

Keystone State Volkssport Association
September 24, 2016
Super 8 Motel, State College PA

KSVA President Joan Lampart called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm, thanking the Nittany Nomads for hosting in conjunction with the biennial Fall Foliage Weekend.

Others Present: Vice President - Marcy Lucas; Treasurer - Pat Eby; Secretary - Carol Talaga; Cumberland Valley Lead Foot Club – Lorraine Jackson; Liberty Bell Wanderers – Dave Brown; Nittany Nomads - Robert Shepherd, Ann Shepherd; Penn Mary Walkers – Sarah Garcia; York White Rose Wanderers - Pam Copenhaver; Atlantic Regional Director - Tom Jackson; Guests - Bill Rhoat, SRVC and Susan Osborn, Baltimore Walking Club.

Secretary

Minutes from the June meeting were approved. Like previous minutes, they are also posted on KSVA.net about three weeks after electronic distribution.

Treasurer

June July and August statements were circulated and filed for audit. The balance as of August 30 is \$6257.15. Two IRS reports due to AVA by November 15: *Annual Financial Report and Worksheet for 501[c][3] Organizations* and the e-Postcard are signed and ready for submission. Gross income for the fiscal year ending June 30 was \$4849.04 while gross expenses were \$4815.55 with a net gain of \$33.49. KSVA assumes printing costs for our sponsored walks and all other pages of the booklet not paid for by member clubs @ less than \$40.00 per page. Regarding our policy for financial support for new clubs, Carol asked for a breakdown of the costs such as mandatory fees and publicity materials. This will assist us in revising our policy, if needed. Sarah Garcia will itemize her expenses to give us an idea of a reasonable amount.

Vice-President

No report at this time.

President

This is a report on the meeting at Exton Public Library, July 6: what a surprise! Dave and I spoke to an audience of over sixty people, about volkssporting, AVA, and new club formation, at the invitation of Librarian and former Valley Forge Trooper Jeanne Clancy. We must have done something right, because the questions were coming. Dave sold 24 New Walker Kits; 28 people accepted his offer for complimentary membership to the Liberty Bell Wanderers, until the Chester County club is official. Marcy Lucas also attended and was welcomed to her initiation as incoming KSVA President. She was impressed with Jeanne's ability to attract members, assess their interest, and activate them to work for the new club.

In her progress report to Joan this week, Jeanne noted that four officers, a webmaster, and leaders for group walks have been assembled. Officers are: herself - President; Meghan Lynch – Vice President; Pam Marquette, Treasurer, and Danielle Skaggs, Secretary. Ken Owens is webmaster. A club name has been selected: Chester County Red Rovers, with a CC red fox logo. Registration with the PA Department of State was approved this week, Tom Jackson noted. Start points and trails are prepared for Downingtown, Phoenixville and Warwick County Park. LBW will list them until the Red Rovers are official.

Dave and I were asked to speak at the annual County Parks of Pennsylvania meeting in Hershey next March, about volkssporting in general. Dave mentioned that he attended a Chester County Trails Commission meeting this week where he was asked to comment about volkssporting.

President [cont.] Other KSVa Business:

Next year is the AVA Convention – in Billings, Montana. At that time, a new slate of officers will be elected, as well as other business and of course lots of walks and fun. Bob Wright, Vice-President of Loudoun Walking and Volkssport Club in Virginia, will throw his hat in the ring for AVA President; he has asked to attend one of our meetings to give his platform. Marcy agreed that he could be our guest in February.

To follow-up on her request from last meeting, Pat asked for input on arrangement of State Parks in the YRE/Seasonal booklet 2017. The decision is to keep the current listing – by name of State Park, with a cross-reference to location. Pat asked that the clubs send officer names by mid-October to meet the publication deadline.

Nominating Committee

Joan conducted the election, in the absence of Louise Clouser. There were no nominations from the floor so the slate of candidates previously reported were voted upon, one by one. The decision was unanimous for Marcy Lucas – President; Jane Jensen Holmes – Vice President; Pat Eby – Treasurer; and Carol Talaga - Secretary. Terms for the officers begin 1 January 2017 and expire 31 December 2018. With election completed today, leadership information in the soon to be printed YRE/Seasonal book is up-to-date.

By-Laws / Louise Clouser [absent]

It has been suggested that we get a committee of three to review this document before the next meeting in November. Carol Talaga has agreed to chair and I would like to suggest that Marcy Lucas be another member. After their review, changes will be brought before this group and voted on at the November meeting.

KSVa SPONSORED EVENTS

Event / PoC	#	Comments
20/10 / Marcy		Not totaled yet, but volume of submitted books seems to be in line with previous years at this time of the year
State Parks & Forests– completed Tom Jackson	58 02	First time [patch features a whitetail deer Second time [patch features a ruffed grouse] Cumulative statistics for individual SP to be reported at next meeting.
State Parks&Forests sanctioned 2017		
CV Lead Foot		Caledonia walk [route revised]; Caledonia swim
Liberty Bell Wanderers		Delaware Canal SP: Morrisville, New Hope and Easton walk and Easton bike; tentative SP weekend Oct 20-22 in Nolde Forest, French Creek & Marsh Creek; White Clay Creek Preserve tri-state event in April
Nittany Nomads		Black Moshannon
Penn Dutch Pacers		Susquehannock; Ricketts Glen
Penn Mary Walkers		Cowan’s Gap; Shawnee
Susquehanna Rovers		Little Buffalo; Cook Forest
York White Rose Wanderers		None
Shepherdstown Jane Snurr	65	paid including Rhodes Scholars who have taken New Walker packets as of August 8
Erie Presque Isle State Park / Pat Eby	32	
Harper’s Ferry WV Jane Snurr	26	As of August 8
67 Counties Sharon Miller	20	Still selling books
Appalachian Trail- Jane Holmes		Flyers will be distributed for review, hopefully by the first week of October. Goal is: flyers on display, booklets for sale, and web site launched at in time for Hershey.

