

7(a)

**AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE REPORT**

FOR THE 20th AVA Biennial Convention **COMMITTEE**

FOR THE June 7, 2017 **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

FROM (Name): Sherry Sayers

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Pre-registration closed Apr 30 at midnight. Important totals are: Full Registration - 160; Individual registration - 279; Total Pre-Registration - 439. Average number of walkers for each event - 315; Swim and Bike - 100 each. Meet & Greet - 308, Thursday Deli Lunch - 304, Friday Box Lunch - 261, Out of Bounds Bash - 280.

All indications are we will make a profit.

Onsite Registration program starts May 8th and continues through the convention.

ACTIVITIES:

Ordered and received specialties

Completed all walk details

Designed registrant forms using Office 365 merge capabilities

Finalized workshop and AVA Tech Bar

We have entertainment for the Meet & Greet and Out of Bounds Bash

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**AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE REPORT**

FOR THE _____ **Programs** _____ **COMMITTEE**

FOR THE _____ **June 2017** _____ **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

FROM (Name): _____ **Debbie Kruep** _____

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The Program Committee accomplished the following items from January 23 through April 4, 2017

1. Connected Navigator USA chapters and AVA clubs in Colorado and Indiana each conducted a Walk Together.
2. Tested a Walker Tracker Community.
3. Researched compatibility of Walker Tracker to fill needs for an AVA online digital reward system and AVA mobile app.
4. Completed and submitted a motion for the NEC meeting regarding the creation and guidelines for a new category of AVA walks known as AVA-C (non IVV).

ACTIVITIES:

1. Connected Navigator USA chapters and AVA clubs in Virginia, Nevada, Missouri and Wisconsin. Walk Togethers are planned for the months of April and May.
2. Still attempting to connect the Pensacola Navigators with the Pensacola AVA club. The Navigator Chapter is ready to walk with us.
3. Moved Navigator USA/AVA Mega event to 2018.
4. We are heavily researching information regarding, internal costs, user cost, and sponsorships for the Invest in your Health 401K as an online program. There is great interest in sponsorship from investment firms. We hope to have this completed by the next NEC for approval. If approved it could roll out in January of 2018.
5. Aggressively recruiting 5 AVA clubs to volunteer for a pilot program for Grade Schools. The program would consist of volunteer club members to walk with grade schoolers one or two times a week before or after school throughout the school year and culminate in a large 5k celebration event at the end of year. Two clubs have agreed.
6. Conducting the Girl Scout Patch competition with the Girl Scouts of California Central Coast. Contest ending April 30, 2017.
7. In talks with Navigators USA to renew existing collaboration for 5 years.

CONCERNS:

1. We have researched Walker Tracker for use as the application to use as an online digital system and mobile app. We have come to the conclusion that Walker Tracker will not work in that capacity. We researched Walker Tracker because one of our committee members has had a nine year relationship with them and felt very comfortable discussing all aspects including cost. We will have to go back to the list to research other applications. The other members of the program committee do not feel comfortable in this area. This poses a problem for our committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Although Walker Tracker is not a good fit for the AVA digital online reward system to track current distance and events, the committee does feel it is the perfect application for the "Invest in Your Health 401K" program we are currently developing. This program would be similar to the special program books we run now. The difference being this program would be run online and the awards (t-shirt, etc) would come directly from AVA HQ, no books or clubs involved. Any profitable funds would go to HQ. We feel this is a great way to introduce an online application to AVA and attract new walkers from the Walker Tracker community. We have been putting feelers out in the financial sector and have leads on Investment firms that are very interested in funding this program. We feel confident we may be able to completely fund this program by sponsorships. We also have a lot of walkers interested in the program. We would like the NEC to give the program committee permission to continue to develop this program, solicit and secure financial sponsorships with the understanding that a detailed outline of the program will be given at the next NEC meeting.

Please attach any additional material that is part of your report.

Print Form

Reset Form

Submit AVA Committee Report to AVA Headquarters by Email

**American Volkssport Association
Agenda Item Form**

Proposed Motion – The Programs Committee proposes changes to the AVA Policy Manual to allow Clubs to plan, advertise and hold “non-IVV” events as part of their annual activities. These events will be known as AVA-C (community) events.

We Move -

1. That the AVA create a new category of “non-IVV” (AVA-C) event parameters, as found on Attachment #1 and make changes to the AVA Policy Manual and the Electronic Sanctioning System (ESR) to incorporate these events so that clubs can apply to hold them.

- AVA would approve AVA-C events using existing processes, and these events would be covered by the AVA’s liability insurance.
- These events would not offer IVV credit for achievement awards, and not be constrained by IVV rules concerning distance categories. No use of the IVV logo would be permitted.
- Clubs conducting approved AVA-C Events will be permitted to use the AVA logo, DBA, and promotional materials when advertising and conducting the events.
- Clubs will submit After Action Reports on AVA-C events as they do with IVV sanctioned events, to permit the AVA to gather data on the numbers/types of events and total participants.

2. That the AVA market and advertise these new opportunities, by adding the AVA-C events concept to our National Marketing Campaign [Strategic Plan OBJ 3.A.] The AVA will make appropriate resourcing available to clubs, RDs / State Organizations, and Committee(s), to initiate and sustain the program as follows:

- a. Initial costs to be approved: *(for the ESR changes)*
- b. Future costs to sustain the program to be determined and proposed in regular annual budget submission(s) (same as IVV sanctioned events currently.)

3. That the AVA implement this program when the required ESR changes are ready, but starting not later than 1 JAN 2018. The Executive Director will announce this timeframe and associated procedures to be followed in the AVA Checkpoint, when ready.

Submitted By – Deb Kruep, Chairman – Programs Committee

Seconded By --

Summary of Proposed Action –

1. Business Rationale.

The AVA is experiencing declining membership, declining numbers of clubs and declining participation in our events. Clubs, State Organizations and RDs need any/all available tools to reinvigorate the AVA through approaching the fitness walking public, Community partners and interest groups to attract their renewed participation in volkssporting. The motion supports Strategic Plan Objective(s) 1.A., 1.B., 1.D., 2.A, 2.C.

Non-IVV events are intended to extend AVA's reach in the community and fitness market by making it possible for clubs to offer new/different kinds of events, without some of the constraints of traditional IVV rules and without the need to offer IVV Achievement Program credit. Specifically, this program is intended to provide increased flexibility for AVA clubs to partner with local community or non-profit organizations in their areas.

Three categories of non-IVV events are proposed (Attachment #1):

- a. AVA-C "Traditional" event
- b. AVA-C Youth Event
- c. AVA-C Guided Event

Some specific examples of the events envisioned would be:

- Large community events with a shorter walking distance and possibility of emphasis on a community "gimmick" introducing the general public to our sport, possibly partnering with another not for profit, health care provider or business.
- Shorter events that are geared toward handicapped individuals.
- Large Scout events where only a 5k is needed.
- Scout events produced on scout property for scouts and families only and not open to the public.
- School event on school property not open to the public offered as a walking celebration for efforts during the school year.
- Short fun walks that introduce new walkers to our sport
- "Sofa to Sidewalk" start-up fitness efforts that start with very short distances and gradually increase
- Walks in areas where it is not possible to meet the distance requirement for an IVV sanction.

Currently, IVV rules for event distances, manning, and other trail considerations rule out many of these collaborative events that we could be offering to attract non-IVV audiences. Specifically, the minimum sanctioning requirement ["short" distance walk = 10km] is too long in many instances to match-up with the event/fitness goals of other groups, available venues, and/or demographic groups.

At least a few clubs are already doing some of these kinds of events on a regular or recurring basis - and bearing the cost of separate insurance. Others have let opportunities to expand AVA through these kinds of events go unfulfilled, because they lacked clear guidance, perceived events that did not meet IVV standards - i.e. not "legal," or, were not prepared to underwrite the liability insurance costs themselves. As the AVA doesn't currently track the success/failure and participation rates of these events, we can't document the volume of "non-IVV" activity and use it in support of grant requests, in negotiations with potential sponsors, etc.

