

Seasons Greetings!

David Bonewitz, AVA National President

All AVA club officers should have received a copy of the agenda for the January meeting of the NEC/Board. Included with that agenda are copies of motions that are expected to be presented at the meeting. I have had those draft motions included as I believe that it is critical that we get as many people as possible thinking about the decisions that the NEC/Board must make. However, we need to be clear about how things work under Robert's Rules of Order. These motions are only "drafts." Even after they are presented at the meeting and receive a second, they can be altered or withdrawn by the author. Once the Chair (i.e., the President) states the motion to the assembly (i.e., the NEC/Board), then the motion is locked into its form and format. The only way it can be changed after that point is through the amendment process.

So, why am I sharing this? Well, while I hope you will review these motions and share your thoughts about the ideas they present with your club members and then with your Regional Director, you should know that we can still modify, revise, and improve these motions up until the time that the motion is stated to the assembly by the President. So, be involved. Let your Regional Director know what you think about these draft motions including ways to make them better or other ideas that we ought to be considering. It is only by working together that we will ensure a bright future for AVA: America's Walking Club.

NEC Meeting Updates

Important Deadlines - January 2018 National Executive Council Meeting

National Executive Council (NEC) Meeting Updates

The next NEC meeting will be held January 19 - 21, 2018 at La Quinta Inn & Suites, 7160 North Frontage Road, Orlando, Florida 32812. (407) 240-5000

Call to Clubs for Agenda Items

December 5, 2017 (45 days prior to meeting)

NEC meeting agenda is sent out to the Regional Directors.

[Click here](#) for the January 2018 NEC meeting Agenda.

December 20, 2017 (30 days prior to meeting)

All reports, with support documents, from Officers, Regional Directors, and Committee Chairs are due to the National Office. Email reports to henry@ava.org

[Click here for Officer Report Form](#)

[Click here for Committee Report Form](#)

December 29, 2017 (21 days prior to meeting)

NEC meeting packet with Agenda and all support documents is sent out to Officers and Regional Directors.

NEC Committee Updates

Special Programs —Bonnie Johnson, Chair

At each January NEC Meeting, new Special Programs are introduced for review and approval by the NEC to begin in the following year. In January 2018, the Special Programs will be introduced which, if approved, would begin on January 1, 2019.

AVA Programs—Debra Kruep, Chair

401K: Invest in Your Health

401K: Invest In Your Health allows you access to an online Challenge, allowing you to post your Volkswalk kilometers or daily steps, view your progress, see others' progress and earn a special Tee Shirt upon completion of 401K or the equivalent in steps. Whether you wish to only post your Volkswalk kilometers



or you are capturing every step you take by entering manually or syncing your Fitbit, Garmin, Apple Watch, etc., either method can be used... it is entirely up to you.

[Click here for FAQ:](#)

How to register:

1. Click on the 401K image on the AVA website (available 12/15)
2. Enter the information to pay on line (\$18.00)
3. Shortly before January 2018, you will receive an email from VOP@ava.org with a link to create an account where you will log your kilometers and/or steps.
4. Continue to log your steps/kilometers as you walk or sync your tracking device.
5. After reaching 401 kilometers you will be eligible to receive your 401K T-shirt.
6. Continue logging your steps/kilometers toward the next virtual program that appears online. ENJOY!

AVA Programs Committee Member—Missy McBride

Thank you, for stepping up and helping out with a walk in your area.

This year we had 53 Clubs volunteer to host walks, with several groups just deciding to meetup and walk on Black Friday.

For those of you haven't sent me your final number of walkers, please do. If you have a few pictures or a fun fact about your outing share it with me and I'll try and get them all posted on Facebook.

If you have suggestions for next year, please feel free to share those also.

Again THANK YOU for helping make this possible and Keep your eyes open for information on the upcoming 401k: Invest in your Health program

Your Program Committee
Deb Kruep - Chair
Lyn Reagan
Jan Van Vlack
Missy McBride

AVA National Office Team



Awards and Membership Coordinator—Karen Winkle

To view the Monthly Comparison Chart for the Total Number of Awards processed [click here](#).

