

**American Volkssport Association
National Executive Council Meeting
March 1, 2008**

1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the National Executive Council was called to order by President Curt Myron at 8:00 a.m. at the Harrington Hotel, Washington, D.C.
2. **Introductions:**
 - a. **National Executive Council Members Present:** Curt Myron (President), John Ferguson (Vice President), Pat Lucero (Secretary), Edward Tod (Treasurer), Skip Coburn (Atlantic RD), Ginny Drumm (Mid-America RD), Bonnie Johnson (North Central RD), Phil Hait (Northeast RD), Becky Forsythe (Northwest RD), Wayne Holloway (Pacific RD), Mike Nelson (Rocky Mountain RD), Glen Conyers (South Central RD), Marvin Stokes (Southeast RD), Heinz Johnson (Southwest RD), Jacklyn Wilson (AVA Executive Director).
 - b. **Guests Signed In** (some arrived later): Doris Conyers (Dogwood Trailblazers), Tim Miner (U.S. Freedom Walk Festival Club), Susan Pinneke (Greater Des Moines Volkssport Assn., 2011 AVA Convention Chairman,), Jim Hathaway (Seneca Valley Sugarloafer), Bob Wright (Loudoun Walking and Volkssport Club, Potomac River Volksmarching Club), Susan Osborn (Baltimore Walking Club), Nancy Stenger (All American Walking Club), Carol Tod (St. Louis Stuttgart), Joan Lampart (Liberty Bell Wanderers), Bob Schmick (Maryland Volkssport Association President, Annapolis Amblers)

All officers are present. We do have a quorum.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** President, Curt Myron, added the Report of Advisory Commission to Old Business. He also added Section 13 –Officer Comments and renumbered Adjournment to Section 14. There will be two Audience Comments sections. **Marvin Stokes moved to approve the Agenda as revised. Ed Tod seconded. Motion carried.**
4. **Consent Agenda:**
 - a. **Approval of Minutes** - NEC Meeting, December 1, 2007. **John Ferguson moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ginny Drumm seconded. Motion carried.**
 - b. **Recognition of Donations** – On behalf of the AVA Curt thanked everyone for their donations. It is a significant number. Ken Wilson has continued his periodic donations of \$200 towards the purchase of a computer for the office. (Jackie Wilson commented the computer has been purchased.) **List attached.**
 - c. **Acceptance of New and Reactivated Clubs –**

	New	
06AVA-0937	Extreme Volkssport Adventures	01/2008
09AVA-0938	Ozark Hill Hikers	01/2008
11AVA-0939	Castroville Chamber of Commerce	01/2008
11AVA-0940	Rainbow Rovers	02/2008
	Reactivated	
	NONE	
	Inactive	
04AVA-0837	Crow River Crawlers	12/2007
06AVA-0558	Rivercity Strollers	01/2008

Skip Coburn moved to accept the New and Inactivated Clubs report. Becky Forsythe seconded. The motion passed.
 - d. **Declaration of Inactive Clubs** - Included in above report.
5. **Audience Comments:**

Joan Lampart in reference to Item 11e, Joan feels rather than burden the Executive Director we should hire a specialist.

Nancy Stenger inquired what is the new club in the Atlantic Region? She isn't aware of any.

Susan Pinneke – also in reference to Item 11e, feels that while she would welcome Jackie's input, she feels the extra travel to the committee meetings would put an unnecessary burden on Jackie.

Bob Schmick – Commented on the problems with the inadequate amount of food at the Meet and Greet function at the AVA Conventions, particularly the recent Convention in California. It casts a very negative light on the Convention.

6. Reports of Officers

a. **President** – Curt Myron

Curt reviewed some of the items in Robert's Rules of Order: Point of Order, Appeal, and Suspend the Rules.

- 1) "Appeal: The group as a whole, not the chair, is the final authority in judging whether the rules have been violated. If you disagree with a ruling by the chair, you may *Appeal* it to the group as a whole. Without waiting to be recognized, you stand and say, '*I appeal from the decision of the chair.*' An appeal requires a second. An appeal may generally be debated by the members, but unlike debate on other motions, each member may speak only once. The chair may speak in debate twice, the first time in preference over other members and the second time to close debate. However, the vote must be taken on the appeal without debate if the appeal:
 - a) related to indecorum or a transgression of the rules of speaking;
 - b) related to the priority of business; or
 - c) was made while the immediately pending question is undebatable."

The point is that if the chair or moderator of the meeting makes an error in the opinion of one of the other voting members, that member has the right to say "I appeal the ruling of the chair."

- 2) **Suspending the Rules.** It is not used very often. A subject cannot be discussed without having a motion and a second. That is correct as far as the rules go. There is an exception to this. The rules say: "there are times when you wish to do something forbidden by the rules. For example, you may want to allow a member to continue speaking when the allotted time has expired, or to permit consideration of a motion that would otherwise not be in order, or even to adopt a motion without debate or amendment."

In our case, we may want to discuss something without having a motion on the floor. The way to make that happen is a person moves to suspend the rules and states the purpose. Curt used the example that happened in the December meeting. A person states "*I want to suspend the rules for the purpose of discussing the payment of the IVV dues.*" Then you have a vote. It requires a two-thirds vote. If the motion passes the body can discuss the issue. When that discussion ends, the body is right back to being under the rules.

On to regular report:

1) **AVA Committees and Chairs.**

At our last meeting we had filled all Chair and Liaison positions with the exception of the ByLaws Committee. Even though the following are not regular committees, AVA still needs volunteers to act as project leaders to promote forming AVA clubs in schools, in military units and promoting a college level volkssporting course. There currently are volunteers working on schools in Arizona, Oregon and Texas.

Leonard Wojtysiak has agreed to chair the AVA ByLaws Committee. Secretary, Pat Lucero, is already the liaison to that committee.

Curt moved that we approve Leonard Wojtysiak as chair of the AVA ByLaws Committee. Motion seconded by Ginny Drumm. Motion passed.

2). **Focus on Growth.**

a) **Statistics.** Updated charts for measuring our progress in participation will be distributed at the June meeting. One chart shows sales of AVA New Walker Kits for the past fiscal year. That does not mean that many are in the hands of new walkers. It reflects the amount of kits sold to clubs or individuals. The majority sold were in the Northwest Region. Many are given to students as part of the college Volkssporting course. **See attached list.**

b) **How to Start a Club materials.** The CD with the *How To Start a Club* booklet was given to RDs to review. There have been no comments. **Glen Conyers moved to approve the booklet *How to Start a Club*. Marvin Stokes seconded. Motion passed.**

c) Project Leaders. This subject was mentioned earlier in Curt's report. Curt will act as coordinator for this function until someone else volunteers to take over this project.

3) **AVA Accomplishments.**

a). AVA Goals.

AARP and Cabot Creameries have been contacted.

AVA headquarters staff will be sponsoring a year round event. It will feature the AVA Executive Director's stamp. It will be started as a seasonal later this year and become a year-round event next year.

Curt took the opportunity while in Europe to meet with the Secretary General of TAFISA (Trim & Fitness International Sport for All Association). It is in 106 countries with well over 130 members. The members are an interesting combination of countries that are sponsors of sport for all. The primary group of members is countries with Olympic committees. The organization is very active in Central and South America and around the world. Curt feels AVA should consider becoming a member of TAFISA. The only current member from the US is the *President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sport*. The annual dues are \$330. Skip Coburn spoke in favor of joining TAFISA. John Ferguson said there have been monies donated to promote AVA.

4). **IVV Report**

a) Communications. AVA finally received a copy of the Minutes of the Congress of Delegates, July 12, 2007, in early November 2007. We did not receive an English translation until many weeks later. Curt thanked Martina Stokes for volunteering to translate the German version for AVA.

b) IVV Conference in Luxembourg. 17 countries were represented. The notice to attend was limited to European countries. IVV Presidium met in a "closed" meeting. The Italian federation FIASP has taken over producing the "World Report."

Curt was able to meet with the IVV Presidium. His main mission was to gather information. He did convey his concerns: communication and equal treatment. English will continue to be an official language for the Annual Conference, but not Presidium meetings. Curt's report on the IVV-EU Conference to AVA Officers and the AVA Advisory Commission was sent last week. A shorter version of the report will appear in *The American Wanderer* and the AVA Checkpoint.

The IVV is leasing office space. What is the cost, etc? It should have been approved in advance of action. Curt's opinion was that the IVV probably should have an office. It appears that in the past they were working out of their briefcases.

c) Reformatting of IVV Rules (Bylaws). There were three appointed to the Rules Committee (one each from Germany, Luxembourg and Austria). The German representative is an attorney. The IVV is incorporated in Germany and must have a German representative and must comply with German club law. They were discussing a lot of subjects, but there is no draft proposal as yet. IVV made a commitment to have the proposed changes translated to both English and French and distribute it to member countries and give them a comment period. They will gather the comments, draft a document, have it checked for compliance with German law and make it into a motion. This will all have to be done before April 4th (90 days before the meeting). Curt reviewed the proposed rule changes. They didn't appear to be in conflict with AVA policies. They did split out those items regarding events, books, awards, etc. for discussion separately. Martha Myron suggested that the IVV have a workshop dealing with the issues of events, books, awards, etc. The committee chair is proposing to remove certain sections of the rules and putting them into five sets of rules or guidelines. They will deal with the disciplinary board, arbitration court, and honorary membership. (Note: The guidelines are easier to modify.)