2. Support of our Non-Profit Status.

The AVA is a nonprofit, voluntary membership corporation, organized under the laws of the State of Texas and organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code of 1986, as amended (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), to promote the public health, physical fitness and well-being of the people of the United States, its possessions, trusts, territories, dependencies and overseas military bases and diplomatic missions, by organizing, promoting and conducting scheduled programs of non-competitive, family oriented, participatory lifetime sports including, but not limited to: walking (including jogging and running), bicycling, swimming, cross-country skiing and such other events as may be sanctioned by the IVV.

The AVA has taken on the mantra of "America's Walking Club," and so must adopt new ways of doing business. Creating a new category for "non-IVV" events supports our charitable and educational purposes under section 501 (c)(3), and as expressed in our Charter and Bylaws – specifically – under Purpose:

- (c) to develop and implement a program of public information and education to engender interest in scheduled programs of noncompetitive, family oriented, participatory lifetime sports;
- (g) to provide understanding of the benefits of participation in organized programs of noncompetitive, family oriented, participatory, lifetime sports;
- (h) to foster a preventive maintenance concept in health care;
- (i) to stress the fun and exhilaration of walking (including jogging and running), bicycling, swimming, cross-country skiing and such other events

3. Actions Recommended at Each Level. (National, Regional/State, Club)

- a. AVA Headquarters / Senior Leadership: Aggressively communicate the new guidelines within the AVA Community, including Checkpoint, TAW, speaking engagements, and all available means of communication. i.e. be "All In"

Program Committee Responsibilities –

- Provide materials describing non-IVV Events options and administrative procedures for implementation and operation of the program
- Monitor implementation and sustainment, make recommendations for changes
- Prepare CP and TAW articles to launch the program and educate the volkssporting community
- Work with the Publicity Committee on how to market non-IVV programs

IT Committee Responsibilities –

- Work with the Programs Committee to fulfill required changes in the ESR system supporting non-IVV events; make implementation recommendations
- Provide budget estimates for the cost of initial changes to ESR
- Provide the ED with a timeline for system readiness

Publicity Committee Responsibilities –

- Incorporate AVA-C program into AVA's National Advertising campaign and highlight our expansion into this new market
 - Develop language and products to market/advertise new kinds of events that clubs can eventually tap as "templates"
 - Promote and highlight early "success stories"
- b. RDs/State Organizations – Aggressively communicate the new guidelines within the AVA Community, including Checkpoint, TAW, speaking engagements, and all available means of communication. i.e. be "All In."
- Assist clubs with education/questions on the AVA-C event program
 - Assist clubs in working through ESR changes because of new program, and work with clubs/National on ESR reporting criteria that adequately describe participation in AVA-C events to (a) satisfy National Insurance requirements (b) provide useful information for national marketing efforts and future donors/sponsors development efforts
 - Provide data supporting future budget estimates supporting AVA-C events
 - Support and encourage clubs to seek local media coverage (newspaper, radio, TV, internet) of new AVA-C events with partnership organizations
 - Support and encourage clubs to submit "success story" articles to TAW, etc. to publicize and grow the new programs
- c. Clubs will – educate their members on the new AVA-C events categories and look for opportunities in their areas to implement these events in partnership with Community organizations, other non-profits, schools, or others
- Register AVA-C events in ESR per newly created guidelines
 - Meet requirements to qualify for insurance coverage under AVA policy
 - Report participation data on AVA-C events using criteria established; work with their RDs to provide input on ways to do this
 - With RD/State support -- seek local media coverage (newspaper, radio, TV, internet) of new non-IVV events with partnership organizations
 - Write and submit "success story" articles to TAW, etc. to publicize and grow the new programs

401K: Invest in Your Health



Fun, Fitness, Friendship

Description

An Internet based program through Walker Tracker where walkers log their Volkswalks by kilometers to earn awards for walking 401K in a year.

Objective

1. Provide AVA walkers an introduction to using technology in Volkssporting.
2. A fun 12 month program that allows Volkswalkers to log all walks in one place to accumulate the required 401K.
3. We invest in our financial future with 401K Programs so we can retire comfortably. Why not invest in our health so we can enjoy our retirement with better health and longevity by walking 401K each year?

Program

1. AVA will have a private designated personalized portal, (possibly ava.walkertracker.com) with simple setup and administration. This will be linked to the AVA website. App to eventually follow.
2. Once a Volkswalker is approved and registered for the program, he/she will create a username and password. We have a volunteer who will be designated to approve walkers.
3. Each time a Volkswalker completes a Volkswalk, he/she will log the kilometers walked on the AVA Walker Tracker Website.
4. Each time a Volkswalker completes a Volkswalk, he/she can post info and a photo about the walk for other Volkswalkers to view.
5. Only sanctioned Traditional or Year-Round Events will count.
6. Only kilometers for sanctioned events will be recorded; no steps or conversion of other activities.

Benefits

1. A unique opportunity to help move Volkssporting forward in technology.

401K: Invest in Your Health



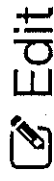
2. A bar graph showing each Volkswalker's progress and comparison to other walkers, designating when the goal has been completed.
3. An online community of Volkssporters to share and learn about other events.
4. A platform for Volkssporters to communicate with other Volkssporters and inquire about other events.
5. A platform for Volkswalkers and Clubs to advertise upcoming events and multi-event weekends.
6. A platform for AVA Clubs to create Teams and view Club progress with bar graphs.
7. A platform for Clubs to challenge other Clubs, with bar graphs showing progress.
8. **A platform to add additional programs/challenges at no extra cost** allowing kilometers entered to count for all programs in a timeframe. No duplicate kilometer entry necessary.
9. Secure, accessible from anywhere online (or via the app, future)
10. Promotes social interaction and team building.

Cost to AVA --\$0--

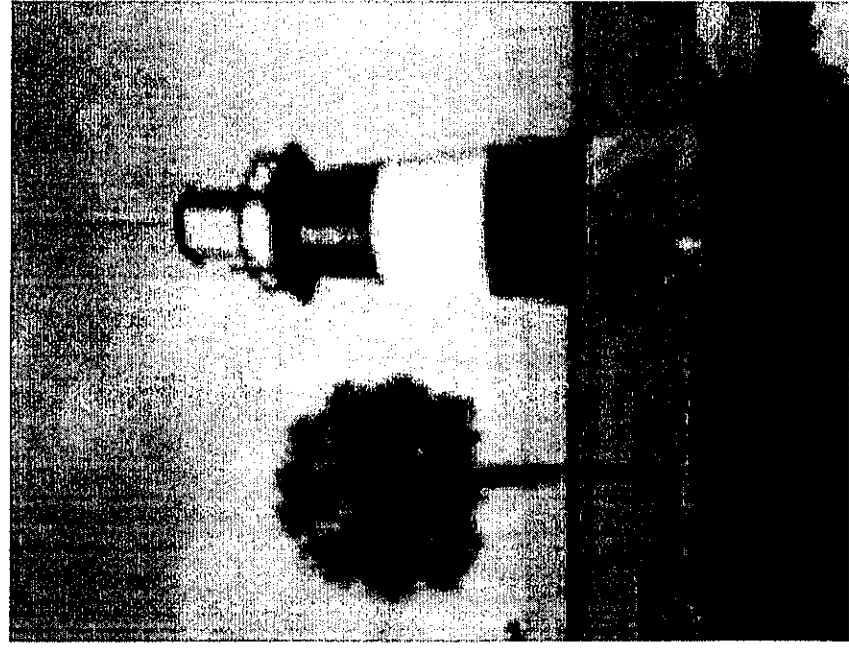
1. \$1,000 set up fee. **Paid by sponsors**
2. \$28/person per year, minimum of \$150 users; or
3. \$24/person per year, minimum of \$300 users.
4. Sponsorship money from Financial Institutions will be used to offset the cost for the program and award (T- Shirts) by allowing them to advertise on AVA's Website for one year. i.e.: Morgan Stanley, proud sponsor of "The Invest in Your Health: 401K Program" in addition to having their name on the back of the T- Shirts with company literature.
5. Enrollment fee could be assessed each participant or partially/totally funded by Financial Institutions. EX: \$10 program fee for AVA members, \$18 subsidized by sponsors.
6. Enrollment fee could be assessed differently for AVA members versus non-members.

jwiz

May 8, 2017



10K



A friend from Orlando met me in Mount Dora, Florida to do the Volkswalk there. It's one of my favorites in the area. Such a quaint little hometown, with lakes, lake homes, and cute little houses. And sometimes alligators.



