

BIENNIAL REPORT

July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2013



VOLKSSPORTING IN AMERICA

The American Volkssport Association (AVA), is a member of the International Federation of Popular Sports (IVV), formed in Lindau, Germany on January 14, 1968. The International People Sports (IPA-USA) was incorporated in Texas on April 28, 1976. It was accepted as an Associate Member of IVV on April 30, 1976.

At the first national convention of Volkssporters in the United States, June 15-17, 1979, IPS-USA adopted the name of the American Volkssport Association (AVA) and it became a member nation of the IVV.

MISSION STATEMENT

The AVA is the advocate for the promotion and organization of walking and other noncompetitive sporting events that encourage physical fitness, fun and friendship for people of all ages and abilities.

VISION STATEMENT

To be recognized as the premier noncompetitive sports organization in the United States, with sustained growth and a sound financial base.

VALUES STATEMENT

The AVA values fun, fitness and friendship through quality family oriented noncompetitive events, in America's spirit of teamwork where all can achieve their personal best.

Volkssporting is "people sport" and began in the mid-1960's in Europe. We promote noncompetitive participation in walking and other recreational activities for fun, fitness and friendship. We are not-for-profit and dedicated to encouraging fitness for people of all ages. Clubs are located in more than 47 countries around the world and they bring unique opportunities for safe, healthy exercise without the stresses of speed and the strain of endurance. In volkssporting, all participants who complete the event of their choice at their own pace are recognized as "winners"!

Club members prepare the trails for walks, bike rides, and other sporting activities. Events are open to everyone. There are no age limitations. Because walking is a common activity, doing it for exercise is a safe and inexpensive form of "sport". Health benefits abound, as well as recreational enjoyment as local culture is explored.

Membership in a volkssport club is not a requirement, but many Volkssporters choose to join to link up with other walkers and to enjoy the company of other members.

AVA participants may join the IVV Individual Achievement Awards Program. It is an international low-cost incentive program. Those joining the program benefit from the personal incentive and satisfaction gained by qualifying for a series of IVV awards based on the number of volkssport events completed, and/or the distances they have walked, biked, or skied. After each event their personal IVV record books are stamped, recognizing their participation in the event and the distance they have completed. Upon achieving a required progressive level, participating Volkssporters forward their record books to the AVA Headquarters in Universal City, Texas.

Well-earned awards in the form of an attractive pin, a patch and certificate are given for each milestone to mark accomplishments. This is given without additional cost.

President's Message

by HEINZ JOHNSON

It has been an unusual term of office...anything but typical. Maybe you could even call it “unordinary.”

Although I am classified as the 19th AVA President, I am technically serving as the twelfth person to become president of the AVA in its 34 year history dating back to 1979.

A unique aspect of my presidency is that I am the only president to have lived in the San Antonio area during the term of office. Because I live within 20-miles of the AVA National Headquarters in Universal City I am able to personally spend time at the NATHQ several times each week. This enables me to perpetuate a 24/7 responsibility into reality. Other president's have literally spent hours on the telephone and by email to communicate and stay in touch with the Executive Director. I have been able to do this on-site.

Many Volkssporters have a misconception that the NATHQ operates with a “cast of hundreds.” Wrong! Two professionals and four hourly employees make up the staff and they deal with a wide range of activities from sanctioning events, redeeming IVV Record Books, publishing the *AVA Checkpoint*, to a myriad of financial transactions. These people are diligent and dependable and they perform in a highly professional manner. Each of them is cross-trained so they are able to maintain a smooth running operation at all times. My “hat's off” to them and I salute each one for their hard work and professional efforts. Well done staff!

Our Interim Executive Director works unusually long hours and she must constantly deal with a variety of issues and challenges that seem to be never ending. Wearing two hats compounds the job but she is able to function effectively. I am pleased with her efforts to protect the organization, maintain a satisfactory annual audit and adhere to the policies that are dictated by our Bylaws. Thank You Candy!

An evaluation of the financial condition of the AVA at the end of this biennial clearly shows that the “business end” of the AVA continues to wind up in the “red” annually. There is a continual decrease in the number of chartered clubs, event participation and income. At the same time operating expenses are slowly creeping upward. This means that to continue to keep the doors open the deficit must be taken from our savings account and this is very limited and exhaustible.

My column in the April/May 2013 edition of TAW (Volume 28, No.3) reminded members that any business losing money takes steps to reverse the trend. This is usually done by raising fees, offering new services to attract more customers or perhaps eliminating some services and restructuring the organization's internal operation. Otherwise, unless drastic steps are taken to reverse this trend it files for bankruptcy and closes down.

So, how long can the AVA continue to operate before it is financially forced to close its doors? A good question and a serious one that the next NEC XVIII will be forced to deal with. It is a signal issue!

We held the first NEC XVII Training Workshop and NEC XVII Meeting in August of 2011. My first order of business was to develop the framework for the employment of a full-time Executive Director.

The committee that was appointed to develop a recruitment tool decided after “working” on this issue for several hours that marketing and publicity was a higher priority as well as an immediate need. As a result the committee recommended that a Marketing & Publicity Director should be hired instead of an Executive Director until funds were available to employ the latter. This recommendation was approved by NEC XVII.

A new Marketing & Publicity Director was employed in February of 2012 and tasked with a major objective: enhance the financial position of the AVA through sponsorships and the like as well as develop the AVA as a nationally recognized brand. A campaign to attract sponsorships-partnerships has been underway since then and there are indicators that some of these may develop into something concrete in spite of a very difficult “sell” in these lean times.

One of my first major projects was to initiate a program to upgrade and improve the national headquarters to make it more attractive, functional and better organized. Also, it needed to look more like a national sports office.

The voluntary services of a retired professional designer (friend) were obtained to design and produce an upgrade plan...one that would be practical and not be pretentious or ostentatious and meet my objectives. NEC XVII approved the design plan and authorized funds to get the project underway. In addition, several clubs donated money to the project.

The results of the upgrade showed a marked improvement in the appearance of the facility. There was new paint, new carpeting, and new office furniture along with wall displays showing the AVA logo, IVV Activity Logos, AVA Hall of Fame, AVA Regions, and an AVA Leadership Chart.

In addition, seating was setup in the entry area where visitors can wait comfortably for “counter service” to redeem their IVV Record Books or purchase from the sales store. A small room was designated as the “NEC OFFICE” for use by NEC members when they visit the National Headquarters. It is complete with a desk, computer and telephone.

All of these have made a tremendous improvement in the appearance of the national headquarters. The staff was thrilled with what has been done to make their workplace more attractive, functional and with a friendly, cheerful atmosphere.

Our building manager responded favorably to our upgrade plan and made some much, much needed building repairs to our office suites.

At the same time, Phyllis Eagan and Joann Forinash volunteered to be the AVA Museum Curators. They literally spend hours and hours of their volunteer time sifting through mountains of award medals and patches that had accumulated since the early days of the AVA. They painstakingly separated and classified everything and then laboriously assembled a mountain of award medals and cloth emblems/patches into distinctive shadow box type displays to show the evolution of American volkssporting. A special “thank you” goes to them for their volunteer time and sterling efforts.

We did not get a bid from any club to host the 18th AVA Biennial Convention so for the first time it became a NEC XVII-National Headquarters project. Vice President Marvin Stokes volunteered to serve as the chair of the convention committee and he established Orlando, Florida as the location using the Orlando Airport Marriott as the convention site.

Marvin Stokes advised me in mid-June of 2012 that he had unexpectedly developed a very serious illness and his doctors warned him to avoid all stressful activities and resign from his voluntary pursuits. Because Marvin had been experiencing medical difficulties, there were some unforeseen delays in the organizing and planning functions that had been initially started earlier in the year.

A special meeting was called in early July of 2012 so the Executive Director and I could talk with the volunteers who had been assisting Marvin in planning and organizing the convention. Numerous questions needed to be answered and a plan needed to be developed to fix the organizational problems and establish a definite mission for the group. Thus, a detailed review was made of the progress that had been made and what areas needed priority attention and answers.

The necessary functional areas that were needed to properly supervise and organize the convention committee were reviewed in detail. However, there was one missing ingredient: a leader to serve as the convention chair and get the operation back on track. Dennis Michele, Director of the Southeast Region, volunteered to assume the leadership role. A very special “thank you” goes to Dennis for his willingness to take on this mammoth project especially with only a minimum of time in which to do it.

The original convention dates were 22-26 April 2013 with volkssport events being held two days before and after. In verifying the contractual details it was found that because of an oversight the meeting space in the hotel had been “booked” two years earlier and the hotel was committed to honor that reservation. This resulted in setting new convention dates which necessitated a Special Online NEC XVII Meeting to approve them. NEC XVII approved new convention dates of 29 April – 03 May 2013 plus volkssport events being held two days before and after.

Moving the convention dates out of the traditional last week in June has caused many unforeseen “challenges” to the AVA staff. It is highly recommended that future conventions return to the late June timeframe.

A project was undertaken with the AVA commercial printer to standardize all of the IVV Record Books since a hodgepodge of books had been printed over the years. A review of all record books showed a variance in book size, line size, vertical page lines, and terminology. My objective was to have a template for each IVV Event and Distance Record Book so they would be standardized for ordering replacements as well as having all books consistent in terminology and size. This project has been completed.

The carbon or second copy of the AVA Start Cards that have been used over the years was printed on manila stock paper. As a cost savings measure, it was found that by using 20# offset paper for the carbon page (like what was used for the top page) there would be a cost savings of \$100 for every 5000 start cards that were printed. Thus, our updated start cards use 20# offset paper for both copies (white on top/yellow carbon on the bottom).

The Not So Quick Guide to Volkssporting, “The Yellow Book,” was updated to meet current national policy. It was last printed in March 2007. Bob Wright played a major role in assisting me with the re-write. A special “thank you” goes to him for his expertise, time and efforts.

Our Executive Director learned that the Universal City Industrial Development Corporation (UCIDC) had a Storefront Improvement Program and matching funds could be allocated to help cover the cost of updating business identification signage. The AVA sign that had been erected on the front of our building in 1993 had fallen into disrepair. Also, trees had grown up completely blocking the sign from

being viewed from the street. NEC XVII approved matching funds for a new building sign and it was erected in June of 2012. A special “thank you” goes to Candy for her action to procure a new building sign at a greatly reduced cost.

Marvin Stokes resigned as our Vice President on 20 June 2012 due to very serious health issues. Holly Pelking, Director of the Pacific Region, was elected by NEC XVII at a Special Meeting that was held on 6 July 2013 to fill Marvin’s unexpired term of office.

A special election was held in the Pacific Region to fill Holly’s unexpired term. Wayne Holloway was elected as the Director of the Pacific Region on 22 August 2012 to serve for the remainder of this biennial.

Mike Green resigned as Director, Rocky Mountain Region, because of work and family demands effective 3 July 2012. A special Rocky Mountain Region election was held and Mike Nelson was named to fill the unexpired term of Mike Green. Mike Nelson had previously served two terms as Director, Rocky Mountain Region. His new partial term of office began on 4 July 2012.

A team was formed in August of 2012 to review the nomination process for officer candidates and to develop, which I believed would be, a revised nomination system that would be fair and equitable as well as provide a level playing field for all candidates. The team developed a *Timetable for Officer Elections* and *Election Guidelines for NEC XVIII Officer Candidates*. It is hoped that these will be reviewed by NEC XVIII, possibly updated, and made into standing AVA policy.

The push for AVA Member Clubs to meet the deadline for verification that they were in good standing for our forthcoming convention, revealed some serious misunderstandings. One of these, a major one, concerned clubs whose tax exempt non-profit status had been revoked by the Internal Revenue Service for noncompliance with IRS rules.

Some clubs, whose non-profit status had been negated by the IRS, did not realize that when they lost tax exempt status they immediately became “inactive” and were temporarily classified as not in good standing. Therefore, they were ineligible to conduct sanctioned volkssport events or vote at membership meetings. As a matter of policy, inactive status even remains during the IRS reinstatement process.

Policy guidelines/instructions were developed to explain how to properly transfer an event. Nothing had ever been written that would assist clubs in the proper procedures for temporarily transferring events to another club during a period of being inactive.

Graham Fawcett, IVV Vice President, asked me in June of 2012 to support the formation of a new continental association that was being created in the Americas. The continental idea resulted from a reorganization of the IVV in 2010. He believed that sufficient progress had been made in the formative stages since he had originally contacted me in July of 2011. At that time he asked for AVA representation on the organizing committee. Now, he wanted the AVA to actively take part in the new continental association initiative.

As a result, NEC XVII voted to become an active member in the formation of the IVV Continental Association but to join only after the implementation documents had been reviewed and approved by the NEC. This necessitated a major effort to obtain background details and information on the continental association program.

At the 2012 IVV Congress of Delegates in China last October, a motion was made to create a new continental association in this hemisphere called IVV-Americas. It was unanimously approved by the delegates. At a follow-on meeting with IVV-Americas Organizing Committee officials that I attended, the AVA was granted representation on the organizing committee.

Robert C. Wright was then appointed to be the AVA Representative to the IVV-America Organizing Committee. This was done in November of 2012 and ratified by NEC XVII in January of 2013. Bob was initially appointed to help me with liaison matters in September. He was selected because of his intimate knowledge of the AVA Bylaws and governing documents as well as the IVV's international statutes. In addition, he has a broad background and a wealth of experience dealing with international issues. Bob has done an exceptional job in representing the AVA on this project and a special "thank you" goes to him for his service.

A major issue that surfaced was the legality of the AVA joining an organization that had not been formally established, incorporated or formed as a tax exempt non-profit organization. Some NEC XVII members believed that joining an organization without corporate or tax exempt status would jeopardize the AVA's standing as a non-profit entity. This was substantiated by a legal opinion rendered by the AVA Attorney.

In the meantime we are continuing to work with the IVV-Americas organizing committee to resolve to all parties' satisfaction the issues that were identified and to facilitate IVV-Americas organization that would allow the AVA to join it without peril to the AVA's non-profit status.

A vote by the AVA membership will determine if the AVA joins IVV-Americas. This will be done once the NEC affirms that the all issues are resolved and legally sufficient to the NEC's satisfaction.

And there was an unexpected tragedy...the first incident of this type in the AVA's annals.

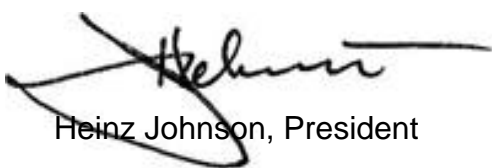
The Empire State Capital Volkssporters, AVA-410, was holding a Guided Walk on Wednesday morning 10 August 2011. Three Volkssporters finished registering at the Start & Finish and decided to cross the street to a church when a runaway SUV drove onto the sidewalk instantly killing them before crashing into the church.

This sudden, horrific accident that resulted in the untimely death of three walkers was a freak accident and it had no relationship to the actual conduct of the Guided Walk or the volkssport club.

Doug Reynolds, Director, Northeast Region, was actively involved in all phases of this incident and he performed heroically along with other club officials to deal with the crisis and its aftermath. A special "thank you" goes to Doug for the professional way in which he dealt with this tragedy.

As I said in the beginning of this report: it has been anything but a routine term of office. Let's just call it extraordinary!

Thanks.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heinz Johnson", with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Heinz Johnson, President

National Executive Council XVII

NATIONAL OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

HEINZ JOHNSON
27727 Ramblewood
San Antonio, TX 78261
210.378.4080
president@ava.org

VICE PRESIDENT

HOLLY L. PELKING
15680 Alum Rock Avenue
San Jose, CA 95127
408.859.7978
vicepres@ava.org

SECRETARY

BONNIE JOHNSON
25 -66th Way NE
Fridley, MN 55432
763.229.3584
secretary@ava.org

TREASURER

BOB MORRISON
5401 Park Place Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98503
360.464.3426
treasurer@ava.org

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

ATLANTIC

(DC, DE, MD, NJ, PA, VA, WV)
SAM TOLLETT
3 Delmont Court
Hampton, VA 23666-5508
757.766.3065
at_rd@ava.org

NORTH CENTRAL

(IA, MN, ND, NE, SD, WI)
Phyllis A. Olson
7013 Meredith Drive
Urbandale, IA 50322-1883
515.669.9402
nc_rd@ava.org

NORTHWEST

(AK, ID, OR, WA)
SAM KORFF
74890 Palm Creek Road
Clatskanie, OR 97016-2545
503.728.0400
nw_rd@ava.org

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

(CO, MT, UT, WY)
MIKE NELSON
5085 High Meadows Lane
Colorado Springs, CO 80908
719.495.0404
rm_rd@ava.org

SOUTHEAST

(AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN)
DENNIS A. MICHELE
27 Cane Creek Circle
Fairview, NC 28730-9776
828.595.6582
se_rd@ava.org

MID-AMERICA

(IL, IN, KY, MI, OH)
KIMBERLY BRADLEY
3109 Valerie Drive
Champaign, IL 61822-1830
217.778.1718
ma_rd@ava.org

NORTHEAST

(CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT)
Doug Reynolds
25 Van Winkle Drive
Rensselaer, NY 12144-9733
518.229.1141
ne_rd@ava.org

PACIFIC

(AZ, CA, HI, NV)
Wayne Holloway
2687 Fria Springs Road
Rescue, CA 95672-9355
530.391.9492
pa_rd@ava.org

SOUTH CENTRAL

(AR, KS, LA, MO, OK)
KENNETH G. MILES
3613 E. 55th Street
Tulsa, OK 74135-3811
918.706.6063
sc_rd@ava.org

SOUTHWEST

(NM, TX)
BILL HAMILTON
10014 Willow Wood Way
Houston, TX 77070-1764
830.285.7062
sw_rd@ava.org

Executive Director's Message

by CANDACE PURCELL

I and the leadership of the AVA are very fortunate to have the quality of employees that we do. The current staff is very dedicated to the AVA and all work beyond their standard duties. It was unfortunate that it was necessary to replace an employee that had been here eleven years, but our newest employee is keeping pace with the billing and account questions in a very timely manner. Wearing the AED and Financial Director hat is not difficult, but sometimes very time consuming. Having a second management person with the qualifications and skills that Chuck possesses makes it possible to delegate knowing that it will be done correctly. I keep Chuck informed on the areas that are only learned by being here so many years, just as Jackie did when I was her second, so that there is always someone who can fill in when needed. Training is critical for employees, during the last ED's time here, she had stopped the cross training, feeling that it was not needed, however; with only one person deep for each area, I feel basic cross training in common areas of operations is essential and I will continue this as time allows. Outside training is offered if any staff member wants to hone their skills, and several have attended classes to learn higher skills in Microsoft. We are very much a team.