Curt submitted motions regarding IVV to AVA NEC. If approved will be sent on to IVV for consideration. Next NEC meeting – June 21 – is two weeks prior to IVV Congress in early July. He took the liberty of sharing the motions with the Presidents of Canada, Estonia, Denmark, and Great Britain.

d) Allocation of IVV votes. (AVA is fifth largest in IVV.) IVV's 49 members divide into two groups: member countries with the right to vote, and direct member clubs in countries where the number of clubs (less than 5 clubs) does not qualify them to become an IVV member country. Direct member clubs have no vote. Member countries get one vote for the country plus one vote for each 100 clubs or portion. Presidium members each have one vote. AVA has 4 votes. The current maximum is six votes, but proposal is to raise the cap from six to a total of eight. The

group of nine countries currently has 47% of all votes. If the revision passes they will have about 54% of the votes. No country can give its votes to another country. The President from a given country can cast ballots for other voters from their country. (AVA only reimburses the President's expenses, other delegates are on their own.)

- e) Concerns. Curt believes the current confusion, lack of communication, etc. is not a dispute between countries, but with leaders. He is opposed to radical action, but suggests we adopt a "wait and see" approach.

The IVV has a new web site: IVV-WEB.ORG The new site seems to be better – more accessible.

b. **Vice President** – John Ferguson

ACTIVITIES:

- 1). Continued to work with the AVA ED and AVA President to coordinate the schedule for National Officer travel and attendance at appropriate functions for 2008.
- 2). Coordinated on a periodic schedule with the President and the Executive Director on AVA management issues.
- 3). With the resignation of the chair for the 2009 AVA convention in Richardson, Texas, this past December, the VP with the SWRD has been evaluating the status of convention planning and is seeking a volunteer to accept this important position. The AVA VP and President attended a Convention Committee meeting on 1 February and the TVA meeting on 2 February to evaluate progress and to confirm prior guidance given to this committee on operations for this convention. It was hoped that the General Chair for the 2009 Convention would be announced at this 1 March meeting. It did not happen.

c. **Secretary** – Pat Lucero

Got the minutes of the last meeting out and am working on the minutes as we speak for this meeting. Curt mentioned that the motions are all bolded and easier to locate.

d. **Treasurer** – Ed Tod

ACTIVITIES –

Reviewed latest financial reports. No significant issues.

CONCERNS –

None at this time.

RECOMMENDATION –

Approval of budget for next year be discussed at June meeting as more actual data will be available.

7. **Report of Executive Director** – Jackie Wilson

There seems to be some confusion about damaged stamps out in the field. While I have put the information out in **Checkpoint**, I want to make sure that everyone knows that we only charge a damaged stamp fee when they drill holes, insert screws or put staples in them or when they put on labels or things like that we then have to clean off. There are NO charges for ink. Having said this, I would ask that clubs take some responsibility for the condition of their stamps and take time to clean them. A little bleach does wonders. If all else fails, sandpaper will clean off the worst and a coat of clear varnish or even clear fingernail polish helps seal the wood so that additional ink doesn't penetrate. I'm not asking clubs to worry too much about the stamps they have for one or two day events, but the ones that they have had for years at a YRE need to be taken care of. Of course, if they get them really nasty at their walk, washing the handle before they return it would be greatly appreciated. We do not have great facilities at Headquarters for cleaning or refinishing stamp handles.

The NEC will need to make a final decision about our early 2009 meeting. New Orleans was discussed but nothing was finalized as to date or if we were for sure going to go there. My records show the rest of 2008 as June 21 in Des Moines and sometime in November in Orlando. I do not yet have a final date for the Orlando meeting.

The Headquarters staff has been working on the YRE we were challenged to host. We took Curt out to the proposed site while he was in San Antonio to show him around and to get his opinion/suggestions. We are on track to start the event in January, 2009. It will be the ONLY event where you can get the ED stamp.

While Curt was at Headquarters, we set a date for evaluations for salaried staff at December 31 each year with 30 days to do the evaluation. In the past, nothing specific had been designated for salaried employees.

As there is no location on the agenda for our designated Global Liaison, I have offered to let Heinz use my report period to bring us up to date on those events.

Heinz Johnson – Global Liaison – Jackie Wilson has made repeated attempts to contact the Action Officer for the Global program. Candy Purcell (AVA Financial Director) has sent out numerous pieces of correspondence concerning financial matters. He has sent emails, one day he called four times. He has gotten zero feedback. Jackie and Heinz talked about this and ran it by Curt. We decided that what we need to do is bring this thing to a head. Two letters were sent to the person in charge of the overall recreation program for the US Air Force, Col. Sandra M. Adams, Director of Programs, Air Force Services Agency, under which this Global program fell. There was no response to either letter, nor to the deadline given of January 31st by which they were to respond. AVA #66 is technically a club and it is at the headquarters of the Air Force unit that sponsors these walks. The club is in arrears on its dues. Do we let the Air Force off the hook or do we draw the line like we do with any other AVA member? If we decide to tell the Air Force enough is enough, we could possibly still continue the program through our own sponsorship of a military type Global. We need to make a decision about this program.

The program was started in 1981. The first global was the 5th and 6th of June. We had almost 150 Air Force installations take part. Heinz passed out a report for 2007 and 2008. As you can see from this report, the program has deteriorated significantly. There is still some revenue coming in from the program. **See attached report.**

Curt said he would like to have feedback from the officers and also would allow comments from the audience on this issue.

There was much discussion about the Global Program and its problems. Many expressed having had problems with getting information from Phil Heet, the contact person at Randolph AFB, out to the various Air Force Bases. AVA #66 acts as a club to sponsor all the individual events and it also acts as a liaison within the Air Force to promote these events. There appear to be many factors contributing to the decline of the Global Program: lack of information at the local base level; lack of interest of those in MWR; Iraq and other war efforts that are straining resources; fewer bases; loss of the influx of new blood to AVA from the bases in Europe due to the closure of bases there; following 9-11 limited civilian access to bases where Globals were held; the Sanction Fee of \$115.

John Ferguson said we need to look at this and remember this is a volkssporting club that puts on 14 events a year and generates some income. If it was a regular club doing that number of events we would look with a little less disdain at what they were doing. From the AVA perspective this is a PR thing. Hopefully, we would get some Air Force people attending that would eventually continue with the program.

Marvin Stokes asked if we have looked at the aspect that the Global has decreased in number of events and decreased in participation and compared that to AVA as a whole who also has decreased numbers. It is starting to pick back up but over the period of time we are discussing hasn't everyone suffered a decrease.

The general opinion was that personal contact with the personnel at the MWR units at the bases was a very important factor.

8. Reports of Standing Committees

a. Audit, Fred Sheets, Chair; Marvin Stokes, Liaison – no report.

Ed Tod said Fred Sheets has sent a letter out requesting bids for the upcoming audit. Fred hasn't received anything yet.

b. AVA Biennial Convention

1) 2009 Convention, Heinz Johnson, Liaison, John Ferguson, AVA Vice-President

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- a). This committee met in October 2007 and reviewed in detail the proposed budget. This budget has been revised based on comments from AVA ED and AVA President.
- b). The schedule and location of the at-Convention walks {in Dallas area} has been completed with the walk director and volunteers walking same. The pre- and post- events will be hosted by individual clubs.
- c). Have set up committee meetings – dates and locations. Time line is being revised.
- d). "Roads to Texas" – a list of event locations near interstate highways coming towards the Dallas/Fort Worth area – either planned or YREs.

ACTIVITIES:

- a). The Convention Committee General chairs, Bruce and Claudia Fitch, resigned in mid December 2007. A campaign by TVA, SWRD and AVA VP to secure a replacement is underway.
- b). The Convention Committee held a major status and planning meeting on 1 February 2008. The AVA Pres, AVA VP, SWRD, and SCR D were in attendance.

CONCERNS:

- a). Several items on the Convention time line have been missed over the past several months.
 - b). Two major sub committee chairs remain to be filled
 - c). The General Convention Chair, now occupied by Catherine Kellner, TVA President, needs to be filled with a volunteer
 - d). Heinz said the change occurred at a good time (sooner rather than later). John lives closest to Dallas and is getting most of the extra work.
 - e). Heinz said he had been thinking perhaps the time has come to hire a professional convention planner to handle this convention.
 - f). Curt said that at the convention meeting on February 1st, they gave the committee more guidelines. They would like to see 2/3 of the Workshops work related. There will be a workshop for new Regional Directors about sanctioning events.
 - g). The keynote speaker that was invited has accepted. He is Jeff Crilley, a TV reporter. The best thing about Jeff Crilley is that he is dynamic and he makes very good points about publicity. The second best thing about Jeff Crilley is he refuses to charge a fee, but he will be selling his book.
- 2) 2011 Convention, Susan Pinneke Chair; Bonnie Johnson, Liaison

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- a). Set tentative walk schedule. The first event will be in Council Bluffs (West Coast) and the last event will be at Rock Island Arsenal (East Coast). They understand a tour can be arranged for groups. **See attached list.**
- b). Opened convention 2011 bank account.
- c). Meetings will be starting again this month.
- d). They are working on getting financial partners.

