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The three of us, Bill Smith, Jerry McGinn and I, were all interested in sports and wanted to do something for Lincoln. We heard about the existence and success of the White River State Games in Indiana so we paid a visit to them and decided that, if they can do it, we could also.

We then brought together some interested sport leaders in the area, formed some by-laws and formed a board of directors. After this we hired an executive director. At first we micro-managed everything holding lengthy discussions lasting several hours each time. Gradually we went from being a sport-centered group to a family of sports with similar overall rules.

We also emphasized participation over competition. Although we award medals for winners in most sports, we have medals just for participating in others. We have grown from 14 sports to more than 60, always emphasizing good sportsmanship. Thankfully, we have had few disciplinary problems.

The board members take their roles and decisions seriously. We have been fortunate to have an excellent full time paid staff plus some very good interns that have taken policies of the board and along with some dedicated sports directors have made the Games a success for 25 years.

Through these years we have had great corporate support and the assistance of thousands of volunteers. Both of these groups have contributed heavily to successful games.

I think I have had some part in each of the past 24 Cornhusker State Games either as a participant in the Volkswalk and/or some part in the swimming sport.

Dr. Hammer