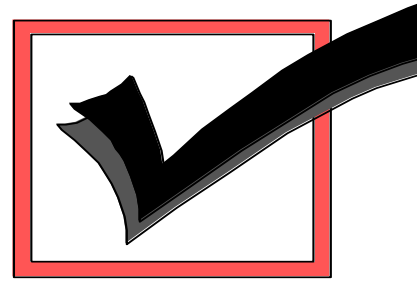


# AVA CHECKPOINT



**Official voice of the American Volkssport Association,  
America's premier noncompetitive sports organization!**

1001 Pat Booker Road · Suite 101 · Universal City, TX 78148 · Phone 210.659.2112 · Fax 210.659.1212 · Email AVAHQ@ava.org

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[www.ava.org](http://www.ava.org)

**October 2012**

## **Club Event Brochures for 2013, Dennis Michele**

On all 2013 AVA sanctioned event brochures and walk directions per the 6-7 July 2012, NEC Meeting Minutes, clubs are to include the "copyright symbol and year", just below the title of the walk/event and indicate copyright club name and date. Also adopted at this meeting, a statement of any event "elevations over 3,500 feet" must be included in the written description of an event.

## **New Club Website Addresses**

AVA clubs that have moved their official club website to a new address, please remember that you need to update your club website address on the official club database and on each individual event database detail. If you do not update the club and event database, your old club website address will remain posted.

## **IT Committee Chair, Holly Pelking**

The AVA IT committee is looking for someone to help direct the development of a new version of the Electronic Sanction Request (ESR) software. This position does not require software development and is intended to be a part time effort. A stipend will be allocated to cover your personal costs.

The committee is looking for an individual who understands the needs of the clubs and the ESR process to focus specifically on this task. The most important role for this individual is to test the resultant software to make sure that it works well and that it meets the needs of the clubs. The task includes recommending changes and corrections as the development progresses, and reporting the results to the NEC.

The current IT committee members need to focus their efforts on the broader scope of IT problems facing the AVA. They will be available to assist where needed but will not be active in the weekly decisions that will occur. The individual will need to keep track of the feature requests so that the new ESR software is truly an improvement over the current design.

The software development will be undertaken by Omnium who is our current software development partner.

We are currently looking at resumes of interested people who wish to bid on this project. If you are interested in helping the AVA move forward, please contact Holly Pelking, the chair of the IT committee, at 408.859.7978 or by email at [vicepres@ava.org](mailto:vicepres@ava.org).

Multiple bids will be accepted. Final approval will be selected by the AVA President, with consultation with the Executive Committee per the motion presented at the July 2012 NEC Meeting.

### **IVV Certification Stamp Handles**

Because of damaged IVV certification stamp handles (excessive ink, lettering), AVA secured a volunteer to refurbish them. Once they have been cleaned as best they can, they are painted black. Black is the only color that ink will not show up on. Please do not try to remove the black paint. This will prevent clubs from paying damage fees.

### **Clubs Not Under AVA's Group IRS Exemption, Candace Purcell**

There are still some clubs under another IRS group exemption or they are under their own but they have not given us proof of their exemption under their parent organization or provided their letter of determination. We must make absolutely certain that all AVA clubs are in compliance to meet our responsibility to the IRS. Without proof a club will be prohibited from voting at the forthcoming biennial convention and they will be levied a late fee for non-compliance with policy.

### **AVA Officer Nominations**

Officer candidate positions for AVA's National Executive Council XVIII are still being accepted. These positions include President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

You must submit a letter of intent to run for office by the 16 November 2012 cutoff deadline. Send a hard copy letter by postal mail to Nominating Committee Chair Glen Conyers, P.O. Box 3191, Joplin, Missouri 64803. The correspondence must be signed by the requesting individual, indicate the desired officer position, and provide an e-mail address.

For more information, go to [www.ava.org](http://www.ava.org) and click on the "Newsroom" link, then click on *AVA Officer Nominations Being Accepted Now*. Or contact Chairman Conyers at [glenconyers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:glenconyers@sbcglobal.net) or 417.434.0977.

### **Convention Room Reservations**

The 18th AVA Biennial Convention is set for Orlando, Florida, 29 April - 3 May 2013. The official convention hotel, Orlando Airport Marriott, is offering a \$99 (plus tax) discounted room rate which is only applicable for these days. Overall dates including all pre and post-convention volkssport events begin 27 April – 5 May 2013.

To make room reservations, call 800.380.6751. Be sure to ask for the AVA room block to take advantage of the discounted room rates. To book a room online, go to the [www.ava.org](http://www.ava.org) website homepage, scroll to the bottom, and click on "*Room Reservations at the Marriott*." That takes you to the hotel homepage. For further reservation information, go to [www.ava.org](http://www.ava.org). Click on the "Newsroom" link. Then click on *18<sup>th</sup> AVA Biennial Convention Room Reservations*.

### **Convention Volunteers**

The 18<sup>th</sup> AVA Biennial Convention is looking for volunteers, preferably individuals who will be attending the convention and who would want to volunteer some time to assist with convention-related activities such as registration, merchandise sales, etc. To volunteer, click here: [volunteer@ava.org](mailto:volunteer@ava.org). Maxine Johnson is the Convention Volunteer Coordinator.