Friends only

Continue

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**AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
OFFICER REPORT**

FOR THE OFFICE OF _____ **Vice President**

FOR THE _____ **June 8, 2017** **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

FROM (Name): _____ **Holly Pelking**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The major accomplishments that have occurred as a result of my being active on the NEC include the creation and fully functioning Online Start Box (OLSB) and new IVV stamp design which is being unveiled at this AVA convention.

ACTIVITIES:

Since its inception in 2013, Chris Zegelin has been able to create the first ever 100% online event that includes maps, athletic waivers, computer generated insert cards and full payment capability. We began with 5 walks online and now have 49 events-walks and bikes. Mike Green came in fourth quarter of 2016 to add much needed support for us with new perspectives on how to resolve some issues that the end users had with the program. He saved Chris time and energy in fine tuning this project and continues to help with end user questions.

Hand in hand with the Online Start Box comes our new IVV event stamps design. What Chris discovered in creating the stamp for the insert cards online, was that these designs could be laser cut and be formed into physical stamps. This is creating value for each AVA participant with no overall added expense. This way each of us can readily identify where we were when we participated in the event, as the location or special identification related to the event is inserted in the middle of the stamp. Clubs will be soon able to design their unique stamp message when sanctioning the event.

CONCERNS:

These new tools are pieces of the larger puzzle necessary for the future success of AVA. Many other sporting events worldwide are already online and we need to catch up. The new database launch needs to coordinate with all online tools, which includes the OLSB as well as the new stamp designs..

Please support these efforts as part of the Strategic Plan for AVA's future.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Thank you for supporting Chris and my efforts to improve the technology that runs behind AVA operations. I have been honored to serve on this board for the past six years.

The continued progress and success of AVA depends on continual improvement and implementation of the Strategic Plan, for as we know if we do not have a plan how will we know where we are going and when we have arrived! All these new tools and gadgets may look pretty, but AVA needs to be able to utilize the tools in a way to help attract new members which will keep us going strong into the next decade.

Please attach any additional material that is part of your report.

Print Form

Reset Form

Submit AVA Officer Report to AVA Headquarters by Email

AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
OFFICER REPORT

1(b)

FOR THE OFFICE OF _____ Secretary
FOR THE _____ 7 June 2017 _____ EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
FROM (Name): _____ Sam Korff

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. Minutes from the January 20-21, 2017 NEC Meeting posted to the AVA website.
2. Minutes from the March 15-18, 2017 Online NEC Meeting posted to the AVA website.
3. Sent out Call to Convention
4. Requested names and contact information for Tellers for Convention from RDs.
5. Developed Credentialing and Rules for conventions. (This will be given to the next NEC with a recommendation as to where to place them in Policy.

ACTIVITIES:

267

**AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE REPORT**

FOR THE Information Technology **COMMITTEE**
FOR THE June 7, 2017 **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**
FROM (Name): Frank Sayers

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Two years ago Mike Young of Young Consulting Services received a Microsoft Grant of up to \$150 in services each month for three years, a grant worth \$5,400. He has utilized this to develop the new AVA database so we have no cost for technology during this period.

A year ago, I received a Microsoft Grant of up to \$150 in services each month for three years, a grant worth \$5,400. I have been using this to develop the new AVA public web site, so we have no cost for technology during this period.

In March, I received a Microsoft Azure Sponsorship that will provide \$5,000 of free technology services for a year, and is renewable each year. We will be utilizing this area to run the new database and new web sites in production, at no cost to the AVA for these technology services.

Awards and Participants has been in production for over a year. Events is nearly ready with a new ESR process. Standard reports are being generated and process for ad hoc reports being put in place.

SendGrid has been enabled for the emails generated internally by the software for alert notifications, and for confirming email addresses for logging into the new AVA.org web site. We are allowed 25,000 emails per month, which means it can also be utilized for marketing to email addresses received from AVA.org.

Your subscription has been renewed to Office 365 Business Premium (Nonprofits Pricing).

ACTIVITIES:

Testing of new ESR has begun. A few issues have been corrected. Process has been documented for presentation at upcoming convention at Tech Bar and workshops.

Mr Young attended Azure Convention in Florida.

Examined 3rd party report processing, went with our own internal methodology.

Tested using full SQL backed reports virtual machine, but was not cost effective.

Upgraded development environment to Visual Studio 2017 Enterprise.

Updated AVA.org to capture if a registrant is already an AVA Associate Member so two discrete streams of marketing emails can be generated. In addition, the date added is included so email can be selective.

Hector received training in designing reports using our already purchased Office products connected to the new database.

Karen received training in producing her reports for TAW.

Established SharePoint location for storing internal reports so they are available to everyone that can log into our Office 365.

CONCERNS:

Trying to get new ESR into production by July 1 so 2018 renewals will be completed in the new system.

I asked for review of new AVA.org and got few responses. Most dealt with content. I am concerned with how content will be developed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Effective July 1 all NEC and staff be logged into AVA Office 365 portal for all AVA work so everyone has the same, consistent access to software and shared locations.

Please attach any additional material that is part of your report.

Print Form

Reset Form

Submit AVA Committee Report to AVA Headquarters by Email

AVABIZ

FEBRUARY 2017 STATUS REPORT

There is one area of advancement for AVABiz this month:

- Interface testing for Events

INTERFACE TESTING

Frank Sayers has taken on a review of the data entry interface for Events. He has real-world examples, as he is building Events for the upcoming convention. He is entering them in both the legacy system and AVABiz. He has found a handful of issues in the presentation layer that I have revised. This include:

- Email Address validation – the system was forcing the use of only lowercase email addressing for the Point of Contact. That has been revised to allow any type of email addressing. There is a data annotation that can be applied to the Model class that fixes this:
`[DataType(DataType.EmailAddress)]` I was overriding this implementation with a RegularExpression that was checking the email format. That expression was not working properly. I simply removed it and the validation issue resolved.
- Event Times - I had recognized that Event Start/End/Registration times varied across days of the week in the legacy data. So, I implemented a child table to store multiple Time records for an Event. This by necessity means that these records are not part of the parent Event record and can never show on the primary event page because the one-to-many architecture precludes it. I removed this approach entirely. No child records, just one field on the parent Event record to store free text description of the Event times. This is not easily searchable, but we probably are not going to be looking for Events based on what time of day they start. We will search by location, distance and some other factors.
- Distances - All distances are stored in Kilometers or Meters. Frank believes that a 'meter' distance is so rare as to be almost non-existent, so the interface should not allow that choice. However, there are several dozen legacy records that have swimming events with distances in meters. So, to help with data entry, I wrote code to default the unit of measure to 'Meters' when the distance is 300 or less.
- Elevation and Terrain – The legacy system uses a system of codes to represent the difficulty and condition of a trail. AVABiz expands on that system by spelling out and storing the detail values for these codes. The public will not understand internal AVA codes. However, to satisfy the legacy 'we've always done it that way' hunger, I have provided a visualization of the legacy code on the AVABiz detail page for an Event.
- Awards Metrics - I have named this set of child records 'Awards Metrics'. These records map to a legacy business process referred to as the After Action Report. I have changed the interface name of this collection of child records to 'Participation Report.'
- Special Programs - There are times when multiple Special Programs are associated with an Event. To make data entry easier, I am implementing a multi-select dropdown box so the user

can choose one or more of the entries and save them all with one click. I have not completed this code yet, but it is in process.

- Emails - We will be modifying some of language in emails that automatically sent upon new account creation, Event creation and etc.
- Mapping – We do not have a method yet for the Bing map system to determine longitude and latitude of the Event address and populate those values automatically. This is an area for research.
- Active Records - We still need to examine some interfaces that show lists, like Clubs, so that they show Active records vs Inactive. This work is in process.

SUMMARY

During this period, we made very productive use of Skype for remote communication. Mr. Sayers was able to perform his review and present the results by demonstrating the issues to me online. This was very helpful. In the next period, M.r Sayers will complete his interface review and recommendations. When the revisions are complete, he will expand testing to include a group of individuals of his selection for another round of testing.

Also, during this period we tested the use of a Virtual Machine for reporting purposes. We learned what level of installation may be necessary and in the next period we will try an implementation on the Frank Sayers Azure account and start establishment of robust Reporting services.