Operations have been streamlined as much as possible given our resources, daily I work with employees on what can be done better. I will meet with Chris Mellen at the convention to discuss the changes to our data base that the IT committee has determined are necessary. There are reporting improvements that I will be including that have been needed for a long time at Headquarters. I will also be working with Chris on requirements that are necessary for the IT committee to have in order to begin work on a new online store. I negotiated a new contract on our copier that gives us color and the ability to print booklets and brochures for a very inexpensive price compared to outsource printing; without an increase in the lease cost. The convention program booklet and the Biennial Report were done in house on this copier. There is always room for improvement in operations, I welcome any suggestions and if it is realistic, we have the man power, and we can afford to make the change, we will.

Volunteers are crucial to the Headquarters. I have increased the volunteer base and still rely heavily on those that have been here for years. Our remote volunteers like Dorm Batson, Chris Mellen, Bob Wright, and Gus Glaser, and Charles Dasho are constantly providing assistance and in most cases taking on a task completely to free the Headquarters and the President for other duties. Joanne Forinash and Phyllis Eagan took on the museum that we had been looking for four years for someone to do. Their "Museum" is beautiful and well thought out. Marilyn Henderson has taken over the duty of ensuring that the club files are uniform and consistent, her efforts were noticed by the auditors.

If you have read the President's report, you realize many of the things that have been taking place, so I won't repeat except to add that Heinz and I deviated somewhat from the scheme presented by the professional designer. Together Heinz and I have made a nice place to work and visit. I cleared out the clutter that had been building up of unused fully depreciated items which was causing a lack of space; when Dennis was President he and I went through all offices to determine what could no

longer be used. Per our lease, a written request of repairs was given to the landlord. Repairs and improvements were immediately started. The e-postcard 990 Form reporting required by the IRS is an area that I had to get under control to protect the clubs and the AVA organization. Filing the e-postcard takes a few minutes compared to the hours to reapply for nonprofit status, so it is an area we need to ensure the clubs are in compliance with every year. Marie was given a new duty of tracking the e-postcard proofs as they came in from clubs so that we could ensure that we reported to the NEC those that were not in compliance. The IRS and other club reporting requirements are something that we have to stay on top of. I will start in May including past due club items in the Checkpoint.

Having the President live near the Headquarters has afforded me the ability to spend a great deal of time face to face with Heinz, We have enjoyed an excellent working relationship based on the trust, mutual respect and the fact that although we sometimes view things very differently we can always come to a compromise. Heinz is a very hands on President; he likes to do things for himself and had many items that he wanted to personally accomplish during his tenure, when Heinz says this, he really means that he wants to do things himself, I have helped him when he let me. I have learned a great deal from Heinz about this organization's beginnings, and specific knowledge that I did not know before. There is an unsung hero that I would like to recognize at this time, the President's spouse. Heinz had been very ill and could not speak to me, yet many things had to be taken care of during this time. Priscilla took on the role of go between as a runner for myself and Heinz, which was not always enjoyable or easy at times, she made sure we were both on the same page. She ensured we were well fed at meetings held here and was a wonderful hostess. She has also been a wonderful supporter of the staff and me. Many times I had to call on an issue knowing Heinz did not feel well enough, but Priscilla would never fail to ask him as soon as she could and call me with the answer; many times she and I had conversations at night. I owe Priscilla many thanks for all she did to help me get things done in a timely manner. I am going to miss Heinz and Priscilla.

I would like to change hats now and address issues mainly of a financial nature. AVA is facing the reality of operating in a continued net loss position for the fourth consecutive fiscal year. As an organization, we must join together and take some hard, but positive steps towards recovery. This is not an impossible task, but one that needs our complete focus and total cooperation between clubs, state associations and leadership. It will take constant vigilance and commitment to turn AVA around, especially with the current national economy we face. The Treasurer and I discuss financial issues on a regular basis.

A balance must be reached to actively assist current clubs to thrive, to encourage and nurture new clubs, to move forward in technology, to increase operational efficiency, and to maintain a high standard of quality events. AVA must increase earned income to carry out these important initiatives. Until then, the number of HQ staff members, salaries, and other operational expenses must remain at a level we can afford.

The first step toward achieving these initiatives is acceptance that we must balance the budget. Instead of improving earned income to cover our expenses, we have practiced expense management to lessen, not to do away with, our net loss position. This is not a sound decision for any business. It should not be a surprise that we have been using cash reserves to assist in paying our bills.

Many mistakenly believe that the investment portfolio is a substitution for earned income. It is not nor is it allowed to be used for payroll or operational expenses. A high asset base in the AVA portfolio has kept us listed as a "going concern" by auditors and the IRS during the past three years of net losses. If our asset base money decreases and we continually remain in a net loss position, AVA will eventually be evaluated and lose the "going concern" designation. If we lose the "going concern" status, we lose our non-profit designation. The 2012-2013 fiscal budget I have prepared starts us on the road to balance. It projects a breakeven position as a start, rather than a net loss position.

This year is a convention year, which as always takes priority for all of the HQ staff time and resources. Coupled with the important IVV-Americas issue, these two projects have taken center stage, leaving little time for the continued exploration of solutions to stop the financial decline in our organization and to solicit quality sponsors and partners. I am hopeful that in the coming fiscal year, as a group, we can focus on solving many of the serious problems facing AVA.

The reality is that we must identify solutions and not be afraid as an organization to make the right decisions for AVA, overall first and foremost. Below are some of the recommendations I have developed. They are based on the many discussions I have had or listened to from clubs, staff, NEC, and my own observations as AED for the past two years and Financial Director for 16 years.

- A sliding scale for annual dues based on a club's ability to pay as indicated on financial statements as of November 15 each year. If a club is determined to be in the red, AVA or State officials can lend assistance and determine why?
- Stop referring to deferred quarterly sanction fees on year rounds and seasonals as processing fees and collect the entire \$40.00 sanction fee upfront.
- Reverse the trend of more year rounds in favor of quality traditional events. AVA should set policy for a minimum number per year per club and provide incentive by reducing the sanction fee on walks while simultaneously increasing the sanction fee on year rounds.
- Increase participation fees for award and IVV credit to \$4.00 with a 50/50 split to clubs and AVA.
- Recognize coupons from new walker packets as the only free walker, with no deduction to participation. The insurance company requires that ALL walkers sign a start card. The cost of insurance and other event costs need to be recognized and recouped by clubs and AVA. Set a minimum of \$3.00 on those not wanting IVV credit. Again a 50/50 split. Finally, review AVA promotional materials deleting "free" event and replace with "low cost" event.
- Halt the interest earned from investments from being added to increase investment principle, instead have interest periodically cashed out and sent to HQ to increase cash flow. Interest will still show as income and the principle will remain at a consistent amount instead of increasing.

- Develop better incentives for associate members. Set one price for lifetime membership with total payment upfront.
- Develop more programs that can be earned by walking anywhere, like the Centurion program, as national programs. Set a one-time fee for special programs and eliminate 50% net income to AVA.
- Allow the Marketing Director to not just concentrate on major national sponsors, but devise an aggressive campaign for club publicity materials and training, and identify methods that clubs can use to locate local sponsors.
- Make it mandatory for club and state association delegates to attend training at conventions. Tailor the workshops to address current issues and problem areas. Consider having meetings and workshops on only Monday and Tuesday of the convention with Wednesday through Friday free for walking events, socials and other activities.
- Use financial statements as a starting point to determine which clubs were successful and those that need assistance. Then have the Regional Director for that club's area access what type of assistance is required from AVA. Those clubs doing well would be reviewed to determine what factors contributed to their success. Most importantly, these successful methods should be passed along to all other clubs.
- Take a survey of state associations. Determine if clubs are more successful in areas having state associations. Review the current duties of state associations to determine adequacy and if there is a need for revision. As part of the survey, ask these associations what they feel works and doesn't work.
- Consider establishing regional associations for those regions without any, or too few state associations. AVA headquarters and the regional director would assist.
- Trim back expenses where we can and redistribute savings

I don't think there is anything new that I have recommended. And there are many more suggestions out there. However, we must determine practicality based on our existing financial status. Recovery will not work if we concentrate on only one recommendation. Changes must be made collectively in many areas simultaneously as we are past the point of having the time to do one at a time.

Most importantly is the understanding that there are few quick fixes to our current situation and that when these "fixes" are identified, they will only occur through communication and cooperation at the local club levels.

The staff and I look forward to working with the newly elected NEC members, both seasoned and new, and pledge our continued loyalty to the leadership and member clubs for the betterment of the AVA family.

National Headquarters

**AMERICAN
VOLKSSPORT
ASSOCIATION**

**1001 Pat Booker Road
Suite 101
Universal City, TX 78148**

**210.659.2112
210.659.1212 fax
AVAHQ@ava.org**

Acting Executive Director: Candace Purcell candy@ava.org

Responsible for NEC administrative functions and communications as well as international (IVV) reporting and communications. Oversees the administrative/operational stewardship of AVA. Coordinates with the Financial Director, and the IT providers for IT services and web site development. Ensure the AVA's mission is carried out in all areas.

Financial Director: Candace Purcell candy@ava.org

Handles all financial and accounting duties including tax and other issues for clubs and the AVA. Responsible for budget items and preparation of annual budget to the AVA Treasurer. Responsible for the annual audit and internal control. Responsible for operations of Headquarters including all vendors, equipment, leases and contracts. Other responsibilities include the human resources and management of staff including volunteers.

Marketing and Publicity Director: Chuck Blische marketing@ava.org

Responsible for office when Financial Director/Acting Executive Director is out. Responsible for: organizational fund-raising; development and implementation of marketing and public relations programs; management of multi-media relations and print and electronic publications to include the AVA official website and Facebook page; coordination with community groups and implementation of communications strategy with government, media, business communities, sports and health organizations and the general public. Serves as one of the "key" voices of the AVA.

Webmaster/Administrative Assistant: Linda Rebmann linda@ava.org

Website maintenance. Aids with general administration for Board (Executive Director, Financial Director and Marketing and Publicity Director) and general reception.

Awards/Membership Coordinator: Karen Winkle karen@ava.org

Handles awards processing, membership database, and physical shipping. Processes AVA Special Program books that are sold direct from headquarters. Mailing of requested Recognition Awards for Regional Directors. Girl Scout and Master Program processing. Entering of national membership and mailing of renewal notices.

Events Coordinator: Marie Bebley events@ava.org

Handles event management and collection of financial reports. Researches club electronic reporting issues, event stamps, event insurance. Sanctioning issues (club should contact Regional Director first).

Accounts Receivable Specialist: Theresa Hutchison theresa@ava.org

Handles club, individual and membership invoicing. Merchandise invoicing from incoming mail / fax / email / online store ordering from clubs / individuals. Club supply requests, club invoice/statement research, shipping status research.

Regional Reports

ATLANTIC REGION

DIRECTOR SAM TOLLETT

The Atlantic Region is composed of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. There are 32 clubs in the Atlantic Region. Our three state associations are exceptionally dynamic and have tremendous relations with their clubs. Each state association sponsors Volksmarching events within areas of their state where clubs do not have active walks. The state association presidents are Bob Schmick in Maryland, Tom Jackson in Pennsylvania and Bill Lowell in Virginia.

The Atlantic Region has for years been the second most active region in AVA. Each state association have several challenges to maintain the interest of our Volksmarchers. Many of our walking events are steeped in Colonial and Civil War history. The clubs attempt to ensure that our walk routes are safe for all participants. AVA Special Programs and State Challenges insure that Volksmarchers attend numerous events and have fun. Many clubs have established group walks to ensure our members may walk each weekend. Some clubs are now having lunch following the group walk making this a true social event for their members.

The Atlantic Region hosts a region conference on the even numbered years and a region meeting on the odd numbered years. The sixth biennial region conference was hosted by the Germanna Volkssport Association in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The attendees participated in four volksmarches, training conferences, a Friday night social and a banquet on Saturday. AVA Meritorious Service and AVA Certificate of Service Awards were presented to deserving Volksmarchers.

I have been honored in the past four years as the Atlantic Region Director to associate with the greatest group of individuals in the United States. They call their self VOLKSMARCHERS. They live by the AVA tagline of Fun, Fitness and Fellowship. I appreciate the efforts and time expended by each club and its members to insure club activities and events enhance Volkssporting in the AVA. AVA headquarters staff has provided valuable guidance and assistance to ensure that my terms as AT-RD have been enjoyable and memorable. Past and Present members of the National Executive Committee have assisted in determining how arduous AVA issues might be handled.

Nationally the attendance at both traditional and year round events is down from 10 to 20 years ago. There are numerous factors contributing to this and they are related and interwoven. Poor attendance is a factor of both our national recession and our life style. Too many Americans are out of work or have had their work hours seriously curtailed. These families cannot afford our sport and must utilize their money on life's essentials. Life styles for Americans have changed over the decades. Americans in the 20-40 age brackets do not join and dedicate themselves to organized associations anymore. Publicity is a major factor because many clubs are not advertising their

events. Articles are not appearing in the newspapers, on the radio or on TV. Nor are we placing information sheets in store windows, at health clubs, citizen centers or in senior citizen homes. Clubs need to associate with local chapters of national associations which advocate medical research or assist individuals who have incurred serious medical problems which treatment cost more than they can afford. The public will flock to these events because they will be assisting their fellow citizens. These events might not increase club membership but part of the proceeds will assist our fellow citizens. Recruitment needs improving. Each Volksmarcher must be a Volksmarching Ambassador and invite each individual they meet to come out and participate at our Volksmarches.

MID-AMERICA REGION

DIRECTOR KIMBERLY BRADLEY

The Mid-America region is composed of Five States (Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio). We have three state associations (Illinois, Indiana and Ohio). We have 42 active clubs.

We had a Mid-America Regional Conference Nov. 2-4, 2012 with many great volunteers from all over. It was a memorable weekend of walks in Gnaw Bone Camp and Downtown Nashville, Indiana. Gnaw Bone Camp was a beautiful rugged walk. Nashville is a small town walk and an artist community with many unique shops (a good place to do Christmas shopping). We had a great regional meeting and many viewpoints were brought up. We'll be having another Regional Conference Nov. 2, 3, 2013 in Louisville, Kentucky. We'll be having another Regional meeting as well and everyone will get to meet the new Regional Director "Linda Neu".

My two terms are up and it's time to hand over the reins. Linda Neu will take good care of the Mid-America region. She's a very active Volkssporter.

Hoping to see you all on the trail someday.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

DIRECTOR PHYLLIS OLSON

The North Central Region is composed of six states: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin. Of the 26 clubs in the region, regrettably five clubs will have deactivated by the end of my first term as regional director.

The North Central Region is in an area of the country where the weather in the winter months is not always conducive to outside walking, but the clubs have still managed to schedule Volkssport

activities. Indoor skywalk or mall walks, cross country skiing and snowshoeing all make for fun events during the winter.

Clubs in the North Central Region sanctioned 84 traditional events in 2012. Excluding the 11,500 participants at the Crazy Horse event, the average number of participants per event was 65. Also, the clubs regularly sponsor 150 year-round or seasonal events each year. Many clubs coordinate weekly non-sanctioned walks to keep their members active and fit.

Several clubs celebrated milestone anniversaries in the past two years. Twin Cities Volkssport and Prairie Wanderers Volkssport Club have been planning Volkssport events for 30 years. The Koda Manipe Volkssport Club and Panhandle Walkers celebrated 25 years of Volkssporting. I attended the Koda Manipe 25th Anniversary celebration in Wahpeton, ND. They proudly displayed past awards and information about their founders.

During my first 2-year term as Regional Director, I traveled around the region to visit each of the 26 clubs. I attended a traditional event or walked a year-round event sponsored by each club. I traveled 11,500 miles from Sidney, NE to Milwaukee, WI; Black Hills, SD to Iowa City, IA and many places in between with several stops back home in Des Moines. What a wonderful way to see the countryside. I learned that we have many very dedicated Volkssporters and the overall landscape of the North Central Region is very diverse.

NORTHEAST REGION

DIRECTOR DOUG REYNOLDS

This section of the US includes all the New England States (Maine; New Hampshire; Vermont; Massachusetts; Rhode Island; Connecticut) and New York State. Each state is covered by at least one of the 11 AVA sanction club in the Region, but there is no individual club within the boundaries of New Hampshire, or Rhode Island. Of the states that have a club, the reported membership for each is: Southern Maine V.C.- 53; Twin State V.A.- 75; Walk'n Mass V.C.- 278; Two Towns Walking C.- 34; Connecticut Valley V.C.- 30; Empire State Capital V.- 326; V.C. West Point- 77; Finger Lakes V.C.- 34; Great Lakes Seaway Trail V.- 23; Niagara Frontier V.C.- 51; Niagara Escarpment V.A.- 21. These totals of 1,002 reported club members includes some multiple count as some persons belong to more than one club. The number of AVA Associate and Life Members is not known.

During the reporting period, one club, Seacoast Striders (NH), became "inactive". The reason given by the President was a desire to become disconnected from the administrative details required by AVA, and federal regulations. This issue is one that the AVA Council needs to address so that clubs are able to fulfill their reporting obligations, but in the easiest, least time-consuming way, so club members can dedicate the maximum amount of their time and effort on doing what they love to do: provide opportunities so others can walk. Fortunately, Twin State V.A. volunteered to pick up the administrative details for the Striders, and assimilate their membership allowing the "old Striders" to act as a satellite site. They will continue to maintain their walks so none are lost, especially the NH Capital Walk, and cooperate with Twin State on new events.

In the spring of 2011, the Region acquired a new club, Great Lakes Seaway Trail, located predominately at the eastern end of Lake Ontario and west of the Adirondacks Mountains, centered in Sackets Harbor, NY helping to fill in one of our major gaps in our territory. There had been an AVA sanctioned club located in that area, Watertown, for many years, but it became inactive a decade ago. During this reporting period, the leadership of Seaway Trails has done a wonderful job of reconstituting walks in cooperation with other clubs along the length of the Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. Besides encouragement and support from our region's AVA clubs that adjoin them, we are deeply appreciative of the same from those clubs and persons just north of our international border from the Province of Ontario. Of particular note is Graham Fawcett, Vice-President- IVV, and his wife, Jane, who have gone out of their way to attend Seaway's events, and scheduling bus trips for their Canadian colleagues that have been done, or are in the planning stage for upcoming multiple stops for walking experiences in this new club's area.

Regional Director's Travel to Clubs: During the Reporting Period, the RD, Doug Reynolds, has attended walking events in nine of the eleven clubs. The remaining two clubs are to be visited in spring 2013, Niagara Frontier, and Niagara Escarpment. Single walks were attended with S. Maine, Two Towns, Walk'Mass, Connecticut Valley, and West Point. Multiple walks were attended with Twin State/Striders, Empire State Capital, Finger Lakes, and Great Lakes Seaway. In addition, the RD attended meetings with Twin State, Empire State Capital, and West Point.