- 3) 2013 – Anyone interested – start thinking. Curt does have a possible interest in the Northwest.

c. **Publicity**, John Ferguson, Chair

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 1). A member of this committee, David Toth, has been successful in getting the AVA name considered for a national program.
- 2). A listing of available websites for local newspapers has been finalized and will be published in the next Checkpoint.
- 3). Joan Lampart is welcomed as a member of this committee.

ACTIVITIES:

- 1). The planning of future major AVA publicity participation at national conferences/exhibitions is on-going. Under consideration and planning for 2008 are: the ACSM (American College of Sports Medicine) Annual Meeting in May in Indianapolis; National Girl Scout meeting (Oct 31-Nov. 3) also in Indianapolis; and the AARP Convention in Washington, DC in September.
- 2). Prioritizing the visits by the AVA national officers to major publicity events is on-going.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1). Any recommendations from the NEC pertaining to any publicity effort and the scheduling of National Officer visits will be welcome.
- 2). We need to budget all costs (including extra fees such as carrying in boxes when having an exhibit at a "union shop.").

d. **Standards and Evaluation**, Ginny Drumm Chair

- 1). ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Recruited one live member – Tom Martin, Indianapolis, IN - to serve on the committee **YEAH!!!**
- 2). Began review of forms on the AVA website
- 3). Began creation of worksheets for the use of non-computer oriented clubs to use to provide sanctioning information and officer information for entry by the sanctioning authority

9. Reports of Special Committees

9a. **AVA Website**, Steve Hughart, Chair; Jacklyn Wilson, Liaison

ACTIVITIES:

- 1). Chris Mellen is now part of the AVA Website Committee.
- 2). Steve will be late with the SLAs (description of work). The original plan was to have them complete by Feb 1. Let's postpone that to April 1.

9b. **Awards & Recognition**, Sam Korff, Chair; John Ferguson, Liaison

- 1). Working on the certificates for awards.
- 2). Curt mentioned an award that Tim Miner told him about: Community of Merit, awarded to Arlington County as part of the US Freedom Walk Festival last October. Tim will send Curt a concept paper to develop an AVA award.

9c. **Bylaws**, Leonard Wojtysiak (pending), Chair; Pat Lucero, Liaison

Leonard Wojtysiak has agreed to be Chair of the committee. (His nomination was approved under the President's Report.)

9d. **History**, David Toth, Chair; Curt Myron, Liaison - No report

9e. **Marketing**, Becky Forsythe, Chair

Becky inquired if money is allocated in the budget for the Marketing Committee, does she need to get prior approval from the Council to spend it. Curt answered it needs to be coordinated with Jackie.

OBJECTIVE: The Objective of the Marketing Committee is to create value in the AVA for its participants, clubs, potential participants and sponsors/partners.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 1). The national marketing committee met in January.
- 2). Two marketing kits are being developed: one for marketing the AVA through expositions; the second for marketing ideas for clubs. These kits will be available on the AVA website.
- 3). A series of marketing articles featuring tips for getting the word out will be submitted to the The American Wanderer. The first article will be in the next TAW. Hopefully these marketing tips will also be available on the AVA website.
- 4). The committee felt it would be too expensive to replace the AVA logo and art work already done with the grabber. Requests for estimates are out for professional banners for the back of expo booths using the artwork of the grabber. The estimate for a 4 ft. x 6 ft. vinyl completely painted with the photograph banner with grommets at the top. Additional banners will be \$99. The committee would like to purchase one of the backdrops for every region. They are also looking at purchasing a display board for every region. An estimate is also out for postcards that mimic the banner and the grabber to be used as promotional giveaways at expos. Postcards will also be available for purchase from the AVA store to be used for club reminder and event announcement use.
- 5). Space for the personal daily walking program has been requested in the new web design.
- 6). A marketing team has made a presentation to a major national company. The Power Point presentation has been revised and shortened to fulfill the needs of a short business meeting presentation.
- 7). A volkssporting class was given at a national sporting goods outlet.
- 8). The committee now has six members.

CONCERNS:

- 1). Marketing budget.
- 2). More committee members are needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1). Marketing budget be increased in 2008/09 to provide each region with the necessary equipment and supplies to put on a professional appearance at expos.
- 2). The committee recommends an additional \$1000 be placed in the next marketing budget to assist smaller clubs in paying fees for booths at local festivals and fairs.

John Ferguson asked if one of the banners could be ready by the end of May? Jackie asked if Becky would be sending a proof to the office and NEC? She will send a proof out.

Curt explained what the purpose of the "Grabber" was.

John asked if the postcard would be used in lieu of the "grabber." Becky said it is intended to be used in addition to the grabber. It is smaller and less expensive.
Skip said several years ago he produced a "Volkssporting in America" video. He has the original masters for that. He suggested a new soundtrack be put on it. It could be put on DVDs instead of VHS tapes. He would like to get together with Becky on this.
Curt mentioned the state of Washington has a Power Point presentation called "Come Walk with Us." They use it at Expos. You do not need Power Point software to run it. It can be done as a slide show on any laptop. It consists of about 25 slides, all showing volkssports. It is aimed at the non-Volkssporting public. If you want a copy of this presentation contact Curt for a DVD copy.

9f. **Nominating**, Chelane Priller, Chair - Nothing at this time.

9g. **Office Systems**, Mike Nelson, Chair; Jacklyn Wilson Liaison
Mike has nothing at this time. He will have some new material for the next meeting.

9h.&k. **Partners/Sponsors**, Curt Myron, Chair

COMMITTEE GOALS:

- 1). Next Goal: By March 1, 2008:
 - to draft written criteria for acceptance of sponsors.
 - to draft written criteria for acceptance of partners.
 - to create a partnership marketing package for potential partners;
 - to revise the current sponsorship marketing package to lower the levels of financial support
 - AVA becomes an active member of TAFISA
- 2). By June 21, 2008:
 - Review and revise existing endorsements of AVA from World Health Organization, US Surgeon General and Director, President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sport.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE:

- 1). Start cards provided by The Walking Company are still being distributed. Offer expires June 30, 2008.
- 2). December 1 goal to contact San Antonio Shoes was accomplished. Nothing new to report.
- 3). March 1 goals. Completed handouts provided at March 1, meeting.

ACTIVITIES:

- 1). Most of my time was devoted to international issues and the AVA Advisory Commission.
- 2). I plan to seek appointments in Washington, DC with the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sport and AARP, to coincide with the NEC meeting. He has been in contact with the Director of Research Planning and Special Projects. They are going to meet next week. She is going to put AVA on their website as an organization that they term "advocates." That will involve a link. The Council has an Executive Director that is a Presidential appointee. There is a Board of Directors consisting of people like Eli Manning, Mary Lou Retton, several Corporate Presidents. Curt hopes to get some positive press from the President's Council. There is now a President's Challenge, which is similar to the Governor's Challenge in Washington State. Curt visited the AARP offices on Friday. AARP has a Step Up to Better Health 10 week program.
- 3). TAFISA. Gather membership materials for handouts at March 1 NEC meeting. TAFISA is an international organization that promotes popular sport for all and has both corporate members and national Olympic committee members.
- 4). Washington Health Foundation. The office of the Governor of Washington created the Washington Health Foundation several years ago to educate and encourage residents to adopt a more healthy lifestyle, part of the Governor's drive to make Washington the healthiest state in the USA. The WHF website, www.whf.org allows anyone to join the Governor's Challenge to walk 25 million miles in 2007 and again in 2008. The Evergreen State Volkssport Association took the challenge and, in December 2007, was recognized as the number one participant of over 2,000 organizations, logging a staggering 1.2 million miles. The top participant was also a Volkssporter, and he has committed to introducing me to the WHF's representative with AARP and also the software company that developed the personal health progress features of the WHF website. I plan to meet these contacts to see if AVA can benefit.
- 5). Tim Miner had given Curt information about the Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) the Public Health Service and what they have done. Tim is going to come up with a concept for working with the Medical Reserve Corp not just in the DC area but across the country. When Tim submits the concept to Curt he will forward it to us. The MRC is an organization that is divided into ten regions of all volunteers. It has over 170,000 members and 750 active chapters. It is like the AVA in that it is an

all volunteers organization made up of doctors and other health professionals and just regular citizens to promote health. It makes sense to partner with MRC since we share the same goals.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1). I recommend that Regional Directors encourage their clubs and state organizations to look into whatever health programs are promoted by their states. Many states have programs similar to the Washington Health Foundation providing AVA clubs with opportunities for publicity, recognition and grants.
- 2). TAFISA. **Curt moved that AVA submit a membership application to join TAFISA in July 2008.**
MOTION WITHDRAWN. Should be Executive Director decision.

