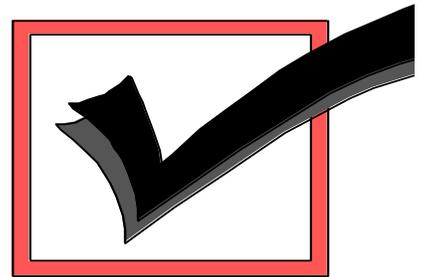


AVA CHECKPOINT



**The official voice of the American Volkssport Association
America's premier noncompetitive sports organization!**

This newsletter is intended especially for AVA Club Presidents as well as Club Officers.
It is used to relay timely information, pass on policy and operational changes
and be a reminder of approaching deadlines.

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April 2013

Official Slate of Officer Candidates

The official slate of officer candidates for election to national offices is announced as follows:

President: Sam Korff - Dennis Michele

Vice President: Holly Pelking

Secretary: Bonnie Johnson

Treasurer: Bob Morrison

Elected officers will be members of the National Executive Council (NEC XVIII). Their term of office will begin on 1 July 2013 and end on 30 June 2015. The officer elections will take place at the General Membership Meeting at the 18th AVA Biennial Convention at Orlando, Florida on Friday, 3 May 2013.

This announcement meets the requirements of Article V, Paragraph 5.6(c), AVA Bylaws. Respectfully submitted by Glen Conyers, Chair, 2013 National Nominating Committee.

Official Agenda Items

Agenda Items are attached that will be considered at the 30 April 2013 NEC Meeting.

Message from the AED, Candace Purcell on IVV-Americas

In the last issue of the TAW the NEC answered four questions concerning joining IVV-Americas. At that time I did not comment. After discussions with Heinz Johnson, our AVA President, he has encouraged me to give my comments in this issue of the *Checkpoint*, although a non-voting member of the NEC, I am still a member.

1. What do you see are the biggest reasons for the AVA joining IVV-Americas?

The IVV made it very clear that it is not mandatory for AVA to join. At this time, I agree with Heinz that the IVV has the authority to approve the *formation* of the IVV confederations, but AVA should not hastily join before all issues have been resolved for AVA's best interest.

2. What do you see are the biggest reasons against the AVA joining IVV-Americas?

- a. The AVA has operated for the past three years in the red, joining the IVV-Americas will not increase AVA's revenue or solve the dwindling participation at our events or the number of clubs. We must do these ourselves.
- b. Our AVA attorney, NEC member Ken Miles, an attorney, and our IRS adviser, a retired IRS attorney, all state and agree that the IVV-Americas must be a recognized Nonprofit before we can join.
- c. The IVV-Americas must become a chartered legal entity to apply for nonprofit status. Without legal status AVA would not be joining anything but a concept. Their bylaws are more restrictive than those of Asia and Europe.

- d. If we join IVV-Americas, the AVA loses their position as the top representative of the IVV in the USA; this will severely limit the AVA's ability to attract partners and sponsors as we will not be the apex IVV association. Large sponsors that Mr. Blische, the AVA Marketing Director is corresponding with now, want to ensure that they will be supporting the governing IVV organization in the USA. Negotiations with potential sponsors are on hold until the voting outcome at the convention.

3.What do you see as the main benefits to the AVA and its clubs from membership in the IVV-Americas?

- a. From a business and governance standpoint I see none at this time.
- b. After many discussions with Heinz, reviewing all documents, NEC comments, and digesting the issues brought forth by our AVA representative concerning the IVV-Americas, the benefits to the AVA and our clubs would be very limited.

4.How would you advise AVA members to vote regarding joining IVV-Americas?

No, the IVV-Americas is not a magic bullet, there are important issues that must be resolved first. Although there are some that say because the HQ staff sits behind desks that we do not know Volkssporters or volkssporting, I beg to differ, I have been here 16 years and I can tell you Volkssporters are independent and tough, and they like to make up their own minds and that is what they will do.

“The American Volkssport Association Legal Counsel will be rendering a legal opinion concerning the feasibility of AVA’s possible affiliation with IVV-Americas. This document will be distributed under separate cover shortly.”