Regional Director's Special Projects:

Web Site - Reviving work started about a decade ago by a previous RD-NE, Leslie Penton, and with current technical assistance from Eileen Skinner (Empire State Capital), and Mike Green (West Point), a Regional Director's web site has been reconstituted and is functional. The site provides information on numerous activities within the Region for club members and leaders, as well as those coming into the Region from other areas. It provides "one-stop" shopping for information, either directly, or through links to the NE clubs. We have been moving towards immediate updating of current events in the Region, including updated approved Traditional Events, some of the AVA business, and filling in the Google Calendar with club events and its purpose, and directions to the event from the member's current location. You are invited to visit the site www.ava.org/clubs/reg_northeast.

Volks South – In cooperation with the Empire State Capital Volkssporters, the RD continues a leadership role in its satellite program, Volks South, in collaboration with four Florida AVA organizations: Suncoast Sandpipers, Meandering Manatees, Mid Florida Milers, and Florida Volkssport Association. Originally, Volks South provided a winter walking experience every Wednesday from mid-January through April to those who were spending part, or all, of the winter season in the Greater Tampa Bay area. However, from a group of six walkers, others have asked permission to join the group, where walks are held in different communities each week along the mid Gulf Coast. The majority of new walkers had never heard of the word "Volkssporting", nor any derivation of the word. As a result of the wonderful experiences in walking, and lunch for extended fellowship that these first time walkers obtain from Volks South, they are most interested in returning to their northern homes and becoming involved in a local club. As was posted in a weekly E-mail announcement to the participants under the heading – "**TIP:** Snowbirds who are getting ready to go back north, (and those who are already there), don't forget to use the AVA web site (www.ava.org) to

find self-guided walks along your routes, & walking clubs in your area of the country. The web site is a wonderful resource to continue racking up distances throughout the summer, and making new friends. Join a club and, if they don't have a Wednesday Walk Program, help start one. Volks South started with six persons, and now we have 141 E-mail addresses on the Listservs, and have distributed 119 name tags to persons from 18 states, DC, & Ontario). What a wonderful contribution you could help make in spreading your new found sport. Help available here at Volks South.”

NORTHWEST REGION

DIRECTOR SAM KORFF

Northwest Region continues to lead the nation in participation. We have 44 very strong clubs that sponsor many quality events (the key to high participation figures).

The region has been experimenting with Meet Up groups for a couple of years, and there is an organized group that gets together on Wednesdays to walk at local Year Round Events. Meet Ups are working in Washington and Wednesday walking is working in Oregon and Southwest Washington. The two states are experimenting with the other state's success.

Evergreen State Volkssport Association sponsored our Regional Conference in August 2012 at Camp Berachah near Auburn, Washington. The conference featured high QUALITY events including one on Crystal Mountain. There were a couple of workshops that included Trailmaster Training. We also had a dunk tank that featured the Regional Director sitting at the top waiting to be dunked.

The region has a conference every other year (off years from convention). The next Regional Conference will be sponsored by Oregon Trail State Volkssport Association and will be centered in the Portland area (Portland State Campus) at the end of the Gorge Extravaganza in June 2014. The Gorge Extravaganza is already sanctioned and features approximately a dozen excellent events. The social time is key to the success of this extravaganza, and the Regional Conference expects to capitalize on the success of the Gorge so that people from the Gorge will be able to drive about 40 miles west into Portland to continue the fun. Oregon will make a presentation to the 2013 convention to host the 2015 convention centered in Salem, Oregon.

PACIFIC REGION

DIRECTOR WAYNE HOLLOWAY

We are extremely pleased to report that no Pacific Region clubs were among the more than 30 American Volkssport Association clubs that dropped by the wayside during the past two years. There is concern, though, that some of the Pacific Region clubs have stopped growing and are short on

potential leaders. There is hope for revitalization and renewed enthusiasm as new initiatives emerge and take hold.

The Low Desert Roadrunners have been working very hard to keep Volkssporting alive & well in Southern California. They have sponsored walking events every month for the past two years. They also hosted a Volksmarch for the American Society of Military Comptrollers as a part of their national training conference. The LDR hosted luncheon meetings for the California Volkssport Association's Vice President-South so he could keep his area clubs informed on various Volkssporting items of interest. The LDR hosts group walks twice a week and provides carpooling.

The San Diego County Rockhoppers have worked with the San Diego County Library Association to develop a joint walking program, which included creating start points for AVA Year Round walks in eight libraries, and another set of non-AVA walk boxes in seven other libraries. The goal is to get San Diego County library patrons to become healthier by giving them an impetus to take one and two-hour walks originating at the libraries.

The Davis Dynamos continue to attract new members and provide great walks around Davis' greenbelts. Along with Year Round Walks, the Dynamos continue to host a Year Round Bike Event in the Bicycle Capital of the United States. In support of Volkssporters seeking to walk California's counties, the club established a walk in Visalia, Tulare County, over 220 miles to the southeast.

Loralie Cruz, club president, reports that, "The Saguaro Sun Striders' membership doesn't grow much from year to year. We're maintaining about 10 base members and add a few/lose a few members each year. We're made up mostly of 'snowbirds' who spend anywhere from three to seven months a year in Arizona. We also do some Sunday afternoon group YREs--get 10-12 people usually. We tried some other days of the week and Sunday 1 pm seems to get the most walkers. We have a healthy treasury due mainly to the many tourists/travelers to the area who participate in our Year Round Events. It really helps having a Regional Director willing to rush Electronic Sanction Requests through the system since we don't have the whole year to completely plan events. Participation at traditional events is usually low—those who come are 'real' Volksmarchers and enjoy the events. Our new website is still being constructed—the basics are there and I add to it as I get the chance. We hosted four traditional events during 2011; 16 YRE walks and one YRE bike (I paid for bike sanction and \$5 quarterly costs personally because I wanted to fill a bike distance book). Unofficial records indicate a total of 581 YRE walkers for 2012. The number of traditional events was lower than our normal due to my husband's surgery (in Seattle) and my required absence from Arizona. We had five traditional events during 2012; two guided events; and 16 YRE walks. (Dropped the bike event as only one other person did the event in 2011 and my book was full.) Unofficial records indicate a total of 569 YRE walkers for 2012. We kick off a new seasonal on April 13 in Fountain Hills, AZ, and the plan is to keep it as a YRE in future years. We also plan another desert hike as a YRE for 2014. That will bring the total to 20. The numbers I gave above for YRE participation were only for credit walkers--maybe about 10-15% more if free walkers are included."

The Delta Tule Trekkers developed four new great walks, two with barbeques: Ripon Almond Blossom Festival of 2/26-27/2011; Knight's Ferry Covered Bridge Walk, 4/14-15/2012 (barbeque included); Los Vaqueros 9/29-30/2012 (barbeque included), and Manteca Mural Walk, 12/22/12. Georgie Reed reports that, "The great news from DTT is our increased membership numbers. One of

our new members is really computer savvy and established a beautiful website for the club. It's in the beginning stage and will be added to regularly, but is a super start and has links to CVA and AVA. Check out: deltatuletrekkers.org."

The Thunder Mountain Trekkers, Inc. donated \$200 to the St. Michael's Mission Renovation Fund. The small adobe church in Naco, AZ, needed a new floor and repairs to the walls. The club's YRE in Naco passes within a block of the church, and much of the new base materials for the floor were moved into the building by the owner of the YRE start point, Turquoise Valley Golf & RV. A group of five members walk at least twice a week, and three of them average four walks per week.

The Sonoma County Stompers are doing their part to promote Fun Fitness Friendship, their regional program entitled *Cities In Song* was overwhelmingly approved by the NEC as a new AVA Special Program to be presented on the national level effective January 2014. Their local challenge program to walk California's counties, Forty-Niner Miner, is a big hit with the county counters. The club has sanctioned Year Round Events in three "out of the way" counties (Modoc, Humboldt, Del Norte).

One of the Region's newest and most active clubs, the 35 members of the Shasta Sundial Strollers will be celebrating the club's seventh year in 2013. To get in regular walking as a healthy activity, the club offers a weekly walk schedule that consists of three 5K routes from three of their YREs, and about 10 people regularly participate in these walks. The club also offers an annual walk schedule that includes a walk of their own and one of another club each month. Most of their out of town walks are day trips, but they also try to include two or three extended weekend trips. They will participate in the Shady Cove, OR events in May 2013 and traveling to Seattle to get in some walks to finish the COW (California-Oregon-Washington) challenge book. The club has traditionally offered two multi-event weekends each year - Redding Extravaganza; Mendocino Madness; and Oktoberfest, but opted in 2012 to do something a little different and hosted three seasonal walks in three counties where there were no walks in support of Sonoma County Stompers' 49er Miner Special Challenge that some of the members are participating in. Club president, Cynthia Turbin, shared that, "We have great fun putting on a fun filled two to two and a half days for our guests. We are a very close-knit club that loves to share the joy of volkssporting. Many of us post club activities on our own Facebook pages. We also have a standing ad in our local paper in the Sunday Outdoor Calendar. Last year we had a booth at the Shasta County Health and Human Services Wellness Fair. We're always brainstorming different ways to get the word out and also create fun activities/events for our own club members. In my weekly email reminder of walks, I also share websites of interest and possibly an article or video. We enjoy the videos from everybodywalks.org, and I particularly enjoy creating Smilebox slide shows of our trips in order to entice others to join in the fun. I also write a monthly "Sundialer's Go A Strollin'" article that showcases a sanctioned walk we've participated in during that month. We keep a wonderful photo album of all of the places we've ventured to." The club also has a non-sanctioned log book "as we know keeping track of your distance is a great incentive for more walking."

In the spring of 2011, John Cappello and the Green Valley Gaiters, conceived a Free Walk With A Guest Day to be held during October, National Volkssport Month, and brought other California clubs on board in a report to the State Association convention in May. The ground rules are simple: The club plans either a sanctioned walk or group walk of a Year Round Event for October 22, 2011. The club then pays for the member and the guest walks free. Some clubs even went so far as saying they will give a free new walker package to any guest walker that joins our club. Some also added giving a

free National Volkssport Month patch to each member-walker and guest who joins their club. Two clubs actively participated in the event in Southern California. The Green Valley Gaiters club had six guests with two joining. The other club had some free guests, but no new members. In Northern California, the Sonoma County Stompers had four guests and gave each of them a free membership until the end of the year while the Sacramento Walking Sticks had a Traditional Event on that day with 157 total walkers and gained 11 new members. In all, 12 California clubs participated. The Green Valley Gaiters with the San Geronio Girl Scout council hosted a special Girl Scout 100th anniversary walking event. Over 150 Girl Scouts pre-registered and many walk-ups were expected. Over 130 AVA/Girl Scout Anniversary patches were sold.

The South Bay Striders hosted the California Volkssport Association 2012 convention at beautiful Asilomar Beach and was the first in the region to have the capability of being 100% online registration/payments. Start cards were printed straight from the database, eliminating countless hours of sorting through start cards, alphabetizing, etc. A portable computer with printer on site enabled quick response to the unexpected overflow. As a result the entire convention was organized and directed needing only five primary people to pull it off (not counting onsite volunteers, of course). It streamlined the process so that a major event which attracted over 80 walk-up registrants (from out of state and Canada) could be handled without any fuss. These days when clubs are functioning with less people power, this type of streamlining still allows the more fun multiple event weekends to occur. And people will come - as was seen. The club is the sponsor of a Special Regional Program called Mission: Possible (after the popular TV show Mission: Impossible) which promotes walks that includes California's Old Spanish Missions. The purpose of the program is to provide a fun way to promote cooperation and camaraderie between Northern and Southern California to bring them together to find routes that includes as many of the 21 missions as possible. The one thing in common between San Diego in the South and Sonoma, North of San Francisco are the Old Spanish Missions. Some missions are not accessible to the public for various reasons, but most are and clubs all over the state responded quickly and with enthusiasm. There are currently 12 Year Round Events that feature the Missions, and some clubs have held Traditional events multiple times in support of the program. To "successfully complete" the program participants must complete 15 events. Over 100 books have been sold and 21 people have completed the program so far; some have achieved 17 and more, and continue to carry their books with the hope of someday being able to walk at all 21 missions. Volkssporters from Canada and even the East Coast have participated in the program – for the FUN of it.

The Central Coast Peregrine Pathfinders, as one might suspect, claims California's beautiful central coast as home. Based in Lompoc, the club hosts 10 truly spectacular Year Round Events from Ventura to Morro Bay; among them are the Old Spanish Mission towns of Ventura, Santa Barbara, Solvang and San Luis Obispo. The club hosted a Traditional event in Cambria on the weekend of March 31, 2012, which attracted a caravan of 18 from the Sacramento area. Club president, John Fletcher, acknowledged that the club is proud of this beautiful area was happy to show off to the up-State visitors, which included California Volkssport Association Vice President – Central, Phil Jones.

Lui Yakas, president of the San Francisco Bay Bandit Volkssport Club, almost singlehandedly keeps an active calendar in The City By The Bay with four Year Round Events and by routinely hosting four or more Traditional Events a year. A most gracious lady, Lui, is helping coordinate two Traditional Events that will conclude Dave Brown's trek across the United States.

In support of Dave Brown's walk to across the United States to bring awareness to ovarian cancer which took his wife Joan, the two 2007 AVA convention walks, the Golden Gate Bridge and Fisherman's Wharf, which he and his wife walked in a happier time, will be sanctioned for October 12th and 13th. Judy Gordon of the Tahoe Trail Trekkers is coordinating with Dave on behalf of the Pacific Region and the California Volkssport Association. We hope for a big crowd to welcome Dave and to honor his wife.

The Tahoe Trail Trekkers continue to provide the "exotic" events in the Pacific Region and summer relief from the California valley heat. In addition to their usual hiking and biking in the Lake Tahoe area, they entertain adventurous Volkssporters with cross country ski events, and have sanctioned the first ever Pacific Region boating event.

The Sacramento Walking Sticks have over 500 members which they have maintained for the past two years as a result of major publicity efforts throughout the area in all media and the many fun events/promotions they offer. In addition to their weekly walks on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings and Wednesday night walks over the past two years to promote Fun Fitness Friendship, the Sticks have promoted walking with: Members only out-of-town adventure walks (Petaluma historical walk, Sebastopol's art walk, Breakfast in Benicia walk, Mill Valley mystery walk); Special Program Walks (which included tours of the historic Preston Castle in Lone and the Agricultural Museum in Woodland); Cultural Event/Walks (walks that have included local plays and performances); Parades (twice participating in Sacramento's annual Veteran's Day Parade), Health Fairs (staffed booths at an average of 12 health fairs per year at state, county, city and local agencies); Book Club Walks (pairing reading a book about California with walking in the area where the book takes place, where members walk, stop for lunch and discuss the book, such as Angel Island in the San Francisco Bay to visit the west coast Immigration Center and discuss *Shanghai Girls*, a story of two Chinese women who come to the U.S.); Friday night at the movies (outside movie at a member's house with popcorn, drinks and an intermission dessert provided by the club following a walk); and Full moon and astronomy walks (late night walks on a full moon along with a local astronomer from the city college). The club's Christmas night light walks are special. During the three to four weeks preceding Christmas club members visit a different area to walk and see the Christmas lights (the favorite is the Fabulous 40's - old mansions on tree lined streets in downtown Sacramento); they give out candy canes to the children and sing Christmas carols along the way with walkers; and are pleased to report that Girl Scouts have joined them in the walks for the last two years. They invite speakers to their business meetings to inspire walkers (Mr. & Mrs. Powers gave a presentation with pictures of their walk across the U.S. and Chris and Vince Cano gave a presentation of their 32 day trek on the Camino de Santiago trail in Spain and France). Then, they have Just Plain Fun walks including an annual Ice Cream Walk between two local creameries, International Talk Like a Pirate and Pi Day walks (kids especially are encouraged to come to these). The club prints their own money - Sticks Bucks - which members can purchase for \$3.00 to be used at any of the club's events. They have found it to be a convenient way to pay and not worry about having cash or the correct change at the walks, and are reported to be very popular with the members. The Sticks also have two of their own club books that they print for the members: Sticks Walk Books- when a member logs ten walks in the book they get a free Sticks Buck (a \$3.00 value) to use at any of the club's Year Round Events; and, Doggie Do Books, walk books for our four legged walkers who attend club walks with their owners. The four-legged friends can also get their own name tag button for a small fee. The club currently hosts 34 Year Round Events, and three Traditional Events scheduled in addition to their historic New Years Eve and New Years Day walks.

The focus of Las Vegas High Rollers & Strollers is to sanction eight Year Round Events and walk each one as a group twice a year. These walks afford a chance to educate and guide new walkers. The walks are usually followed up with an informal get together to replace the calories just lost. The club also sanctions at least two special Events. In 2011 they did Floyd Lamb Park as our last walk of the first half of the year and returned to the site of their very first walk for a 10K followed by a Potluck Party and Barbeque. In October the club set up a booth for National Trails Day and handed out a lot of brochures, many, they think to folks that liked the hard candy. The club ended up with no new members even with follow up so it was not a successful venture but they did gain a new club banner. The club president had promised a walk in downtown for years and finally organized a new walk in Historic Downtown. Club members were surprised at what a nice walk it was and everyone learned something new about Las Vegas history. It was recommended to do the walk again in the future. The club ended the year with a 5K Christmas Walk based on the new North Strip Walk. Club members all wore Santa hats, bells, and gaudy sweaters. The walk was planned to coincide with a special event at the Venetian Plaza where there was an outdoor Ice Skating rink, a large Christmas Tree, a special light show with Christmas Music and a constant group of entertainers on stilts juggling and posing. They retired to a very enjoyable No Host Party at Gordon Biersch. During 2012 the club established a very successful coupon program to reward frequent walkers in our club with reduced fees. A planned Van Trip to Utah was canceled at last minute due to government closure of National Parks. (Perhaps again next year.) The Historic Downtown Event was expanded with two 10K walks and a Jackpot theme offering 13 different stamps, including two SNOB stamps. It was a very successful event on a perfect day that drew our Pacific Region Director, AVA Vice President, and walkers from East Coast, Canada, Arizona and California. The Las Vegas High Rollers & Strollers closed out 2012 with a repeat of the popular Christmas Walk of 2011, complete with Party at Gordon Biersch.

The Vaca Valley Volks increased their membership by 12%. In an outreach effort, the club made a presentation at the Dixon Senior Center.

The Placer Pacers have added 31 new members since the last AVA Convention and developed two new routes in Roseville; one in October 2012 this included a barbeque and one in February 2013. Club members carpool to distant walks. They continue to seek out new areas to explore and new ways to advertise their events.