LUNCH BREAK

9i. **Special Programs**, Phil Hait, Chair

ACTIVITIES: Summary of all existing Special Program Events

See attached list)

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1). **Phil Hait, Northeast Region Director, Committee Chair Special Events, moves that the Special Program Policy be modified as follows:**

Section 3-C definitions of Start Date and End Date

Start Date- After a new Special Event has been approved by the NEC the sponsoring club & POC need to prepare an article to appear in TAW outlining the criteria and details that make up the special event. After the article has been published, the club may begin the sale of new books. If the book sales begin earlier than one (1) reporting period prior to the start of the event, status reports need to be filed with the Special Events – Committee Chair. (For example, If a program starts on January 1, the prior reporting period would be July 1 – December 31) Under no circumstances can the books be distributed more than three (3) weeks prior to the NEC approved start date.

End Date- The sponsoring club & POC determine when to cease sales and end the program, subject to the following:

1. **Book sales cannot continue beyond the approved program end date.**
2. **Redemption of completed books and finalized program accounting must be complete within nine (9) months of the approved end date.**
3. **The sponsoring club & POC must submit end date details to the Special Events – Committee Chair for approval and subsequently to TAW to notify all program participants.**

Motion seconded by Ginny Drumm. Phil was asked why we are concerned about the end date. Phil responded the nature of the programs are that they are front loaded (event income comes in at beginning of program and back loaded for event expenses (mailing, etc.)). Some of the program POC's have kept a reserve to cover later expenses and until a final accounting is made cannot close out the books on the event. Jackie pointed out that if a program ends on 12/31 and can process books for nine more months, it would carry over to a new fiscal year. Should headquarters just assume that each of the programs won't complete until the nine month date? Further discussion followed. Jackie said the Auditors want to know when the program actually ends. Ed said that the final reports probably won't be filed until a period after the nine months. You have to allow for processing time. **Motion carried.**

- 2). **Phil Hait, Northeast Region Director, Committee Chair Special Events, moved that the following new Special Event Proposal be approved:**

Liberty Bell Special Program, sponsored by the All American Walking Club, Centreville, VA. Qualifications are to walk in 15 different events where the "original" Liberty Bell or the "replica" Liberty Bell is located. The trail must pass by the building where the Liberty Bell is housed if it is on display inside the building, or pass by the Liberty Bell if it is displayed outdoors. Learn little known historical facts along the way.

Motion seconded by Marvin Stokes. Phil feels this proposed program meets one of the criteria for a Special Program: historical significance, cultural or educational enrichment, or natural or scenic beauty. Phil said it is attainable as there is a replica in each state and territory. It



gives every region the opportunity to entice people to an event that would pass the site. John Ferguson recommends that for the customer to put the date by which the book must be mailed in for redemption.

Becky Forsythe moved to amend the motion to add that the Liberty Bell Special Program POC be required to print the last day to send the booklet in for redemption on the booklet. Wayne Holloway seconded the motion. Ed Tod pointed out that historically we have changed the ending date on some of the programs. Marvin felt the since the information is available on the website and other sources, the motion is overkill. **Motion to amend the original motion failed** (six in favor, seven against). **Original motion as presented** (approve the Liberty Bell Special Program) **carried**.

- 3). Recommendation: Phil Hait, Northeast Region Director, Committee Chair Special Events, has a suggestion. It is specific to the AVA Biennial Conventions. The Special Events for each of the past two years contributed over \$7,000 to the AVA. The convention is an excellent marketing exposure and he suggests/recommends that the AVA provide to the Special Events Committee a display booth at all AVA Conventions, at no cost, for this marketing opportunity. Phil should bring this request to the 2009 Convention Committee.
- 4). Suggestion – There needs to be an exhibit developed to attach to the Special Events Policy outlining the acceptable accounting items and how to fill out the reporting form, so that AVA knows exactly what they will be getting from the program. A sample reporting form is part of the document but no explanation on using it.
- 5). Letter regarding the Great Lakes Program. The POC requested a two year extension of a program that still has two and a half years remaining. Phil responded that he didn't feel it was appropriate. There are POC's that have desire for their programs to go on for an extended period of time. We just need to be aware of it. Skip inquired when the program is set to expire. Phil responded Dec. 31, 2009, with a nine months extension. Phil further stated it is the program with the fewest walk requirements – ten walks on three of the five great lakes.

Skip inquired what the criteria are for granting an extension. Curt said we are getting off the agenda here since there is no motion. Curt felt that Phil as the committee chair has the authority to make this decision initially. There is a procedure for someone to appeal a decision to the full board.

9j. **Special Funds Development**, Jacklyn Wilson, Chair (Inactive at this time) - No report

9k. **Sponsors**, Curt Myron, Chair - See section h.

9l. **Strategic Planning**, Marvin Stokes, Chair

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The committee members continue to study past AVA Strategic Plans and are preparing suggestions and ideas for review by the NEC.

ACTIVITIES: Each committee member will be assigned to serve as advisor to the various Committees of the NEC.

9m. **Training Development**, Wayne Holloway, Chair

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Sally Ross and Sue Black have completed the development of a training package for club presidents. This package is intended for RD's and others to use in training new club presidents.

An ad was placed in the checkpoint soliciting folks willing to review the YRE/SEASONAL WALK COORDINATOR INSTRUCTIONS pamphlet.

Rewrite of the Events Handbook was dropped, as this handbook is in bailiwick of Standards and Evaluation and has already undergone a rewrite.

ACTIVITIES: Training packages for other club officers will follow in the lines of the package for club presidents.

He has been coordinating with Steve Hughart concerning ESR submissions for both Conventional events and YREs/Seasonals. The target completion date is March 2008 for deliverable(s).

He has been working on Awards Procedures with the Awards Committee. Target for a product is no later than June 2008.

Submit excerpts from the Policy Manual and the Events handbook for review, or as attachments to the **Checkpoint** with a "work in progress" product by Spring 2008. It is envisioned that this product will provide guidance and helpful hints, but may include direction or rules.

Contemplating, and welcoming suggestions on what training "notes" from the Policy Manual and Events Handbook to place in the **Checkpoint**, along the lines of what Bob Wright is doing with

501(c)(3) information...which can be considered training, and for which this Committee continues to take full credit.

CONCERNS:

There's a lot to be done in 9-15 months. No volunteers.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None.

9n. Youth Program, Nancy Wittenberg, Chair; Bonnie Johnson, Liaison

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 1). Responded to inquiries from Girl Scout Councils, Girl Scout troop leaders, volkssport clubs and individuals regarding volkssports, Girl Scout Walk-Togethers, and the AVA Master Program. I'm still receiving one or two a day to respond to – lots of interest.
- 1) Began using the volkssport@yahogroups.com email group to communicate with clubs and individuals about their youth activities.
- 3). Monitoring the Loudoun Walking and Volkssport Club's efforts to work with Girl Scouts of the Nations Capitol council to hold a patch contest to design the 2008-2009 Participation Patch for Girl Scout Walks. The Girl Scout council has information they need to hold the contest from Bob Wright of the Loudoun club.
- 4). Diane Tuckman, Project Manager of the Healthy Living Initiative of GSUSA, had not given me a contact person for the Memo of Understanding with GSUSA review. But, I will pursue this further.
- 5). I have requested and have received information from AVA for the last two months about numbers of participation patches sold. I should have some statistics for year end.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT PERIOD:

- 1). Continue to respond to inquiries about the AVA Youth Program and provide support for AVA clubs, Girl Scout Councils and leaders, families and others who want to participate in AVA youth programs.
- 2). Work with the GSUSA to get a volksmarch into the program for the 2008 National Convention to be held October 31 – November 3 in Indianapolis, IN. Make sure we have not missed a chance to have a booth at the convention. The Indy "G" Walkers volunteered to have a walk, but we need to get this scheduled.
- 3). I still need pictures of walks where youth groups have participated with volkssport clubs in order to update the website. I have not submitted an article for the Checkpoint requesting these, but will do so. These should be pictures of youth walking.
- 4). Advertise to recruit members to the Youth Committee who will be willing to work on other ways we can involve youth, develop a plan for action, and carry out the work. Possibilities include Thomas Bressemer who is has suggested an "extra small youth program" awards program; elementary school programs; Boy Scout of America.
- 5). There is concern that Girl Scout troops do not want to walk more than one event a year for several reasons:
 - They already have the year's patch.
 - The cost of walks is too high – some councils are charging as much as \$9/walker when they include this in their literature.

I'm gathering information and comments through the volkssport yahoo group list about these issues and will explore further.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Have the AVA commit to having a booth and pay the fee for the Girl Scout National Convention to be held end of October, beginning of November, 2008 in Indianapolis, IN. I'll follow up with GSUSA about this.

