

## VCWP Minutes 1/23/2011

The meeting came to order at 9AM at the Park Restaurant, Highland Falls. Eight members were in attendance and participated in walking the West Point YRE.

- 1) Andrew Schmidt shared a list of names due for club renewal first half of 2011. Five member renewals were received at the meeting.
- 2) Andrew shared a nice Thank You letter from the Walkway over the Hudson group for our 2010 donation. VCWP also made donations for 2010 to Hudson Highlands Nature Museum (Cornwall) and the Friends of the Trailside Zoo at Bear Mountain. Our YRE walks take advantage of the bathroom facilities at these locations.
- 3) Andrew shared the AVA Convention Brochure (also available online).
- 4) Treasurer's Report: \$1059.59 balance at end of December 2010. 34 renewals are scheduled and Andrew noted considerable expense was incurred for supplies (such as event and distance books and New Walker kits that will be sold to members [\$526 in inventory]).

Andrew filed the annual financial report and required IRS non-profit forms.

- 5) Betty & Mike shared some information on the February (President's Weekend) Florabama walks in the Pensacola, FL & Orange Beach, AL areas. They will be participating.
- 6) Joan Kimmel mentioned there are Traditional Event walks in York, PA on Feb 5 & 6.

(Secretary's note -- web link: <http://www.ava.org/clubs/york/pages/York%20Winter%20Walk%202011%20%20Brochure.pdf> )

- 7) Reviewed Club Calendar group walks:

Next group walk Feb 13 Central Valley YRE, breakfast/meeting at Bright Star Diner; NYC group walk Feb 26. Tom S will determine where to meet for breakfast for the March 12 Cold Spring YRE group walk. March 20 Rhinebeck YRE (instead of Nyack, which has not been sanctioned yet as YRE – also replaces cancelled Rhinebeck walk in early January because of weather)

The Liberty Bell Wanderers are bringing a bus of walkers to the WOTH and Rhinebeck YREs in April. If the dates coordinate we may switch the Cornwall group walk scheduled in April for the WOTH group walk also in April. (Secretary's note: confirmed the Wanderers are walking WOTH April 16 and Rhinebeck April 17.)

- 8) AVA Proposals (Motions)

- (1) Club had already reported **split vote** regarding whether event stamps may be used more than once per half year.

- (2) Regarding events that require driving to the walk start from the walk box/starting point: should clubs have to be clear about this and where restroom and water are available, if not at both the starting point/walk box and the walk start. Unanimous vote: **yes**
- (3) Regarding electronic sanctioning and reporting, and submission of free walk coupons to AVA. The AVA requests the coupons be completed with name, address and email address of participant. Andrew submits these after traditional events or quarterly for YREs. The wording says "requested". We'll do our best to get the coupons completed & submitted. It was noted that when free walk coupons are mailed to the club and at hectic event registration tables it may be difficult to ensure each free walk coupon is completed. Unanimous vote – **yes**.
- (4) Regarding the AVA stipulation that clubs within 400 air miles should not host traditional events 5 days prior or 3 days after the AVA Convention (Pre & Post Convention Walks). There was discussion proposing making the required distance less (eg 100 miles) and discussion about only restricting events during the week of the convention. A point was made that the AVA Convention Committee wants to assure full participation in Convention walks and wants to be sponsor of any pre and post convention walks (money goes to AVA and not to individual clubs). Mike mentioned that when attending the NEC meeting in Albany, he got the impression that the AVA makes money on the Convention. Unanimous vote – **No** (Secretary's note: Can information be made available regarding AVA expenses and profits from previous conventions and pre / post walks? This information was not available at time of vote.)
- (5) Regarding requiring clubs sponsoring events have a sign at the starting point to let participants know if the actual distance of the trail is different than advertised. Unanimous vote – **Yes**
- 9) TAW (The American Wanderer) AVA newspaper came out a few days ago. Note that Andrew received his before the Greens for a change ☺ (Secretary's note: AVA e-community forum *The Open Door* can be accessed via AVA website.)
- 10) Betty proposed and submitted a mock-up of a VCWP reward book to encourage club members and other walkers to complete all of the VCWP sponsored YRE walks and participate in VCWP sponsored traditional event walks. There was discussion regarding how many events to require. 12 events were agreed upon. All YREs must be completed once during the year and the additional spots may be completed with a traditional event or repeat YRE. No YRE may be recorded on the reward card more than twice. Betty will check with the Northeast Regional Director to see if the event stamp may be used on the cards or if they should be written in. Betty shared a reward card created by the Keystone State Volkssport Association (event stamp not used on card). Andrew shared a reward card the Empire State Volkssport Club uses (stamp is used on card). The reward would be a gold star clutch back pin with the year imprinted on it. The idea was well received. Cards could be made available at walk starts and also printable

online. All pins would be ordered after the end of the calendar year. (Secretary's note: Require completed reward cards be submitted no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> of following year.)

- 11) The meeting adjourned and walk registration was completed at the West Point Visitors' Center. The temperature at the beginning of the walk was 12°F with "real feel" of 2°F. The sun was shining and everyone dressed warmly.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Green