The annual Friendship Walk and Bike Schedule put together by Don Ratliff and Wayne Holloway for north and central California Volkssporters continue to fill a need when Traditional Events are few and far between. Its success has influenced other clubs to have group walks, not just in California or the Pacific Region, but around the country, but most are clubs catering to club members - which is a good thing too. Bike outings take place every other Thursday and cycle (okay, it's a pun) through the entire bike YREs in Northern California at least twice a year. The walks fill in the weekend schedule between Traditional Events with YREs; overnight and extended trips are periodically scheduled to take advantage of distant events. While the bike participation usually runs around 10 of the faithful few, the walks occasionally exceed 125 participants with the road trips averaging over 20. Dave Pelz, president of the Davis Dynamos says, "For sure you can highlight the effort that you and Don put into your Friendship Walk and Don's Bike Schedule for each year. I can't think of any product of one club that is more effective in helping members in planning their walking adventures throughout the Pacific Region. It's very effective in getting members to think about walking outside of their local area." Graham Fawcett, IVV Vice President and editor of the IVV *World Report*, asked if he could have an article that would present the Friendship Walks initiative as one of several different

approaches to organizing walks that would be highlighted in a future issue. He said that he liked “the tone of the article as soon as I read it: light, friendly, and humorous. A great read.” He subsequently reported that the article appeared in the second edition of the *World Report* and that, “The reaction I have received so far is very positive, especially from the Germans.”

The Pacific Region was pleased to see their Beloved Director, Holly Pelking, elected by the National Executive Council on July 6, 2012 to fill the vacancy created when the AVA Vice President resigned. Former Director Wayne Holloway was duly elected in August to backfill the Regional Director vacancy. Phil Jones, Chair of the RD Nominating Committee, was lauded for his handling of the election to fill the RD vacancy in the absence of AVA policy, by Bob Wright, President of the Loudoun Walking and Volkssport Club and frequent contributor of “technical” articles to *The American Wanderer*, “Thanks again for doing a superb, professional, fair job! Just as you've done before.”

Thirty-one Meritorious Service Awards and 142 Certificate of Service Awards were presented to Pacific Region Volkssporters. Each club received Certificates of Appreciation for presentation to persons and establishments hosting 174 Year Round Event Start Points. Fred Barton, President of the Tucson Volkssport Klub reported to club members, “Our Regional Director, supplied the club with very nice Certificates of Appreciation for each of the hosts for our Walkboxes. I purchased some nice frames and mounted them. Carolyn & I presented them to the hotels in Flagstaff, Tempe, and Mesa during our trip to do the end of year updates of the Walk Boxes. The managers we talked with each seemed pleased to receive them. Charly & Marc made a round trip to Yuma on Jan 1. They report that the manager there liked it also. Also on New Year’s Day I presented to Certificates to the two hotels here in Tucson. Today, I had to take more envelopes to the Comfort Suites on Tanque Verde Road. They already had their certificate on the wall behind the front desk.” He went on to say, “That was a great idea. Thanks for doing it. Club members: If you are ever in a host location for any reason, thank them for letting us have the Walk Box there.”

The Pacific Region comprises the states of Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada, and the US possessions in the South Pacific (Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Baker Island, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Midway Islands, and Wake Atoll). There are three clubs in Arizona (Thunder Mountain Trekkers, Tucson Volkssport Klub, Saguaro Sun Striders), One state association and 18 clubs in California (California Volkssport Association, Bay Bandits Volkssport Club, Coronado Beachcombers, Central Coast Peregrine Pathfinders, Davis Dynamos, Delta Tule Trekkers, Green Valley Gaiters, Low Desert Roadrunners, Laguna Turf ‘N Surf Walkers, Placer Pacers, South Bay Roadrunners, South Bay Striders, Sonoma County Stompers, San Diego County Rockhoppers, Sierra Gold Striders, Shasta Sundial Strollers, Sacramento Walking Sticks, Tahoe Trail Trekkers, Vaca Valley Volks), one each in Hawaii (Menehune Marchers), and Nevada (Las Vegas High Rollers and Strollers).

Participation in 86 Pacific Region Traditional events totaled 5,548, and 12,293 for the Region’s 245 Year Round and Seasonal Events in 2011. While the number of Traditional Events dropped by 10 to 76 in 2012, participation actually increased to 5,631. The number of Year Round Events increased by nine in 2012 to 254 and the number of participants increased accordingly, to 13,622. The Pacific Region contradicted the national trend of across the board losses in participation through the hard work and progressive thinking of club members and leaders. It makes an old man proud.

Aidan Morrison, grandson of Jim and Diane Morrison, Treasurer and former president, respectively, of the Tahoe Trail Trekkers, took First Place from Veteran's War Auxiliary in local competition and Third Place in district for his 5th grade essay entitled "How do I show love for my country".

How do I show love for my country?

How do I show love for my country? I pray every night and day for the veterans who are serving for our country. I love going to the Veteran's Parade every year. When I am older I would be honored to serve the United States of America.

In the morning at school we say the pledge of allegiance. I keep the United States flag in my room. I know the pledge by heart. I stand up straight and tall, put my hand on my heart and say the pledge of allegiance.

I tell my parents to vote every year. When I get older I am excited to be able to vote too. I am proud that our country allows us to have a choice in the leaders we want to represent us. I never break the law and the people that have, I pray for them to realize what they have done.

I try my hardest not to pollute. I recycle, reduce and reuse. When there is garbage laying around, I pick it up. I want my country to look nice and clean. I will try as hard as I can to keep America clean. I encourage others to do so too.

I would love to serve my country. I keep the flag safe and respect the country. I will try not to break the law. I will keep America clean. I will always love America.

By Aidan Morrison

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

DIRECTOR MIKE NELSON

The Rocky Mountain Region is comprised of Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming. Our clubs range in size from just a few members to one club of 300 plus members.

We support the National Get Outdoors Day event each year as well as events held on Military Bases, City, County, State and National Parks.

Two clubs will become inactive later this year.

AVA-0356 Footloose Volkssport Club

AVA-0671 Colorado High Country Hikers

Two groups have inquired about starting new clubs in the region.

The participation figures for the region have remained steady for the most part.

It was my privilege to be elected to finish the term of Mike Green and have enjoyed working with all the clubs in the region.

I welcome Frank Sayers as the incoming RD.

I hope to see many of you out enjoying events in our region soon.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

DIRECTOR KEN MILES

Because the years 2011 to 2013 have seen little open activity in terms of Club population, I should here point out that enormous structural strides have been made by many of our Clubs in our Great Region, leading to facts like (1) the Region experiencing a multi-event weekend (“Miles-n-Missouri”) with events sponsored by every Club in the state (four) plus events by Clubs from two neighboring states, one of which was from a sister-Club in Illinois; (2) an increase in the number of traditional events (over 2010 and from year to year since that time), principally due to an increase in the number of multi-event weekends, great opportunities to gather and fellowship with walking friends; and (3) a very successful “Regional Roundup” sponsored in the Kansas City area by the Clay-Platte Trackers of Kansas City, the Kansas JayWalkers, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and the Pace Setters Volkssport Club during October 2012. Most of us have learned a significant lesson regarding the success of multi-event weekends during this two year period. Be patient, more similar multi-event weekends are on the way!

South Central Region is blessed with some of the most beautiful walking terrain in this nation. I would like to share some of my own favorites in the Region from the past two years:

Urban Traditional Event – Clay-Platte Trackers’ Plaza (Christmas) Walk, Kansas City, MO, December 1, 2012.

Urban YRE – Kirkwood, MO (St. Louis-Stuttgart Volksmarch Club).

Suburban Traditional Event – Ozark Hill Hikers’ Bentonville, AR (including the Crystal Bridges Museum), walk, May 5, 2012.

Suburban YRE – Lindsborg, KS (Sunflower Sod Stompers).

Rural Traditional Event – Illinois Trekkers’ walk at the Warm Springs Ranch, May 28, 2012.

Rural YRE – Sulphur/Chickasaw Nat’l Recreation Area, OK (Wandergrüpe, Oklahoma City).

Seasonal Event - Tulsa Walking Club Christmas Lights Walk, Nov. 24 to Dec. 31, 2012.

Multi-Event Weekend - Miles-n-Missouri

Having been seated in July 2011, it seems like the time that I have experienced as South Central Region Director has passed too rapidly. Fortunately, I have had the opportunity to visit with nearly every Club in the Region and have participated in at least one event, traditional or year-round, sponsored each Club. As I have expressed, I have deeply enjoyed working and walking with you, but as most know, I have chosen not to seek a second term in the Regional Director (an “RD”) position due to the fact that I am a practicing attorney and am at risk of judicially imposed sanctions, including the loss of my license to practice law, should I participate with the NEC in violating the fiduciary duties of that body. Shortly into my first term as RD I was witness to violation of those fiduciary duties by certain members of NEC XVII and brought my concerns to the attention the entire membership. My experience since that time has been that it is I who have been questioned and accused of being at fault for not “going along.” Similar violations of the fiduciary duty of a number of individual board members to subordinate his or her own wants and needs to those of the AVA Membership continue.

Consequently, I cannot continue. I sincerely trust and hope that you, the Volkssporters from South Central Region and from across the U.S have realized an improvement in your walking experience as a result of my limited time in that position. I look forward to serving the AVA and its "Members" from behind the scenes.

SOUTHEAST REGION

DIRECTOR DENNIS MICHELE

Covering the southeast corner of the United States, the region is composed of the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee. We lost no clubs in the previous two years, added one new one and have two requests pending. So while growth has not been spectacular, we are growing. We have two strong state associations in the Tarheel State Walkers Volkssport Association (TSWVA) and Florida Volkssport Association (FVA).

Of course the most important activity we have been working on is the Convention. Developing walk routes, planning sessions, monthly meeting and all the myriad of tasks associated with the planning and execution of what we hope will be a memorable convention has taken up a lot of time and effort.

We still have had time for fun walking and biking and swimming. Our YREs enjoyed modest gains over the previous 2 years as did our traditional events. The Presidents' Day weekend put on by the Georgia Walkers, Capital City Wanderers (Alabama) and the Pensacola Volksmarch Club were extremely successful and attracted more participants than in previous years. Likewise the walking weekend by the Pensacola club in conjunction with the Art Festival in Fairhope, AL resulted in another new high for participants. The same was true for the Asheville Amblers whose traditional events inaugurating new walks in Hilton Head and Bluffton, SC and along the Blue Ridge Parkway turned in all-time highs for them.

We welcomed the Upstate Pathfinders of Greenville, SC to the growing list of clubs in the SE. They have initiated a series of very fine walks in their area and are a welcome addition.

We conducted a thorough review of our region's YREs and culled out many that weren't meeting the needs of volkssporting. However, we were able to find many new ones so the total number increased in the region.

As regional director, I traveled to the events listed above plus Red Top Mountain events by the Georgia Walkers and traditional events held throughout North Carolina by its clubs. I was also able to join club walks in Alabama, Georgia, Florida and North Carolina as well as YREs in the other states. It was also my privilege to attend state association meetings.

We will be greeting a new regional director, David Bonewitz, in July. David is the president of the East Tennessee Wanderers and a long time Volkssporter.

Volkssporting is alive and well in the SE. We face the same challenges and problems as other regions but we have a strong cadre willing to do what necessary to keep our sport active and growing

SOUTHWEST REGION

DIRECTOR BILL HAMILTON

A list of the clubs in the Southwest Region, printed seven days after the current NEC term began, shows 41 entries, three from New Mexico and the rest from Texas. Not counting the HQ, the SWRD and the Texas Volkssport Association, that leaves 39 Members (as we're now calling clubs to distinguish them from Individual/Family AVA Associates). Six of those are no longer active – two going back to the AVA-0200s, two from the AVA-0700s and two from the more recent AVA-900s.

At least one of the departures was the victim of IRS confusion and non-cooperation; one never really got started and the others just couldn't/didn't want to keep going. One member of the latter group was a Chamber of Commerce that found maintaining the club was simply more trouble than it was worth.

To be frank there are several other regional clubs operating on a shoestring with only one or two stalwart members, looking for help and participation from the rest of us.

A recent notice from one of the newer clubs seemed like the last straw of club disappointment, but listening to the president describe their plan proved really exciting and the story may be encouraging to others:

Del and Berta Zander are old-time Volkssporters who moved from the far Northwest to the South Texas town of Mission (pop. 46,000+) over two years ago. They soon chartered the Rio Grande Valley Walkers (AVA-0961) with two seasonal events; the next full year, those SEs matured into YREs with enough participation to be sustainable. For those geographically challenged regarding Texas particulars, this is waaay south, in a densely populated cluster of communities very near the Rio Grande, which forms our much-publicized border with Mexico, but well separated by wide open, sparsely populated spaces from the communities to the north. A few miles downriver lies the bustling City of McAllen (pop. 130,000+) which has had a charter for years (AVA-0350), but has not been actively sponsoring events lately. Del approached Rick Krauss, Parks and Recreation, with an idea for some synergistic cooperation – his experience and the city's resources for publicity and nearby contacts. It looks like we may lose a club and gain a really healthy area cooperative, sponsoring a traditional event each year along with three or more YREs. The number of clubs never trumps the vitality of the participants!

A *new* club is in the formative stage, just a little way up the Gulf Coast in Rockport, sponsored by the local chamber's Parks and Leisure Department.

To continue on that positive note, more and more clubs, from El Paso to the Metroplex to East Texas are sponsoring and publicizing group walks during the week, utilizing (and presumably registering for) their sanctioned YREs. We are seeing more cooperation between and among clubs, including Saturday morning and afternoon events sponsored by the Dallas Trekkers (AVA-0034) and the Plano Walking Club (AVA-0124) at nearby locations in and adjacent to Bonham, a seldom selected area.

Many clubs throughout the country located in the southern climes and elsewhere, have convinced themselves that walking has to cease or at least diminish from June to August. AVA history tells us that the whole concept of Volkssporting in the USA began with a Bicentennial event in June, 1976,

right here in the Hill Country town of Fredericksburg. That club had continued (with one recent exception) to host a commemorative traditional event around the middle of June. This Volkssporter has maintained that summer walks can be successfully held, aided by incorporating the following principles:

Plan a route with as much shade as can be found,
Start immediately after dawn, and
Provide/carry plenty of water!

Last summer in Texas, several clubs began hosting group walks promoting those principles, again utilizing their YREs. This combines the positive of comradeship on the trail with the simplicity of a route already sanctioned. We are now urging the clubs to make this a “teaching moment” by having each participant complete the registration process on their own to help newbies become comfortable facing a closed walk box (with the host standing nearby to help, only when needed).

This year a volunteer has assembled a listing of clubs throughout the state that have stepped up to make these hosted offerings. In addition, the Randolph Roadrunners of San Antonio have sanctioned three monthly traditional Summer Sunrise Events in and around the city, following a successful venture of a similar nature last summer. They “gave it a try” and it worked, thanks to organization and a bevy of yawning volunteers.

Another new venture, the Texas County Walkers, AVA-0955, has continued to build steam with more clubs cooperating to help locate sites for walks in the “underserved” counties of this state, as is the stated mission of this growing organization. Texas is over 800 miles east to west and over 770 miles north to south. Its 254 counties can get pretty big and far between to the west and south and lightly populated outside the primary metropolitan areas overall. I’m just sayin’.

The West Texas Trail Walkers, AVA-0060, sponsored their annual multi-day events on the Columbus Day weekend, just as they have since 1982. Last year they were at Caprock Canyons State Park, in the Panhandle, and they have selected one of their favorite locations in Big Bend National Park for 2013.

Speaking of far between, the three clubs in New Mexico continue to function with several traditional events in Las Cruces and Raton and YREs in all three.

Cooperation, consolidation and combinations are becoming the symbols of the region!

AVA MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Executive Committee Meeting 11/1/2010 Conference Call

Executive Committee Meeting 10/27/2010 Conference Call

Executive Committee Meeting 9/23/2010 Conference Call

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS

NEC Meeting 1/18-19/2013 Universal City, TX

NEC Special Telephonic Conference Meeting 10/8/2012

NEC Meeting 7/6-7/2012 Orlando, FL

NEC Special Online Meeting 4/12/2012

NEC Special Online Meeting 3/29/2012

NEC Meeting 1/20-21/2012 Schertz, TX

NEC Meeting 8/26/2011 Schertz, TX

AVA Standing Committees

AUDIT

Liaison Dennis Michele

The Audit Committee procured auditors for the previous two years. They oversaw the auditors and received the report from them. This report was discussed with the AVA President, Executive Director and Treasurer before being presented to the National Executive Council.

In both cases, no significant errors or problems were found by the auditors. Minor errors and suggestions were taken care of.

Due to the merging of the audit firm used these two years with a much larger firm, it was felt the last audit was not conducted to the needs of a smaller organization as the AVA. Because of this, the Audit Committee will seek a new firm for the next audit

STANDARDS AND EVALUATION

Chair Dennis Michele

Two major procedures were evaluated and enacted through recommendations of the committee:

1. The way we rate events was changed to a two part system using a number to indicate elevation/inclines and a letter to identify the terrain on the event. The elevation/incline portion was later revised to more accurately identify the changes and to ensure all events over 3500 feet are not penalized because of start point elevation
2. Formal procedures for the establishment of State/Club Special Interest/Challenge Programs.

Both of these have been added to the Standards and Procedures Manual
3. The use of date slugs for YREs was discussed and an agenda item submitted for next NEC meeting

AVA Special Committees

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Chair Phyllis Olson

The AVA Recognition Awards Program honors individuals and organizations, both within and outside the AVA, for service, deeds, and accomplishments that have advanced the ideals and aspirations of volkssporting in the United States.

The Awards and Recognition Committee facilitated this goal by completing the duties and responsibilities assigned to it by AVA policy. Award nominations from all Volkssporters were solicited in the June/July 2012 issue of *The American Wanderer*. The article outlined the qualifications for each award and the timeline for submitting the nominations. Before submitting a nomination the committee strongly recommended a review of the "Guide for Nominations," a helpful tool developed by a previous committee.

The Regional Directors submitted all national level award nominations (Hall of Fame Award, Distinguished Achievement Award, Ted Ballman Memorial Award for Youth Volkssporters and Trailblazer Award) to the committee for review. The committee's recommendations were presented to the NEC at their January 2013 meeting for final approval. The NEC determinations may be found in the 2011-2013 Awards Booklet prepared by the committee and distributed at the 18th Biennial Convention of the American Volkssport Association in Orlando, Florida.

Members of the Awards and Recognition Committee represented five regions: Mid America, Eunice Bottorff; South Central, Terri Tyler; Pacific, Loralie Cruz; Northwest, Sam Korff; and North Central, Phyllis Olson, Chair.

INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Chair Holly Pelking

The IT Committee has been running full throttle since my appointment as chairperson at the August NEC meeting in 2011.