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cont'd

AVABIZ

MARCH 2017 STATUS REPORT

There are three areas of advancement for AVABiz this month:

- Expanded Microsoft assistance
- Porting to VS 2017
- Established a SQL Server Reporting Server at Azure

EXPANDED MICROSOFT ASSISTANCE

Early in the month I received a call from the Microsoft Azure support staff in Fargo. They follow-up occasionally, particularly after I attend a webinar. I explained to them our current architecture on the AVA project, that we were a non-profit taking advantage of non-profit pricing for Office 365 and that we had established an Azure BizSpark account with Microsoft for AVA, which provides us with \$150 per month of cloud services to use in development. As I continued explaining that I now needed to stand up a more expensive virtual machine in the cloud just to run reporting services, their response was to ask if we were making use of Microsoft's Advantage program for non-profits. They would provide \$5000 per year in services, renewable annually. I relayed the information to Frank, who contacted Microsoft and did establish a new account with up to \$5k per year in free services. So, we now have \$150 per month in standard development services available over the next three years and we have another \$416 dollars (monthly calculation of the \$5k/annum) with the Microsoft Advantage program.

This is enough service dollars to keep AVA running in the cloud virtually free for years, possibly many if the Advantage program renews. Someone needs to monitor and maintain the AVA relationship with Microsoft over time. I have found them to be very helpful and responsive. At some point down the line when we are completely stable and can call this 'done', Frank and I should write up a user experience document for Microsoft as a testimonial of how we use the Azure services to our benefit as a non-profit. They will publish it.

PORTING TO VS 2017

This month, without much explanation, AVABiz started to look like this:

Open ports to a VM using t | SQL Server Business Intellig | SQL Server Business I

← → ↻ | avahq.org

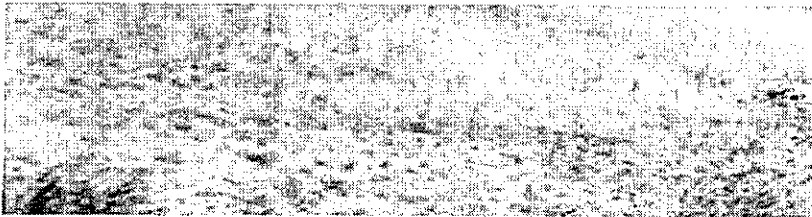
AVA Biz

• [Log in](#)



American Volkssport Association Business Management Portal

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.



This occurred from every browser type when running from a Windows 10 computer. However, running from a Windows 8 computer displays the site perfectly. The only explanation Frank and I can fathom is that a Windows update changed something in the OS that affects the rendering of libraries we are using in the application for styling.

RESPONSE

To overcome the issue, I migrated the entire application from Visual Studio 2013, the integrated development environment it was originally designed with, to Visual Studio 2017. I published that version to the Azure cloud and tested it. It presents perfectly on all browsers, including Edge which has always been problematic for many websites. The whole episode has me scratching my head.

I have asked Karen and Frank to test the new site, by giving them the URL. I believe we will be able to convert to it, without any change in function, but I await further testing.

SOL SERVER REPORTING SERVICE

I have deployed a virtual machine running SQL Server with the Reporting Service configured at the Azure cloud. The service is up and running but there is an issue with remote connectivity that I have not overcome. I have a support ticket open with Microsoft and after spending an argumentative session with the support engineer, he now understands that though I have configured the system correctly neither he nor I can get to it remotely. We can only get to the service if we are logged onto to the remote server directly with RDP (remote desktop protocol). This won't work, as the site needs to be accessible nationally over the web for us who are Office 365 account holders to run reports. The service engineer agrees with my assessment and he has confirmed this through his own test deployment. He has elevated the ticket to Microsoft network engineers. As of this writing, I have not heard back from them.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE REPORTING ENVIRONMENT

Initially, I designed reports with a third-party tool called DevExpress and embedded them within AVABiz. You ran them from an AVABiz menu entry. This is not the best solution, as it ties all reporting design and maintenance to me. Not good. A more agnostic solution is to use a reporting service to host the reports, independent of AVABiz. Enter SQL Server Reporting Service, which allows any competent user to design reports and post them at the Reporting portal, accessible by all those whom we want to grant permission. Enter Hector, the future of AVA reporting.

I have begun re-writing the AVABiz reports that were done to support Awards. I am doing this with Report Builder, the free tool from Microsoft that allows report design and porting to SQL Server reporting service.

In the new version of AVABiz, the one I mentioned that is ported to Visual Studio 2017, there are no reports. Hence, the importance of the re-write with Report Builder. When Microsoft resolves my remote access problem, I will publish these reports to that portal.

SUMMARY

Ok. If you understood any of the above, you are probably Frank. In short, this month we fixed some presentation problems, got some new free stuff from Microsoft and are closer to testing of both data entry and reporting. Remember this... the only reason for collecting data is to present it to people in some interface that they understand. Restated.... The only reality is REPORTS.

AVABIZ

26)-1
cont'd

APRIL 2017 STATUS REPORT

There are three areas of advancement for AVABiz this month:

- Test and abandonment of SSRS in favor of Sharepoint
- Development strategy for Reporting
- Change in approach for standardized email content

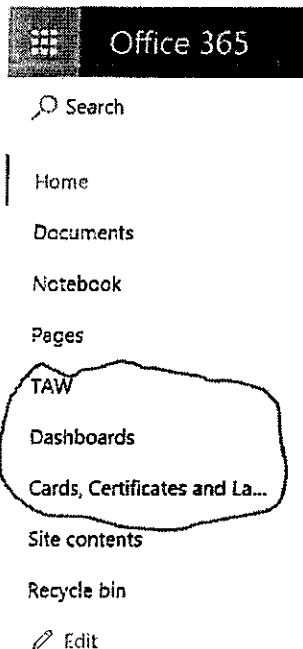
SSRS VS SHAREPOINT

In April, we provisioned a Virtual Machine in the Azure cloud which was configured to act as a report server, making use of SQL Server Reporting Services. This worked extremely well, with one major drawback. Emphasis on 'major'. The server with its associated storage container and services cost nearly \$500 for three weeks of run time. Frank and I had no real way to determine where the resource drain was occurring and Microsoft was not much help. This is rare, because they have been very helpful to date. Fortunately, the expenditure was not direct, as the service we are using is free from Microsoft, at \$5k per year. We decided that the cost would outweigh the benefit and we stop the service and deleted the VM.

Needing a reporting platform, I began developing reports with standard desktop applications. For example, our monthly mailing labels to Award recipients was designed using Microsoft Word, with its superior mail merge to labels functionality. For other reports, we developed Microsoft Publisher documents, connecting to the database and merging things like Award certificates and Renewal notices. We connected Excel to the database for things like the list of TAW recipients. This approach worked well, with some issues in learning how to connect and configure the files to get data. In the long run, it is a viable solution, and most importantly, puts the design of reports in the hands of a power user, like Hector. Reports will not be embedded in the web application and become dependent on a developer (me) to maintain or extend.

PUBLISHING REPORTS

Because AVA makes use of Office 365, we also have Sharepoint which allows us to upload and share documents. I have established a new site on the Sharepoint; **AVA Business Intelligence**. It can be reached at: <https://avahq.sharepoint.com/sites/AVABusinessIntelligence>



We can allow users to access the site and share documents. In April, all of our reports for the TAW, Awards, Renewals and Membership cards were developed and posted at this site. There is a hierarchy of folders on the site, as shown here. Each folder contains the appropriate files, regardless of file type for the subject area.

To open a file, access the appropriate folder and click it. It will open with your desktop application.

CONNECTION STRINGS

Each file that gets data from the database must make a credentialed connection to it. This connection information is contained within a separate file called an 'odc' file, which is the abbreviation for Office Data Connection. I have created all the necessary odc files needed for the current reports and stored them in a Sharepoint document library located at:

<https://avahq.sharepoint.com/sites/AVABusinessIntelligence/Data%20Connections/>

Because they are stored on the Sharepoint site any data connection can be used from any location without having access to local odc files stored on local computers.

EMAIL CHANGE

AVABiz automatically sends email when a new account is established, when a new Event is created and when it is approved/disapproved. It also sends mail when a record is added to identify someone that needs to receive a certificate of insurance. The language contained in these email messages has been written into the email functions. This isn't the right approach, because it could only be changed by accessing the application code. This month I have modified this approach, giving us an interface to add/edit the text that should go into each of these messages.