10. Unfinished Business

a. Report of Advisory Commission – Nancy Stenger

ACTIONS

- 1). The Commission developed a set of questions and answers that we believe will help AVA sort through the AVA/IVV relationship.
- 2). We met through conference call where questions were assigned to members and where issues were discussed. All members were to answer each question and then the question leader put them together in a summary. They were further edited several times, with final edits being done by the Chair.
- 3). The Commission unanimously recommended that the President attend a European country meeting during the time the IVV Presidium was held.
- 4). The draft report submitted includes varied opinions, and answers contain personal bias of the

members and the question leader. In no way does each member endorse all responses.

- 5). Formal recommendations to the NEC have not been developed, but many suggestions are contained in the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO NEC:

- i. Continue to monitor IVV relations;
- ii. Work towards improvement of the IVV program;
- iii. Explore opportunities to expand AVA.

NEXT ACTIONS

Focus on formal recommendations regarding AVA's expectation of IVV.

John Ferguson observed that the Commission had done a lot of work and it is appreciated. He asked Nancy to pass our appreciation on to the rest of the Commission.

Nancy felt there would be another conference call coming up shortly.

Curt communicated his thanks too to the Commission for all their hard work. There was a lot of emotion connected to the issue.

b. Meeting locations

When we met in August we selected locations and tentative dates for the rest of the term. However, the last two, November 2008 in Orlando and February 2009 in New Orleans we need to rethink.

- 1). Looking at November 2008 in Florida – it was originally proposed for Thanksgiving weekend in conjunction with the Trinity Trekkers events in Disneyworld. There was much discussion about the crowds in the Orlando area in November. Other areas in Florida were discussed.

John Ferguson moved that we go to the Los Angeles area in November 2008 and the Oklahoma City area in February 2009. Motion seconded by Ed Tod. Ed felt it might be better to reverse the order. Marvin said that if we wanted to stay in the Southeast area, there is an event called "Walk Around Florida" that is held over Columbus Day weekend in October in the Ft. Lauderdale or Palm Beach area. There are three clubs working together on this. If we were going to be in October, Phil would suggest suburban Boston. There was much discussion. **Ed Tod moved to amend the motion to reverse the two dates and locations. Marvin seconded the motion. The amendment passed. Original motion carried.**

John Ferguson moved that the February 2009 meeting be held in the southern California area, subject to the recommendations of the Pacific Region Director. Mike Nelson seconded. Marvin said we need to stay away from President's weekend because of a major event in Florida. **Motion carried.**

11. New Business

11a. Stamp Holders

I move that stamp holders in possession of clubs July 1, 2008, become the property of that club.

Summary of Proposed Action : Stamp handles have been depreciated by the AVA and therefore have no value to the AVA.

Stamp handles in many YRE start boxes are in bad repair through years of use and need to be replaced.

Clubs will not return them to the office for replacement for fear of damage fees. Ownership of stamps would allow clubs to take whatever measure they feel necessary to protect the stamp from loss or theft.

Postage cost and cost of mailing supplies for mailing an event slug instead of an entire stamp holder be a savings for both the AVA office and the clubs. The time involved in removing and replacing the slugs in the stamp holders at the office would also be saved.

Marvin asked how the loss of a stamp would be covered. Would we still have to pay the \$25 fee for the replacement stamp?

Curt related that the stamps are in metric measurement. In recent months we have had a problem getting a vendor for the stamp holders. Question was asked what the cost of a stamp was. Jackie said the rubber pieces are \$6.00 per piece. Each stamp has three pieces. There was much discussion. Curt related the primary issue with the stamps that we face right now is establishing a replacement supply for metric stamps. It would be expensive to replace with non-metric stamps.

Submitted by: Becky Forsythe, Northwest Region Director

Seconded by: Phil Hait

Action: Motion failed

11b. Stamp Sales

I move that Metric stamp holders be available to clubs through the AVA on-line store for cost plus shipping and handling.

Summary of Proposed Action: Stamp handles in many YRE start boxes are in bad repair through years of use and need to be replaced. Clubs will not return them to the office for replacement for fear of damage fees. Ownership of stamps would allow clubs to take whatever measure they feel necessary to protect the stamp from loss or theft.

Submitted by: Becky Forsythe, Northwest Region Director

Seconded by: Wayne Holloway

Curt Myron moved to table the motion until the next meeting. Marvin Stokes seconded. Motion carried. Original motion tabled.

Question was asked how to bring a tabled motion back to be handled at the next meeting.

Response: it would require a motion to bring back to Old Business.

11c. Change of Event Wording

I move that Paragraph 4.02.I be amended to read:

“Conventional volkssporting events are those events conducted by member clubs, state organizations, and the AVA National Headquarters using routine 90-day sanctioning procedures outlined in Policy 4.06, Event Sanctioning.” And that the term Conventional replace the term Regular wherever else Regular is used to identify such events, including in the Association Policy Manual and on Web Site.

Summary of Proposed Action: The term Regular is ambiguous, has little if any meaning in this context, and is not helpful when used in explaining what it is that we do; the differences between the events we sanction. Regular sounds harsh, Germanic, when spoken, while conventional has a pleasant, softer, more American sound, and is easier to say. A conventional event just seems to make more sense to me.

Submitted By: Wayne Holloway, Pacific Region Director

Seconded By: Marvin Stokes

Action: Motion Failed

11d. Change to Policy Manual

I move that the sentence “Start Cards and Checkpoints are not required.” be added to the end of paragraphs 4.03.A & B..

Summary of Proposed Action: An audit of our business practices would look for things that are required by our by-laws and policy manual which we do not follow and/or are unenforceable. The Policy Manual requires that Year Round and Seasonal Events follow the same rules as Conventional Events, which includes having checkpoints and using start cards. There is no practical recourse should a walker not use either one. What do we do? Who do we tell? Why? We have their money (hopefully) and they have our stamp in their book. Even should a participant complete a start card with the checkpoint information, there is no guarantee that it was gained through participation. Some self checkpoints haven't changed for 20 years or more, and certainly there is nothing to keep the participant from driving to the checkpoint if inclined to cheat. The use of checkpoints and start cards promotes nothing. It doesn't promote safety any more than it promotes honesty. Year Round and Seasonal Events in the United States are conducted on an honor system. Let's not suggest otherwise by continuing the use of these useless and unenforceable requirements. The cheaters are cheating now.

Further, the wording of this added sentence does not prevent the use of start cards and checkpoints, should a club think them appropriate.

We should be practical and not continue to impose an unnecessary and unenforceable rules on the members.

Curt Myron declared the motion “out of order.”

Wayne Holloway stated “I appeal from the decision of the Chair.” Appeal seconded by Pat Lucero. The vote sustained the decision of the Chair.

Motion Made By: Wayne Holloway, Pacific Region Director

Seconded By: Pat Lucero

Action: Declared out of order by the Chair

11e. Executive Director as Convention Co-chair

I move that the Executive Director be co-chairperson of the national AVA convention, and that money be budgeted from the convention budget for the executive director to meet with the convention committee three times per year beginning with the acceptance of a club's bid to hold a national convention.

Summary of Proposed Action: The national AVA convention is a fund raiser for the AVA. It is an awesome responsibility for any one person to chair. Over the past three conventions, due to unforeseen situations, the Executive Council has provided coaching or had to find a replacement for the committee leadership. Instead of waiting until there is a problem, and stepping in to help out, this would insure that leadership has been provided at the highest level from the start of the planning through the end of the convention.

There was discussion of several aspects of subject: Is it appropriate to have the Executive Director out of the office for six days to attend these meetings? Are we to the point where we need to hire a professional convention planner?

Motion made by: Becky Forsythe, NW Regional Director

Seconded By: Skip Coburn

Action: Motion failed

11f. Gift Coupons

I move that AVA Gift Coupon Booklets Be Marketed

Summary of Proposed Action: There are a variety of gift cards now being marketed by scores of retailers for merchandise or services. They make ideal gifts especially for "those who have everything" and are used as Holiday, Birthday, Thank You gifts, and the like.

The purpose of AVA Gift Coupon Booklets is to provide:

- 1) A gift item for volkssporters.
- 2) Prizes and awards for clubs to recognize club volunteers or honor persons that have made a worthwhile contribution to the club or volkssporting.
- 3) A convenience to volkssporters.

The gift Coupon Booklet that would be marketed is a 5-coupon booklet costing \$15. Each coupon in a booklet would therefore cost \$3 and it would be valid for one IVV Credit Only event, regardless of the IVV Credit fee charged.

There would be NO discounts to individuals or to clubs and the booklets would be sold at full value. Any club redeeming a coupon would not lose any money.

A sponsor would be solicited to cover the cost of printing the booklets.

The processing of coupons is outlined on **attachment #1 – Gift Coupon Processing.**

John Ferguson said that if we are going to do this on a national basis, it should be an AVA Coupon that needs to be accepted for \$3 value at every AVA sanctioned event.