Members of the committee consistently helping throughout this time period include Chris Mellen, Chris Zegelin, Wendy Bumgardner, Bev Jones, Steve d'Adolf, Mike Green (West Point, NY), Kimi Bradley (NEC member) and Bob Morrison. First, a thorough survey of all IT background, issues, and applications was undertaken by committee member Chris Zegelin, and was reported back to the NEC meeting in January 2012. This is where priorities were established and projects determined as it was obvious that AVA is at least nine years behind times as far as technology standards.

Accomplished: Database migration, needed to move club websites off AVA servers for security reasons. This took all of 2012 to communicate with each club, explain the importance of their moving

off the servers. Out of the cry for help from clubs, came the development of **avaclubs.org** site by Frank Sayers in Woodland, CO to help fellow clubs get re-established easily and economically.

IT ESR (Electronic Sanctioning Request) survey-began in Spring of 2012. Its purpose was to hear what clubs and their members had to say about the ESR process, while at the same time get a feel of what types of computer access members are using. What percentage of our member use Smart phones to access the website and database? How many do not use computers at all?

How do the existing ESR files work on different platforms? Is it user friendly or not? How can we improve on what we have? The survey was finished mid-November 2012 and the compilation of responses done by the January 2013 NEC meeting. The answer was overwhelming that members just wanted improvements to the existing system-no need to spend \$30K to overhaul the entire software. That is the task we are set forth to accomplish now, going in to NEC XVIII.

We also established a role for IT Committee member Chris Mellen, ESR Specification Coordinator, to oversee programming specifications being brought forth from the IT Committee being presented to Omnium, our software contract company via HQ. Upon completion of the work done by Omnium, Chris will then test the results for accuracy and quality before moving forward to the next task assigned.

Our Marketing Manager Chuck Blische, AVA Webmaster, Linda Rebmann, and Interim Executive Director, Candace Purcell combined to guide Omnium with a new AVA Web Site launched December 18, 2012.

NOMINATING

Chair Glen Conyers

National Officer Nominees are:

I was appointed by the AVA President to chair the 2013 National Nominating Committee and given this mission:

- 1) Select committee members
- 2) Establish election timelines
- 3) Develop election guidelines for candidates
- 4) Nominate candidates for the office of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer for the term of office 1 July 2013 - 30 June 2015

The committee consisted of the following members in addition to me:

- 1) Linda Nyman, Colorado Springs, CO
- 2) Dan Peters, Lennox, SD
- 3) Joseph F. Piffat, Danvers, MA
- 4) Lucy Yother, Leavenworth, KS

Friday/23 November 2012 was established as the deadline date for anyone wanting to formally file to become a candidate for an AVA Officer position. Nationwide advertising was undertaken to solicit interested candidates. These people applied and were officially nominated by my committee:

- 1) AVA President: Sam Korff and Dennis Michele
- 2) AVA Vice President: Holly Pelking
- 3) Secretary: Bonnie Johnson
- 4) Treasurer: Bob Morrison

Biographical data and a photograph of each candidate appeared in the February-March issue of *The American Wanderer*.

An election committee was appointed by the president to develop *Election Guidelines for NEC XVIII Officer Candidates*. This was done to establish an election system so all candidates would know exactly what was required of them during this election cycle. It was important for a process to be established that would be absolutely fair and equitable and give everyone ample time for active campaigning.

It is recommended that the Guidelines become a formal AVA policy but include specific information about potential candidates who are not officially nominated by the committee. These are people who plan to be “nominated from the floor” at the forthcoming convention and undertake an active campaign.

The elections of regional directors (RDs) were held within each region as required by the AVA Bylaws. They were not under the authority of my committee; however, the official results of the RD elections are:

- 1) Atlantic Region: Dave Scull
- 2) Mid-America Region: Linda Neu
- 3) North Central Region: Phyllis Olson
- 4) Northeast Region: Doug Reynolds
- 5) Northwest Region: Nancy Wittenberg
- 6) Pacific Region: Wayne Holloway
- 7) Rocky Mountain Region: Frank Sayers
- 8) South Central Region: Glen Conyers
- 9) Southeast Region: David Bonewitz
- 10) Southwest Region: Joanne Forinash

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Chair Bonnie Johnson

AVA's Special Programs Committee is composed of a point of contact from each club which sponsors a Special Program. All Special Programs are reviewed by the Regional Director (RD) prior to being sent to the Committee Chair and the Committee for review. The Special Programs are then brought before the National Executive Council (NEC) at a meeting held in January or February of each year, for the final vote and approval or non-approval. Each Special Program must have an alternate point of contact designated, in the event the original point of contact is unable to fulfill the obligations to that specific Special Program. The guidelines and policy were revised January 20-21, 2012 and can be found on the AVA website under Administrative/General Administrative/Publications and Policies/AVA Special Programs Management Policy.

On January 1, 2013, three (3) new Special Programs started as another six (6) Special Programs ended on December 31, 2012. On January 18, 2013, the NEC approved nine (9) new Special Programs to begin on January 1, 2014. Once a Special Program gets to the end date, no more books can be sold, but the participant has until the following December 31st to complete the program, mail in the book, and receive the award.

Thank you and appreciation go to all Committee Members of the Special Programs for the hard work in implementing and maintaining the programs as well as the financial contributions made to AVA as a result of each of the Special Programs.

AVA Special Programs

Please Note: Highlighting indicates book sale period. *Participants have one additional year to complete each program.*

Start Date	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	End Date of book sales	End Date of completion	
6/23/2003 (On-going)	Walking the USA A to Z											None	Open	
1/1/2014	Border Crossings											12/31/2023	12/31/2024	
1/1/2014	Alternative Capitals											12/31/2016	12/31/2017	
1/1/2014	Cities in Song											12/31/2016	12/31/2017	
1/1/2014	Honoring Our Flag											12/31/2016	12/31/2017	
1/1/2014	Lakes & Reservoirs											12/31/2016	12/31/2017	
1/1/2014	National Register Historic											12/31/2016	12/31/2017	
1/1/2014	Trekking with the Trees											12/31/2016	12/31/2017	
1/1/2014	You'll Ne ver Walk Alone											12/31/2016	12/31/2017	
1/1/2014	Water Towers											12/31/2016	12/31/2017	
1/1/2013	Civil War	Battle fields											12/31/2015	12/31/2016
1/1/2013	Fraternal	Organiza tions											12/31/2015	12/31/2016
1/1/2013	The Old	Spanish Trail											12/31/2015	12/31/2016
1/1/2012	Bakeries: Family												12/31/2014	12/31/2015
1/1/2012	Cinemas: Golden												12/31/2014	12/31/2015
1/1/2012	Diners: Classic												12/31/2014	12/31/2015
1/1/2012	Main Street												12/31/2014	12/31/2015
1/1/2012	Murals												12/31/2014	12/31/2015
1/1/2012	Rainbows												12/31/2014	12/31/2015
1/1/2012	WPA												12/31/2014	12/31/2015
1/1/2011	Baseball												12/31/2013	12/31/2014
1/1/2011	Grist Mills												12/31/2013	12/31/2014
1/1/2011	Trails												12/31/2013	12/31/2014

TRAINING DEVELOPMENT

Chair Sam Korff

CONCERNS:

Committee work is done, but the guide is not complete. The committee had hoped to include a “how to” on networking as well as a Publicity Guide. Committee members do not have the required expertise to address those issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the committee turns over the data to the next Training Committee for completion.
2. That the Director of Marketing and Publicity create a separate publicity guide for use by clubs

YOUTH PROGRAM

Chair Nancy Wittenberg



Accomplishments include:

Responding to inquiries from AVA clubs, individuals, and Girl Scout troop leaders regarding the Girl Scout Walk Together program and the AVA Master program. I served as a liaison matching clubs with Girl Scout troops and councils and answering questions to help when needed.

Selection of the Participation Patch for Girl Scout Walks (Walk-Together patch) for 2012-2013. Dar Parrow of the Cedar Milers in Oregon set up a contest with Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington to select the patch design.

The 2013-2014 patch design will be selected from designs submitted to Debra Kruep of the Illinois Trekkers from Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois Council. We will not have the final design in time for convention, but it will be introduced in the August 2013 *Checkpoint* for walks beginning in September.

Changed the Girl Scout Walk Together Program so that Girl Scouts need not walk for credit in order to earn the patch. It is now a “for sale” item. The price of the patch to clubs was changed to \$2. The Girl Scout Walk Together brochure was updated to keep current.

Revised the Master Program so that only six walks are required in a year to earn the award. Previously twelve walks were required.

Treasurer's Message

by BOB MORRISON

GOALS:

- 1) To satisfy previous auditor management recommendations
- 2) To produce timely, meaningful financial reports for NEC
- 3) To present fiscally sound revenue increasing and cost savings proposals to the NEC

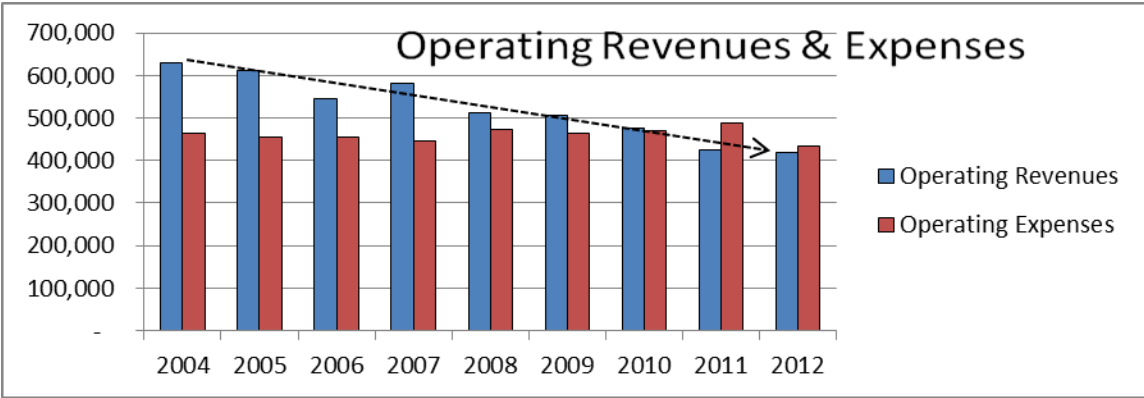
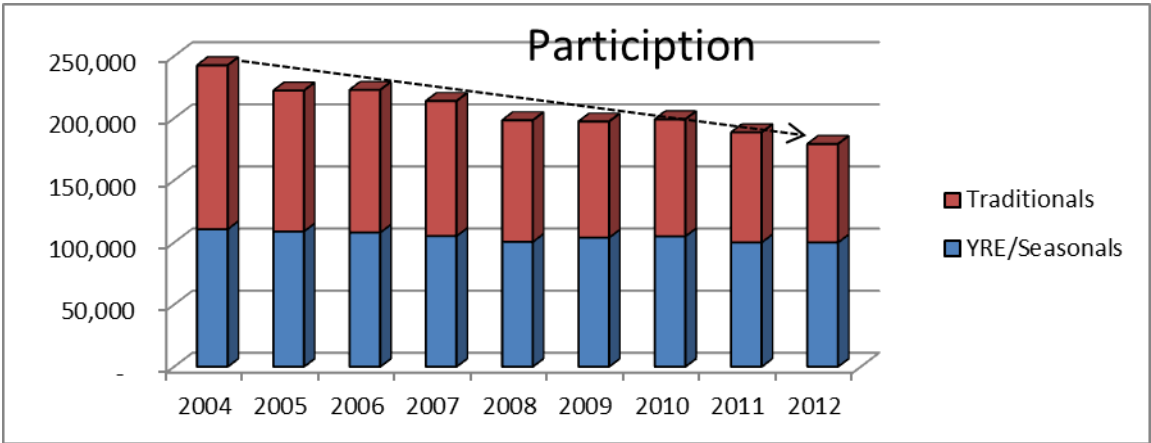
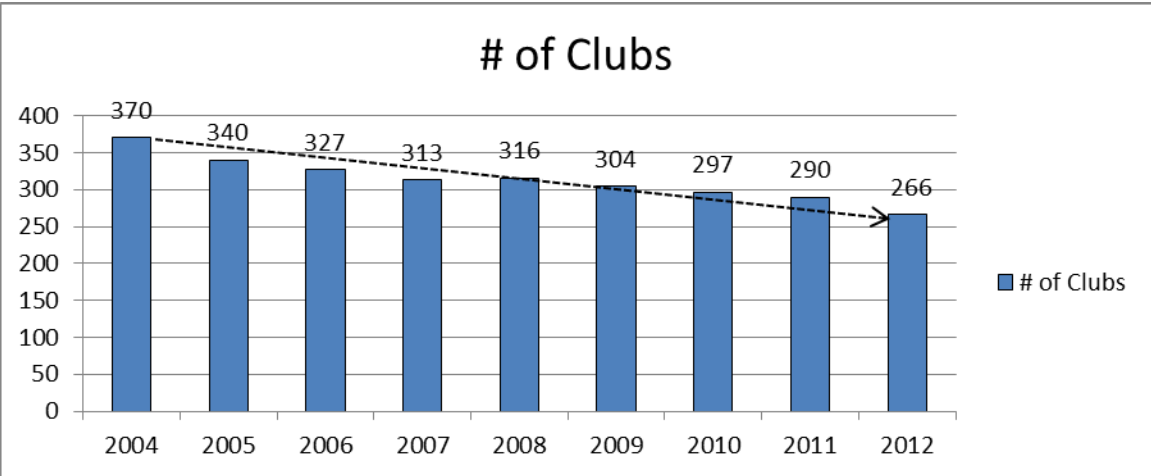
ACTIVITIES:

- 1) Satisfied audit findings and resolved auditor's management recommendations with the implementation of board approved investment and document retention policies
- 2) Distributed monthly financial reports to the NEC, responded to questions
- 3) Presented revenue increasing and cost savings proposals:
 - a. Centurion Achievement Program to increase participation, associate membership and revenue – Adopted by NEC
 - b. Proposed biennial associate memberships to increase revenue – not adopted
 - c. Proposed higher club dues to increase revenue – not adopted
 - d. Proposed higher associate member dues to increase revenue – not adopted
 - e. Proposed quarterly financial reporting to save staff effort/cost – not adopted
 - f. Proposed automated billing to general ledger transfer to save costs – referred to IT Committee which has never proposed adoption to the NEC
 - g. Proposed pilot testing labels in place of rubber stamps to save costs – rejected by committee
 - h. Proposed offering a choice of receiving TAW electronically to save costs – rejected by committee

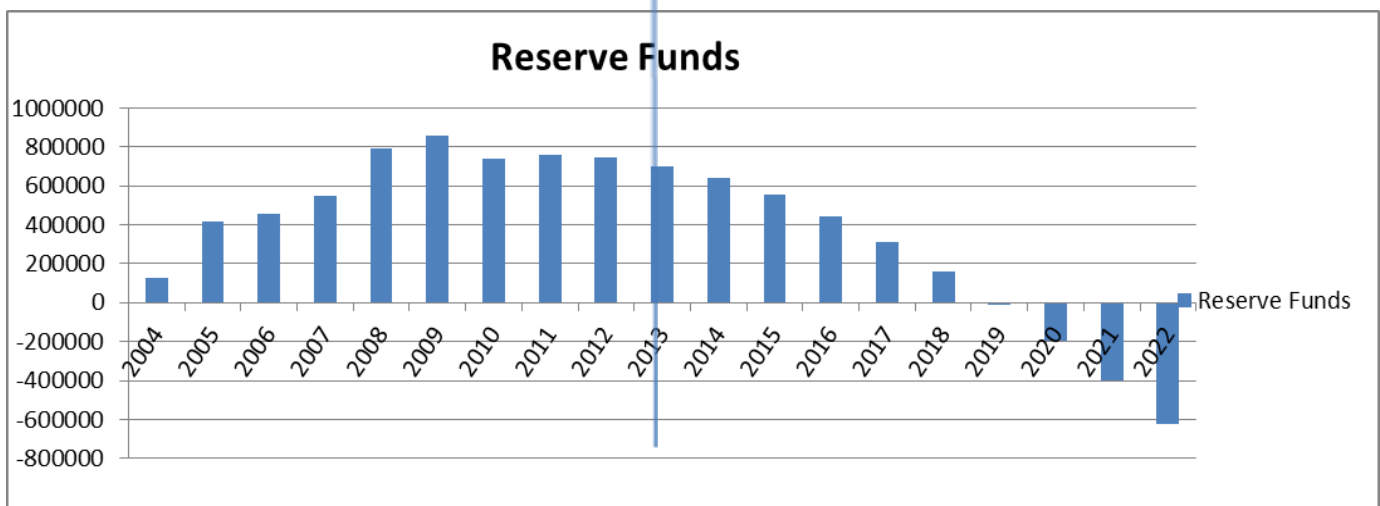
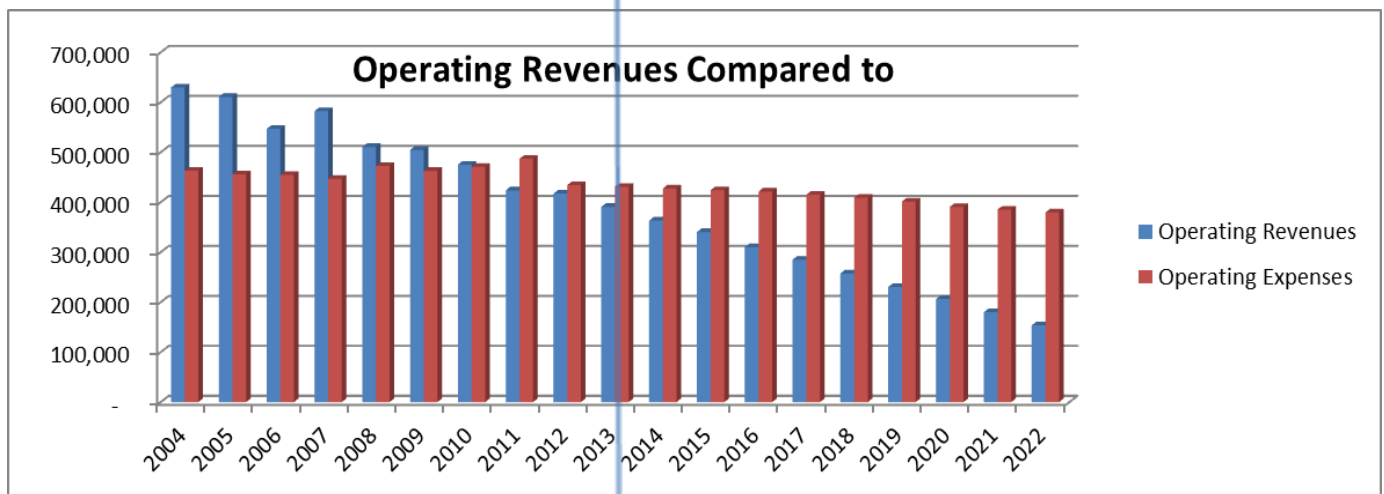
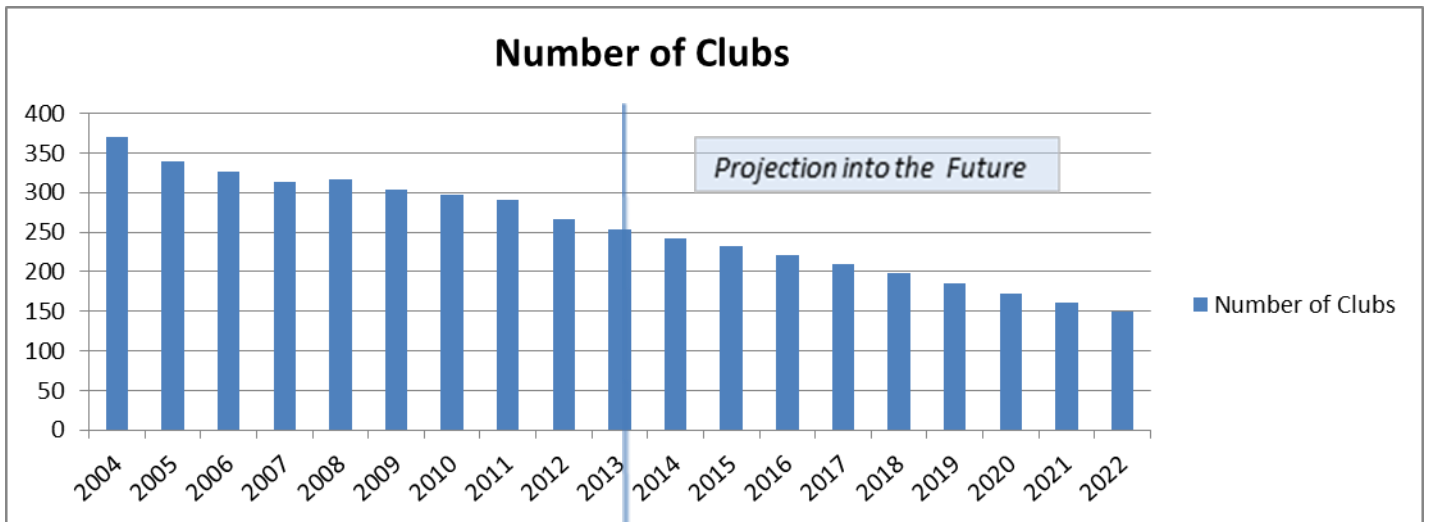
CONCERNS: The following graphs show the number of clubs, participation and revenues compared with expenses for the years 2004 through 2012. Clubs have declined 28% and Participation has declined 26% during this nine year period. During the same nine year period, Operating Revenues (excluding conventions and TAW) have declined 34% while Operating expenses have declined just 6%. Most notably, during the same nine years, Event revenue has declined by 21%, Membership revenue has declined 57%, Awards revenue has declined 47%, and Sponsorship revenue has declined 91%. The total number of events is higher by 7% with lower average attendance and with a pronounced shift away from traditional events in favor of more year-round and seasonal events.

