

Volkssport Club at West Point 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes (held 7 January 2021)

On 7 January 2021, the club held its annual business meeting to wrap up the previous calendar year (2020). Club President Joan Vorbach presided and called the meeting to order at 805 PM.

Those in attendance were:

- All four elected club officials:
 - Joan Vorbach, Club President (and West Point Point of Contact (POC))
 - Jessica Ruit, Club Vice President (and New York State Appalachian Trail POC)
 - Carol Schmidt, Club Secretary
 - Andrew Schmidt, Club Treasurer (and American Volkssport Association (AVA) Northeast Region Deputy Director, Rhinebeck and Walkway Over the Hudson POC)

- Also in attendance were:
 - Betty Green, former AVA Northeast Region and former club officer
 - Carol Hollar, club member
 - Dorothy Basini, Cornwall-On-Hudson Point of Content (POC)
 - Farrell Patrick, former club officer
 - Michael Green, Club webmaster (and AVA Atlantic Region Director)
 - Nancy Patrick, former club officer
 - Tom Nisonger, former club officer and Hyde Park POC

The first order of business was election of 2021 club officers. Notice was provided previously via our “*Stepping Out*” newsletter for any nominations to run for any of the four officer positions. No nominations from the field were received. All four incumbents therefore were willing to serve in 2021. President Vorbach called the motion, and all were reelected unanimously.

- President - Joan Vorbach
- Vice President - Jessica Ruit
- Secretary - - Carol Schmidt
- Treasurer - Andrew Schmidt

Club Treasurer Andrew Schmidt gave his report.

- Good news from the end of last year 2020, 58 members were paid, as opposed to 55 as of the end of 2019.
- The following were the number of paid walkers (for YREs only) over the past few years:
 - 2017 - 227
 - 2018 - 171
 - 2019 - 223 (Albany convention)
 - 2020 - 158 (107 (if you remove the Schmidt’s WOTHs))
- 2021 comments:
 - Bottom line is you can’t make much out of the last two years
 - We did remove some underperforming YREs over the last few years (Goshen/Highland Falls/New Paltz/Southampton/Barryville/Nyack, but added Appalachian Trail (19 walkers over 2 years)

- Bank Balances (calendar year end):

• Year	• December Ending Balance
○ 2017	○ \$962.70
○ 2018	○ \$890.59
○ 2019	○ \$836.88
○ 2020	○ \$852.59

- Charitable Donations:
Does not include club matching of split income earmarked donations, amounts rounded to nearest dollar

Year	November 30 balance	YTD Donations Already Made	Additional Donation Authorized
2016	\$1,489	\$0	\$25 to Hudson Highlands, \$25 to NY State Parks ((FM/WOTH, direct)?
2017	\$958	\$67 (\$42 to AVA (Convention Silent Auction), \$25 to AVA (Big Give))	\$25 to AVA (general), \$25 to NY State Parks (FM/WOTH, direct)
2018	\$979	\$27 to AVA (Big Give)	\$50 to NY State Parks (FM/WOTH, direct)
2019	\$1,021	\$13 to AVA (Convention Silent Auction)	\$25.00 to NY State Parks (FM/WOTH, direct)
2020	\$833	0	A voted needs to be made for these Charitable Contribution (see below)

- The club voted to donate as our 2020 Year End Contributions \$25.00 each to “Friends” group (vs. going through the NY State “Natural Trust” website we’ve previous used) for both the Walkway Over the Hudson and Fort Montgomery State Parks. A maximum of \$50 was voted to be spent to donate an item to the AVA for their Silent Auction during the 2021 Biennial Convention in Madison, WI this coming June.

- 2021 Highlights to be considered:
 - Remain diligent of expenses
 - Club member volunteered to be the PR person to populate newspapers with club events, etc.
 - Perhaps we will have a ‘Traditional Event’ in summer/fall
 - Yonkers will suggested by member Joshua Wanger at the club holiday party)
 - Lost anticipated Walking Adventures International AT Trail trip at Bear Mountain in June 2021 ☹
 - “Owe” AVA \$33.00 for c/y 2020 donations
 - Work in the Element 3 Health Program (good recruitment program) with AVA (asked a member to be the program lead)
 - AVA Club Development committee just released a number of ideas that we need to evaluate
 - Encourage more use of electronic delivery of materials vs. repro
 - Membership incentives (dues reduction recruitment policy?)
 - Changing accounting period to Calendar Year from current July-June year (AVA changed last year themselves)
 - Annual fiscal audit for 2020 fiscal year submitted to auditor last month
 - Bi-annual US Army “Private Organization” re-certification scheduled for Spring 2021

- Review membership fees (Other clubs are higher; ours have been \$10 for at least the last 13 years)
 - Some discussion ensued that indicated a \$12-\$15 annual dues should be considered
 - Club Vice President Jessica Ruit suggested that if a club member walks a certain number of walks, their membership dues might be reduced.
 - Highland Falls directions should be included in the West Point Walk Box in case West Point YRE is unable to be walked.
 - Joan Kimmel, former club officer, will continue to be the 2021 Walk Incentive Book program manager, and the 2021 booklet will be prepared
- Again, thanks were offered to Mike Green, AVA Atlantic Region Director, for continuing to both host without cost and perform web master work for the club.

Finally, some important AVA Information was provided to the members:

- Move has been completed to their new address:
1008 S. Alamo St., San Antonio, TX 78210
- Completed books are now ok to be resent to their new address
- June 2021 Madison Wisconsin Convention Notes:
 - Registration now open:
<https://my.ava.org/c2021/register.php>
 - May 1, 2021 is the last day to register for the convention and buy convention merchandise.

The meeting was adjourned at 850 PM.