Heinz said the intent was to find commercial sponsorship to cover the cost of the printing. The sponsor would have its name on the coupon.

Submitted By: Heinz Johnson, Director, Southwest Region

Seconded By: Pat Lucero

Action: Motion carried

11g. AVA Admin Committee

I move that a committee of the Executive Director and four members of the NEC form an ad hoc committee for a period of six months, for the purpose of reviewing the AVA administrative needs and to make recommendations regarding those needs.

Summary of Proposed Action: There have been many changes over the past years that would indicate a need to evaluate the administrative needs of the AVA. The strategic plan and the committee plans for growth would indicate that we need to explore the administrative direction of the office. Volunteers have been doing most of the technical work, marketing and promotions. Can this continue and have goals for growth met? There have been symptoms of the need for internal changes as well. The office has been experiencing a high rate of turn over in employees, which is expensive and difficult on the staff that is left to "cover" for the vacancy. Benefits and compensation and employee satisfaction need to be evaluated.

Wayne Holloway asked if we should have someone on the "outside" do the evaluation.

Jackie Wilson felt the turnover in the office doesn't have anything to do with the workload or the benefits. It may have something to do with the salaries. There is no upward mobility so we tend to get military wives who leave when their husbands get transferred or we get students. Jackie feels that for the San Antonio area they have pretty good benefits. There was a change in insurance carriers. The new company has a higher deductible. There are paid holidays, leave, paid medical and dental, and a \$25,000 life insurance policy. They do not have any retirement plan.

Curt said we do need an IT person, but probably don't need a full time person.

Motion made by: Becky Forsythe, NW Regional Director
Seconded By: Pat Lucero
Action: Motion failed

11h. Distribution of IVV Minutes

I move that the NEC approve the following motion to amend IVV Statutes regarding IVV minutes for submission to IVV at the 2008 IVV Congress of Delegates.

The following motion is submitted, as approved by the National Executive Council of the American Volkssport Association (AVA), for consideration by the Congress of Delegates to be held July 4–6 in York, England.

It is hereby moved that Routine Orders, Part 3: Minutes, Article 31 (2), be amended to the following: [changes in **bold**]

Minutes of the Congress of Delegates and the meetings of the Presidium will be sent to the President (chairperson) within 30 days after date of meeting. The President will send the minutes to the members of the Presidium **and** to the national member associations immediately.

Summary of Proposed Action: According to Article 9, part 8 (g) of the latest revision of the IVV Statutes [2006/07/01], all national members have the right to submit motions to the annual Congress of delegates. As full members of IVV, national associations pay annual fees and have the right to expect minutes of both Congress of Delegates and Presidium meetings. The change of words in Article 32 assures that national member associations receive minutes in a timely manner.

The current version of the Routine Orders, Part 3: Minutes, Article 31 (2), states that: "Minutes of the Congress of Delegates and the meetings of the Presidium will be sent to the President (chairperson) within 30 days after date of meeting. The President will send the minutes to the members of the Presidium or to the national member associations immediately."

Note: Approval of changes to IVV rules requires a two-thirds vote. For rule changes, each country member holds one vote.

Submitted By: Curt Myron
Seconded By: Heinz Johnson
Action: Motion carried

11i. Travel Expense Document

I move that the NEC approve the following motion to amend IVV Statutes regarding IVV policy for reimbursement of travel expenses for submission to IVV at the 2008 IVV Congress of Delegates.

The following motion is submitted, as approved by the National Executive Council of the American Volkssport Association (AVA), for consideration by the Congress of Delegates to be held July 4–6 in York, England.

It is hereby moved that Article 11 [Compensation for expenses], part (2), be amended to the following: [changes in **bold**]

*Travel expenses for members of the Presidium are reimbursed according to the Federal Republic of Germany's Travel Expenses Law. **A complete and accurate accounting of all travel undertaken by the Presidium over the previous 12 months will be included as an Appendix to the budget documents distributed to all national members 90 days or more before each Congress of Delegates. Information shown will include individuals by name, date, purpose of visit, IVV funds reimbursed and whether or not any expenses were partially assumed by some other organization.***

Summary of Proposed Action: The current version of the IVV Statutes, Article 11 [Compensation for expenses], part (2), states that:

“Travel expenses for members of the Presidium are reimbursed according to the Federal Republic of Germany’s Travel Expenses Law.”

Rationale: The IVV is a democratic organization and the members of the Presidium act on behalf of its members. National members have an absolute right to know that the business of the Association is being conducted responsibly. Where travel by Presidium members is concerned, and that travel is to be reimbursed by the IVV, national members must know that expenses incurred are in the best interests of IVV. The requirement for presentation of the above report at each Congress of Delegates assures full disclosure of travel expenses reimbursed to IVV officers.

Note: Approval of changes to IVV rules requires a two-thirds vote. For rule changes, each country member holds one vote.

Submitted By: Curt Myron

Seconded By: Ed Tod

Action: Motion carried

11j. Relief Document

I move that the NEC approve the following motion to amend IVV Statutes regarding relief of the Presidium for submission to IVV at the 2008 IVV Congress of Delegates.

The following motion is submitted, as approved by the National Executive Council of the American Volkssport Association (AVA), for consideration by the Congress of Delegates to be held July 4–6 in York, England.

It is hereby moved that Article 9 [Congress of Delegates], part 8 f), be amended to the following: [changes in **bold**]

“The Congress of Delegates decides on all matters of the Association which are not reserved for the Presidium, in particular:”

“f) 1. Relief from financial responsibility. Delegates may chose to relieve an individual member of the Presidium, or the entire Presidium of financial responsibility by vote.

2. Meaning of a vote for relief from financial responsibility.

a. A vote in favor of relief from responsibility is an approval of the performance of the member or Presidium for a specified period of time and an agreement not to hold the person or Presidium personally financially liable.

b. A vote against relief from financial responsibility does not relieve the person or Presidium from personal liability. A negative vote for relief from financial responsibility does not remove a person or the Presidium from office.

3. Relief from duties. A person or the Presidium may be removed from office upon satisfactory proof of negligence, neglect of duty, criminal activity proven in a court of law, actions against the stated goals of the Association, or, where justified, recommendation of the Court of Arbitration or Disciplinary Board.

a. A motion from a national member association and clear indication of any of the reasons for relief above must first be sent to the IVV President and then distributed to other member associations at least 90 days before the Congress. If it is the wish of a national member to make a motion to relieve several members of the Presidium, a separate and distinct motion must be made for each member so affected.

b. Presidium members have an absolute right to know the reason for the motion of relief and must have a similar right and opportunity to defend themselves before the Congress. A Presidium member may, if he or she so chooses, be represented by legal counsel.

c. Presidium members are presumed innocent until proved guilty. Clear evidence with respect to f) 1. above must be presented at the same time as the motion for relief. The Presidium member must be informed beforehand what evidence will be presented against him / her. If evidence is not sufficient to prove the charges made, then the motion for relief is defeated and the Presidium member must be declared innocent.”

d. The Congress of Delegates is the final arbiter of all motions to relieve a member of the Presidium.

Summary of Proposed Action:

The current version of the IVV Statutes, Article 9 [Congress of Delegates], part 8 f), states that “The Congress of Delegates decides on all matters of the Association which are not reserved for the Presidium, in particular:”

“f) Relieve the Presidium.”

Because IVV has two official languages, definition of relief must be clarified. In English the word “relief” has two meanings that pertain to organizations. The first is to relieve an officer or member of financial liability through approval of the person’s work for a period of time. The second is to relieve a person of their duties, usually due to negligence, error or failure to perform duties in a proper manner. In some cases, a negative vote under the first definition is tantamount to a vote of “no confidence” and some members interpret this action as requiring the person’s removal from office. However, there is no written requirement for removal in current IVV rules.

Confusion between the two definitions can lead IVV members into voting for relief in a positive way, only to learn that they have voted negatively. IVV must clarify both the meaning of the word “relief” and the impact of a positive or negative vote.

Note: Approval of changes to IVV rules requires a two-thirds vote. For rule changes, each country member holds one vote.

Submitted By: Curt Myron, AVA President

Seconded By: Mike Nelson

Action: Motion carried

11k. Presidium Minutes

I move that the NEC approve the following motion to amend IVV Statutes regarding Presidium decisions and their distribution to members for submission to IVV at the 2008 IVV Congress of Delegates.

The following motion is submitted, as approved by the National Executive Council of the American Volkssport Association (AVA), for consideration by the Congress of Delegates to be held July 4–6 in York, England.

It is hereby moved that Article 10 [Presidium], part (5), be amended to the following: [changes in **bold**]

*“Decisions from all meetings of the Presidium shall be recorded in written form, and signed by the President, or his representative, and the Recording Secretary. **Such decisions will be included in the “short notes” or minutes of the meeting and be distributed to all national members within 30 days of the meeting and in each official language of IVV.**”*

Summary of Proposed Action: The current version of the IVV Statutes, Article 10 [Presidium], part (5), states that:

“Decisions of the Presidium shall be recorded in written form, and signed by the President, or his representative, and the Recording Secretary.”