The decision of which clubs are in Good Standing

Prior to every general membership meeting held during the convention is the most crucial time for clubs to be in good standing so they can send a delegate, carry a proxy, or assign an alternate to vote. There is a set deadline to be in good standing and thus eligible to vote. The duty to ensure which clubs are in good standing by that deadline rests with the Executive Director based on our current bylaws and policies, Texas state law, and federal laws. This duty is the ED's because it prevents a possible conflict of interest as the ED is not elected by popular vote as is the case with the NEC.

Beginning in May a new method of Notification to those not in good standing

1. Late reports have been in past years and currently, are sent only to the RDs, as they are the official point of contact for the region. Once these have been sent to the RDs the Headquarters has officially notified the club through the RD that a club or state association is late, and therefore not in good standing.
2. Some RDs do not want HQ to contact clubs directly, some want the state associations to take care of these and we assume they pass these reports down, while other RDs want the clubs contacted. Heinz and I have discussed this lack of consistency at length and Heinz has approved the use of the *Checkpoint* for the official notification.
3. Going forward, beginning in May 2013 each *Checkpoint* will include an attachment of clubs by region that are late with reports, stamps, IRS filings, and other legal documents. This will be the official notification to RDs, clubs, and state associations, so that no matter who shoulders the responsibility they can take action; ultimately it is the club officers' responsibility to know the policy and bylaws of the AVA and ensure they meet and respond to all requirements, not wait for someone to tell them.
4. *Checkpoints* are the official publication to the club and state association officers and are maintained with attachments on the AVA website. With this type of notification process, it will be irrefutable proof that club officers, RDs, and NEC officers knew about missing requirements, not that they “did not know, or were not told.”

To be in good standing at any time a club or state association must:

1. Be a recognized nonprofit by the IRS as stated in our bylaws. The IRS is the only entity that can grant nonprofit status. AVA bylaws prohibit a club or state association to remain active if they have lost their nonprofit status. Proof of reinstatement by the IRS must be provided; being in the process of applying does not count.
2. Provide proof to the AVA Headquarters that it has filed some form of 990, (income tax report for nonprofits) for the fiscal year. Most clubs revenue falls under the \$50,000 level, requiring the 990-N or e-postcard. From 1 July through 15 November of every year clubs can provide proof without being charged a late fee, BUT after that date they will be charged a late fee and are still required to file and provide proof to the AVA. This deadline is based on the IRS requirement for AVA to ensure that all subordinates have filed a tax return.
3. All required after action or quarterly reports, stamps, financial reports, officer updates must be received by the AVA by the stated deadlines as listed in the appendix of the AVA policies, **(see the attached due dates and fees from the policy)**. Again, after 15 November of every fiscal year a late charge applies to all reports, and stamps not received by 15 November. AVA must provide proof during annual audits that subordinates are meeting bylaw and policy reporting requirements.
4. Each club and state association cannot be past due in owing money on their club account that is 90 days or older. The 90 days means 90 days from the date of the invoice. Why the 90 days is because all invoices are sent with the monthly statement, thus giving the clubs 60 days from the date of the statement to pay their account current.
5. Each club or state association that is not under the AVA group umbrella for income tax purposes must provide an IRS letter of determination that they are under their own tax exemption OR a letter on letterhead from the group they are under authorizing the club to operate under the group with their tax ID number by 15 November of every year or a late charge will be assessed. The club must provide this letter only once.

Event Cancellation-Transfer Instructions

These instructions apply to any club that has lost its tax exempt status because of an Internal Revenue Service ruling and is no longer classified as a non-profit organization.

Any events transferred are considered to be temporary, awaiting a club to be returned to active status.

Cancelling Any Event

If a decision is made to CANCEL an event, Traditional, YRE or SE, the cancellation only will be done by the AVA Events Coordinator at events@ava.org.

Email the following information with an Information Copy (Cc) send to the AVA Executive Director (candy@ava.org):

- 1) Name of current host club
- 2) Club AVA number
- 3) Five digit Event Number
- 4) Four digit "Y" number if a YRE or SE
- 5) Five digit IVV Certification Stamp number, if available.
- 6) Location of event (City/State)
- 7) Event Date/s
- 8) Name of POC for referral for information.