SUMMARY

I am entering the 'home stretch' I hope. The final architecture is now complete and there are just a few things to clean up with code. Here are the things I will be doing this month to bring us near completion:

- Do a final code and page navigation review and modification
- Write the ETL to bring in all the current data from the Event side of the legacy database
- Migrate the database to the production Azure account

By mid-month I want Frank to be able to do more testing with his colleagues at the State and Regional level. Perhaps, he can even to do some of that face to face at the convention.

AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE REPORT

2(a)-2

FOR THE Strategic Planning Information Technology COMMITTEE

FOR THE June 7, 2017 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

FROM (Name): Frank Sayers

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Established concept for a new Divergent protocol for AVA Events.
Have initial research into an AVA app.
Received recommendations for an online Membership form.

ACTIVITIES:

I requested the research materials already compiled by the Program Committee and the Membership Committee, but it was not provided.
Requested the chair of the Membership Committee provide a template for a new Membership Form, but have received no response.

CONCERNS:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Create a complete white paper describing a new era of AVA events that embrace new technologies to enable the AVA to include the younger generation.

Automate many of the input capabilities that are now performed manually.

Design an app that connects read-only to the backend database for relevant and current information.

Design a complete training program for club members for interacting with the new technology.

Recommend this committee continue into the next NEC

Please attach any additional material that is part of your report.

Print Form

Reset Form

Submit AVA Committee Report to AVA Headquarters by Email

2(a)-2a

AVA Divergent

The current basis for the AVA is the IVV rewards system. There is no question we must support this in the future, as there are still many hundreds of folks who are working to complete books and such. Beginning in 2018 the IVV will no longer have their awards, just a certificate.

The AVA must diverge and establish some different walking mechanisms. I think we need to place emphasis on the benefits of having each club establish and maintain trails – you know, the consistency, safety, history and views, insurance protection. But each club, with the assistance of the National Headquarters, must branch out into more areas of the electronic age.

There is fitbit, America Walks, Microsoft Health Network, withings, geocaching, that search that Kevin and Dale played, and so on. We need to figure out how to connect to them and make their apps talk to our database and provide our own incentives to our walking community.

Big questions are – will our database support capturing individual statistics. Will we have some award system in place. Will we be able to work with the folks that already have it functioning to tie into our organization? Will we have to write an 'app' to provide the inputs necessary to easily track activities. What activities do we want to track? How much do we want to deviate from our current model, like will any walking qualify, do we allow no routes. If they are individuals, does our insurance matter? How connected to us are they if they are just out walking and their app is reporting to us? And, will they join for a fee?

The ad-hoc Strategic Planning Information Technology Committee was formed to manage the information technology inputs from the Programs Committee and the Membership Committee. Deb Kreup has information related to developing an app for the AVA and constructing an AVA Event System outside of the IVV, Jeanne Miller has indicated she would like the membership form updated into an online version, rather than a downloadable PDF as it is now. With the new AVA backend database nearly complete, and the integration of the new AVA web site, this is possible. Planning needs to get started. We are all in this together.

Frank Sayers
SPIT Committee Chair
April 2017

2(b)

**AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE REPORT**

FOR THE Standards & Evaluation **COMMITTEE**
FOR THE June, 2017 **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**
FROM (Name): Suzi Glass

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Sent the completed revisions for the following sections to AVA Headquarters for updating the Policy Manual:

- 4.02 Traditional Volkssporting Events, II Policy, A. Traveling Guided Walk pilot and B. Bicycling Events
 - 4.03 Year Round and Seasonal Event Renewals Section, II Policy, F.
 - 4.04 International Volkssporting Events, I General, II Policy, A, B, C.
 - 4.05 AVA Special Programs/Club Challenges by Clubs, State Associations, and Regions, VII Policy, A, B, C.
 - 4.07 Event Sanctioning II Policy, B.4 and C. Per Participant Sanction
- Appendix B Fee Structure

ACTIVITIES:

The above required review of changes authorized from the January, 2017 NEC meeting and conferencing with two of the authors.
Revisions were sent to AVA Headquarters in March, 2017.

AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
OFFICER REPORT

2(c)

FOR THE OFFICE OF _____ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR THE _____ June 8, 2017 _____ EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

FROM (Name): _____ ANDY BACON - PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The Committee accomplished:

- 1) Refining the Publicity Plan in light of the Strategic Plan
- 2) Contacted a potential national spokesperson
- 3) Submitted two articles to the Footprints

ACTIVITIES:

1. Working on a Request for Services of a public relations firm
2. Evaluate club submissions to Convention's publicity contest

CONCERNS:

- 1) Capacity of National Headquarters to assist with implementation of publicity plan
- 2) Lack of coordination with other committees and NEC
- 3) Filter of national activities through the Strategic Plan

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Develop a monthly call in to coordinate committees
2. Expansion of headquarter's capacity to perform a national publicity campaign
3. Engage a public relation consultant or firm

Please attach any additional material that is part of your report.

Print Form

Reset Form

Submit AVA Officer Report to AVA Headquarters by Email

**AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE REPORT**

2(d)

FOR THE _____ Bylaws _____ COMMITTEE
FOR THE June 2017 _____ EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
FROM (Name): Jerry Wilson, Chair

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

As directed by the NEC at the January 2017 meeting in Rogers, AR, the Bylaws Committee attempted to provide amendment explanations or negotiate friendly amendments to the proposed amendments to further the understanding for delegates to the June 2017 AVA Convention for two of the four proposed bylaws amendments. It was expressed by several NEC members for June delegates to fully understand two of the four proposed bylaws amendments, more explanation was needed as to how local clubs would retain their direct input to the national governance of the AVA. In other words, how would local clubs maintain direct interaction input to rule development with the Board of Directors and the Regional/Area Directors, and how the governing Board and the Regional/Area Directors would interact.

Recapping the decisions reached at the January 2017 NEC meeting and continued via emails in February and March 2017:

1. Change name to Board of Directors from National Executive Committee. The NEC voted to recommend approval.
2. List evaluation requirements for national service. The NEC thought this inappropriate for the Bylaws but should be included in the Policy Manual. Thus, the NEC voted to recommend disapproval.
3. Separate national and regional responsibilities. The NEC passed this back to the Bylaws Committee for more review.
4. Change standing committees and their responsibilities. The NEC passed this back to the Bylaws Committee for more review.

ACTIVITIES:

The Committee reviewed the proposed amendments but in the end determined there was not enough time to provide adequate explanations or enter into a friendly amendment with the proposers prior to the deadline. More study is needed and more interaction with the proposers is recommended.

Concerns:

For Amendments 3 and 4 to be properly reviewed, understood and debated by 2017 Convention delegates further explanation of the process in its entirety is needed.

Recommendations:

Continue the NEC's January decisions and follow-up emailed concerns:

Amendment #1: Proposed for adoption at the June 2017 Convention.

Amendment #2: Proposed for rejection at the June 2017 Convention. **Reason for rejection:** NEC determined this would be better addressed in the Policy and Procedures Manual and was referred for implementation.

Amendment #3: Proposed for rejection at the June 2017 Convention. **Reason for rejection:** More explanation of the process is needed.

Amendment #4: Proposed for rejection at the June 2017 Convention. **Reason for rejection:** More explanation of the process is needed.

Please attach any additional material that is part of your report.

PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

2(d)-1

SUMMARY

Proposed Bylaws Change #1

Change the name of the NEC to Board of Directors effective July 1, 2019. Changes the name in various places throughout the Bylaws.

Rationale: The AVA has outgrown governance by a council deeply involved in executing the day-to-day operations of the association. With so much effort devoted to operations, the NEC historically has not had the time to effectively address many of the key responsibilities of a directing body. This shortcoming is evidenced by the small amount of time devoted to purposeful strategic thinking and direction, effective planning, adequate financial resourcing, effective performance measurement, and ongoing board development and succession. Coupled with the proposed amendment on board committees, this would focus the AVA's governing body strategically on high level direction, leaving operations to the Executive Director, headquarters paid staff, and committees of staff and volunteers who could devote greater attention to the day to day requirements of the AVA. Moreover, by not doing operational work, the board would be in a better position to provide oversight and assessment. This is achievable with the robust national volunteer program being instituted.

