



## **Volkssport Club at West Point**

### **January 2024 Holiday Party and 2023 Annual Wrap Up Business Meeting Minutes**

The annual January Holiday Party was held on Sunday, 28 January 2024. In lieu of the lateness of this date in January (the first attempt earlier in the month on 7 January was "snowed" out), we combined our annual party with the annual January Business meeting in one on this date. The venue was the *Double O Grill* in Wappingers Falls; all club members and guests were invited to attend, and we had fourteen members in attendance.

In lieu of inclement weather preventing President Joan Vorbach's attendance, Treasurer Andrew Schmidt ran the meeting. He called the meeting to order at 11:35 AM and welcomed the members.

- He offered Joan's regrets that she was unable to attend.
- Officers and Year Round Event (YRE) Point of Contacts (POC) were in attendance:
  - Club Treasurer Andrew Schmidt
  - Club Secretary Carol Schmidt
  - Beacon YRE POC, Joseph DiMichele
  - Cold Spring YRE POC, Joseph DiMichele
  - Cornwall YRE POC, Dorothy Basini
  - Highland/Walkway Over the Hudson YRE POC, Andrew Schmidt
  - Hyde Park YRE POC, Tom Nisonger
  - Rhinebeck YRE POC, Andrew Schmidt
- Andrew provided the results of the election of 2024 Club Officers that President Vorbach would have announced:
  - President – Joan Vorbach
  - Vice President – Jessica Ruit
  - Secretary – Carol Schmidt
  - Treasurer – Andrew Schmidt

Andrew provided the annual club treasurer report.

- The following shows the past year's statistics along with the previous year's balances (all financial institution accounts, including cash on hand).

Calendar Year	31 Dec Balance	Participants
2019	\$836.88	234*
2020	\$852.59	189
2021	\$826.16	199
2022	\$922.25	200
<b>2023</b>	<b>\$1113.14</b>	<b>209**</b>

\* - includes 14 for Kingston 28 Sept 2019 Traditional Event

\*\* - includes 9 for New Paltz 30 Sept 2023 Traditional Event

- Andrew discussed the change to the walk \$4 registration fee this year.

As background prior to 2024, of the \$3 registration fee received by most clubs for those wishing AVA credit, the AVA charged the club \$1.25. The clubs kept \$1.75 of this \$3 fee for their own treasury. Additionally, the AVA allowed 'free' walkers, and the clubs were not charged by the AVA, nor did they receive AVA credit.

An AVA-mandated action in effect for 2024 requires all walkers (now called 'participants') to be charged \$2 fee regardless of whether or not they wish to receive AVA credit. Additionally, no more 'free' walkers are allowed. The AVA finance committee "further recommended that the \$3 registration fee be increased to a "recommended no more than registration fee of \$4."

Therefore, the club officers announced all participants (except "paid up members of the club"; see below) will pay a \$4 registration fee. This is typical of other clubs in the Northeast Region.

However, paid up members of the club in 2024, the club will still charge the previous \$3 registration fee for our walks except if they register via an Online Start Box. That fee is out of our control and will also be \$4.00.

- Andrew announced that our auditor for years past, Randall Laird, has decided not to continue in that role effective for the last year's fiscal year 2022-2023. We thanked Randall for his service. Therefore, we need an auditor to review our financial books as the US Army requires us to have an audit for the every-other year recertification as an official US Army "Private Organization". Andrew asked the members present to assist us in locating a suitable person for this role in the future.
- Andrew then provided the club calendar as it currently stands for the remainder of 2024 (see the last page of these Minutes), emphasizing for walkers the need to check our online calendar for any changes.
- Andrew highlighted the annual AVA Northeast Region Walking Weekend, Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club (CVVC) in this effort. The event website at <https://nodegreen.com/hudtohou/> contains those details. Andrew stressed the need for our members to assist the club for that weekend.

The business meeting concluded at 11:50 AM, and the party began!

Respectively submitted, Carol Schmidt, Club Secretary

## 2024 Club Calendar – TENTATIVE!

Check the club website or *STEPPING OUT!* for changes

13 Jan, Sat - Beacon Group Walk  
25 Feb, Sun - West Point Group Walk  
9 Mar, Sat - Cornwall Group Walk  
14 Apr, Sun - Cold Spring Group Walk  
27 Apr, Sat - Fort Montgomery Seasonal Group Walk  
5 May, Sun - Highland - Walkway over The Hudson and Rail Trails Group Walk  
18 May, Sat - Hyde Park Group Walk  
9 Jun, Sun - Beacon Group Walk  
29 Jun, Sat - Rhinebeck Group Walk  
13 Jul, Sat - Cold Spring Group Walk  
21 Jul, Sun - Cornwall Group Walk  
11 Aug, Sun - Fort Montgomery Group Walk & Picnic  
6 Sep, Fri - Hyde Park Group Walk (Part of the 2024 AVA Northeast Region Walking Weekend)  
7 Sep, Sat - Highland - Walkway over The Hudson and Rail Trails Group Walk (Part of the 2024 AVA Northeast Region Walking Weekend)  
8 Sep, Sun – Kent CT Group Walk (Part of the 2024 AVA Northeast Region Walking Weekend)  
14 Sep, Sat - West Point Group Walk  
6 Oct, Sun - Rhinebeck Group Walk  
2 Nov, Sat - Beacon Group Walk  
23 Nov, Sat - Cornwall Group Walk  
7 Dec, Sat - New York City Group Walk (venue TBD)