. DOD 10/28/2016.
- b. Harry Eversole, DOB 7/31/1952, DOD 9/4/ 2017.
- c. Jack Milburn DOB 11/13/1930. DOD 10/31/2017.
- d. Marlin D. Brendsel. DOB 5/17/1949. DOD 11/17/2017.
- e. Rosemary Syfan DOB 4/20/1937 DOD 11/24/2017.

### **5. Approval of TVA General Membership Meeting Minutes:**

TVA meeting minutes of 8/8/2017 were previously sent to each club president. A motion was made by Gerald Kamicka to approve the meeting minutes as written. Ellen Ott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **6. TVA Weekend ...ON THE BORDER.” LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION**

President, Heinz Johnson recognized Dr. Clay Baulch, President of the Whatever of Texas Sporting Club, AVA-967 for the outstanding job he and his club members did in stepping forth at the last minute to host the meeting and attendant walks.

### **7. Special Southwest Regional Recognitions**

Susan Medlin, Director, Southwest Region, thanked all the clubs and many volunteers who were instrumental in making the Texas Trail Roundup a success this year. She also thanked all who participated in the 3 day walk events held 2/23-25/2018 in San Antonio. This was the

second of three long distance walk events to qualify for acceptance in the IML. Next year, the events will be graded for official recognition as an IML provider.

### **8. Officers Reports:**

a. First Vice President, Brian Fisher.

i. The Memorial and Midnight walks had some challenging weather and a glitch with getting the venue opened. However, a total of 70 of walkers participated in the Memorial walk and a total of 36 walkers participated in the Midnight walk. The party went very well the new location seemed to suit TVA's needs. Brian thanked the volunteers who stepped up to fill the job of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Roylene for table decorations, Pat for drinks, Susan for food, and all the others who pitched in to make a festive event. If Saint Joseph's Hall location, is no longer affordable, this new venue (Pioneer Museum) will be good.

Heinz Johnson presented a Participation History of the above walks from 2005 to the present. Participation has been slowly declining. The merits of these walks and the location were discussed. There was no action taken.

ii. In February, 2015, the TVA Bylaws were changed. The Reunion walk was eliminated and a Founder's Day walk was instituted. It is to be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of June on even years. Anyone wishing to help with this event, please contact Heinz Johnson or Brian Fisher and you will be put on the volunteer list.

b. Treasurer. In the absence of Kathy Schwencke, treasurer, Susan , RD, gave the report. Susan reviewed and explained the budget status for six months ending 12/31/2017.

- i. Total revenue was \$486.00.
- ii. Total expenses were \$542.00.
- iii. Net revenue was \$-56.00
- iv. Total in checking account was \$1,982.31
- v. Total in Money Market fund was \$7,087.51
- vi. Total in savings Account was \$5.00
- vii. Total funds as of 12/31/2017 were \$9,074.82.

Revenue and expenses for the Memorial and Midnight walks were -27.50 because of low attendance due to cold temperatures. The \$250.00 deposit for the venue was returned and deposited.

A motion was made by Gerald Kamicka to approve the budget. The motion was seconded by Helen Hull. The motion passed unanimously.

A discussion took place related to the \$7,087.51 in the Money Market fund. Since this a goodly amount, it could be used to support clubs. Several suggestions were made such free start cards, and help to struggling clubs. .

i. Gerald Kamicka proposed that \$700.00 be allocated for the TVA president to attend the bi-annual AVA Convention. John Bohnert seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ii. John Bohnert proposed that \$100.00 be allocated for a booth at the AVA Convention. John Ives seconded the motion. The motion passed with 15 for and 2 against the proposal.

