



Volkssport Club at West Point - Minutes of the General Year End (2022) Annual Meeting (held in conjunction with the annual holiday luncheon, January 2023)

The second half of 2022 Volkssport Club at West Point General Membership meeting was held at noon time at the Alexis Diner in Newburgh, NY on Sunday, 8 January 2023. President Joan Vorbach presided and called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon. 16 club members were present. In addition to the President, other officers and Point of Contact members were present:

- Carol Schmidt, Secretary
- Andrew Schmidt, Treasurer and POC of both Highland/Walkway Over the Hudson and Rhinebeck
- Dorothy Basini, POC of Cornwall
- Tom Nisonger, POC of Hyde Park
- Tom Scuccimarra, POC of both Beacon and Cold Spring

President Joan welcomed the members and reminded the group of the 2023 officers that were voted into the club in December; a formal election was not held because all these officers were incumbents, and no other nominations were received during the call for nominations. That call was made over several issues of the club's official e-newsletter, "**STEPPING OUT!**" in the fall of 202.

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

President Joan announced and distributed AVA formal awards (Certificates, Pins, and Patches) for the following individuals.

- AVA Meritorious Award
 - Vice President Jessica Ruit (many years as being Vice President)
- AVA Commendable Service Awards:
 - Secretary Carol Schmidt (years of being an officer)
 - Member Patty Wing (years of being the Post Office Box transporter)

President Joan invited guest Carol Giesecke, the AVA Northeast Region Director (who traveled 400 miles roundtrip to join us) to say a few welcoming words. An important topic was enlisting other club members to attend the upcoming IVV Olympiad/IML Texas Trail Roundup to be held in San Antonio from February 19-26 next month. Several club members will be attending.

Treasurer Andrew Schmidt gave his report.

- All Walk Box stamps are available in the boxes as of the first of the year
- New Online Start Boxes (OSB) walks will have physical stamps available at our group walks. Five of these were converted from Physical Start Boxes (PSB):
- Walks now on the OSB (with AVA IDs):
 - Appalachian Trail 2487 (existing OSB)
 - Beacon 1150 (converted from PSB to OSB in 2023)
 - Cold Spring 1633 (converted from PSB to OSB in 2023)
 - Cornwall 252 (converted from PSB to OSB in 2023)
 - Hyde Park 1108 (converted from PSB to OSB in 2023)
 - West Point 37 (converted from PSB to OSB in 2023)
- Walks with Physical Start Boxes (PSB):
 - Fort Montgomery 1973 (seasonal)
 - Highland/WOTH 797
 - Rhinebeck 1094

- 2023 dues reminder was solicited, and several members paid their 2023 dues. The renewals are \$12/year, new member \$15/year w/a New Walkers Kit provided free of charge.
- Andrew informed the membership of the Club donations that were voted on by the board and distributed to 501(c)(3) walking organizations:
 - American Volkssport Association - \$34.50 (during the AVA “Big Give” charitable donation drive
 - Fort Montgomery Battle Site Association - \$25.00 (houses our Fort Montgomery Seasonal PSB)
 - Friends of the Walkway (maintaining the cultural aspects of the Walkway Over the Hudson, our walk that has the greatest participation and a world-wide walking destination (longest, tallest pedestrian bridge in the world)
- A club member suggested we write a thank-you letter to those establishments that held our boxes; Andrew replied the club had already thought of this, but wished to obtain the boxes first so they would not be discarded by the establishments (we’ve had that happen in the past); we will write those letters now. Thanks for the reminder!
- Andrew distributed nice bookmarks from the Empire State Capital Volkssporters (ESCV) that he obtained from them recently.
- Finally, Andrew provided the year end club financial balances over the past several years. Despite COVID, we are holding our own: (Account Balances as of 1 January: **2020** \$836, **2021** \$852, **2022** \$826, **2023** \$922)

The formal meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM followed by a lovely luncheon. The club thanks the staff of Alexis Diner for their hospitality, especially Alexis Diner managers Lou and Jeff.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Schmidt, Secretary