We have sold out of the 2017-18 Girl Scout patches. If anyone has extra patches, please return them as there are clubs in need of them.

If are any clubs are planning future walks with the Girl Scouts before the next patch (2018-19) becomes available, you will need to pre-order them.

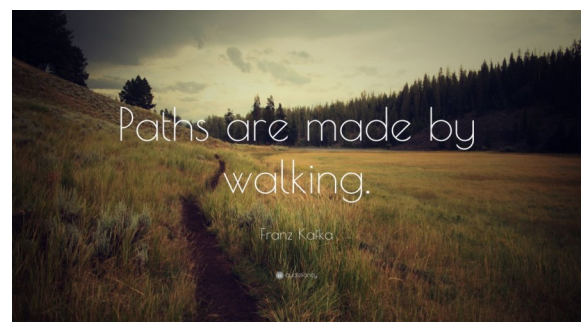
The AVA also has 2016-17 Navigator patches on hand. We sold very few of these patches.

Information and Technology Specialist—Hector Hernandez

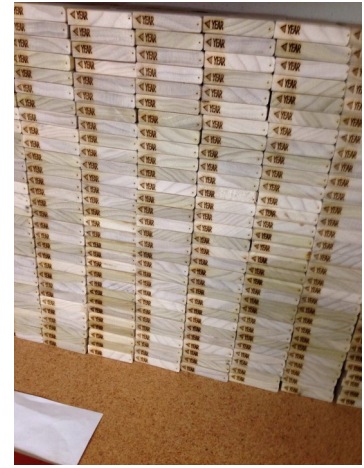
UPDATES!

Thank you to everyone for your help with the Starting Point books and the stamp handles/ stamp process.

As of last week, all the books have been mailed out and should be on there way or in your hands.



The stamps are all done. Thanks to the program that our IT Committee Chair Chris wrote we are moving along great. The process has been a bit time consuming but considering its our first run the timing is great.



Walks to Remember

Bring in the holiday cheer with a walk that is near and dear. What's a walk you remember? Share it with your friends, share it with AVA. If you are in need of assistance marketing January walks and events, please email your walk or event information and details to hector@ava.org.

Starting Point Changes

Please remember to make all changes within your ESR and then send to Hector. The website will be updated weekly. Email changes to hector@ava.org.

Click here for this months [Starting Point Changes](#)

Communications—Samanta Sanchez

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Shop Online and Support AVA

With the Holidays right around the corner make sure you get the best deals by shopping with Goodshop and Amazonsmile. When you're shopping with Goodshop or Amazonsmile, you're not only saving money for yourself, but you are also raising crucial funds for American Volkssport Association.

goodshop

Sign up for Goodshop by going to https://www.goodsearch.com/login?return_path=%2Finvite-friends. Your user profile will help keep track of the amount you've raised. Select **American Volkssport Association-AVA** from the participating organizations and begin shopping. At no cost to you, a portion of all eligible purchases will go to your chosen cause. 100% of the donation amount displayed on merchant's Goodshop page will go to the charity or school of your choice.



Shop at <https://smile.amazon.com/> and 0.5% of your eligible amazonsmile purchase will be donated to AVA directly from Amazon! Simply sign in or create an account, select **American Volkssport Association Inc – Universal City** as your charity of choice and begin shopping. It's that simple!

Save the Date!

In just a few months we will be holding our annual fundraiser, the Big Give! Help us continue to bring health and wellness to our local communities by donating online to the AVA: America's Walking club. Mark your calendars for **March 22, 2018** and visit the Big Give at <https://www.thebiggivesa.org/organizations/american-volkssport-association-inc> to make your donation to your favorite organization – us!!



AVA's Executive Director's Update—Henry Rosales

Thank you to everyone for another successful year. I wish you all a joyous holiday season and a very prosperous year for all our clubs!

-Henry

Over 1,556 walkers opted outside, November 24, 2017! Congratulations and thank you to all our AVA Clubs who made #OptOutside a huge success!