### **9. Webmasters Report: David Sheppard, TVA Webmaster**

David reported that he has updated the website pages and generally tried to make them more interesting. Action taken to this end included:

- a. Home page was re-written as brief introduction and purpose of the site.
- b. Events page was re-written and includes:
  - i. TVA Events – links to events flyer coinciding with next upcoming biannual business meeting. The annual Midnight and Memorial walks will be added.
  - ii. Texas Club events – links to AVA website list of Texas clubs.
  - iii. Events in other states – links to AVA search pages “locate clubs”, search by city/state” and Interactive map search.
  - iv. Plan to add 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph describing and linking to AVA Convention website.
- d. TVA Clubs page re-written
  - i. lists each club name by City where located.
  - ii. Club name links to AVA events list for that club.
  - iii. Removed Club contact information as too burdensome to maintain and club name links to current information on AVA anyway.
- e. Officers page – no changes made.
- f. Meetings page – per 8/8/2017 meeting, membership decided to keep online accessibility of meeting minutes and agendas for only 3 years.
  - i. Have removed older documents and updated links.
  - ii. References “contact TVA Secretary for older documents.”
- g. Texas Award Programs – plan to re-write page.
  - i. Renamed named to “Incentive Awards.”
  - ii. AVA Programs – brief description and photos of distance and event books, special programs, and plan to add links to AVA for details.
  - iii. TVA programs – plan to add dropdown menu descriptions of current programs and photos of patches for Texas Hill Country, El Camino Real, Historic Texas Landmarks, and Walk Texas.
  - iv. TVA Petals and Patches – now a dropdown menu – no changes.
  - v. Club programs – plan to add brief description of types of events awards, e.g., t-shirts, pins, patches, etc.
- h. For consideration.
  - i. Under Events, add multi-day Texas events such as IML (suggested by Ellen Ott)
  - ii. Add *History of Volkssporting in the U.S.A 1976-1989* by Agne-Traub, Ph.D, CHES, AVA Historian (© 1991, American Volkssport Association, Inc.).
  - iii. Add IVV Book Guide (© American Volkssport Association, Inc.).
  - iv. Add AVA “New Walkers Program Packet” order form.
  - v. FAQ – rewrite and add Frequently Asked Question page

### **10. TVA Special Programs Reports:**

- a. **El Camino Real de Los Tejas, Susan Medlin, Chair**

The El Camino Real de Los Tejas Challenge is sponsored by the TVA. Seven clubs in Texas have one or more YRE in this program, not including the 5 Wild Card Events. Forty-three books have been sold as of 3/3/2018 with 14 completed. The project cost \$276.63. Current sales are \$400.00 for a profit of \$153.37. Special thanks to Brian Fisher, of Guadalupe Signs, who designed the beautiful patch for both this and the Texas Hill Country Challenge Program and also to the supporters of the program.

**b. Historical Markers, Ellen Ott, Chair**

books sold	82 (2018)	80 (8/2017)	78 (3/2017)
books completed	42 (2018)	37 (8/2017)	35 (3/2017)

**c. Walk Texas, Ellen Ott, Chair**

books sold	49 (2018)	49 (8/2017)	47 (3/2017)
Books completed	14 (2018)	14 (8/2017)	13 (3/2017)

**11. Randolph Roadrunners Special Program Report: Texas Hill Country Challenge, Susan Medlin, Chair**

The Texas Hill Country Challenge is sponsored by the Randolph Roadrunners. Eleven clubs in Texas have one or more YRE's in this program. Fifty-one books have been sold as of 3/3/2018, with 8 completed. The project cost \$214.63. The current sales are \$510.00 for a profit of \$295.37. Thank you for your support of this program.

**12. Texas Awards Program: Petals and Patches. Joanne Forinash, Chair.**

Joanne Forinash was unable to attend the meeting due a death in the family. She submitted a detailed report showing total deposits of \$60.00 from 8/5/2017 – 3/2/2018 from the Petals and Patches program and an inventory of 1,632 items. The future of this program will be discussed at the 8/2018 meeting.