NEC Recommendation: Recommend approval.

Proposed Bylaws Change #2

Evaluation of Candidates for NEC Service. There are two paragraphs affected:

Current wording: 5.6(b) It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for the National Offices to be filled by election at the regular membership meeting. No member of the Nominating Committee may accept nomination for a National Office. If a committee member does choose to run for National Office, such candidate's membership on the Nominating Committee shall terminate and the National Executive Council shall immediately elect a replacement.

6.6(b) It shall be the duty of the Regional Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for Regional Director in that Region. No member of the Nominating Committee may accept nomination for Regional Director. If a committee member does choose to run for Regional Director, such candidate's membership on the Nominating Committee shall terminate and the Regional Director shall immediately appoint a replacement.

Proposed wording: 5.6(b) It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to seek and nominate qualified candidates for the National Offices to be filled by election at the regular membership meeting. No member of the Nominating Committee may accept nomination for a

National Office. If a committee member does choose to run for National Office, such candidate's membership on the Nominating Committee shall terminate and the National Executive Council shall immediately elect a replacement.

6.6(b) It shall be the duty of the Regional Nominating Committee to seek and nominate qualified candidates for Regional Director in that Region. No member of the Nominating Committee may accept nomination for Regional Director. If a committee member does choose to run for Regional Director, such candidate's membership on the Nominating Committee shall terminate and the Regional Director shall immediately appoint a replacement.

Rationale: Presently the AVA has no explicit qualifications for candidates for NEC positions. Specifying general qualifications would lead to better candidates for office and better NEC performance. These qualifications should be the same for officers and directors.

The specific rationale for including each qualification purely as an evaluation criterion is:

1. Passion is the most important qualification. If they are passionate, they will do a great job.
2. The board needs leaders since its job is to lead AVA; without good communication skills, prospective candidates cannot effectively lead and advocate for AVA
3. Prior experience is helpful, but not mandatory, because the number of opportunities to serve on a nonprofit board are limited; for-profit experience is also valuable.
4. The nonprofit sector is different from the government and for-profit sectors; since prior experience is not always possible, looking at the candidate's actions to acquire an understanding of nonprofits, such as through education and volunteering, would also demonstrate a level of interest and commitment.
5. Specialized expertise is very helpful when striving to achieve strategic goals. It is imperative that every board member bring a special talent.
6. If candidates do not understand what is expected, responsibilities and obligations, they may seek NEC positions without grasping the AVA's expectations for them. This would be a disservice to the candidates and could have negative consequences for AVA.
7. Candidates need the time to commit to the position. This is a major expectation, for without it, the board would govern with a handicap. Candidates must understand this to serve AVA well.

Moreover, the AVA should proactively seek qualified candidates, not wait to see who wants to come forward and hope they are qualified. To find the best candidates, sometimes it is necessary to ask to get who would be a good fit and valuable asset.

NEC Recommendation: Recommend disapproval and refer to the Standards and Evaluations Committee to place this in the Policy Manual.

Proposed Bylaws Change #3

Separate National and Regional Responsibilities of Directors

There are four paragraphs affected:

Current Wording

6.3. Duties. Each Regional Director shall:

- (a) coordinate and promote the AVA program of activities within the represented Region
- (b) maintain liaison between Members in his Region, the National Executive council and the National Headquarters.
- (c) review applications for membership from groups in the Region and recommend action to the National Executive Council
- (d) approve Volkssport event scheduling for Members within his Region or appoint a designee to do so
- (e) approve event sanctioning and provide notice of sanction approval to the National Headquarters or designate someone to do so
- (f) review delinquency reports and follow up to ensure that all reports have been submitted and debts to the AVA have been paid
- (g) implement disciplinary action against AVA members in the Region for violations of the AVA or IVV rules.
- (h) promote the development of new clubs within the Region by visiting, corresponding with or making presentations to interested groups to promote the growth of AVA
- (i) recommend to the National Executive Council disciplinary action againsts Members within the region for violation of AVA or IVV rules
- (j) perform such other duties as are prescribed by the AVA President and the National Executive Council.

6.6(a) A Nominating Committee shall be appointed in each Region by the Regional Director at least nine months prior to the regular membership meeting.

6.6(b) It shall be the duty of the Regional Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for Regional Director in that Region. No member of the Nominating Committee may accept

nomination for Regional Director. If a committee member does choose to run for Regional Director, such candidate's membership on the Nominating Committee shall terminate and the Regional Director shall immediately appoint a replacement.

7.6(a) Membership. The elected National Officers, a representative of the Regional Directors who has been elected by the Regional Directors, and the Executive Director shall constitute the Executive Committee. Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote, except the Executive Director who shall have no vote.

Proposed wording:

6.3 Duties. Each National Director shall:

- (a) apply their regional familiarity to the general national supervision of the AVA
- (b) with regional assistants, coordinate and promote the AVA program of activities
- (c) with regional assistants, promote the development of new clubs within the Region
- (d) perform such other duties as are prescribed by the AVA President and the National Executive Council.

6.6(a) A Nominating Committee shall be appointed in each Region by the respective National Director at least twelve months prior to the regular membership meeting. It shall work in coordination with the National Nominating Committee to ensure the Board of Directors has members with the expertise it needs to lead the AVA strategically.

6.6(b) It shall be the duty of the Regional Nominating Committee to seek and nominate qualified candidates for National Director from that Region. No member of the Nominating Committee may accept nomination for National Director. If a committee member does choose to run for National Director, such candidate's membership on the Nominating Committee shall terminate and the National Director shall immediately appoint a replacement. The Regional Nominating Committee shall consider the same criteria as in section 5.6(b) when evaluating candidates to be nominated.

7.6(a) Membership. The elected National Officers, two representatives of the National Directors who have been elected by the National Directors, and the Executive Director shall constitute the Executive Committee. Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote, except the Executive Director who shall have no vote.

Rationale:

Presently, regional directors have two important, but distinctly different roles: that of regional AVA representative and national board member. Each places very different demands on the

director. This proposed amendment would create two different positions for each region, one for each of those roles.

As a national board member, directors would be elected in their regions to perform all responsibilities in the bylaws associated with service on the NEC—same as RDs today. To ensure NEC membership is well-rounded nationally, providing the skills needed on the board, regional and national nominating committees would coordinate recruitment efforts.

Freeing Directors to address national matters and adding a second one to the EC would make the NEC more productive strategically while adding regional positions would give clubs and state organizations a second avenue of access to the NEC.

This amendment would become effective in July 2019 so that those elected directors would know what would be expected of them and the AVA would have time to work out details for implementing regional assistants (the role of assistants would be defined in yet-to-be-written AVA policy [e.g., selection procedures, integrating them into the staff, refining responsibilities, defining the relationships with clubs and state organizations, under what circumstances directors and assistants could be one in the same individual]; not being part of the AVA governance structure, this content should not be addressed in the bylaws).

If not adopted, RDs would continue serving two different masters with two very different needs.

NEC Recommendation: Recommend disapproval - needs more work from the Bylaws Committee.

Proposed Bylaws Change #4.

Standing Committees and Their Orientation. There are three paragraphs affected:

Current Wording: Standing Committees

10.1 Committees, standing and special, as deemed necessary by the National Executive Council to carry on the work of the AVA shall be appointed by the AVA President with the advice and approval of the National Executive Council.

10.2. All committees . . . shall consist of at least one member of the National Executive Council. A majority of the members shall not be members of the National Executive Council. No member of the National Executive Council shall be on the Nominating Committee. The AVA President shall be a member ex-officio of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

10.3. There shall be the following standing committees: Audit, Bylaws, Convention, Internet Technology, Publicity and Standards and Evaluation.

5.3(a)(2) [The President shall] serve as ex-officio as a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

Proposed Wording:

10.1 Board committees, standing and special, as deemed necessary by the National Executive Council to carry on the work of the NEC shall be appointed by the AVA President with the advice and approval of the National Executive Council. All committees dealing with day to day operational subjects shall be established and overseen by the Executive Director.

10.2 All committees, standing and special, shall have a majority of members from the National Executive Council. One member of the National Executive Council shall be on the Nominating Committee. The AVA President shall chair the Governance Committee and be a member ex-officio of all other board committees except the Nominating Committee.