CLUB REPORTS

Cumberland Valley Lead Foot: Lorraine Jackson

Lorraine has graciously stepped in to maintain the Club. She is planning a traditional event in Fayetteville to coincide with the local fire department chicken dinner. Pat Eby mentioned that the Rovers have walked in this town through a golf course; she will send the name of a Rovers member who lives there to Lorraine.

Liberty Bell Wanderers:

October 8-11 –Long Island Bus Trip (Asbury Park, Port Jefferson, Hartford & West Point)

Dropping in 2017 YRE's (3):- Allentown Parks; -Reading / Nolde Forest SP; Wilmington DE

YRE added since last meeting – Hatboro PA. Adding in 2017 YRE's (5): Chestnut Hill – Philadelphia PA; Easton, PA walk and bike; Lansdale PA; Milford PA (remote sign-in).

Biking:

- Entire Schuylkill River Trail (3) – includes Colleeville, Valley Forge, Schuylkill Banks
- Entire Delaware Canal Towpath (4) – includes Easton, New Hope, Titusville, Morrisville

Traditional Events

- *Triple Border Crossing Walk (DE-MD-PA) at Tri-State Marker located in White Creek State Park, just north of Newark, DE – Saturday, April 22, 2017

*Possible State Parks weekend October 20-22, 2017 to include: [1] Nolde Forest State Park; [2]Hopewell Village National Historic Site / French Creek State Park; [3] Marsh Creek State Park; and [4] Downingtown (Struble and Uwchland trails - not a state park)

Nittany Nomads: New members volunteered for registration this weekend and appear to be gaining enthusiasm for the Club. The Meet and Greet hosted by Fred will feature door prizes.

Penn Dutch Pacers:

Our next walk is in Ephrata on Dec 10th. We plan to do Lititz Fire and Ice in February, River Towns in April with Susquehanna Rovers and York club, and are looking at a Governor Dick/Mt Gretna walk in September and probably another December walk TBD. All our new YREs for 2017 were sanctioned including 2 bikes.

Penn Mary Walkers:

We currently have nine active members, two from Maryland. Three permanent walking events profit gained has been about \$150.00. Check sent to AVA for the sanctioning fees.

Publicity: I have made public service announcements, put articles in the local newspaper, Bedford Rotary Club talk. Went and put flyer's in different health facilities, and gym's and grocery stores. Talked to walkers and joggers. Passed out business cards. Our next annual event will be in May, starting at Bedford High School, passing the historic Bedford Springs Hotel [lunch spot]; this event is pending approval from local authorities, to be followed by application for AVA sanctioning.

Susquehanna Rovers :

Keeping all year-round, adding a bike option to Punxsutawney and changing its status from seasonal to year-round. Adding Cook Forest. Traditional events include: Carlisle Barracks Oktoberfest at Army Heritage Education Center in Carlisle - October 8-9; Hershey Holiday Walkfest – November 25-26, four trails and Susquehanna River Towns Weekend, April 28-30. Several walks are under construction. Next year will be our 30th anniversary.

York White Rose Wanderers:

Pam noted the 2017 traditional events planned thus far: York Winter Walk - with new trail, Susquehanna River Towns weekend in April; and Gettysburg weekend.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

1. If your club is under the AVA non-profit umbrella, by October 31:

- AVA must receive the Annual Financial Report
- The E post card must be filed with the IRS
- AVA must receive the confirmation that IRS received the E post card.
- Submit the "Officer Update" on the AVA web site. Include updating the club membership.

Official date is November 15 but Joan and I need two weeks to follow up with clubs that do not submit. If you fail to submit, AVA will not give you Proof of Non-Profit letter.

2. The Commendable Service Award replaced the Certificate of Service Award effective June 1. LBW is the only Pennsylvania club that has nominated anyone.

Don't forget the Certificate of Appreciation for any businesses that are supporting you (usually hosting a start box for a YRE)

3. There will be an AVA National Program starting in 2018 focusing on the Appalachian Trail. Participants will be expected to do a volksmarch on the AT in each of the 14 states that the trail goes through. The entire AT in Pennsylvania will be sanctioned as a Volkssport event. Qualifying YREs, with a start box, will be at Pine Grove Furnace State Park (site of the AT Museum) and in the east (at a location chosen by LBW).

On Line Start Box and Pay Per Participant Sanctioning can be used.

4. Several YREs in Maryland and Pennsylvania (Milford and Appalachian Trail) will use the On Line Start Box in 2017. As information is put out in Checkpoint and the TAW about using the On Line Start Box, recommend you pay attention to it.

5. Joan asked me to discuss Pay Per Participant Sanctioning (PPPS).

- In lieu of the normal sanctioning fee, the club pays AVA \$1 for every participant and \$1.25 for every paid participant. Clubs will not make much but then they will not lose any.

- Option for when the club does not expect to have enough participants to cover sanctioning costs. Usually used for non-walking events and events in geographically remote areas.

- PPPS should not be used when an event has been around for a long time and participation has just declined over a period of time. In that case, do not renew the event and bring it back after several years.

- RD is the approval authority. There is a simple form that I need to send to AVA.

Motion to Adjourn – was made at 3:25 p.m. The Rovers will host the next meeting at the Hershey Walkfest.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Talaga, Secretary