**13. It's Been Three Years ... Highlights, Henry Rosales, Executive Director, American Volkssport Association**

Henry Rosales stated he was pleased to attend the TVA meeting as he gets good feed back from meetings to improve the operations of the AVA. Many changes and improvements took place in the last 3 years including:

- a. developing and initiating a strategic plan.
- b. bringing more exposure nationally and internationally through a bid to join the IML, putting in a bid to host the Olympiad, implementation of the Appalachian Trail Special Program and the 401K Challenge.
- c. Streamlining and integrating in-house operations, implementing the use of Quick Books, and changing the system for stamps used at walks.
- d. increasing income streams via The Big Give, working to attract corporate sponsors, seeking grants, and ways to increase participation in local clubs.
- e. Improving governance by adding deputy directors so there is no gap when there is a change in Regional Directors.
- f. setting up committees to address the various aspects of the organization such a club development, national and international activities.
- g. hiring of outside firms to address issues needing expertise outside of in-house capabilities.

h. implementing a marketing plan including use of social media, improving/updating the AVA web-site, bi-monthly newspaper (The American Wanderer), the monthly newsletter (Check Point).

Other issues addressed were questions from the attendees, such as electronic billing and the discontinuance of more than one bill per month, current corporate sponsorship, and the need to have the fiscal year the same as the calendar year

#### **14. National Update, Director, Southwest Region, Susan Medlin**

##### **National Executive Committee: January 19-20, 2018**

a. The NEC voted to establish Reserve Funding Subcategories in the financial records as follows:

- i. \$50,000 to provide start-up funding for international volkssporting events in the USA; such as the Olympiads, IVV Congress, and IML events.
- ii. 75,000 for startup funding for the AVA Biennial Conventions.
- iii. \$2000,000 for actions to accomplish strategic plan initiatives.
- iv. \$300,00 for major information technology improvements.

b. AVA is planning a national marketing effort at the 2-3 June 2018 Crazy Horse event. If that is too far to travel, consider participating in the event in Ruidoso, NM, 6/1-3/18. A flyer is available.

c. A line will be entered in the AVA Budget for Club Support and Development to accessible to RD's and the Finance Committee Chair.

d. The Policy Handbook limit on reimbursable expenses for RDs has been raised from \$400 per year to \$1,000 per year. Deputy costs could be covered with prior approval by the RD.

e. Annual Club dues were restored to \$50 per club per year effective immediately. The 3 year attempt to encourage clubs to hold Traditional Events failed, as the number of clubs not holding events remained high (33 the first year, 36 the second year, and 33 the third year) Eleven clubs deactivated over the three year period. Also, considering the insurance costs alone, each club cost the AVA \$166 in 2017. The AVA President directed the Treasurer to conduct a study to potentially increase club dues, based on the President's and Treasurer's future budget guidance.

f. Should AVA create a category of walks for special needs? This will be discussed at a future NEC Monthly Information Meetings, which are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday. 2019 will introduce two new Special Programs: Carousels Across America and Little Free Libraries. We will be down to 21 Special Program in 2019 and 10 Special Programs in 2020.

##### **Partnering with a City: World Heritage Festival**

AVA partnered with the City of San Antonio for their annual World Heritage Festival in September, 2017. The Selma Pathfinders had the lead in running the walk portion of the five day event. The walking event had 201 walkers in 2017. City officials were pleased and are partnering with them again in 2018. It is hoped that everyone will join in the walk event 9/8/18.

##### **International Marching League (IML) in San Antonio**

a. The Texas Trail Roundup Volkssport Club developed a second IML event in the United States in San Antonio. The clubs in the greater San Antonio area manned many checkpoints over the 3 day event. The first event was held 2/24-26/2017. The second event was 2/23-25/18. The 10km routed on Friday was improved, and there was an added optional evening at

the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo. Tickets were \$27. On Saturday, the 22km walkers were bused to Mission Espada and walked back to the hotel/start point. Despite the flu season and the rain/flooding, there were 112 walkers on Friday, 152 walkers on Saturday (13 Marathoners!) and 136 walkers on Sunday. Thanks to all who volunteered for this event and all who participated in it.

**b.** An official application to join the IML was submitted in 12/2017. Susan and her husband will travel to Boras, Sweden to present the San Antonio event to the IML General Meeting.

**c.** 2019 will be the third year of events. Two MIL inspectors will attend and evaluate the walk events. Anyone who would like to work on this project, please contact Susan at [sueammed@aol.com](mailto:sueammed@aol.com).