10.3. There shall be the following standing committees: Audit, Executive, Governance, Finance and Investments, and National and IVV Awards.

5.3(a)(2) [The President shall] chair the Governance Committee and be a member ex-officio of all other board committees except the Nominating Committee.

Rationale:

The NEC as a national board has important legal responsibilities to oversee the AVA. When the NEC establishes the committees heavily involved in AVA operations and appoints their members it cannot carry out that stewardship responsibility objectively.

This proposed amendment aligns NEC committee with the conduct of the board's business. Non board members would continue to serve on NEC committees for their special expertise and as a way to expose potential future board members to NEC service. The president would continue to serve as an ex officio member of NEC committees, and would chair the new governance committee, which would convert current standing committees into subcommittees.

Information on committees dealing with operations would be moved from the AVA's governance document to policies established by the ED to be responsible for executing tasks assigned to the national headquarters.

This reflects non-profit best practices. If not adopted, the NEC would be burdened with operational committees which would continue to jeopardize its objectivity when performing its legal responsibilities.

NEC Recommendation: Recommend disapproval - needs more work from the Bylaws Committee.

**Cover Memo to Accompany Proposed AVA Bylaws Amendments
Submitted by AVA-892, Loudoun Walking and Volkssport Club, Inc.**

October 17, 2016

TO: AVA Secretary (Sam Korff) and AVA Bylaws Committee Chair (Jerry Wilson)

AVA-892 submits four proposed amendments to the AVA Bylaws for your consideration and to be voted on at the AVA's next regular meeting in June, 2017 in Billings, Montana:

1. Standing Committees and Their Orientation (pp. 2-3)
2. Evaluation of Candidates for NEC Service (pp. 4-6)
3. Change Name of the National Executive Council to Board of Directors, Effective July 1, 2019 (pp. 7-8)
4. Separate National and Regional Responsibilities of Directors, Effective July 1, 2019 (pp. 9-12)

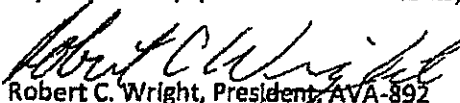
Bob Wright, Wayne Holloway, and Chris Mellen, three at-large members of the Strategic Planning Committee's Governance Subcommittee, started to collaborate soon after the June, 2016 NEC meeting to produce these four AVA Bylaws amendments designed to move the association forward. To us it is imperative that the AVA transition to a board that has the time and focus to lead the AVA, something no other body in the AVA is charged to do. While the subcommittee generated a wide range of alternative courses of action at the NEC's direction, these four measures stand out as the easiest and most effective way for the board to devote its limited time to purposeful strategic thinking and direction, effective planning, adequate financial resourcing, effective oversight and performance measurement, and ongoing board development and succession.

We observed that presently the NEC devotes much of its time to operational matters, important functions others can, and should, perform. We discovered what the AVA lacks, as a consequence, is for the board to spend the time needed to address more strategic matters that only it is charged with performing. If governance were functioning effectively, we believe it also would have time to look deeply into declining membership, events, and participation over the past 20+ years, declining revenues that have put the operating budget in the red for 6 consecutive years; time to oversee operations, not perform operations and then turn around to evaluate itself; time for directors to devote effort to national matters.

Collectively we feel these four proposed amendments would put the AVA's governance emphasis where it belongs—on the future. NEC committees would focus on the board's strategic responsibilities and internal continuity; a change from an NEC to a board of directors would send a strong signal to the AVA's stakeholders that the AVA is keeping up with the times. Clarifying the Nominating Committee's responsibility to *seek and find qualified* candidates would get the AVA looking for people with the passion and skills needed for board of director service, without changing composition or election processes and procedures. Focusing national directors on governance puts more eyes and time on strategic matters. The NEC's name change emphasizes a different way of business, one in keeping with the times.

Most important, these proposed amendments would make AVA governance more effective and better able to focus strategically on the future. This is an integral part of setting conditions for positive growth and a transition to a healthy vibrant organization.

If you have any questions or comments, please direct them to me so we may address them collectively.



Robert C. Wright, President, AVA-892

Loudoun Walking and Volkssport Club...in step with Loudoun's nature since 2000
43224 Cardston Pl, Leesburg, VA 20176, 703-737-2175, rcwright_va@comcast.net

cc: AVA/ED

2(d)-2a

American Volkssport Association Proposed Bylaws Amendment

One proposed amendment per form.
Please attach all backup materials to support the proposed amendment.

Title: Change Name of the National Executive Council to a Board of Directors, Effective July 1, 2019

Motion: I move that the AVA Bylaws be amended as follows: [Approved amendments would be inserted in the Bylaws following the applicable sections with the notation that each becomes effective July 1 2019, at which time the present sections would be removed.]

Change "National Executive Council" to "Board of Directors" throughout the bylaws. (Affects sections 3.2; 3.3(b); 3.5(b) and (f); 3.6(b), (d), (d)(3)-(5); 4.1 and .2; 5.2(b); 5.3(a)(1) and (4), 5.3(b)(1) and (4), 5.3(c)(1) and (4), 5.3(d)(3); 5.4; 5.5; 5.6(a) and (b); 6.1, 6.2(b), 6.3(b); (c), (i) and (j); 6.4; VII; 7.1 through .5; 7.6(b); 8.3(b); 9.1; 9.2(b), (i) and (l); 9.3 and .4; 10.1, .2, and .4; 11.2(c); 13.1; 14.2; 15.2 and .3.

Change "NEC" to BoD" throughout the bylaws. (Affects sections 9.2(b) and (k).)

Current Wording: National Executive Council or NEC

Proposed Wording: Board of Directors or BoD

Rationale for Proposed Amendment:

The AVA has outgrown governance by a council deeply involved in *executing* the day-to-day operations of the association. With so much effort devoted to operations, the NEC historically has not had the time to effectively address many of the key responsibilities of a *directing* body. This shortcoming is evidenced by the small amount of time devoted to purposeful strategic thinking and direction, effective planning, adequate financial resourcing, effective performance measurement, and ongoing board development and succession.

This proposed amendment, coupled with the proposed amendment on board committees, would focus the AVA's governing body strategically on high-level direction, leaving operations to the Executive Director, headquarters' paid staff, and committees of staff and volunteers who could devote greater attention to the day-to-day requirements of the AVA. Moreover, by not doing operational work the board would be in a better position to provide oversight and assessment. This is achievable with the robust national volunteer program being instituted.

This may seem trivial, but it also sends a powerful message that governance is changing to directing, vice executing, the AVA's mission and purpose.

This amendment would not become effective until July, 2019 in fairness to candidates; they should not be seeking an office in a structure that might change at the same convention as their elections.

Submitted By:

Loudoun Walking and Volkssport Club (0892), Robert Wright (President), rwright2@jhu.edu, 703-737-2175

Date: October 17, 2016

AVA Bylaws Committee Use Only:

Recommendation:

Recommend Approval

Recommend Rejection

 Rationale for Recommendation:

NEC Use Only:

Recommendation:

Recommend Approval

Recommend Rejection

American Volkssport Association Proposed Bylaws Amendment

One proposed amendment per form.
Please attach all backup materials to support the proposed amendment.

Title: Evaluation of Candidates for NEC Service

Motion: I move that the AVA Bylaws be amended as follows:

5.6(b): It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to seek and nominate qualified candidates for the National Offices to be filled by election at the regular membership meeting. No member of the Nominating Committee may accept nomination for a National Office. If a committee member does choose to run for National Office, such candidate's membership on the Nominating Committee shall terminate and the National Executive Council shall immediately elect a replacement. Candidates shall be evaluated in terms of the following, but not limited to:

- (1) passion for the AVA mission;
- (2) leadership and communication skills;
- (3) prior board experience;
- (4) understanding of the nonprofit sector through service and/or alternate means;
- (5) specialized expertise required to achieve the AVA's strategic goals;
- (6) understanding of the responsibilities and expectations of the office being sought;
- (7) willingness to commit the time necessary to the position;

6.6(b): It shall be the duty of the Regional Nominating Committee to seek and nominate qualified candidates for Regional Director in that Region. No member of the Nominating Committee may accept nomination for Regional Director. If a committee member does choose to run for Regional Director, such candidate's membership on the Nominating Committee shall terminate and the Regional Director shall immediately appoint a replacement. Candidates shall be evaluated in terms of at least those listed in section 5.6(b).