### **Convention Donations**

The 18<sup>th</sup> AVA Biennial Convention Chairman and Committee Members are asking for your individual, AVA Club and AVA State Association support. Please mail your financial donation to: 18<sup>th</sup> AVA Biennial Convention Donation, Attention, Candace Purcell, Financial Director, 1001 Pat Booker Road, Suite 101, Universal City, TX 78148. Please make your check payable to the American Volkssport Association, reference the - 2013 Convention. For Silent Auction donations contact Convention Chair, Dennis Michele, [se\\_rd@ava.org](mailto:se_rd@ava.org)

## **Convention Website**

The 18<sup>th</sup> AVA Biennial Convention official website is taking shape and being updated as required. For the latest on convention happenings, go to [www.ava.org](http://www.ava.org) homepage and click on the convention link.

## **AVA Biennial Publicity Contest, Chuck Blische**

The complete guidelines and Official Entry Form are attached for the Biennial Publicity Contest. The entry submission deadline is 1 February 2013. Please disseminate this information as widely as possible.

## **Mystride, Chuck Blische**

Our new national partner, Mystride, offers a fun and challenging program whereby AVA individuals can register to count all steps taken for a given time period. You submit your steps to your personal account on their website, and if you meet the goal, you qualify for a drawing to win an iPod or an expense paid vacation to Orlando, Florida, to include airfare for two, five nights at a luxury hotel, and \$1,000 in spending money.

To participate is simple. Go to [www.mystride.net](http://www.mystride.net) and click on the AVA registration button in the upper right corner on the homepage, provide some information, pay \$5.50 registration fee using a credit card, and you're on your way. To find additional background information, go to [www.ava.org](http://www.ava.org), click on "Newsroom" link, then go to *Mystride Extra Credit* story listing. Thirty-one volkssporters accepted the Mystride challenge in September.

Mystride's goal is to get people up and active and walking, with an emphasis on school youth programs. In addition to dedicating a separate participation category and achievement awards only for AVA participants, Mystride agreed to pay a \$2 royalty to AVAHQ for every one of you who registers. They have also committed to a financial donation to the 18<sup>th</sup> AVA Biennial Convention.

To fully participate in this challenge, you really need a pedometer. AVA sells the YAMAX pedometer for \$20.00 (club/membership discounts honored). E-mail [Kevin@ava.org](mailto:Kevin@ava.org) or 210.659.2112 to place an order since our store link is under maintenance at this time.

## **TAW Deadline**

The deadline for the December/January issue of *The American Wanderer* is Thursday, 25 October. All articles, including *Tails on the Trails*, and photographs should be submitted directly to Laurel Parrott, Editor [taw@bhi.com](mailto:taw@bhi.com) or mail to: 3526 Humboldt Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55412. Be sure to include "TAW" in the subject line if e-mailing.

## **Next NEC Meeting**

The next NEC meeting will be held all day Friday and Saturday, 18 & 19 January 2013, in Schertz, TX. Details will follow.

## **Reminders**

- ✚ October is National Volkssport Month – Order Form <http://www.ava.org/forms/avaformn.htm>
- ✚ 30 October – 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Participation Reports are due for YREs and SEs that ended 30 September.
- ✚ 1 November - Clubs submit National Award nominations to their Regional Directors – Official Forms <http://www.ava.org/forms/avaformn.htm>

✚ 15 November - Reply to the IT Committee Website Survey – Survey is featured on the AVA home web page, mid-center <http://www.ava.org/>

1. On the AVA Site scroll down below the photo.
2. Proceed to [IT Committee Website Survey](#)
3. [Click here](#) {wait}
4. At File click on Save As
5. My Documents comes up with File Name [Website Survey 2012](#)
6. Save this. Now, if you happened to have saved this file before.  
Save it again YES If not NO go to Documents and Return to My Documents
7. Come out of this Attachment by closing X and back out of the AVA Site.
8. Hit Start at the left bottom of the screen. And go to My Documents at the top.
9. Proceed to pdf file Website Survey 2012 and double click.
10. Expand form to 100%
11. Fill in Form - Print Form - Save it
12. Go to your email and attach the IT Website 2012 form.

✚ 15 November - Last day for clubs to submit club officer information (update) to HQ

✚ 15 November - A 990 is the IRS income tax form for nonprofits. Proof of online E-postcards and other 990 forms sent to AVA.

✚ 15 November – Annual Financial Reports and Worksheet AVA Form 102C3F  
<http://www.ava.org/forms/avaformn.htm>

✚ 16 November - reports are past due and a club will be assessed a \$10 late fee.

✚ 1 December – Deadline for national award nominations (Distinguished Achievement, Hall of Fame, Trailblazer, Ted Ballman Youth Award, and IVV Award) submitted to HQ from the Regional Directors.

✚ 1 February – Region Director must submit to AVA Awards Committee names of those presented the AVA Meritorious Service Award, the AVA Certificate of Service or the AVA Certification of Appreciation.

A special thanks to our sponsor Yamax and to our two partners!



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Attachments:

2013 Blanket Certificate of Liability Insurance  
Biennial Publicity Contest - Official Entry Form & Contest Guidelines