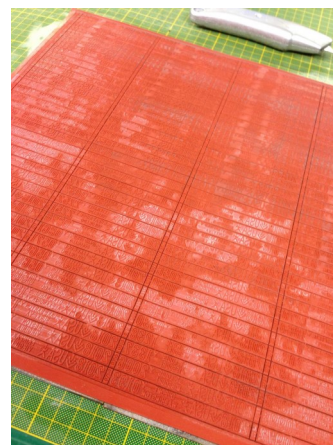
Special thanks to Missy McBride, Debbie Kruep and the AVA Programs committee for the many volunteer hours they contributed to the success of the #OptOutside initiative.

Clarification on the Per Participant Sanctioning Fee Program (PPSF)

The PPSF program was approved by the National Executive Council in January of 2015 for a two year pilot period. In January of 2017 the PPSF was approved as a permanent program. **Per the policy the purpose of this alternate sanctioning fee program is to support events which regularly have insufficient paying participants to support the current sanction fee for such events.** When a club sanctions an event as a PPSF it must be approved by their Regional Director. Clubs cannot change how they sanctioned any event after the event has occurred. Once an event has been entered into the database (ESR) and sanctioned as a regular event the sanction status should **not** be changed. When an event is sanctioned as a PPSF the club agrees to pay the AVA \$1.00 for **all participants** in addition to the \$1.25 for credit walkers.

Big Give Around the Corner-March 22, 2018!

This year the Big Give Annual Individual Donor Campaign has been moved up to March 22, 2018. This is our only AVA annual fundraising campaign. Last year we raised almost \$68,000! We had 393 individual donors and 92 clubs donate. Our goal this year is to raise \$70,000 and we are looking for 450 individual donors and 100 clubs to help us reach it! More info will be forthcoming via a letter to all club Presidents. Thank you for your continued support!



Financial Update

A midyear report will be published in the January Checkpoint. The audit has been completed and the Audited Financial Report will also be published in the January Checkpoint.

Support Our National and International Friends!

National



Three days of glorious walking, from the urban core of the 7th largest city in the USA to nearby quiet trails that will make you think you have time-traveled back 300 years.

Distances from 5km to 42km
IVV Credit
IML 2020 candidate

Texas Trail Roundup is during the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo

See you next year!
TEXAS TRAIL ROUNDUP
3-Day Walk Fest
San Antonio, Texas
February 23-25, 2018

John Ives, President,
Texas Trail Roundup
1.210.694.4582
jives@texas.net

Susan Medlin,
AVA SW Regional Director
1.210.325.3523
sueammed@aol.com

texastrailroundup.org

[Go to webpage](http://texastrailroundup.org)

If you are doing any Holiday traveling you might want to take advantage of the Red Roof Inn discount for AVA national and club members and support the AVA! The AVA will receive 5% of all room revenues when you book

RedRoof Plus+
Adding more WOW to your stay!™

at a Red Roof Inn using the Volume Plus Number (623002)! Red Roof Inn's great rates and quality rooms means that you won't be breaking the bank to afford a comfortable room. Through the American Volkssport Association, Red Roof Inn is

also offering additional value. When you book your reservation using Volume Plus Number 623002, *you'll save 15% off Red Roof Inn's Best Available rate.* Red Roof Inn's Volume Plus Number works just like an online coupon code. Use this link — https://www.redroof.com/deals/partner/American_Volkssport_Association and Red Roof Inn's online discount code will automatically be filled in for you! Or go to www.RedRoof.com to make a reservation. All you have to do to receive a discount at participating inns is enter Volume Plus Number 623002 in the VP+ / ID # slot. You can also make a reservation with an inn directly by calling 1-800-RED-ROOF (800-733-7663). You are required to provide the Volume Plus Number 623002 to the reservationist when you make your reservation, BEFORE arriving at any Red Roof Inn property.

Checkpoint Available Via Email to All Club Members Who Request It

To receive an electronic copy of the Checkpoint send us an email to the attention of Samanta requesting that you be put on our distribution list for the Checkpoint. Please note on the subject line: Request for Checkpoint.

Send your request to Samanta at samanta@ava.org.



Fun, Fitness, Friendship



The American Volkssport Association

The Mission of AVA is to promote and organize noncompetitive physical fitness activities that encourage lifelong fun, fitness, and friendship for all ages and abilities.

