The meeting was called to order and President Cheryl Elser welcomed those in attendance.

In attendance were 3 officers:  
Cheryl Elser - INVA President  
Cliff Terry - INVA Vice President  
Tom Martin - Member-at-Large  

And 4 clubs were represented by:  
Tina Ligman and Alison Piper - Bedford Hiking Club  
Nikki Martin - Goodtime Trailblazers  
Tom and Sandy Crabill – Three Rivers Strollers  
Dennis Fritz - Whitewater Valley Walkers

Minutes: Cheryl asked Sandy to take the minutes in Secretary Liz Winsley’s absence. Nikki made the motion to not read the minutes from the INVA December 2, 2017 meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Martin and unanimously approved. A copy of the minutes was available for all to read.

Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurer’s report was unavailable as Treasurer Bob Buzolich is currently in the hospital and unable to retrieve them at this time.

AVA News: Discussion was held on the new stamps and the 401K walking program. Cheryl said Columbia City did not receive a new stamp this year (just a new slug for year) but will get a new one next year. Tom Crabill brought up that the 401K program has helped the AVA financially, but doesn’t feel it is promoting AVA walks as the participants can use any type of walking for the challenge.

Regional Director Andy Bacon was unable to attend the meeting due to the weather. Cheryl mentioned the March 20th letter sent from Hector explained the poor IT service.

Mid-America Regional News: Cheryl advised on the purpose of the Mid-America Advisory Committee. She stated the Regional Director would like the committee organized, an EIN number, and the flow of money regulated. It was discussed that this would be like creating a new club. Cheryl said she would like the committee to act as an advisory committee. Nikki stated the MAC needs guidelines on getting things done and expectations. The club that sponsors the MAC receives $2000 towards the upcoming Conference. Currently there is a surplus of $2273.81. Discussion was held on returning the profits to the clubs that earned them. More discussion and final decisions will be made at the MAC. Cheryl said the committee is recommending the MAC be held every other year, opposite the National Convention.

The next Mid-America Conference is in Dundee, MI on October 26-28, 2018. It will be hosted by the Maumee Valley Volkssporters and $1000 was advanced to Craig Gauger for the printing of the brochure which should be out shortly. There was discussion on Kentucky having the MAC. Nikki stated she feels that AVA, as a group, works to draw people together and help the Kentucky group to offer to have MAC. Nikki made a move to follow-up on this. Cliff seconded and Cheryl advised she will contact the Kentucky group.

Cheryl advised that the call to agenda items for the NEC meeting should be submitted 90 days out. They are due June 9th and should be sent to Andy Bacon. Cliff voiced a concern that he feels the AVA has given up on a national sponsor.

INVA NEWS: Due to the ongoing IT problems, ESR’s should be entered and completed on the first try. Do not try to go back in and edit as problems will occur.

Cliff reported on the Traveling Stamp events for the Indy “G” Walkers. Currently there are 4 walks and 3 more walks scheduled in the Fall. The Westfield walk was held, and due to snow, did not have a large turnout. A make-up was held the following weekend and 12 more walkers attended for a total of 20 walkers. Tom suggested the stamp saying “Traveling.” Cliff advised he will bring this up with the AVA.
The pricing of the DNR headers and bars is as follows: $15 day of event for header and bar, $13 if club member or pre-registered. $10 day of event for bar, $8 if club member. YRE, $13 for header and bar and $8 for bar because they cannot pre-register for these events.

Upcoming walks include: April 14 - Nashville, April 21 - Brownstown (Jackson State Forest). The April 28 walk in Albany and May 19 walk in Evansville have been canceled. The next DNR walk is on June 2 at Quabache State Park.

Old Business: Nikki proposed drinking glasses with state park designs be awarded for State Park walks instead of headers and bars. The glasses would be offered at the state park walk and extras would be offered at the next state park event. See attached for proposal and prices. Discussion was held with concerns on storage, breakage, and cost. Cliff advised that he will check into exact cost for headers and bars and discussion will be held at a later date.

It was reported that Charlie Frisinger is looking into the possibility of patches for future DNR awards and will pursue this further.

Discussion was held on the possibility of INVA-sponsored YRE’s in areas that do not have clubs. Muncie, Mounds State Park, and Chain O Lakes State Park were mentioned.

Nikki suggested we do more to strengthen the bond with the parks to market AVA walks. Discussion was held on volunteering and articles in the DNR magazine. Cliff suggested we form a partnership with the state parks with both sides working together. He said we have a 30 year relationship with the DNR. Tina said that the Bedford club has an article about their walk in the Spring Mill newsletter. Alison mentioned Spring Mill has a group called “The Friends of Spring Mill” that do volunteer work for the park. Cheryl advised that she will look into having members contact the State Park managers to see where we can help.

New Business: Discussion was held on traditional walks along the Corridor to the Convention in 2019. Tom Martin said traditional walks will not be feasible as people will be traveling on different days. Others voiced the same opinion. Cheryl advised that the YRE’s along the way should be checked and fully stocked a few days before the Convention. Tom Crabill said the Pokagon State Park YRE is right along the Indiana toll road and will be convenient for walkers. Other routes to the Convention would be US 30 and I-70. Cheryl suggested putting the information in the TAW.

The new AVA special programs for 2019 include: Carousels and Little Free Libraries.

Next INVA Meeting: The next meeting will be held at Patoka Lake SRA on August 11, 2018 with the site TBD. Cliff offered a thank you to Cheryl and Terry for the walk, organizing the meeting, hot dogs, brownies, and jelly beans.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Crabill