Absent effective action by the NEC, there is every reason to project continued declines in participation and revenue, which in turn will require reductions in operating costs to maintain balanced budgets.

DASHBOARD HIGHLIGHTS YEAR-BY-YEAR



Projection of Current Trends into the Future



Money Matters

(A complete audit report is available at the AVA Headquarters.)



Tel: 210-342-8000
Fax: 210-342-0866
www.bdo.com

40 NE Loop 410
Suite 200
San Antonio, TX 78216

Independent Auditors' Report

To the National Executive Council
American Volkssport Association, Inc.
Universal City, Texas

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Financial Position of American Volkssport Association, Inc. (the Association) as of June 30, 2012, and the related Statements of Activities and Cash Flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Association's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. The financial statements of the Association as of and for the year ended June 30, 2011 were audited by Carneiro, Chumney & Co., L.C. whose practice has been combined with our firm, and whose report dated October 26, 2011 expressed an unqualified opinion on those statements.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as of June 30, 2012, and the results of its activities and cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

BDO USA, LLP

November 14, 2012

American Volkssport Association, Inc.

Statements of Financial Position

<i>June 30,</i>	2012	2011
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 293,369	\$ 406,907
Accounts Receivable:		
Trade	77,750	68,121
Other	10,656	3,992
Investments	742,922	758,650
Inventory	61,770	71,349
Prepaid expenses	24,335	23,977
Total Current Assets	1,210,802	1,332,996
Furniture and equipment - at cost	136,459	226,723
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(118,303)	(206,154)
Net Furniture and Equipment	18,156	20,569
Other assets	859	2,026
Total Assets	\$ 1,229,817	\$ 1,355,591
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 4,144	\$ 111,822
Accrued expenses	15,994	12,407
Current portion of capital lease obligations	4,393	4,393
Deferred Revenue:		
Annual dues	13,875	14,800
Sanction fees	14,344	13,034
TAW subscriptions and memberships	12,892	15,533
Other	1,365	1,170
Total Current Liabilities	67,007	173,159
Long-Term Liabilities		
Deferred TAW subscriptions and memberships	24,530	24,114
Capital lease obligations	7,736	12,129
Total Long-Term Liabilities	32,266	36,243
Total Liabilities	99,273	209,402
Commitments - Note 7		
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	1,130,544	1,144,069
Temporarily restricted	--	2,120
Total Net Assets	1,130,544	1,146,189
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 1,229,817	\$ 1,355,591

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

American Volkssport Association, Inc.

Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended June 30, 2012
(With Summarized Financial Information for the Year Ended June 30, 2011)

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2012	2011
Revenue, Gains, and Other Support				
Awards	\$ 39,502	--	39,502	\$ 41,188
Convention	--	--	--	195,384
Corporate sponsorship	6,768	--	6,768	6,768
Donations	8,144	122	8,266	16,262
Events	289,613	--	289,613	291,417
Investment income	14,414	--	14,414	7,908
Membership	29,402	--	29,402	34,256
Other	29,449	--	29,449	26,024
Publications	41,414	--	41,414	44,545
Specialties - merchandise	23,419	--	23,419	24,742
Net assets released from restrictions	2,242	(2,242)	--	--
Total Revenue, Gains, and Other Support	484,367	(2,120)	482,247	688,494
Expenses				
Awards	6,708	--	6,708	6,585
Convention	--	--	--	177,994
Executive Council:				
Meetings	15,139	--	15,139	19,718
Operations	278	--	278	2,368
Insurance	33,161	--	33,161	33,151
National Office:				
Operations	97,046	--	97,046	95,475
Salaries	199,680	--	199,680	233,934
Other	67,176	--	67,176	82,391
Professional services	15,241	--	15,241	13,275
Publications	44,196	--	44,196	45,221
Specialties - merchandise	19,267	--	19,267	20,371
Total Expenses	497,892	--	497,892	730,483
Change in Net Assets	(13,525)	(2,120)	(15,645)	(41,989)
Net assets, beginning of year	1,144,069	2,120	1,146,189	1,188,178
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 1,130,544	--	1,130,544	\$ 1,146,189

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

American Volkssport Association

Please note Proposed Budget is a balanced budget.

	ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY	'12/13	'13/14
	AS OF	AS OF	AS OF	APPROVED	PROPOSED
BUDGET ITEM	06/30/2010	06/30/2011	06/30/2012	BUDGET	BUDGET
INCOME					
<u>MEMBERSHIP INCOME</u>					
Charter Memberships	\$ 250	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
Volkssports Associate Memberships	\$ 34,338	\$ 19,556	\$ 15,053	\$ 17,705	\$ 18,455
Annual Dues	\$ 14,700	\$ 14,400	\$ 14,350	\$ 14,050	\$ 13,000
Total Membership	\$ 49,288	\$ 34,256	\$ 29,403	\$ 31,855	\$ 31,555
<u>EVENT INCOME</u>					
Sanction Fees	\$ 70,720	\$ 65,410	\$ 64,240	\$ 65,760	\$ 85,950
Participation Fees	\$ 89,865	\$ 86,081	\$ 80,069	\$ 87,061	\$ 78,928
Participation Fees, YRE/Seasonal	\$ 110,536	\$ 106,207	\$ 112,183	\$ 107,785	\$ 110,040
YRE/Seasonal Processing Fees	\$ 30,540	\$ 32,710	\$ 32,918	\$ 29,200	\$ 30,000
Total Event	\$ 301,661	\$ 290,408	\$ 289,410	\$ 289,806	\$ 304,918
<u>SALES INCOME</u>					
Specialties & Other	\$ 37,455	\$ 35,024	\$ 31,212	\$ 33,201	\$ 30,000
Awards	\$ 5,437	\$ 517	\$ 774	\$ 1,200	\$ 3,000
IVV Books	\$ 32,485	\$ 27,461	\$ 27,090	\$ 27,805	\$ 28,000
New Walker Packets	\$ 15,038	\$ 13,210	\$ 11,565	\$ 12,250	\$ 15,000
Freight/Shipping Income	\$ 8,579	\$ 8,153	\$ 9,624	\$ 10,008	\$ 9,500
Sales Returns/Allowances	\$ (149)	\$ (68)	\$ (44)	\$ (100)	\$ (250)
Member Discounts	\$ (13,265)	\$ (11,542)	\$ (8,951)	\$ (11,243)	\$ (11,000)
Total Sales	\$ 85,580	\$ 72,755	\$ 71,270	\$ 73,121	\$ 74,250
<u>PUBLICATION INCOME</u>					
TAW Subscriptions/Library	\$ 24,715	\$ 35,370	\$ 37,834	\$ 35,970	\$ 35,970
TAW & Web Advertising	\$ 9,695	\$ 12,355	\$ 4,825	\$ 4,820	\$ 3,500
Total Publication	\$ 34,410	\$ 47,725	\$ 42,659	\$ 40,790	\$ 39,470
<u>SPONSORSHIP INCOME</u>					
Corporate Sponsorship	\$ 6,768	\$ 6,768	\$ 6,768	\$ 56,768	\$ 31,768
Total Sponsorship	\$ 6,768	\$ 6,768	\$ 6,768	\$ 56,768	\$ 31,768
<u>MISCELLANEOUS INCOME</u>					
Royalties	\$ 273	\$ 163	\$ 63	\$ 350	\$ 350
Interest	\$ 129	\$ 186	\$ 178	\$ 152	\$ 160
Interest, Restricted	\$ 20,379	\$ 7,722	\$ 14,236	\$ 18,932	\$ 17,000
Youth Program	\$ 1,470	\$ 1,328	\$ 1,275	\$ 1,820	\$ 1,900
Other/Conv0X/Insurance	\$ 6,327	\$ 201,043	\$ 6,411	\$ 201,702	\$ 6,600
Total Miscellaneous	\$ 28,578	\$ 210,442	\$ 22,163	\$ 222,956	\$ 26,010
<u>FUND RAISING INCOME</u>					
EC Events	\$ -	\$ 50	\$ 22	\$ 50	\$ 50
Donations	\$ 13,094	\$ 16,262	\$ 8,266	\$ 15,340	\$ 18,981
Special Funds Development	\$ 870	\$ 960	\$ 180	\$ 500	\$ 500
Special Programs	\$ 10,945	\$ 8,869	\$ 12,106	\$ 8,585	\$ 10,000
Total Fund Raising	\$ 24,909	\$ 26,141	\$ 20,574	\$ 24,475	\$ 29,531
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 531,194	\$ 688,495	\$ 482,247	\$ 739,771	\$ 537,502

American Volkssport Association

	ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY	'12/13	'13/14
	AS OF	AS OF	AS OF	APPROVED	PROPOSED
BUDGET ITEM	06/30/2010	06/30/2011	06/30/2012	BUDGET	BUDGET
COST OF GOODS SOLD					
Awards, Sold	\$ 2,453	\$ 331	\$ 407	\$ 1,056	\$ 2,000
Awards, Issued	\$ 4,499	\$ 4,483	\$ 4,409	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
IVV Books	\$ 1,211	\$ 1,117	\$ 1,181	\$ 1,162	\$ 1,162
New Walker Packets	\$ 618	\$ 654	\$ 710	\$ 760	\$ 1,200
Specialties	\$ 26,418	\$ 20,371	\$ 19,267	\$ 20,523	\$ 16,000
Youth Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Shipping/Freight/Rounding	\$ 6,332	\$ 6,490	\$ 6,484	\$ 5,554	\$ 5,554
Total Cost of Goods	\$ 41,531	\$ 33,446	\$ 32,458	\$ 33,555	\$ 30,416
GROSS PROFIT					
	\$ 489,663	\$ 655,049	\$ 449,789	\$ 706,216	\$ 507,086
EXPENSES					
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</u>					
Bad Debt/Convention 200X	\$ 22	\$ 177,994	\$ -	\$ 178,044	\$ 50
Credit Card Service Fees	\$ 1,995	\$ 2,470	\$ 2,007	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,100
Bank Service Charges/Rate Exch	\$ (439)	\$ -	\$ 379	\$ (180)	\$ (180)
Interest Charges/Expense	\$ 1,620	\$ 1,454	\$ 1,127	\$ 774	\$ 1,454
Total Administrative	\$ 3,198	\$ 181,918	\$ 3,513	\$ 181,138	\$ 3,424
<u>EQUIPMENT EXPENSE</u>					
Equipment Rental	\$ 7,464	\$ 8,155	\$ 8,243	\$ 6,165	\$ 5,363
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 1,298	\$ 918	\$ 972	\$ 972	\$ 972
Total Maintenance	\$ 8,762	\$ 9,073	\$ 9,215	\$ 7,137	\$ 6,335
<u>SERVICE EXPENSES</u>					
Financial Services	\$ 12,560	\$ 12,600	\$ 13,540	\$ 13,740	\$ 13,740
Insurance, Events	\$ 31,000	\$ 31,000	\$ 31,000	\$ 31,000	\$ 31,000
Insurance, National Headquarters	\$ 2,151	\$ 2,151	\$ 2,161	\$ 2,176	\$ 2,176
Legal Services	\$ -	\$ 675	\$ 1,701	\$ 8,900	\$ 6,000
Total Service	\$ 45,711	\$ 46,426	\$ 48,402	\$ 55,816	\$ 52,916
<u>GENERAL EXPENSE</u>					
Executive Council Meetings	\$ 4,895	\$ 8,537	\$ 6,861	\$ 6,785	\$ 9,529
Executive Management Expenses	\$ 347	\$ 2,228	\$ -	\$ 1,925	\$ 2,210
Executive Council Miscellaneous	\$ 1,694	\$ 751	\$ 151	\$ 1,092	\$ 1,325
National Committees	\$ 812	\$ 345	\$ 279	\$ 650	\$ 200
Travel, Executive Council	\$ 11,095	\$ 11,181	\$ 8,278	\$ 10,322	\$ 12,000
Total General	\$ 18,843	\$ 23,042	\$ 15,569	\$ 20,774	\$ 25,264
<u>POSTAL EXPENSES</u>					
National Headquarters	\$ 19,256	\$ 13,518	\$ 12,960	\$ 13,547	\$ 9,225
TAW	\$ 10,688	\$ 11,150	\$ 10,266	\$ 9,339	\$ 9,339
Executive Council	\$ 745	\$ 490	\$ 126	\$ 350	\$ 350
Total Postal	\$ 30,689	\$ 25,158	\$ 23,352	\$ 23,236	\$ 18,914
<u>PRINTING EXPENSE</u>					
TAW Contract	\$ 33,717	\$ 34,071	\$ 33,929	\$ 37,020	\$ 37,020
TAW					
Total Printing	\$ 33,717	\$ 34,071	\$ 33,929	\$ 37,020	\$ 37,020

