

Minutes – June 18, 2016

The quarterly club meeting was held at the Highland Falls Library, 298 Main St., Highland Falls, NY 10928 at 10 AM. Attending were Andrew Schmidt, Betty and Mike Green, Jessica Rein, Joan Vorbach, Nancy and Farrell Patrick, and Joan Kimmel.

AVA's 40th Anniversary patch

Betty mentioned that any walker who does a traditional event in 2016 qualifies to purchase the AVA's 40th anniversary patch. There are not going to be any 40th anniversary pins. Andrew mentioned that any club member who did the West Point YRE on June 12th, our club's AVA's 40th birthday walk, will get the patch for free.

Update on West Point and Highland Falls YRE

Our new starting point for the West Point and Highland Falls YREs will be the Highland Falls Market, 447 Main St., Highland Falls, NY, 10928. It is across the street from the Visitors Center.

New security procedures to enter West Point

Farrell presented information on new security procedures in place to do the West Point or Highland Falls YREs.

People wanting to do one of these two YREs will need to register at the Market, and then go to the Visitors Control Center, where you will be directed to Security (one of the temporary buildings in the parking lot of the now closed Visitors Center). You will need to apply for a Security Pass and will need to have a valid driver's license with photo, US passport, or Department of Defense ID card. If your driver's license is from Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico or Washington, you will need additional identification (enhanced driver's license, US passport, or military ID). Retired Military and DOD civilians with ID card do not have to get a Security Pass.

Treasurer's Report

Andrew reported that we had \$1,333 in our treasury. At the same time last year, we had \$1380 and \$1450 the year before. In general, we seem to be between \$1300 and \$1400.

Some troubling figures were that our income was down \$334 for the last 12 months, with membership falling from \$550 to \$410 and event fees collected going from \$1845 down to \$1125. For the last 12 months we had 2 fewer traditional events for the 12 months before that. Also, one of our events in 2014 was the Lackawaxen event, to which the Liberty Bell Wanderers brought a bus filled with walkers.

We need to have WOW events, with better advertising, including "bring a friend", and advertising in the Hudson Valley magazine; in general, we need better publicity.

Traditional Event this Saturday

Saturday, June 25th is our traditional event (one day only) starting at TR Gallo Waterfront Park, 1 Broadway, Kingston, NY 12401.

Discussion of the NEC (National Executive Council) Meeting

The NEC just held a meeting in Fredericksburg, TX, June 10th thru 12th, which Betty Green, the Northeast Regional Director, attended, together with her husband Mike. The walks started at 6 AM, in an attempt to beat the heat, and then meetings started at 9 AM.

Betty shared the following news from the meeting.

Only clubs can order the 40th anniversary patch. We will let our membership know, and will order them for those who prepay. The cost is \$3 for the patch (\$3.50 if you want it mailed to you.)

Starting in 2018, the IVV will stop issuing pins and patches to those who complete a milestone (in events or distance), and will only give out certificates. The AVA is deciding what it will do with respect to pins and patches.

Online start boxes will be available for clubs who don't have a start point, or their start point is too remote for the club to service it. Clubs will have to choose between an online start box and a physical one; at this time, a walk cannot have both.

The AVA reported that fewer events are being held, that sanction fees are down, and that participation fees are down. However, there has been an increase in sales of New Walker kits.

Donations to the Big Give campaign resulted in the AVA getting over \$50,000.

Patches for the May 2016 National Physical Fitness and Sports Month are still available to clubs at \$2.50 each for those who have done a walk in May.

There will be a contest to come up with a mascot for the AVA. Information will be available online soon. The deadline for entries will be 11/30/16, and the winner will receive paid registrations for two to the 2017 convention.

The book for the S.N.O.B. program (Special National Officer Book) may be included in the 2017 convention package. The program may end at the end of 2018.

The AVA would like to encourage clubs to hold bike events. Since participation maybe low, clubs might consider using per participant sanction fee, with a notice stating that “This event is not available for free participation.”

There will be training for club officers available online soon, but it is voluntary. No one needs to get “certified”.

Official minutes of the NEC meeting will be online in about three weeks.

The AVA may lose \$60,000 in revenues in the coming fiscal year.

There will be a new special program focusing on long distance trails. Walks on The Pacific Crest Trail will start in 2017. In 2018, walks may focus on the Appalachian Trail. Pennsylvania is sanctioning all of the Appalachian Trail in PA.

San Antonio will start the process to qualify to hold IML walks.

The results of the various motions before the NEC are as follows:

- Clubs purchasing stamps – Motion was withdrawn for more information
- Walks shorter than 5K distances – no action taken (it violates IVV policy)
- Trailmaster certification – Motion was withdrawn. Currently, only RDs can certify Trailmasters. However, RDs may designate someone to oversee a Trailmaster candidate and then approve certification.

- Free walkers – clubs would have to pay \$1.25 to the AVA for free walkers – Motion was defeated
- Release of membership information – Motion passed, but AVA will incorporate into privacy policy.
- Increase in maximum participation fee to \$4 – Motion failed.
- 5K trails walked twice for 10K – Motion withdrawn and replaced with another motion which passed. Clubs should offer a 10K trail, but it is okay to walk a 5K trail twice to receive credit for 10K.

Club members to be present for group walks

This is for the benefit of people who found out about the walk on Meet Up, in order to explain volkswalking. Various people volunteered for the various walks.

Coupons for our walks

Other clubs have them. They save the club member money, or at least the need to have \$3 in cash to pay for a walk for credit. We decided to discuss this at the next meeting.

YREs for next year

We will sanction all existing YREs for next year. We will sponsor the walk over the Roebling Aqueduct Bridge between Minisink Ford, NY and Lackawaxen, PA. as a new YRE with an online start box. Mike Green will take the lead on this and will talk to Liberty Bell Wanderers about the Milford, PA walk.

Fort Montgomery

We will sanction a modified Fort Montgomery walk as a guided walk for Tuesday, October 11, 2016 for when a bus from the Liberty Bell Wanderers visit West Point.

Proposal for VCWP to sponsor a special program

Mike Green presented a proposal for a special program, "Walk Both Ways". Mike estimated that sponsoring such a program would require an investment of about \$400 up front. Although we liked the idea for the program, after some discussion, the proposal was voted down for financial reasons - \$400

would be an outlay of one-third of the club's entire treasury. Mike will bring the idea to Liberty Bell Wanderers.