Transferring a Traditional Event

If a decision is made to TRANSFER a Traditional Event, email the following information to the AVA Events Coordinator at events@ava.org and include an Information Copy (Cc) to the AVA Executive Director (candy@ava.org):

Part #1: List any previously sanctioned Traditional Event that is listed in the AVA Electronic Sanctioning System (ESS) and appears on the AVA web site as an approved scheduled event:

- 1) Name of current host club
- 2) Club AVA number
- 3) Five digit Event Number
- 4) Five digit IVV Certification Stamp number, if available.
- 5) Location of event (City/State)
- 6) Event Date

Part #2: Follow with:

- 1) Name of new event host (RD or State Organization or Club)
- 2) AVA Number
- 3) New Event Location (City/State)
- 4) Event Date (A previously scheduled event date can be changed, if desired)
- 5) Name of POC, including email address and telephone number

Transferring a 2013 Year Round Event (YRE) or Seasonal Event (SE)

If a decision is made to TRANSFER a YRE or SE, email the following information to the AVA Events Coordinator at events@ava.org and include an Information Copy (Cc) to the AVA Executive Director (candy@ava.org):

Part #1: List any previously sanctioned YRE or SE that is listed in the AVA Electronic Sanctioning System (ESS) and appears on the AVA web site as an approved scheduled event:

- 1) Name of current host club
- 2) AVA Number
- 3) Five digit Event Number
- 4) Four digit "Y" Number
- 5) Event Location (City/State)

Part #2: Follow with:

- 1) Name of new event host (RD or State Organization or Club)
- 2) AVA Number
- 3) New Event Location (City/State)
- 4) Name of POC, including email address and telephone number

Follow-On Action

When an event has been officially cancelled or transferred the AVA Events Coordinator will advise the applicable club that the cancellation or transfer has been completed.

Upon notification of a transferred event the following will need to be done by the NEW event POC:

- 1) Make a change of event information through the Club Maintenance and ESR Entry Site. For example – change things that are necessary such as the Start/Finish Point, Hours of Operation, Point of Contact, and the like.

AGAIN: This only can be done AFTER the event has been officially transferred.

- 2) Submit a *Starting Point Change* by e-mailing Linda@ava.org and providing the following information:
 - Year Round or Seasonal Event Number
 - “Y” Number
 - Event Location (City/State)
 - Explain succinctly what has changed. This information will then appear on the AVA web site.Again, this is done by the new POC.
- 3) At the appropriate time, the new host club will submit the quarterly Event Participation Report and pay the Event Quarterly Processing Fee.
- 4) Action will be taken by the AVA Events Coordinator to submit a *Starting Point Change* for any cancelled event.

It is suggested that the club involved announce the changes in a club’s newsletters as well as RD or State Association newsletters.

Any questions should be referred to the AVA Events Coordinator, Marie Bebley, at her email address events@ava.org or by telephone: 210.659.2112.

March Club Statements

Theresa Hutchison, Accounts Receivable Specialist, is still in the learning process. Please be aware that when you receive your March Club Statement in the mail soon, it will not contain individual March invoices. All March Club Invoices were mailed at the time of processing.

April Club Invoices will go out with the April Statements as usual. Thank you for your understanding during this time of transition.

National Physical Fitness and Sports Month Patch

May is National Physical Fitness and Sport Month. Once again Dorman L. Batson, an AVA Lifetime Member from our Northwest Region has designed a unique patch for AVA. If your club would like to order patches to have available at your May events, and order form is attached. A limited number of patches have been ordered. The order form may also be accessed through ava.org [Administrative](#) link. A graphic of the patch may be accessed on the [AVA graphics/logos](#) link.

AVA Walking Blog Unveiled

AVA is proud to announce a new Walking Blog, authored by Dr. Michael Nirenberg. The blog can be accessed through the ava.org [Blogs](#) link. A member of the AVA-sanctioned club, the Windy City Walkers, he provides a unique slant on volkssporting as an avid walker and a medical official. According to the nationally renowned podiatrist, “I’ve spent a great deal of my career trying to find ways to get people on their feet, walking and reaping the benefits of the oldest and simplest exercise there is. I’ve recommended walking as a cure to anyone who needs to change their lifestyle, breathe easier, feel better, lose weight and improve their appearance (these are only some of the remarkable benefits of walking). It’s free and it requires no equipment.” Send him your questions regarding feet and any suggestions for future articles.