### **A New Special Program: Walking the Parishes of Louisiana**

**a.** Helen Hull has been developing walks in Texas Counties for several years. She thanked and presented awards to clubs and individuals who helped her in establishing walks in a number of counties.

**b.** Helen has branched out to Louisiana. She established YREs in six northwest Louisiana parishes last year and held 3 day event over the Martin Luther King's Day weekend . This year, she developed walks in 6 additional parishes and will again hold a 3 day event over the MLK weekend. Each year she will add six more parishes. There is a book available for \$10 to keep track of the parishes walked. The cost is \$10. On completion you will receive a patch.

### **Adding National and Regional Events**

**a.** The Appalachian Trail Special Program began on 1/1/2018. One hundred thirty-six books have been sold as of 3/2/2018, with another 30 books on consignment to POCs on the East coast. Books are available today for those interested in participating in the program. The AVA Convention in Albany in 2019 will be an excellent opportunity to do Appalachian Trail walks and to work on your State and Capital books.

**b.** Wisconsin's Ice Age Trail Special Program hopes to start their seasonal YREs on 4/1/2018, assuming the snow has melted.

**c.** The Pacific Crest Trail Special Program turned out to be a more difficult challenge. While some segments opened in 2017, the official launch date slipped to TBD. The West Coast wildfires burned a lot of the Pacific Crest Trail and there is no information on when they may reopen.

**d.** The Big Give is scheduled for March, 2018. The goal is \$70,000. This is based on 450 individual donors and 100 club donors. Donations can be made online through the Big Give from 3/15-22/2018. Donations can also be mailed to the AVA National Office from now until 4/30/2018. The minimum donation is \$5.

### **15. President's Time. TVA President, Heinz Johnson**

**a.** AVA 79, Sparkling City Strollers, have dropped out. TVA has helped this club in the past by holding the TVA Meeting there three years ago as well as support from other clubs, but to no avail. The YREs sponsored by the Sparkling City Strollers will be picked up by the Selma Pathfinders.

**b.** A few of the original AVA Distance Books are on hand and available for sale for \$3.

## **16. Old Business**

### **a. Meeting Host: McAllen Volkssport Club, AVA 350.**

Great effort was made to again have the TVA meeting in McAllen hosted by McAllen Volkssport Club, AVA-350. Del Zander, the previous president, moved to Arizona, and his replacement, Denny Meline, was not able to arrange for a meeting room and other amenities needed to host the meeting.

### **b. TVA Special Program: Port Cities of Texas.**

Ellen Ott reported that TVA Special Program, Port Cities of Texas, has been put on hold until areas involved recover from Hurricane Harvey.

### **c. IML Update: John Ives.**

John Ives thanked the many volunteers who made the Texas Trail Roundup a success this year. Next year will be the third year for the event. Many volunteers will again be needed.

### **d. Future TAV Memorial Walk and TVA Midnight Walk Programs.**

Heinz Johnson presented the Participation History for the Memorial Walk and Midnight Walk. This showed declining participation resulting in insufficient participants to cover costs this year.

### **e. Founder's Day II.**

Information related to the date and other information for the Founder's Day II in Fredericksburg is in process. A flyer will be coming out soon. Volunteers are needed to staff the walk.

## **17. New Business:**

### **a. TVA Facebook Page**

Susan Fine reported that she is not able to keep the TVA Face Book page up to date and needs assistance. Please contact Susan if you expertise in this area would like to help.

### **b. Recommendations for TVA Bylaws Revisions: John Bohnert**

John Bohnert made the following proposals for bylaws changes.

i. Discontinue the Midnight walk and continue the Memorial walk. There is little participation in the Midnight Walk for various reasons. The Memorial Walk should continue as a way to honor those who have passed away during the year.

ii. Have One TVA g per year in August.

The above recommendation will be discussed at the August meeting with action taken at that time.

### **c. Appointment of TVA Audit and Finance Committee.**

Tina Bonhert described the purpose and functioning of the audit committee. After a call for volunteers, the following were appointed: Tina Bonhert, Chair and member Vorsha Sherfield. A second member will be recruited by Tina Bonhert.