The IVV is a democratic organization and the members of the Presidium act on behalf of its members. National members have an absolute right to know, in a timely manner, that the affairs of the Association are conducted according to their direction. Information on the deliberations at Presidium meetings must be readily available to all national members in both official IVV languages, German and English. Minutes and “short notes” may be transmitted electronically where possible, and by regular mail when requested or if electronic transmission is not possible.

Note: Approval of changes to IVV rules requires a two-thirds vote. For rule changes, each country member holds one vote.

Submitted By: Curt Myron, AVA President

Seconded By: Wayne Holloway

Action: Motion carried

11l. Membership Application Timeline

I move that the NEC approve the following motion to amend IVV Statutes regarding Presidium decisions and their distribution to members for submission to IVV at the 2008 IVV Congress of Delegates.

The following motion is submitted, as approved by the National Executive Council of the American Volkssport Association (AVA), for consideration by the Congress of Delegates to be held July 4–6 in York, England.

It is hereby moved that Article 3 [Gaining membership], part 2, be amended to the following: [changes in **bold**]

“Membership is based on acceptance of application. The application for admission must be submitted as a motion for the Congress of Delegates, in written form, to the IVV President who will then distribute the motion to national associations 90 days or more before the Congress.”

Summary of Proposed Action: The current version of the IVV Statutes, Article 3 [Gaining membership], part 2, states that:

“Membership is based on acceptance of application. The application for admission must be submitted in written form to the IVV President.”

IVV national associations need to be aware of the application for admission by a new member. The best way to do this is address the issue like any other motion. National associations need to be aware of all motions 90 days or more before the Congress in order to discuss each motion’s merits. Note: Approval of changes to IVV rules requires a two-thirds vote. For rule changes, each country member holds one vote.

Submitted By: Curt Myron, AVA President

Seconded By: Heinz Johnson

Action: Motion carried

11m. Duties of IVV Officers

I move that: The NEC approve the following motion to amend IVV Statutes regarding duties of the Presidium and its officers for submission to IVV at the 2008 IVV Congress of Delegates.

The following motion is submitted, as approved by the National Executive Council of the American Volkssport Association (AVA), for consideration by the Congress of Delegates to be held July 4–6 in York, England.

It is hereby moved that Article 10 [The Presidium], part (3), be amended to the following: [changes in **bold**]

Duties of the Presidium are:

- a. **Collectively, members of the Presidium will:**
 - i. **Direct and manage all IVV business**
 - ii. **Attend IVV Presidium meetings, Congress of Delegates meetings**
 - iii. **Provide input and suggestions related to IVV affairs**
 - iv. **Approve IVV business in matters not designated to the Congress of Delegates**
 - v. **Participate in periodic reviews of the IVV Strategic Plan**
 - vi. **Correspond with members, individuals, or others regarding IVV matters**
 - vii. **Act as IVV representatives as appropriate and as delegated by the President**
 - viii. **Assure compliance with the IVV Statutes and Rules**
 - ix. **Approve Direct Member clubs**
 - x. **Work with the IVV Olympiad organizer to assure the Olympiad is conducted properly**
 - xi. **Arrange procedures at Congress of Delegates meetings, including translation services, the reservation of facilities and sufficient seating for all to attend, and other technical services as required.**
- b. **The IVV President shall:**
 - i. **Act as the official agent of the Presidium and the IVV**
 - ii. **Represent the IVV at all functions or delegate a representative**
 - iii. **Prepare agendas for Presidium and Congress of Delegates meetings**
 - iv. **Preside over IVV Presidium meetings**
 - v. **Preside over IVV Congress of Delegates meetings, or designate a Vice-President in his place if he is unable to attend or incapacitated**
 - vi. **Be the second signer on all IVV bank accounts**
 - vii. **Direct all business of the IVV**

- viii. Correspond with and provide information to applicants wanting to apply for IVV national association membership*
- ix. Correspond with members, individual, or others regarding IVV matters*
- x. Direct periodic review of the IVV Strategic Plan*
- xi. Check adherence to the Statutes, Rules, and other guidelines within the national member associations and Direct Member clubs and if necessary, report to the Disciplinary Board.*
- xii. Execute the decisions of the Congress of Delegates*
- xiii. Assure that IVV funds are managed and business is conducted according to the Routine Orders.*
- xiv. Send welcome correspondence and membership certificates to new national association members and direct member clubs*
- xv. Make a written report to be included in the IVV Annual Report and subject to review by the delegates at the annual Congress of Delegates*
- c. The IVV Vice-Presidents shall: (An equitable allocation will be made of the following duties among the three IVV Vice-Presidents).*
 - i. Manage IVV special programs – the IVV World Cup; the IVV Europa Cups I and II, the IVV Pacific Cup*
 - ii. Publish the IVV World Report*
 - iii. Manage the IVV Internet site*
 - iv. Provide IVV stamps for Direct Member clubs*
 - v. Correspond with and provide information to applicants for IVV Direct Member clubs; present applications and information to the Presidium for approval; assign IVV membership number after approval*
 - vi. Manage the publication and distribution of the annual the IVV Calendar Book*
 - vii. Solicit advertisers for the IVV Calendar Book, the IVV Internet site etc.*
 - viii. Correspond with members, individuals, or others regarding IVV matters*
 - ix. Maintain current names, addresses and contact information for IVV members*
 - x. Perform other duties as assigned by the President, the Presidium as a whole or the Congress of Delegates*
 - xi. Each Vice-President will make a written report to be included in the IVV Annual Report and subject to review by the delegates at the annual Congress of Delegates*
- d. The IVV Treasurer shall:*
 - i. Manage all IVV bank accounts*
 - ii. Be the first signer on IVV bank accounts*
 - iii. Prepare an annual budget and report periodically on status to the Presidium and to members.*
 - iv. Prepare invoices and send bills to members and any others*
 - v. Prepare the annual financial report, showing profits and losses*
 - vi. Maintain and submit appropriate tax and accounting forms*
 - vii. Make recommendations regarding expenditures and any other financial related matters*
 - viii. Reimburse IVV expenses to other Presidium members or people working for the IVV.*
 - ix. Maintain records of expense reports and receipts*
 - x. Maintain a list of IVV materials and depreciations on materials*
 - xi. Work with the IVV auditors to provide information and explanations*
 - xii. Pay for any IVV expenses/bills that may be appropriate*
 - xiii. Perform other duties as assigned by the President, the Presidium as a whole or the Congress of Delegates*
 - xiv. Make a written report to be included in the IVV Annual Report and subject to review by the delegates at the annual Congress of Delegates*
- e. The IVV Secretary shall:*
 - i. Prepare and distribute to all national members “short notes”, or more proper minutes, of all Presidium meetings within 30 days after each meeting. All agenda items will be clearly indicated.*

- ii. Prepare and distribute to all national members proper minutes within 30 days after each Congress of Delegates." All agenda items shall be clearly indicated.*
- iii. Distribute agendas for Congress of Delegates meetings 90 days in advance of the meeting.*
- iv. Certify delegates at the Congress of Delegates meetings*
- v. Communicate with members, individuals, or others regarding IVV matters*
- vi. Maintain current records of all IVV documents (IVV Statutes, IVV Rules, etc) and distribute them as requested*
- vii. Send copies of the Statutes and Rules to new members*
- viii. Make changes to IVV documents as approved and arrange for distribution*
- ix. Perform other duties as assigned by the President, the Presidium as a whole or the Congress of Delegates*

Summary of Proposed Action: The current version of the IVV Statutes, Article 10 [The Presidium], part (3), states that:

Duties of the Presidium are:

- f. Conduct the business and manage the funds of the Association according to the Routine Orders.*
- g. Execute the decisions of the Congress of Delegates.*
- h. Prepare for and direct sessions of the Full Presidium and the Congress of Delegates.*
- i. Prepare and distribute the minutes.*
- j. Prepare the budget.*
- k. Prepare the annual financial report, showing profits and losses.*
- l. Check adherence to the Statutes, Rules and other guidelines within the national member associations, and, if necessary, report to the Disciplinary Board.*

Members of the Presidium are solely responsible for the proper conduct and good order of all IVV affairs. As with the structures and responsibilities of national member associations, clear and concisely defined responsibilities are required for proper accountability to be expected. The above definition of tasks will also help the members of the IVV Presidium focus on the execution of their duties.

Note: Approval of changes to IVV rules requires a two-thirds vote. For rule changes, each country member holds one vote.

Curt stated he did not compose this motion. It was done by Graham Fawcett of the Canadian Volkssport Association. Curt agreed to present this to our NEC.

There was much discussion about the amount of detail presented. Ed Tod said we should probably just ask them what the duties are.

Submitted By: Curt Myron, AVA President

Seconded By: Ginny Drumm

Action: Motion failed

11n. Relegation

I move that the NEC approve the following motion to amend IVV Statutes regarding relegation of national volkssport associations to direct member club status for submission to the 2008 Congress of Delegates.