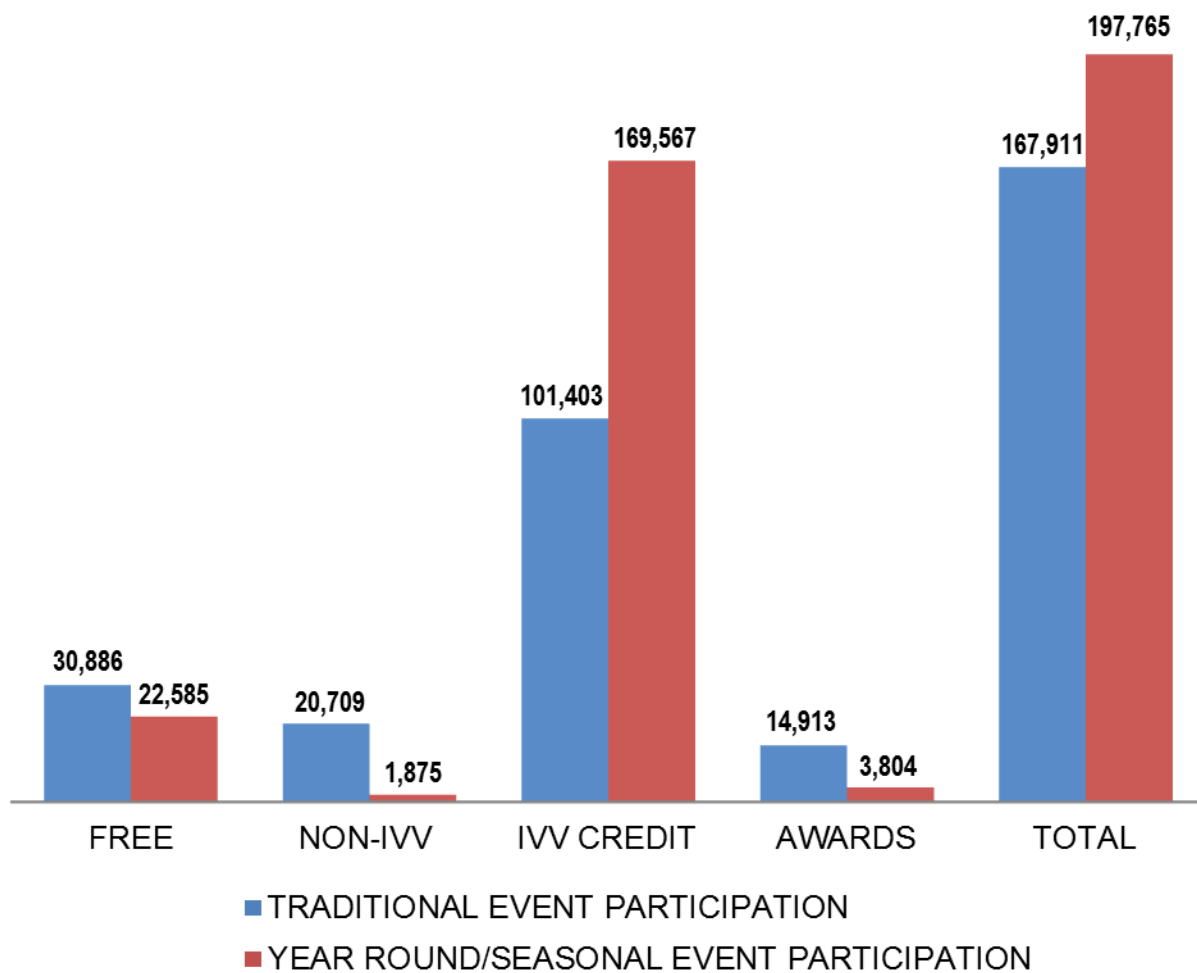
American Volkssport Association

	ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY	'12/13	'13/14
	AS OF	AS OF	AS OF	APPROVED	PROPOSED
BUDGET ITEM	06/30/2010	06/30/2011	06/30/2012	BUDGET	BUDGET
<u>PROMOTIONAL EXPENSE</u>					
Promotional Publicity	\$ 773	\$ 2,058	\$ -	\$ 3,975	\$ 3,975
Promotional Marketing - Volks Ass	\$ 6,902	\$ 2,304	\$ 1,598	\$ 5,098	\$ 4,892
Telephone 800 Service	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Promotional Club/Event Support	\$ 13,829	\$ 23,343	\$ 2,530	\$ 14,495	\$ 10,000
Promotional Sponsor Recruitment	\$ 10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,876	\$ 3,020
Total Promotional	\$ 21,514	\$ 27,705	\$ 4,128	\$ 28,444	\$ 21,887
<u>OPERATIONAL EXPENSES</u>					
Rent, National Headquarters	\$ 37,992	\$ 37,992	\$ 37,992	\$ 37,992	\$ 38,466
Staff Training	\$ 155	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500
Supplies & small Equip- HQ	\$ 15,677	\$ 10,183	\$ 13,556	\$ 12,560	\$ 13,110
Office repairs& Improvements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,629	\$ 3,700	\$ 3,700
Miscellaneous Operations, National	\$ 8,882	\$ 3,595	\$ 4,153	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,100
Youth /Special/ Funds Dev.	\$ 2,207	\$ 2,554	\$ 3,003	\$ 5,782	\$ 3,180
Membership Dues	\$ 310	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,230	\$ 1,230
Computer Support	\$ 11,484	\$ 12,915	\$ 14,170	\$ 38,000	\$ 16,000
Publications	\$ 300	\$ 107	\$ 134	\$ 500	\$ 500
Web Site Support/Internet/Fee	\$ 15,238	\$ 16,153	\$ 21,004	\$ 17,675	\$ 12,000
Telephone, National Headquarters	\$ 3,337	\$ 2,696	\$ 2,643	\$ 2,880	\$ 2,880
Telephone, Executive Council	\$ 496	\$ 1,127	\$ -	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200
Strategic Planning	\$ -	\$ 3,416	\$ -	\$ 525	\$ 525
Depreciation Expense	\$ 12,094	\$ 11,941	\$ 10,986	\$ 13,156	\$ 11,145
Loss of Disposition of Equipment	\$ 738	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Loss on obsolete Merchandise	\$ -	\$ 863	\$ 4,063	\$ 3,454	\$ 600
Total Operational	\$ 108,910	\$ 103,542	\$ 115,333	\$ 143,154	\$ 107,136
<u>IVV EXPENSES</u>					
Dues	\$ 5,489	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,095	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Liaison	\$ 55	\$ 42	\$ 48	\$ 150	\$ 150
Meetings	\$ 1,996	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,300	\$ 4,000
Stamps	\$ 6,890	\$ 7,128	\$ 7,116	\$ 5,757	\$ 5,000
Total IVV	\$ 14,430	\$ 12,170	\$ 12,259	\$ 15,207	\$ 14,150
<u>PERSONNEL EXPENSE</u>					
Payroll Taxes	\$ 14,334	\$ 15,343	\$ 15,132	\$ 17,337	\$ 17,470
Payroll Benefits	\$ 20,436	\$ 24,574	\$ 26,139	\$ 27,958	\$ 22,000
Wages, Staff	\$ 179,432	\$ 194,017	\$ 158,408	\$ 185,760	\$ 180,570
Total Personnel	\$ 214,202	\$ 233,934	\$ 199,679	\$ 231,055	\$ 220,040
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 499,976	\$ 697,039	\$ 465,379	\$ 742,981	\$ 507,086
GROSS PROFIT / (LOSS)	\$ (10,313)	\$ (41,990)	\$ (15,590)	\$ (36,765)	\$ -

2010 – 2012 Participation

JULY 1, 2010 – JUNE 30, 2012 PARTICIPATION

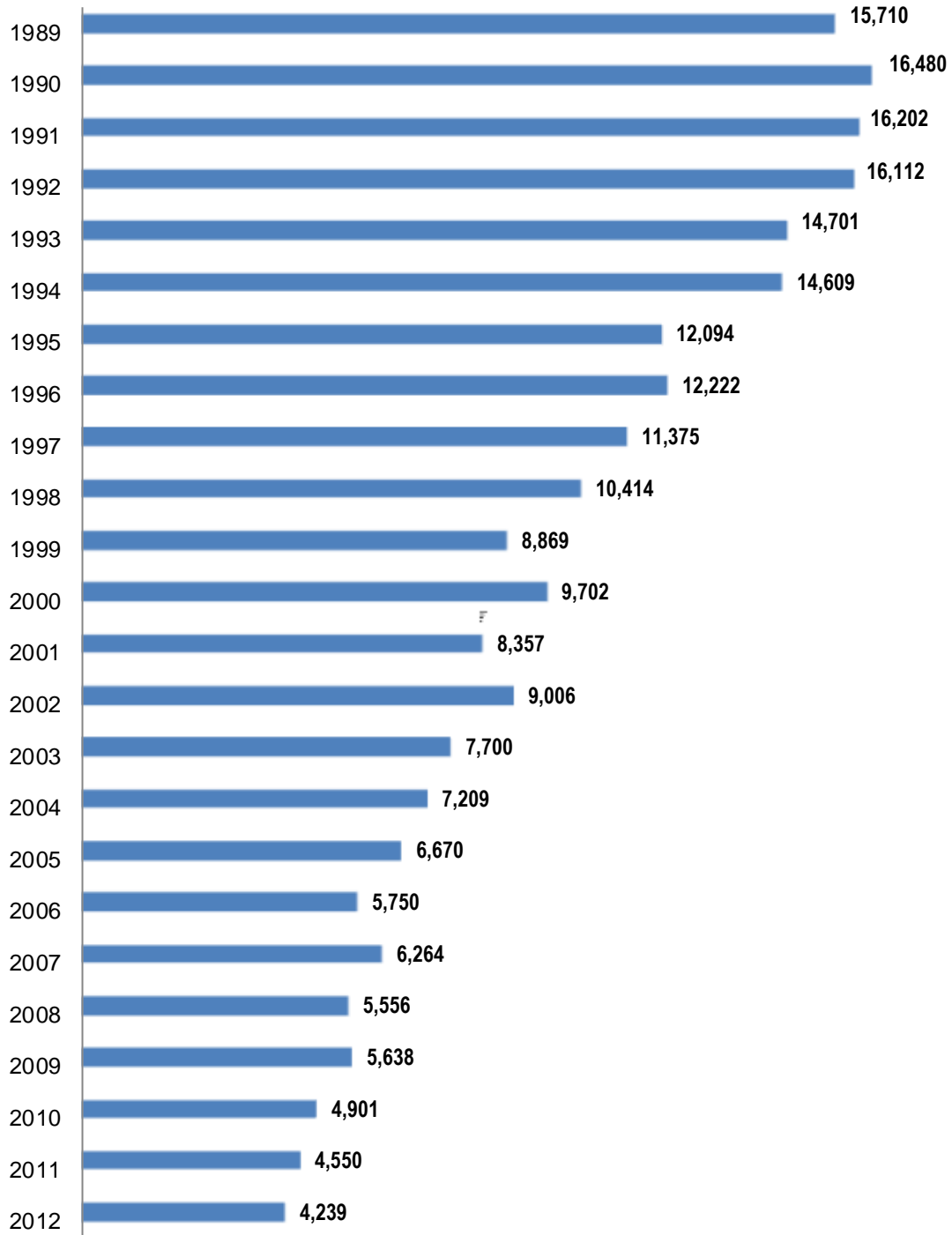
All Regions



AVA Awards Processed 1989-2012

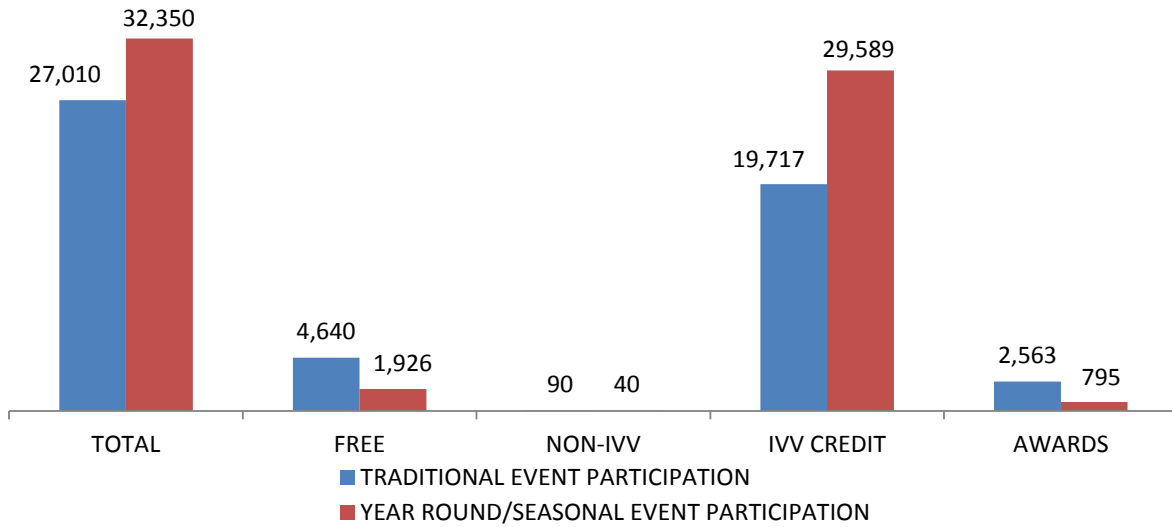
Year End Comparisons

(odd number years were AVA Biennial Conventions)