### **d. Appointment of TVA Even-Year Nominating Committee for August elections.**

Offices to be elected are:

i. TVA President

ii. TVA Secretary

iii. TVA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (hold-over from 2017)

There was no response for volunteers for the above positions. A discussion took about who is eligible to fill the positions, (voting members of TVA or general membership), and dissolution of TVA. Heinz read the section in the by-laws relative to this issue. It was decided that each club president would seek volunteers from their respective members and report back to Heinz. Heinz will send out a memo to each president about this issue.

### **e. Selection of meeting site for TVA General Membership Meeting on 8/4/2018.**

- i. A bid from the floor met with no response.
- ii. A suggestion was made to have the meeting in San Angelo with Selma Pathfinders and Randolph Road Runners organizing all aspects of the meeting. A motion was made by Ellen Ott to have the August TVA meeting in San Angelo. The motion was seconded by Gerald Kamicka. The motion passed unanimously. Should the San Angelo not work out, Debra Carter suggested Coleman as a back-up site with the same team organizing it with help from the Texas County Walkers.

### **18. Miscellaneous Business**

There was no miscellaneous business.

### **19. Final Announcements**

Clay Baulch thanked all who participated in the walk events and meeting. He announced that the final event of the weekend would be at Kickapoo Cavers State Park the next day on Sunday.

### **20. Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zeitler  
Secretary, TVA



### **13. President's Time: Heinz Johnson**

**a. Texas Volkssport Clubs:** Heinz Johnson described events that led up to the closure of the Castroville Chamber of Commerce (AVA-939) club. The club was chartered on 1/28/2008 and ceased operation on 6/30/2017. Inactivation date is pending .There are now a total of 26 clubs in the TVA. The walks sponsored by Castroville will be picked up by the Selma Pathfinders including Y1659.

#### **b. Volkssport YREs: Renewals/New/Non-renewals**

i. Clubs planning to not renew any of their YREs should publish a flyer announcing a last chance to walk them before closure. A number of seasonal and YREs are being discontinued this year. Do not delete these walks in the ERS.

ii. The 2016 YRE window for new and renewals closes 8/31/2017 in order for them to be included in the 2018 Starting Point.

iii. Brook Hollow 2017 YRE Y1659 sponsored by Volkssportverein Friedrichsburg has reopened last month after a two month closure.

#### **c. AVA Due Dates:**

i. The update period for AVA for club officers is from 1/1 to 11/15 each year even if there are no changes. The last update for one club was 7/26/2016. Fourteen clubs have updated their information since 1/1/2107 and 12 clubs have until 11/15/2017 to update their information. Clubs with elections or changes later in the year are to notify AVA, as well as the TVA President, Heinz Johnson at [tvapresident@gvtc.com](mailto:tvapresident@gvtc.com). and the Southwest Regional Director.

ii. The Annual Financial Report is due 11/15.

iii. The IRS form 990 is due November 15.

iv. Clubs need to be aware of due dates required by the AVA. There are fees assessed if deadlines are not met for i & ii above.

#### **d. 2017 TVA Memorial Recognition Program**

A Memorial book is kept for display at the 12/30 walk event as a way to honor Volkssporters who died during the year. More complete information is needed. If at all possible, send in an obituary, picture, or any other information you may have about the individual. A submission form and reminder are being sent to all club presidents.

#### **e. YRE Expansion**

Heinz Johnson asked Helen Hull to describe new walks she is establishing in Louisiana. Helen explained that she has held walks in all the Texas counties east of I35 and is now branching out to Louisiana. She has printed a flyer describing YREs she is establishing in seven Parishes in the north central part of the State. A special Group Walk will be held over the MLK weekend.in that area.

### **14. Recognizing People for Their Contributions to Texas Volssporting: Susan Medlin, Director, Southwest Region.**

Susan Medlin recognized Texas Volkssporters that provided outstanding service to AVA, TVA, and their local clubs as follows.

