

## Happy Wanderers Walking Club

### Planning Workshop, August 6, 2011

Workshop was opened by Mike Duhlstine at 9:10 am in the Fellowship Hall, All Saints Lutheran Church.  
Attendance: 21

Workshop not a business meeting so a more informal setting but still adhered to Roberts Rules of Order.

PRESIDENT: Next business meeting Thursday, Sept. 1, 2011. Mike defined the environment re chain of command. AVA guidelines require that FI Volkspport Assn president reviews our plans and events. He oversees and coordinates 9 or 10 clubs in FI. Mike needs to send our 2012 walk and events calendar to the FI president. Mike feels it's a plus that the FI Assn president is new and will work with Mike regarding comments and suggestions.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Store Room Clean Up: Currently pay \$120 a month for climate controlled unit. We have a 20 year history in storage. We have scrapbooks, 3 to 4 k in photos, 2 to 3 linear feet of newspaper articles, 5 – 6 linear feet of files and records. Pat and Tammy also have some memorabilia at their home since Tammy is our historian. We also have some garage sale item in unit. In order to tidy unit and maintain its order it is suggested that items taken must be returned to correct location and we try to maintain order in unit.

Angie has volunteered to coordinate with Marvin and Mike to define the scope of our memorabilia problem. Marvin will check with AVA regarding requirements for record keeping. Angie would scan our photos and files and possibly transfer them to DVDs. Dave has a scanner as back up to Angie's.

After 8/23 Angie will arrange an onsite visit to storage unit with Mike and Marvin and have recommendations to neaten up unit and preserve club's history.

Name Tags: Pat will submit a prototype of name tag samples to members at next business meeting, 9/1. Once approved, we will discuss how to distribute the tags. Lois reminded club that a vote was approved to give new members a name tag and we need to adhere to vote.

Yard Sale: Saturday, November 12, Cypress Head, Sable Head subdivision, Airport Road, Port Orange at either or maybe both Barbara or Sandy's homes. Large items can be dropped off at site of sale Friday or early Saturday am. Items from club members can be brought 11/5 thru Saturday am and must be priced. Marvin and Larry have some tables and we have 6 tables at storage to display merchandise. Dave volunteered his truck for pick up and Jim will be his helper. Sandy and Barbara will take care of the necessary permits and the garage sale advertising. Sally needs to have bank role in order to make change.

Member Retention: We had 176 members, now we have 128 members. The coffee and orientation at Panera was not successful, no new members showed an interest. Bill stated that the majority of members in standing less than 1 year did not renew club membership. Marvin shared that at the national level member retention is a major issue. Pat suggested that if we don't know why members left we can't address the problem. Some suggestions to help members feel welcome and needed in the club were: Lois suggested we have greeters at walks whose sole purpose is to talk and mingle with the new people and pass on information. MoiraLynn suggested we have an information brochure at the walks, so those who like hard copies of upcoming walks and some contact information have info in hand. A "buddy" system, a member in good standing be assigned to a new member and keep contact with new member for 6 months and call new member encouraging them to come to walks, events and meetings. Have a current list of "buddies" on hand. Marvin reminded club of importance of a "sweeper" to keep pace with slower walkers so no one feels pressured to walk fast or feel they will be left behind. Angie suggested that a designated walker be assigned as "sweeper" on a rotating basis. Marvin reminded all club members to make sure new members do not walk alone. Suggestion also mentioned that when a walker leaves walk early to at least let another walker know your intention not to finish the walk.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

New Member Sign Up: Mike and Bill had discussed changing process of how new members receive their walker packet. New walker member could receive walker packet at next event after their initial sign up instead of packet being mailed. Could also include buddy name and contact information.

Wednesday Walkers: Marvin suggested we have a committee to welcome walkers and follow up with some form of personal contact, phone and email. Bill is going to copy Bridget on his welcome email to the new and visiting walkers so she can follow up with a phone call. These walkers are not current members and by giving them a warm welcome maybe some would join the club. Suggested we have a sign up sheet at Wed walk even though it's a "fun walk" and has no fee. Jim suggested we have a club information sheet at walk to enable the new walkers to call for more information re club.

POC/Walk Boxes: Mike suggested we skip this discussion and we edit POC boxes, directions, contact info and "A" awards.

Specialties: Bob Allen to edit items. We have 3 suitcases in storage unit with items such as tee shirts, pins and awards.

Pierson T-Shirts/etc: 10/22 is our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Sanctioned "A" award. Lois submitted tee shirt design and will be voted on next meeting, 9/1. Will have flyers at walks re Pierson walk.

WAF Activities: Schedule: Friday 1 – 3 pm Florida Volkspport State Meeting at Quality Inn

3 – 5 pm YRE

On your own for dinner

## Ghost Tour (fee)

Saturday 7 am Beach walk St Augustine Beach

Lunch on your own – sack lunch available for small fee

Afternoon walk to end by 4:30 pm

6:30 to 7:30 Cocktail hour Ale house

7:30 Banquet

Sunday 7:30 Palatka walk, 27 miles west of St Augustine

Mike and Bill have booked a suite at the Quality Inn and the suite will serve as an additional hospitality area with puzzles, games, cards. Moira has a contact with an author who has factual info on St. Augustine and she may have some literature to share.

2012 Events: Christmas Party to be discussed at 9/1 business meeting. New Year's Eve 2 pm walk in Port Orange followed by open house at Gloria's and Bob's home. Mike stated that our 2012 YRE need sanction and is applying for Jan 2012 now. In addition to our walks Mike said we need to support other walk clubs in our area. Marvin suggested day trip walks with carpooling and group convoy travel to defray expense. Members listed some new walk destinations to add to our schedule. The list will be shared at the next business meeting. Some suggestions were: January, Cocoa Village; April, Cracker Creek; Nov. vets walk; as well as Deland train to Winter Park; Blue Springs acting as host; Wekiva State Park, NSB, 27<sup>th</sup> Av Park, Larry to develop; Palm Coast trails, Faver Dykes, kayak; Deland, Lake Beresford; Deland, bon fire; Eustis, Titusville, space museum; Cape Canaveral Seashore. Mike mentioned that kayak, canoe, walk can be sanctioned. Mike suggested a meeting in Nov to decide on the walks.

**Adjourned 12:15 pm**