

# The Pacer Pulse

The Official Publication of the Penn Dutch Pacers Volksmarching Club

Summer 2019



## A Word from the President

Hello, Pacers!

I recently returned from the AVA biennial convention and thought the club might be interested in hearing about it.

During the pre-convention and convention, I did walks in Mystic (CT), Portsmouth (NH), Danvers (MA), Springfield (MA), Cohoes (NY), Saratoga Battlefield (NY), and Albany (NY). There were around 600 people at the convention and almost everyone participated in the walks. It was interesting to do a traditional event again with so many people! You always had people in front or behind as you walked. We had good weather except a few days of rain in Albany, which didn't stop the walks.

### GENERAL MEETINGS

- ◆ New AVA officers were elected; they are: Secretary, Celia minor; Treasurer, Chas Davis; VP, Nancy Wittenberg; and President, David Bonnovitz. Nancy and David are returning officers.
- ◆ Treasurer's report: Last year the AVA had \$50K more expenses than revenue, which was better than a \$100K loss the year before. The improvement was due to cost-saving cuts. But the AVA is still facing ultimate peril if it cannot reverse this trend. We have enough funds to sustain about 10 more years of operation at that loss rate.
- ◆ They have instituted two new programs. "AVA Angels" is a program where you can write the AVA into your will to leave a legacy. There will also be a monthly gift option (like a subscription) which has not yet been named. The AVA is also currently seeking out grants and partnerships.
- ◆ The number of clubs is now 218 (down from 276 in 2017); 40% of clubs have fewer than 10 members.
- ◆ The AVA is working on a strategic plan including online start box expansion, a national trails program, grants, and partnerships. One new partnership is with Civil Air Patrol, who will be encouraging their 60K employees to participate in volkssport for their health.
- ◆ At the second general session, a PR firm called MassMedia gave a presentation. They are planning to update the AVA image with common branding and templates for things like banners and brochures. They will be testing social media marketing for a few big events including an IML in San Antonio and the Freedom Fest in DC. Depending on how that goes, every club may receive tips and guidelines for better events.

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Albany Capitol Building



Portsmouth, NY



Mystic, CT



Cohoes NY Locks



- ◆ The 2021 convention will be held in Madison, Wisconsin.
- ◆ Bylaws changes: three “at large” board members from outside the AVA can be added by an AVA-wide vote. These would be experts and partners to help promote the AVA. The fiscal year is changed to the calendar year, but this will not affect clubs, only HQ. There was some clean-up to the committee structure in the bylaws.

I hope you can join us at the next AVA convention!

*Jane Holmes*



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## Susquehanna Rivertowns Scenes & Report

The weather, unfortunately, did not cooperate for the Susquehanna Rivertowns Walk this year; still, we had 109 committed walkers who were not going to be thwarted by uncooperative skies!



*Top right, grey skies apparently discouraged some folks from participating, but members of the three clubs took advantage of the slow walker traffic to get better acquainted with each other. Bottom left, the skies eventually cleared Sunday morning, but not soon enough!*



**Join us for our**

**~ Fall Harvest Walk ~**

**Saturday, September 7, 2019**

**Start time: 8:00—1:00 PM; finish by 4:00 PM**

**10 KM (Rating 2A) and 5 KM (Rating 1A) Routes**

**Start Point: Freemasons Cultural Center**

**1 Masonic Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022**

**Strollers: Easy; Wheelchairs: Easy; Pets: Yes (except inside Start Point)**

**Restrooms: At both the Start Point and Checkpoint**

**Check brochure in the PDP Website: [www.avacclubs.org/pdp](http://www.avacclubs.org/pdp)**

***We hope to see you there!***