#### **a. Distinguished Service**

- Helen Bateman
- Joanne Forinash

#### **b. Meritorious Service**

- Randy Baker

- Pat Gunter
- Donna Hall
- Helen Hull
- Linda McDonald
- Jan Parker
- Judy Perry
- Pat Roberts
- David Sheppard
- Rick White
- Gary Whitford

c. Commendable Service

- Bob Alton
- Susan Alton
- John Bohnert
- Tina Bohnert
- Leslie Bowen
- Martin Callahan
- Carol Castlebury
- Evelyn Cole
- Kathy Daly-Stratemann
- Diane Duesterhoef
- Brina Fisher
- Carlon Forinash
- Joanne Forinash
- Bill Hamilton
- Sam Harris
- Sandi Harris
- Pat Heller
- Hector Hernandez
- Helen Hull
- John Ives
- Susan Ives
- Heinz Johnson
- Priscilla Johnson
- Herb Laing
- Leon LeVan
- Suzanne Markgraf
- Stephanie Mentee-Knight
- Marilyn Nash
- Darlene Oner
- Ellen Ott
- Eileen Roberts
- Charles Rogers
- Henry Rosales

- Derrill Rothermich
- J. Robert Rountree
- Sharon Roy
- Samanta Sanchez
- Kathy Schwenke
- Mike Schwenke
- Greg Sells
- Daphne Simpson
- Jo Ann Slaven
- Siba Spencer
- Caryl Swan
- Theresa Swett
- Jim Tree
- Henriett Vargas
- Audrey Vertucci
- Mary Zeitler

In addition, members of various clubs acknowledged others who had made contributions to Volkssporting.

## **15. Old Business**

### **a. New Year's Eve Celebration Hospitality Team**

Heinz Johnson recognized all those on the Hospitality Team who made the New Years Celebration a memorable occasion. Thanks goes to Pricilla Johnson for table decorations, Susan Medlin and family for food, and Pat Roberts for beverages.

### **b. Late Dues**

It was thought that a suspense date had been established in the past regarding late dues. Heinz Johnson researched the issue. TVA Bylaws, Paragraph 3.3 state, in part, "an annual membership fee may be established by the Board, and shall be delinquent after 30 days following the Treasurer's notice that the annual membership fee is due." The due date is 7/31 Late fees are not addressed in the Bylaws. There is one club that has not paid dues for 2016 and 2017. The Board of Directors recommended a late fee of \$10 for each delinquent year. After discussion, a motion was made by Gerald Kamicka to establish a \$10.00 fee for each year of delinquent TVA dues. The motion was seconded by John Ives. The motion carried.

### **c. Funds for TVA President to attend 20<sup>th</sup> AVA Biennial Convntion.**

At the 3/4/2017 TVA Meeting, \$750.00 was allocated to Heinz Johnson to defray costs for attending the AVA Convention. He was unable to attend and gave his proxy to John Bohnert to act in his stead. John's club had reimbursed him for his expenses; therefore, no cost was incurred by TVA for AVA convention expenses.

### **d. Texas Awards Program.**

The Texas Awards Program, Petals and Patches, ceased as of 12/31/2016. No patches and petals were purchased for 2017. Ninety dollars of merchandise was sold during the past year with an inventory of \$1158.58 on hand. Joanne Forinash has order forms available for anyone wishing to make a purchase. She will promote sales at future walk events.

### **e. Future TVA Memorial Walks and TVA Midnight Walks**

After an extensive search for a new place for the Memorial Walk and Midnight Walk by David Roberts and Heinz Johnson, a new venue was secured at the Pioneer Museum Complex. Special thanks go to David Roberts for his time and extra efforts to find this location. The cost to use this facility is \$125 (same as last year at St. Joseph's Halle) with a \$250 refundable deposit.

The facility consists of a historical sanctuary (previously a First Methodist Church), a social hall in the rear of the building and the headquarters for the Gillespie County Historical Society. It is located at 512 W. San Antonio St. Both the sanctuary and the social hall are available for our use; however, it was decided that we would use only the social hall. The facility is located one block north of our previous venue, St. Joseph's Halle.