The following motion is submitted, as approved by the National Executive Council of the American Volkssport Association (AVA), for consideration by the Congress of Delegates to be held July 4–6 in York, England.

It is hereby moved that Article 3, Gaining Membership, IVV Statutes and Bylaws, be amended reflect the following: [changes in **bold**]

ARTICLE 3 GAINING MEMBERSHIP

- (1) Members of the Association are national volkssport associations (national member associations).
- (2) Membership is based on acceptance of application. The application for admission must be submitted in written form to the IVV President.
- (3) The Congress of Delegates decides upon admission.
- (4) Membership starts on the date of acceptance of admission. As a member of the Association, the national volkssport association is bound by the current statutory regulations of the IVV.

- (5) In countries without national volkssport associations, direct member clubs may provisionally be empowered to conduct volkssport events. The Presidium is authorized to take relevant resolutions.
- (6) **Direct member countries may apply to IVV for approval as a member country when they have at least five active organizations within their country.**
- (7) **If a member country's number of clubs drops below five active organizations, the country will revert to Direct Member status, but may apply for reactivation of member country status once requirements are met.**

Summary of Proposed Action: IVV is an association of direct member clubs and national member associations. Direct member club status is approved by the Presidium based upon application from a club within a country not represented within IVV. A direct member club may apply for IVV national member status once they achieve at least five (5) clubs within their country. Approval as a national member association grants greater voice in IVV affairs in terms of votes and participation in the Congress of Delegates.

The reverse should also be true. If a national member association declines to less than five active clubs within its borders, that national member association should be relegated to direct member club status to avoid giving the national member association a greater vote than their membership has a right to exercise. An association relegated to direct member club status may apply for reactivation as a national member association when they regain eligibility by having a minimum of five clubs.

Note: Approval of changes to IVV rules requires a two-thirds vote. For rule changes, each country member holds one vote.

Skip Coburn moved to change the words in (7) "is relegated" to "will revert." Heinz seconded. Amendment passed.

Submitted By: Curt Myron, AVA President

Seconded By: Glen Conyers

Action: Motion carried as amended

11o. One vote for Direct Member Clubs

This agenda item has been withdrawn by the maker.

11p. Purpose – Direct Member Clubs

I move that the NEC approve the following motion to amend IVV Statutes regarding goals and purposes direct member clubs for submission to the 2008 Congress of Delegates.

The following motion is submitted, as approved by the National Executive Council of the American Volkssport Association (AVA) for consideration by the Congress of Delegates to be held July 4-6 in York, England.

It is hereby moved that Article 3 (Gaining Membership) be amended to the following: (changes in bold)

GAINING MEMBERSHIP

- 1) Members of the Association are national volkssport associations (national member associations).
- 2) Membership is based on acceptance of application. The application for admission must be submitted in written form to the IVV President.
- 3) The Congress of Delegates approves admission **based upon compliance with the goals and purposes of IVV (and upon the applicant operating as a non-profit organization).**
- 4) Membership starts on the date of acceptance of admission. As a member of the Association, the national volkssport association is bound by the current statutory regulations of the IVV.
- 5) In countries without national volkssport associations, direct member clubs may provisionally be empowered to conduct volkssport events, **(but must also be non-profit organizations) dedicated to the purposes and goals of IVV.** The Presidium is authorized to take relevant resolutions.

Summary of proposed action: Paragraph (6), Article 2, IVV Statutes and Rules, below, states that IVV is a non-profit organization.

- (6) The Association is a non-profit organization. Any profits may only be used for statutory purposes. The Congress of Delegates shall decide upon the distribution of funds to national member associations in order to promote volkssport.

However, neither the Statutes and Bylaws nor the Standing Rules specifically require member countries or direct member clubs to also be non-profit organizations. Without such requirement, IVV's status within Germany as a non-profit organization may be jeopardized.

IVV's goals and purposes are clear (shown below, as stated in Paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively, Article 2, IVV Statutes and Rules). There is no indication that any member country is other than a non-profit organization. However, some direct member clubs appear to be for-profit organizations. As such, their goals for profit are contrary to the stated goals of IVV. A for-profit organization will do little or nothing to promote volkssporting events to its own local population. Nor will a for-profit company support formation of new volkssport clubs because each new club represents more competition for them.

IVV's written goals are:

- (a) To encourage public health through a non-competitive, outdoor sports program;
- (b) To contribute toward peace and understanding among nations by fostering international friendship through volkssport.

In the United States, law requires that a non-profit organization, such as the American Volkssport Association, must assure that each of its members is also a non-profit organization. For-profit tourism companies in the United States, therefore, organize a separate non-profit organization for the purpose of sanctioning IVV events. It is the non-profit organization that is a member of AVA, and is subject to AVA/IVV rules. Their companion, for-profit organization is subject to national laws and taxation, but is clearly not a part of AVA/IVV.

This flaw in IVV's organizational structure may also be viewed as a form of colonialism within the very countries that IVV wishes to add to its association. Passage of this amendment will demonstrate that commitment to IVV's goals and purposes is more important than personal profit.

Curt stated that the primary purpose of this motion is to correct a problem he sees with direct member countries. You all know that in the AVA any member club has to be a non-profit organization under the umbrella of AVA or under the umbrella of another non-profit organization. His understanding of European law is that they don't necessarily have to be a non-profit.

Heinz Stated that "Americaflug" was developed in the mid-70's with the idea of bringing Germans over to the United States to help get this business of Volkssporting going. Even though it was a for-profit venture it was a positive thing. There was another club that came out of southern Germany for the same purpose.

Skip Coburn moved to amend the motion to delete all references in #3 and #5 to "non profit organizations. Seconded by Glen Conyers. Amendment passed. Text in #3 and #5 within parentheses is eliminated.

Note: Approval of changes to IVV rules requires a two-thirds vote. For rule changes, each country member holds one vote.

Submitted By: Curt Myron, AVA President

Seconded By: Glen Conyers

Action: Motion carried as amended

12. Audience Comments

Joan Lampart felt that there should be more audience comment periods.

13. Officer Comments

Heinz - had two things: 1) if anyone had tried to contact him via email recently, he didn't have computer access to check emails for the three weeks prior to the meeting; 2) he wondered if we should consider setting aside a small block of time to discuss specific operational matters. It would enable everyone to be on the same sheet of music.

Marvin – thanked everybody for their support of the Savannah event. It was a very successful event, even though we had one day of unbelievable rain. They had 496 pairs of boots on the ground and an overall participation of over 2,000 participations over the four day period. It was a 17% increase over 2006.

Wayne – He is very frustrated with the “overrule” of his motion. We overlooked an invitation of another Region Director to have a meeting in his region, and chose a Director who has no interest in it.

Becky – Invited everyone to attend the Columbia Gorge events in mid June. It will be spectacular as always. She appreciates the way the council is working together. She is disappointed that it still seems like “business as usual” is important to everybody. We have to change or we are gonna die.

Bonnie – wants to invite everyone to come by Crazy Horse on their way to the meeting in June. The Prairie Wanderers in Brookings are having a 25th Anniversary celebration the weekend before the NEC meeting.

Ginny – thanks to Skip for making the arrangements for the meeting here in DC.

Pat – Ditto to what Ginny said.

John – thanks, Skip. Appreciate it. He wants to remind everybody that tomorrow is a very important day. Texas Independence Day – March 2nd.

Ed – Thanked Skip. Superb location. Close to the White House and other things.

Skip – Dinner tonight is only about five blocks away. Reservation is for 6:30 p.m. If we meet in the lobby at 6:15 p.m., we’ll be there in plenty of time. 707 G Street NW. He has a few of the Christmas ornaments left for \$17. He has the start cards, directions, insurance waivers, etc. for the walk tomorrow. They can start from the hotel and go over to the start point. Meet at 8:00 a.m. There should be plenty of time to walk. There is a flyer for the Atlantic Region Conference in Martinsburg, WV, March 14-16, in the packet he gave everyone.

Mike – 1st Saturday in May the Falcon Wanderers will be holding their 27th Anniversary Walk in Colorado Springs.

Phil – Thanks Skip for arranging all this.

Glen – Has been thinking about the term “Regional Directors.” He wondered if we could change the name to “Organizing Directors.”

Curt – has realized the job is more difficult than he thought it would be. He has gained more and more respect for those who have been President before him. He passionately wants the AVA to have one million members in five years. He views us as a team. It bothers him when he has to make a decision which involves a member of the team (which includes all the clubs in the United States) and it sometimes hurts feelings or upsets people. There is nothing personal in it at all.

14. Adjournment

Marvin Stokes moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Ginny Drumm. The meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Lucero

Pat Lucero
AVA Secretary
3-01-08 Minutes

Attachments:

- 4a. Donations
- 6a.(2). New Walker Kits Sold
- 7. Global Statistics
- 8b.2).a). 2011 AVA Convention Proposed Event Schedule
- 9i. Special Event Programs Report
- 11f. Gift Coupon Processing