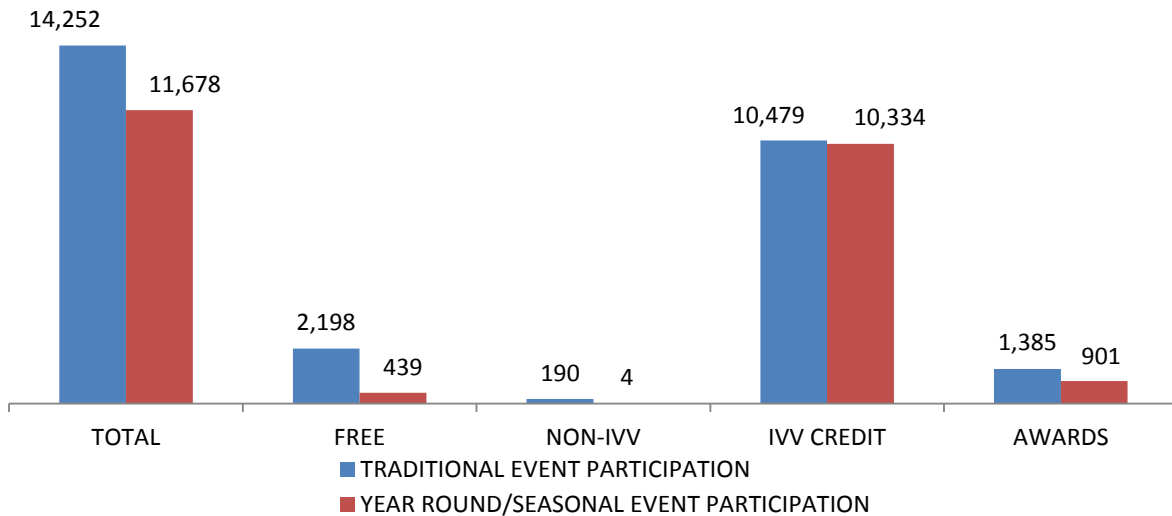


JULY 1, 2010 – JUNE 30, 2012 PARTICIPATION

ATLANTIC REGION

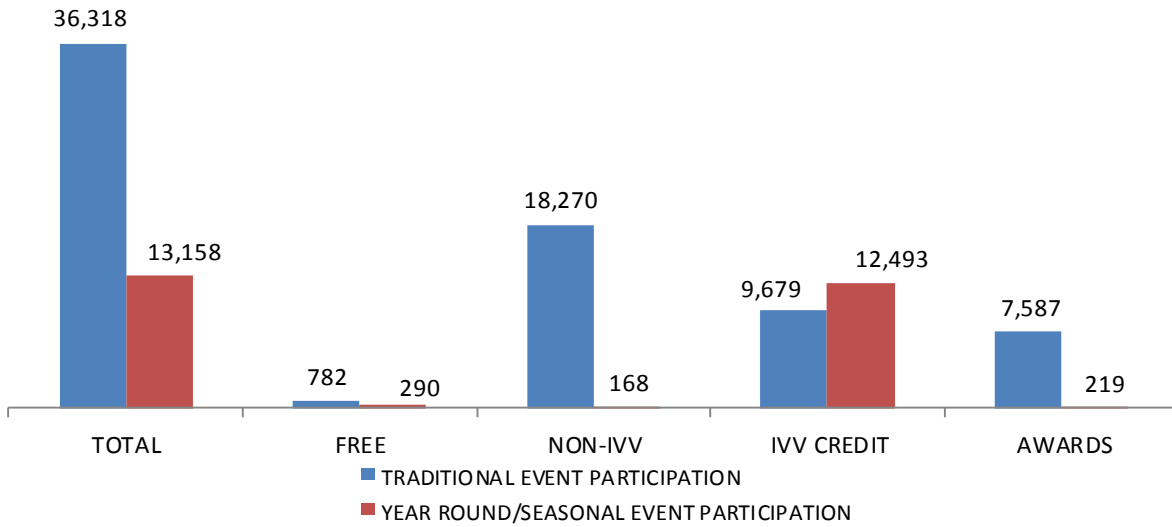


MID-AMERICA REGION

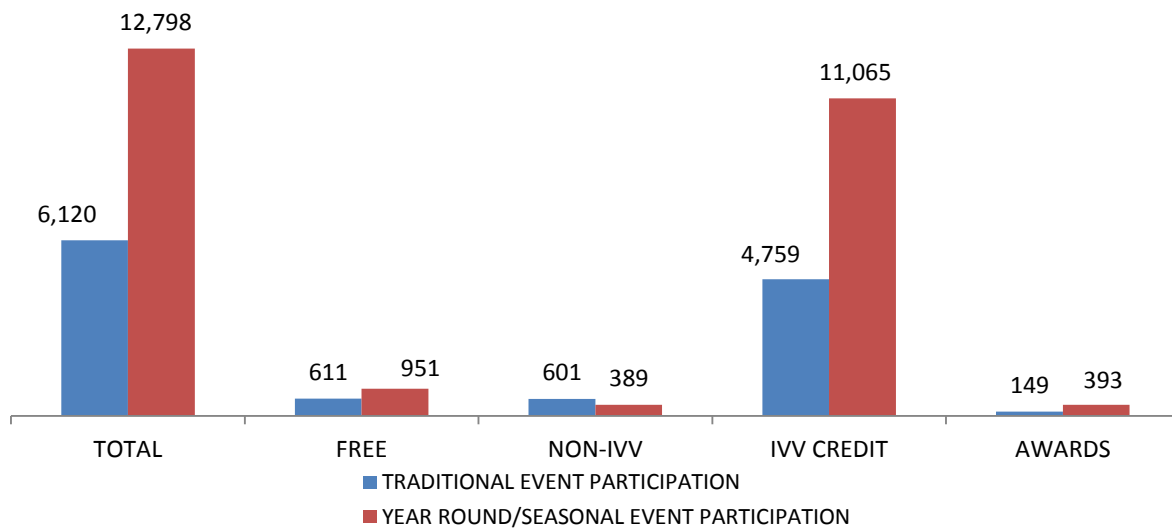


JULY 1, 2010 – JUNE 30, 2012 PARTICIPATION

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

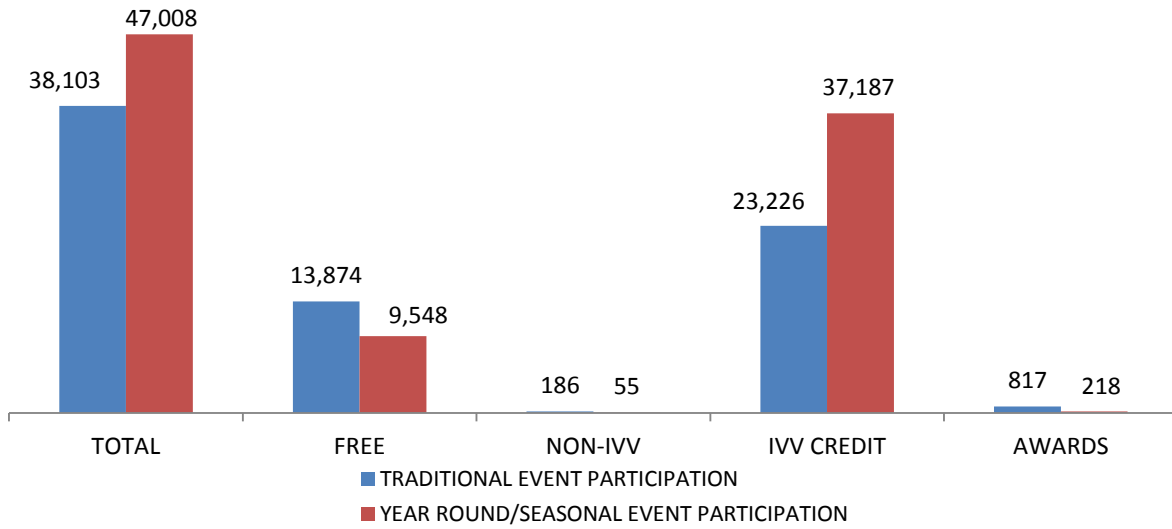


NORTHEAST REGION

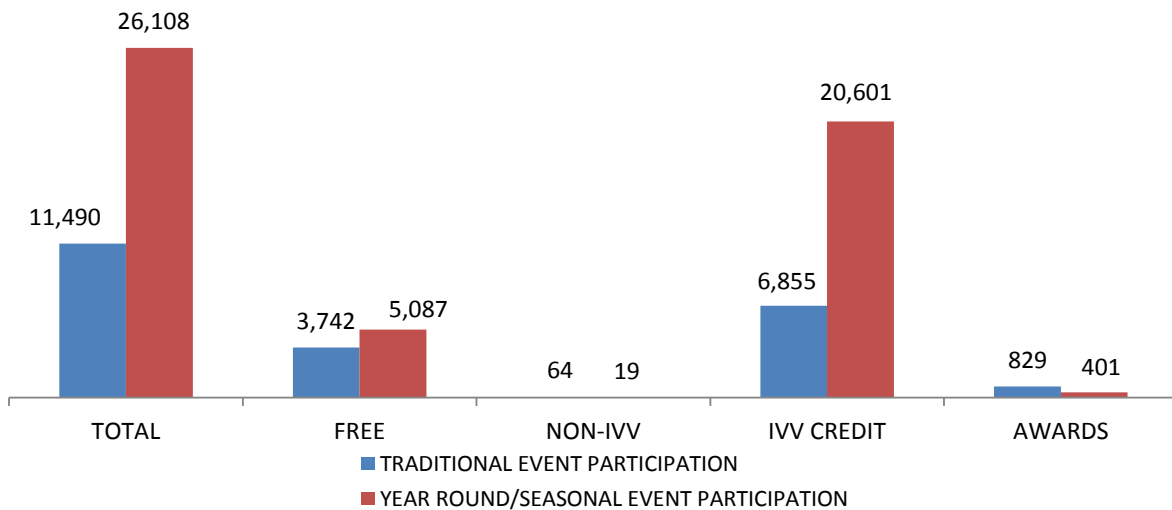


JULY 1, 2010 – JUNE 30, 2012 PARTICIPATION

NORTHWEST REGION

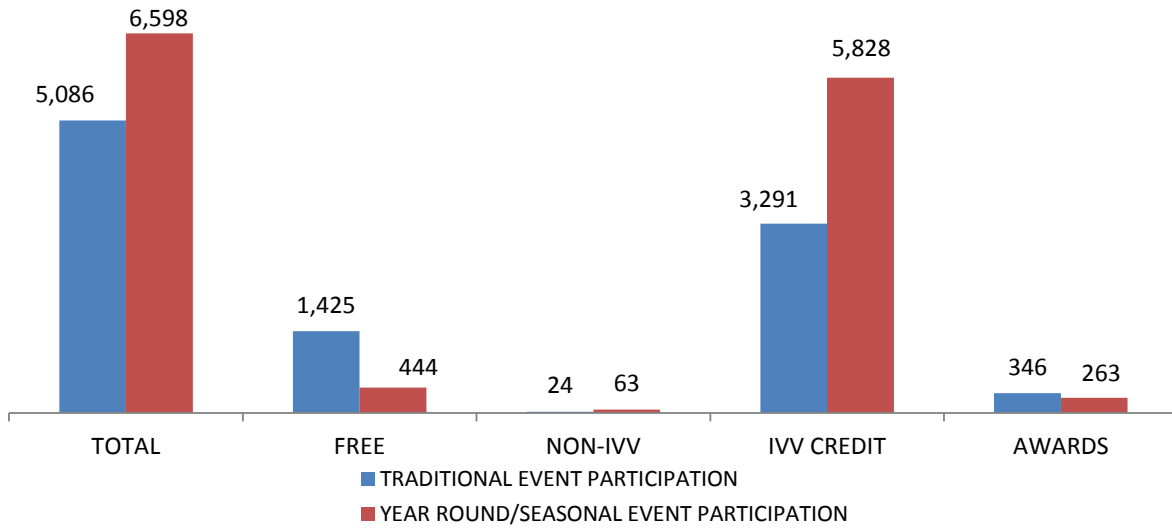


PACIFIC REGION

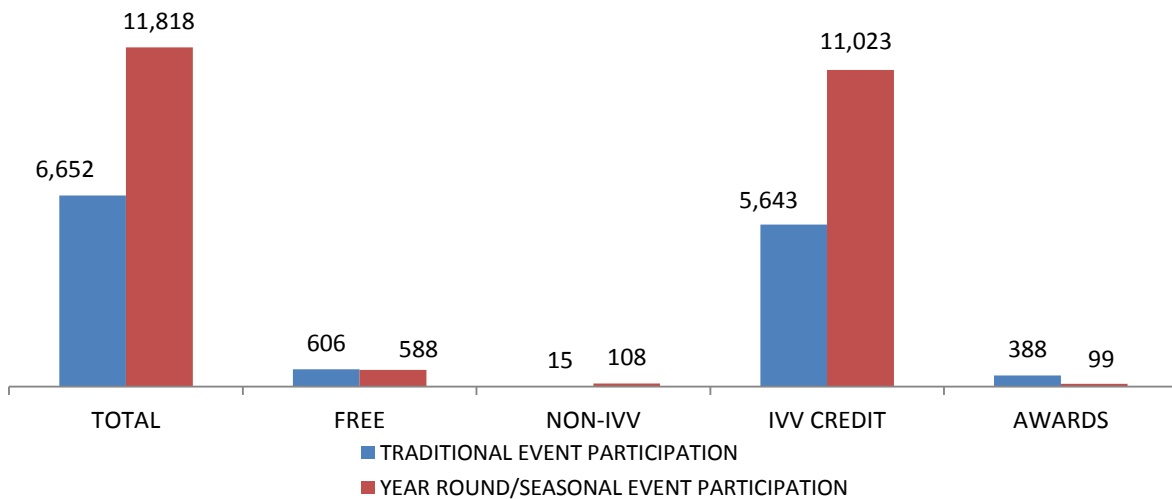


JULY 1, 2010 – JUNE 30, 2012 PARTICIPATION

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

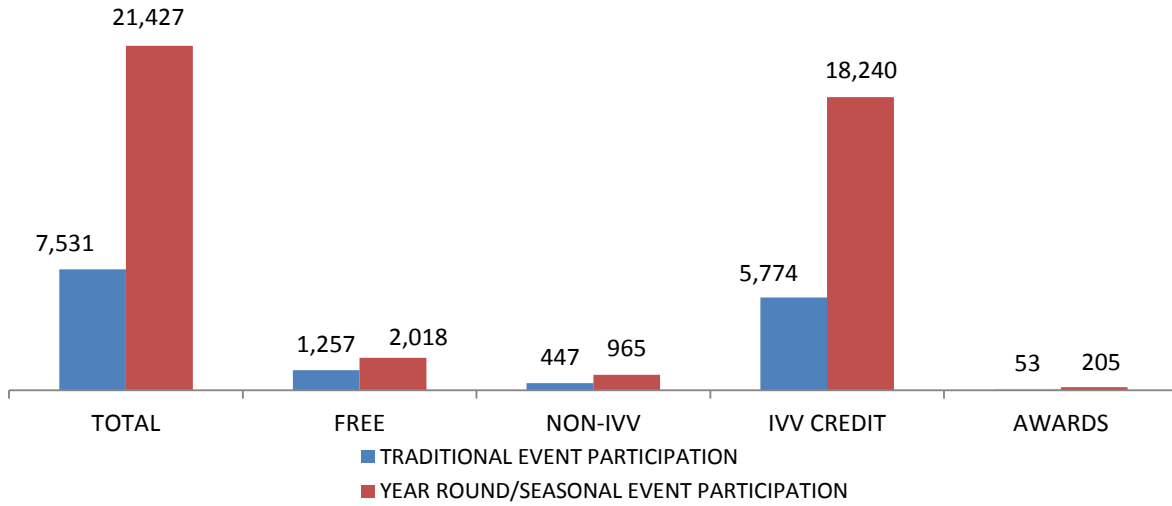


SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

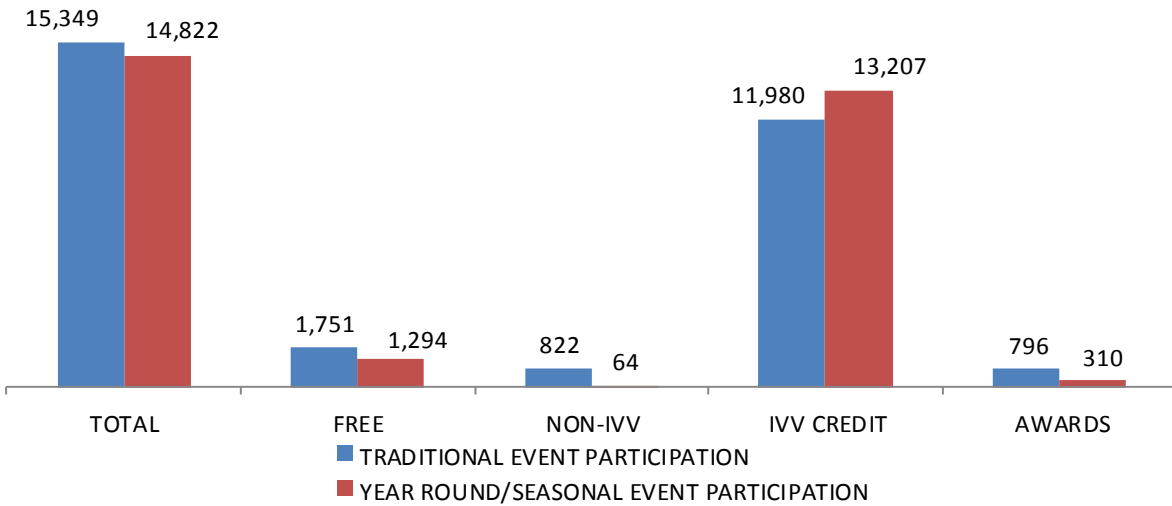


JULY 1, 2010 – JUNE 30, 2012 PARTICIPATION

SOUTHEAST REGION



SOUTHWEST REGION



AVA STATE ASSOCIATIONS & ACTIVE CLUBS

As updated March 18, 2013

ALABAMA

Capital City Wanderers

ALASKA

Anchorage Volkssport Club

ARIZONA

Saguaro Sun Striders

Thunder Mountain Trekkers

Tucson Volkssport Club

ARKANSAS

Ozark Hills Hikers

CALIFORNIA

California Volkssport Association, Inc.

Bay Bandits Volksmarch Club

Central Coast Peregrine Pathfinders

Coronado Beachcombers

Davis Dynamos

Delta Tule Trekkers

Green Valley Gaiters, Inc.

Laguna Turf 'N Surf Walkers

Low Desert Roadrunners

Placer Pacers

Sacramento Walking Sticks

San Diego County Rockhoppers

Shasta Sundial Strollers

Sierra Gold Striders

Sonoma County Stompers

South Bay Roadrunners

South Bay Striders

Tahoe Trail Trekkers

Vaca Valley Volks

COLORADO

Colorado High Country Hikers

Colorado Springs Walking Club

Columbine Country Cruisers

Falcon Wanderers

Northern Front Range Wanderers

Rocky Mountain Wanderers

Woodland Wanderers

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club

DELAWARE

Diamond State Trekkers

First State Webfooters

FLORIDA

Florida Volkssport Association

First Coast Trail Forgers Walking Club

Happy Wanderers

Meandering Manatees

Mid-Florida Milers Walking Club

Nature Coast Volkssport Biking & Hiking Club

Pensacola Volksmarch Club

Suncoast Sandpipers Volkssport Club

Walkin' Nassau Volkssport Club

GEORGIA

Georgia Walkers

HAWAII

Menehune Marchers

IDAHO

Treasure Valley Volkssports

ILLINOIS

Illinois Volkssport Association

Decatur Park Dist. Rec. Office
Illinois Trekkers Volkssport Club
Lebanon Cedar Cruisers
Railsplitter Wanderers
Ridgewalkers Walking Club
Windy City Walkers

INDIANA

Indiana Volkssport Association

Auburn Duesey Walkers
Bedford hiking Club
Goodtime Trailblazers
Hoosier Hikers
Indy 'G' Walkers
River City Ramblers
Three Rivers Strollers
Whitewater Valley Walkers

IOWA

Greater des Moines Volkssport Association
Hawkeye Hikers
Tri-State Trekkers

KANSAS

Kansas Jay Walkers
Sunflower Sod Stompers
Wichita Skywalkers

KENTUCKY

Derby City Walkers
Northern Kentucky Trotters, Inc.

LOUISIANA

Crescent City Volkssport Club

MAINE

Southern Maine Volkssport Association

MARYLAND

Maryland Volkssport Association

Baltimore Walking Club
Columbia Volksmarch Club
Freestate Happy Wanderers
Great Greenbelt Volksmarchers, Inc.
Piedmont Pacers
Seneca Valley Sugerloafers
Worldwide Walking Club

MASSACHUSETTS

Two Town Walking Club
Walk 'N Mass Volkssport Club

MICHIGAN

Historic Pathwalkers
Kalamazoo Valley Walkers
Michigan Pathfinders
MOVES
Washtenaw Wanderers Volkssporting

MINNESOTA

Central Minnesota Volkssports
Lake Country Wanderers
NorthStar Trail Travelers
Pelican Rapids CC Walking Club
Twin Cities Volkssport

MISSISSIPPI

Magnolia State Volkssport Club

MISSOURI

Clay-Platte Trackers of Kansas City
Dogwood Trailblazers
Global Adventurers
Pace Setters Volkssport Club
St. Louis-Stuttgart Volksmarch Club

MONTANA

Madison County Volkssport Club
Miles City Volksmarch

NEBRASKA

Heartland Walkers
Lincoln Volkssport Club, Inc.
Mid-Nebraska Trail Seekers
Nebraska Wanderfreunde Trailblazers
Panhandle Walkers
Walk Seward Club

NEVADA

Las Vegas High Rollers & Strollers

NEW JERSEY

Garden State Wanderers
Princeton Area Walkers

NEW MEXICO

Double Eagle Hike & Bike Club
Kiwanis Club of Raton
Sun Country Striders

NEW YORK

Empire State Capital Volkssporters
Finger Lakes Volkssports Club
Great Lakes Seaway Trail Volkssports
Niagara Escarpment Volkssport Assn
Niagara Frontier Volkssport Club
Volkssport Club at West Point

NORTH CAROLINA

Tarheel State Walkers Volkssport Assn

Asheville Amblers
Metrolina Walkers
Ready Set Walk! Club
Rowan Roamers
Winston Wanderers

NORTH DAKOTA

Bismarck-Mandan CVB
Koda Manipe Volkssport Club
Red River Volkssport Association

OHIO

Ohio Volkssport Association

Blanchard Valley Volkssporters
Bulls Run Ramblers
Gemulich Wanderers
Germania Volksmarch Gruppe
Heart of Ohio Hikers
Maumee Valley Volkssporters
Ohio Wander Freunde
Olentangy Owls
Purple Penguins
Queen City Skywalkers
Tecumseh Trailblazers
Trail Trolls, Inc.
Valley Vagabonds, Inc.
Wandering Wheels Volkssports Club
Xenia Walking Club

OKLAHOMA

Holy Family Walkers
Tulsa Walking Club
Wandergruppe Walking Club
World Wide Walkers

OREGON

Oregon Trail State Volkssport Association

4-D's Volkssport Club
Albany Fitwalkers
Cedar Milers
Columbia River Volkssport Club
Corvallis Cruisers
East County Windwalkers
Eugene Springfield Mossback Volkssport
Rogue Valley Walkers
Rose City Roamers
Sherwood Merrywalkers
Silverton Walk Abouts
Turnaround Trekkers
Valley Volkswalkers
Willamette Wanderers
Yachats Coastal Gems Volkssport Club

PENNSYLVANIA

Keystone State Volkssport Association

Cumberland Valley Lead Foot Club
Liberty Bell Wanderers
Nittany Nomads
Penn-Dutch Pacers Volksmarch Club
Susquehanna Rovers Volksmarch Club
York White Rose Wanders

SOUTH CAROLINA

The Upstate Pathfinders

SOUTH DAKOTA

Black Hills Volkssport Association
Capital City River Ramblers
Prairie Wanderers Volkssport Club

TENNESSEE

East Tennessee Wanderers
Tuck-A-See Wanderers

TEXAS

Texas Volkssport Association

Amigo Amblers
Brazos Valley Trailblazers
Buffalo Chip Kickers
Castroville Chamber of Commerce
City of McAllen Parks and Rec. Dept.
Colorado River Walkers
Dallas Trekkers, Inc.
East Texas Trekkers
Hill Country Volkssportverein
Hood County Hummers
Houston Happy Hikers
Kerrville Trailblazers
LoneStar Walkers
Midland Walkabout
NB Marsch-und Wandergruppe
Plano Walking Club
Randolph Roadrunners
Rio Grande Valley Walkers

TEXAS continued

San Angelo Volkswalkers
San Marcos River Walkers
Selma Pathfinders
Sparkling City Strollers
Star Trekkers of Irving
Tarrant County Walkers
Texas County Walkers, Inc.
Texas Wanderers
Trotting Texas Turtles
Volkssportverein Friedrichsburg
Weslaco Pacers
West Texas Trail Walkers

UTAH

Footloose Volkssport
Gadabout
Golden Spike Striders

VERMONT

Twin State Volkssport Association

VIRGINIA

Virginia Volkssport Association

Bad Pennies
Cavalier Volkssporting Club
Ft. Belvoir Outdoor Rec/DMWR Special
Gator Volksmarsch Club
Germannia Volkssport Association
Lee Lepus Volksverband
Loudoun Walking & Volkssport Club
Northern Virginia Volksmarchers
Peninsula Pathfinders of Virginia
U.S. Freedom Walk Festival Club
Virginia Vagabonds
Washington DC Area Volksmarch Club, Inc.
Wood and Dale Wanderers

WASHINGTON

Evergreen State Volkssport Association

All Weather Walkers
Bavarian Volkssport Association
Border Crossers
Capitol Volkssport Club
Daffodil Valley Volkssport Association
Emerald City Wanderers
Evergreen Wanderers
Four-Plus Foolhardy Folks
FS Family Wanderers
Hopkins Telephone Pioneers
Interlaken Trailblazers Volkssport Club
International Wanderers
Key Peninsula Volkssport
Kitsap Volkssporters Club
Lilac City Volkssport Association
Northwest Striders
NW Tulip Trekkers
Olympic Peninsula Explorers
Over-The-Hill-Gang Volkssport Club
Sea-Tac Volkssports Club
Sound Steppers Volkssport Club
Third Planet Volkstours
Vancouver USA Volkssporters
Volkssport USA

WISCONSIN

Madison Area Volkssport Association
Manitowoc City Centre Association
Menominee River Volkssport Club

WYOMING

Buffalo Pathfinders
Cheyenne High Plains Wanderers

Sponsor



Partners