Parking will be on the street. There is no parking lot other than the one at adjacent St. Mary's Catholic Church which is restricted for the church.

We will have access to the social hall on the afternoon of 12/30 for set-up. Current walk routes can be adjusted to reflect the starting point. There is also an option to create a new walk route. The Pioneer Museum probably could be used in the future; however, the rental fee would increase.

A hospitality Team will be needed for the New Year's Eve Celebration (like last year) if there is no volunteer for the Second Vice President's position.

## **16. New Business**

### **a. Office of Second Vice President**

The office of Second Vice President has been vacant for the past year. In the interim, no volunteer has stepped forward to fill the position. Heinz Johnson asked for a volunteer to fill the position. No one responded. The position will continue to be vacant since a bylaws change would be needed to delete the position.

### **b. Founders Day II, June 9, 2018**

Founders Day is coming up next year. It was suggested to have one walk event and possibly one swim event. It is needed to generate Income for TVA. Although Founders Day I was held in Fredericksburg, it could be held somewhere else. Last year there were four events: two walks, one bike, and one swim.

It is believed that one of the same walk routes could again be used next year. David Roberts explained that he has searched high and low for new routes in the Fredericksburg area, but to no avail. Traffic has greatly increased in the smaller rural areas over the years much of which is due to the increase of wineries in the county. David believes that it is not safe to use rural roads for walk routes any more. This issue was discussed and will be brought up at the next meeting.

### **c. TVA Special Program: Port Cities of Texas**

Joanne Forinash is proposing the establishment of a new TVA Special Program: Port Cities of Texas. This program would primarily help clubs in cities along the Texas coast, some of which are struggling to survive due to lack of participation in walk events and YREs. It is thought a TVA Special Program would spark interest in the designated areas. The proposed criteria

would include a 15 walk requirement to complete the program and receive a special Patch. Ellen Ott volunteered to be the point of contact. After discussion, a Motion was made by Gerald Kamicka to have Ellen Ott do a feasibility study and present a proposal to establish a TVA Special Program- Port Cities of Texas. The motion was seconded by John Ives. There were 17 votes for the motion and two abstentions.

#### **17. Selection of next meeting site for TVA Membership Meeting Weekend, March 2-4, 2018**

No bids to host the 3/2-4/2018 meeting were received. Heinze Johnson suggested McAllen as a possibility. The meeting was held there in the past. The city was responsive to TVA requirements has a number of YREs in the area and very nice hotel facilities. Helen Hull advised that she could make arrangements for the meeting in Gladewater if a host club was not found. No decision was made regarding a host club and city for the meeting. A motion was made by Gerald Kamicka to investigate McAllen to serve as host for the next meeting; otherwise, Gladewater will be used. John Ives seconded the motion. There were 17 for and on against the motion. The motion carried

#### **18. Election of Officers: John Bohnert, Member, TVA Nominating Committee (Odd Year)**

John Bohnert presented the slate for nominees for First Vice President and Treasurer. The current officers, Brian Fisher, First Vice President, and Kathy Schwenke, Treasurer, both agreed to run for another term for their respective offices.. A call for nominees from the floor received no response. Gerald Kamika made a motion to close the nominations. Ellen Ott seconded the motion. Gerald Kamika made a motion to elect the nominees presented by the committee. John Ives seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

As a Second Vice President was not elected, a Holiday Committee was appointed to carry out the functions of this Office. Susan Medlin will be responsible for food, Pat Roberts will be responsible for beverages, and Raylene Roberts will be responsible for decorations.

#### **19 Miscellaneous Business**

There was no miscellaneous business.

#### **20 final Announcements:**

- a. The Saturday evening dinner at Bella Sera will begin at 5:30.
- b. Hotel breakfast on Sunday will begin at 6:00 am.
- c. The featured YRE for Sunday's walk will be YRE Y1365 Kerrville, Guadalupe River Trail Walk. It starts at Louis Hayes Park.

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Zeitler, Secretary  
Texas Volkssport Association