VIRGINIA TECH UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

AVA has entered into a partnership with Virginia Tech University (VATU). As part of this, they will be conducting some surveys/interviews of AVA members, Regional Directors and a few communities concerning AVA organization and leadership. It would be most appreciated that if you receive a questionnaire or a phone call, that you respond in an expeditious manner. These surveys will be included as part of organizational research to be accomplished by students and oversight by departmental officials from the Research and Outreach School of Communications. The end product will contain a comprehensive report with compilation of survey results, and

recommendations for AVA campaigns and efforts for increased exposure, promotional activities for clubs, recruiting campaigns for membership, and more. The university will pay all costs related to the study. Our response to the surveys will most assuredly influence our chances to work with the University on future efforts.

NEC S.N.O.B. Stamp Schedule

A schedule is attached for the Special National Officer Book Special Program during the 18th AVA Biennial Convention Walks.

Revised Not So Quick Guides

AVAHQ is attempting to swap out the old Not So Quick Guide to Volkssporting for a new revised version. This booklet is a part of your New Walker Packets. Your Regional Director requested earlier that you provide to them the number of New Walker Packets you have.

If you have not, please do so before 1 May. Our re-supply stock is dwindling and we don't want to order more than we need. The Guides will be mailed to you at no cost. Also, be advised that all New Walker Packets processed last year included a coupon instructing individuals to redeem them at AVAHQ for a revised version of the packet. Please remove this coupon.

Problems with Postal Service

In April we have had more than the usual customers reporting that they did not receive their packages from AVA or received packages that were destroyed and the contents missing. AVA has in turn received miss-directed mail and packages from customers that were destroyed by the postal service and the contents were lost. **The AVA packages all mail to arrive in the most secure and cost effective way as described by the postal service. Once the package is in the hands of the USPS, it is the obligation of the postal service to ensure your mail arrives correctly and in-tact. AVA cannot replace items at no cost due to the damage created by the USPS, however; we can and are taking steps to maximize the durability of packages to try and minimize the carelessness of the USPS.**

1. AVA as of 3-29-13, is not using the cardboard "if it fits it ships" container. We are using a plastic coated bubble mailer that the post office has made available free in lieu of the free cardboard mailers. This package is more durable, and still costs the same to mail.
2. If the contents are very bulky it may require heavier packaging, the policy is to send everything the cheapest way possible unless the customer wants to pay the additional rate. The cheapest way is ground which now the USPS states can take anywhere up to 15 days. **Please note that we sent a package in January that just arrived to a customer in April.**
3. **Many customers do not send us their books to process for years.** These are precious and AVA cannot replace the stamps you have collected; our system records how many events and how much distance NOT the particular stamp number or notations in your record books, so **make copies of your books in the event they are lost in the mail.**
4. **Clubs need to order merchandise at least 30 days ahead of the time they need these supplies.** With the lengthier time it seems to take for delivery, AVA cannot guarantee you will receive these in time. **Clubs are required to pay for extra shipping cost if it is a rush.**
5. **AVA cannot replace what you purchased for free. The only items we replace, if you do not receive are the IVV award patches & pins. Allow sufficient time before you assume you will not get the order, Staff cannot replace until enough time has passed from the date of shipping.**

Reminders

- NOTE:** To avoid late fees, please submit your reports electronically before heading to the Convention. Make sure all reports are submitted, it's easy to miss one entry.
- 4/30/13 Last day to submit 1st Quarterly Participation report for YRE and Seasonal without being charged late fee.

Next NEC XVII Meeting

The next NEC XVII meeting will be held on Tuesday, 30 April, at 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the 18th AVA Biennial Convention in Orlando, Florida.

TAW Deadline

The deadline for the June/July issue of *The American Wanderer* is 25 April 2013. All articles, including *Tails on the Trails* and photographs should be emailed directly to Laurel Parrott, Editor taw@bhi.com or mailed to: 3526 Humboldt Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55412. Be sure to include "TAW" in the subject line if emailing. Please keep all articles to no longer than 500 words.

Special thanks to our sponsor Yamax and to our four partners for their continued support!



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Attachments

- Official Agenda Items 11 a – 11 e
- Appendix B: AVA Fee Structure
- Appendix C: AVA Due Dates
- National Physical Fitness and Sports Month Patch Order Form
- NEC S.N.O.B. Stamp Schedule (Special National Officer Book – Special Program)