



CHECKPOINT ✓

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

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April 2014

Call for Agenda items for Next NEC Meeting: June 13-15, Plainfield, IN

Following are dates of importance concerning the next NEC meeting set for Friday and Saturday, **June 13-15, 2014**. Meeting begins Friday at 7 p.m. at the La Quinta Inn & Suites, 2251 Manchester Drive, Plainfield, IN 46168, phone 317-279-2650.

Clubs should submit items for the next meeting of the National Executive Council by submitting an [Agenda Item form](#) to your Regional Director no later than **April 14, 2014**.

Additional minimum requirement dates as follows. **April 29, 2014**: proposed agenda items are due to AVAHQ from Regional Directors. **May 14, 2014**: official agenda items approved by the AVA President go out to clubs. **May 14, 2014**: officer reports and committee reports should arrive at AVAHQ. **May 23, 2014**: NEC meeting information will be emailed to each board member for review. Reminders regarding these deadlines will be sent via Checkpoint and email.

Nationwide Public Relations Campaign Underway

AVA has been in the news quite a bit this month thanks to our nationwide media relations campaign. If your Club receives media coverage, please send a pdf scan of the newspaper or the online news link to our Executive Director at ssinclair@ava.org

What to do if you receive a phone call from a member of the media—

- **Thank them for their call and ask them to contact Aguillon & Associates directly by contacting Melissa Aguillon at (210) 254-9160 or Melissa@aguillon-associates.com**
- **This will help us that we make the most of media opportunities by ensuring we generate positive news articles with consistent messaging.**

Updates to AVA.org

- **New photos** are included in the AVA homepage slideshow. These new photos include captions. This was a nice suggestion from a longtime volkssporter. If you would like to submit a photo for the slideshow, please send it to avawebmaster@ava.org Photos with a horizontal layout work best. We're looking for photos with beautiful scenery, interesting locations, and smiling faces. Please include your Club name, event name, and event date. This is a fun way to promote your Club's events.
- **Let's Get Started Page**—looking for a quick overview to share with friends on how to get started with volkssporting? We've pulled this information out of the About Us page to give it an independent page under the About Us tab http://www2.ava.org/Lets_Get_Started.php

- **AVA In The News**—check out this new page for a compilation and links to recent media articles. These are great resources to share with local businesses or new participants. http://www2.ava.org/AVA_In_The_News.php
- **NEC Meeting Minutes**—minutes for past NEC minutes were previously linked to the website. The public media campaign is generating more media interest in AVA history, so the minutes will now be available by request. We will also send out the most current minutes via email as they are available. Past files can be requested by emailing avahq@ava.org

Starting Point Changes

Reminder that all Clubs should update Club and event changes through the Club Maintenance ESR system. If you encounter problems making changes contact your Regional Director first who will then determine if headquarters needs to be contacted for further action. Starting Point Changes include any updates that need to be made for basic facts such as event date/time, location, and start point info. Once changes are entered in the ESR, they automatically update the website. After a change is completed, please email events@ava.org to alert that a change has been made.

AVA Bylaws Amendment Form

[Click here](#) to view the form for use by club members in requesting an amendment to the AVA Bylaws. After the amendment proposal screening process is completed by the Bylaws Committee and the NEC, those that are recommended for approval will be voted on at the General Membership meeting during the 2015 AVA Biennial Convention.

Recognition Awards Committee

“Imagine what miracles we can achieve by giving people honest appreciation”... Dale Carnegie

It is time to start thinking about those people who deserve to be nominated for recognition awards. When you are honoring a fellow volunteer worker, you are letting them know just how much you appreciate them, and how much their work means to you, their club, and our national organization.

Send your nominations to your regional director, with the exception of the President’s Award, which should be sent directly to the AVA President. The nomination guide on how to complete the forms can be found on the AVA web site under: [Administrative - General Administration - Publications/Policies - AVA Recognition Awards](#). Please use one form for each person nominated. Be thorough, the award is based on what you have written on the form. The more detailed information you can give will help the committee review each nomination.

The following forms are to be used:

[Form 302](#) Hall of Fame, Distinguished Achievement, Trailblazer, and Ted Ballman Memorial Youth Award.

[Form 303](#) Certificate of Service, Meritorious Service, and Certificate of Appreciation.

These forms are to be sent to your regional director.

[Form 303 PA](#) President’s Award. This form is to be sent directly to the AVA President. Dennis Michele, 27 Cane Creek Circle, Fairview, NC President@AVA.Org

Youth/Girl Scout Program

Thank you to the Ohio Wander Freunde Club and Dawn Gruber, president, for coordinating the Girl Scout Walk Together Patch contest for the year 2014-2015. They will be working with the Girl Scout Council of Western Ohio.

A three hour Youth/Girl Scout workshop was held in Indianapolis on February 9 for the Mid America region. This workshop outlined the three youth programs and how to use them to bring

new walkers to your events, tips on how to make your event youth friendly, how to work with your local council and other aspects of working with youth. Thanks to all attendees and what a great group with lots of questions and interaction. If your state or region would like to host a workshop, contact Debbie Kruep, AVA Youth Chairman via email, debmarkkruep1@yahoo.com or avayouth@ava.org

IVV World Walking Day—Thursday May 8, 2014

Scheduled for May 8, 2014, walks are held by International Association of Popular Sports (IVV) associated clubs worldwide. Stamps for WWD events will include a special slug which will be mailed with WWD certificates, if applicable. IVV WWD certificates can be signed by Club presidents. Walks may be hosted beginning May 3 through May 11.

All are welcome to join the AVA National President, Executive Director, SW Regional Director, and headquarters staff for the first ever headquarters hosted WWD traditional event. Visit the www.ava.org homepage for more information.

National Physical Fitness & Sports Month—May 2014

May is National Physical Fitness & Sports Month. The 2014 patches, designed by Dorman Batson of the Northwest Region, are available for order from AVA HQ for \$2.50 each. Please click here to access the [2014 NPFMS patch Club Order Form](#). Please note, Clubs may also order remaining supplies of the 2012 and 2013 NPFMS patches for use as B awards at the discounted price of \$1.50 each on the order form linked above.

Save the Date 12-13-14

Regional Directors are seeking buy-in from their respective clubs to conduct an AVA national day of volkssporting at 10:11 a.m. on December 13, 2014. Events that day would take advantage of a special date configuration that won't happen again for another five decades (10, 11, 12, 13, 14). The NEC is asking clubs to check their event schedules for December 13. There has been discussion about creating a national participation patch and a special event slug. More information to follow.

AVA Awards

Click to view the charts for [AVA Award Processing](#) and [Ten Events](#) comparison.

TAW Deadline

April 25 is the article/photo submission deadline for the June/July issue. All articles to include Tails on Trails and photographs should be submitted to taw@ava.org. Please include the following information in your email Subject Line: "TAW, the region you're covering, and the article title." Send information concerning advertisements in TAW, ad contracts, and TAW contract revisions to Linda Rebmann, linda@ava.org.

The American Volkssport Association

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