Current Wording:

5.6(b): (b) It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for the National Offices to be filled by election at the regular membership meeting. No member of the Nominating Committee may accept nomination for a National Office. If a committee member does choose to run for National Office, such candidate's membership on the Nominating Committee shall terminate and the National Executive Council shall immediately elect a replacement.

6.6(b): It shall be the duty of the Regional Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for Regional Director in that Region. No member of the Nominating Committee may accept nomination for Regional Director. If a committee member does choose to run for Regional Director, such candidate's membership on the Nominating Committee shall terminate and the Regional Director shall immediately appoint a replacement.

Proposed Wording:

5.6(b): It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to seek and nominate qualified candidates for the National Offices to be filled by election at the regular membership meeting. No member of the Nominating Committee may accept nomination for a National Office. If a committee member does choose to run for National Office, such candidate's membership on the Nominating Committee shall terminate and the National Executive Council shall immediately elect a replacement. Candidates shall be evaluated in terms of the following, but not limited to:

- (1) passion for the AVA mission;

- (2) leadership and communication skills;
- (3) prior board experience;
- (4) understanding of the nonprofit sector through service and/or alternate means;
- (5) specialized expertise required to achieve the AVA's strategic goals;
- (6) understanding of the responsibilities and expectations of the office being sought.
- (7) willingness to commit the time necessary to the position;

6.6(b): It shall be the duty of the Regional Nominating Committee to seek and nominate qualified candidates for Regional Director in that Region. No member of the Nominating Committee may accept nomination for Regional Director. If a committee member does choose to run for Regional Director, such candidate's membership on the Nominating Committee shall terminate and the Regional Director shall immediately appoint a replacement. Candidates shall be evaluated in terms of at least the qualifications listed in section 5.6(b).

Rationale for Proposed Amendment:

Presently the AVA has no explicit qualifications for candidates for NEC positions. Specifying general qualifications would lead to better candidates for office and better NEC performance. These qualifications should be the same for officers and directors.

The specific rationale for including each qualification purely as an evaluation criterion is:

1. Passion is the most important qualification. If they're passionate, they'll do a great job.
2. The board needs leaders since the its job is to lead the AVA; without good communication skills you can't effectively lead and advocate for the AVA.
3. Prior experience is helpful, but not mandatory, because the number of opportunities to serve on a nonprofit board are limited; for-profit experience is also valuable.
4. The nonprofit sector is different from the government and for-profit sectors; since prior experience isn't always possible, looking at the candidate's actions to acquire an understanding of nonprofits, such as through education and volunteering, would also demonstrate their levels of interest and commitment.
5. Specialized expertise is very helpful when striving to achieve strategic goals. It's not imperative that every board member bring a special talent.
6. If candidates don't understand what's expected, responsibilities and obligations, they may seek NEC positions without grasping the AVA's expectations for them. This would be a disservice to the candidates and could have negative consequences for the AVA.
7. Candidates need the time to commit to the position. This is a major expectation, for without it the board would govern with a handicap. The candidate must understand this to serve the AVA well.

Moreover, the AVA should proactively seek qualified candidates, not wait to see who wants to come forward and hope they are qualified. To find the best candidates sometimes you have to ask to get who would be a good fit and valuable asset.

Submitted By:

Loudoun Walking and Volkssport Club (0892), Robert Wright (President), rwright2@jhu.edu, 703-737-2175

Date: October 17, 2016

AVA Bylaws Committee Use Only:

Recommendation: Recommend Approval Recommend Rejection
Rationale for Recommendation:

NEC Use Only:

Recommendation: Recommend Approval Recommend Rejection

2(d)-2c

American Volkssport Association Proposed Bylaws Amendment

One proposed amendment per form.
Please attach all backup materials to support the proposed amendment.

Title: Separate National and Regional Responsibilities of Directors, Effective July 1, 2019

Motion: I move that the AVA Bylaws be amended as follows: [Approved amendments would be inserted in the Bylaws following the applicable sections with the notation that it becomes effective July 1, 2019, at which time the present sections would be removed.]

6.3: Duties. Each Regional National Director shall:

- (a) apply their regional familiarity to the general national supervision of the AVA;
- (ab) with the national headquarters coordinate and promote the AVA program of activities within the represented Region;
- ~~(b) maintain liaison between Members in his Region, the National Executive Council and the National Headquarters;~~
- ~~(c) review applications for membership from groups in the Region and recommend action to the National Executive Council;~~
- ~~(d) approve Volkssport event scheduling for Members within his Region or appoint a designee to do so;~~
- ~~(e) approve event sanctioning and provide notice of sanction approval to the National Headquarters or designate someone to do so;~~
- ~~(f) review delinquency reports and follow up to ensure that all reports have been submitted and debts to the AVA have been paid;~~
- ~~(g) implement disciplinary action against AVA members in the Region for violations of the AVA or IAV rules;~~
- (hc) with regional assistants promote the development of new clubs within the Region by visiting, corresponding with or making presentations to interested groups to promote the growth of the AVA;
- ~~(i) recommend to the National Executive Council disciplinary action against Members within the Region for violation of the AVA or IAV rules;~~
- (d) perform such other duties as are prescribed by the AVA President and the National Executive Council.

6.6(a): A Nominating Committee shall be appointed in each Region by the Regional respective National Director at least nine twelve months prior to the regular membership meeting. It shall work in coordination with the National Nominating Committee to ensure the Board of Directors has members with the expertise it needs to lead the AVA strategically.

6.6(b): It shall be the duty of the Regional Nominating Committee to seek and nominate qualified candidates for Regional National Director in from that Region. No member of the Nominating Committee may accept nomination for Regional National Director. If a committee member does choose to run for Regional National Director, such candidate's membership on the Nominating Committee shall terminate and the Regional National Director shall immediately appoint a replacement. The Regional Nominating Committee shall consider the same qualifications as in section 5.6(b) when considering candidates to be nominated.

7.6(a): **Membership.** The elected National Officers, a two representatives of the Regional National Directors who has been elected by the Regional National Directors, and the Executive Director shall constitute the Executive Committee. Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote, except the Executive Director who shall have no vote.

Change "Regional Director" to "National Director" throughout the bylaws. (Affects sections 6.3; 6.6(a), (b), (d), (f), and (h); 6.7; 6.8; 7.1, and 7.6(a).)

Change "DRD" and "Deputy RD" to "DND" in section 6.8.

Change "RD" to "National Director" throughout the bylaws. (Affects sections 6.6(h)(2) and 6.8.)

Move the regional duties deleted from section 6.3 to a new policy on regional administration.

Current Wording:

6.3: Duties. Each Regional Director shall:

- (a) coordinate and promote the AVA program of activities within the represented Region;
- (b) maintain liaison between Members in his Region, the National Executive Council and the National Headquarters;
- (c) review applications for membership from groups in the Region and recommend action to the National Executive Council;
- (d) approve Volkssport event scheduling for Members within his Region or appoint a designee to do so;
- (e) approve event sanctioning and provide notice of sanction approval to the National Headquarters or designate someone to do so;
- (f) review delinquency reports and follow up to ensure that all reports have been submitted and debts to the AVA have been paid;
- (g) implement disciplinary action against AVA members in the Region for violations of the AVA or IVV rules;
- (h) promote the development of new clubs within the Region by visiting, corresponding with or making presentations to interested groups to promote the growth of the AVA;
- (i) recommend to the National Executive Council disciplinary action against Members within the Region for violation of the AVA or IVV rules;
- (j) perform such other duties as are prescribed by the AVA President and the National Executive Council.

6.6(a): A Nominating Committee shall be appointed in each Region by the Regional Director at least nine months prior to the regular membership meeting.

6.6(b): It shall be the duty of the Regional Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for Regional Director in that Region. No member of the Nominating Committee may accept nomination for Regional Director. If a committee member does choose to run for Regional Director, such candidate's membership on the Nominating Committee shall terminate and the Regional Director shall immediately appoint a replacement.

7.6(a): **Membership.** The elected National Officers, a representative of the Regional Directors who has been elected by the Regional Directors, and the Executive Director shall constitute the Executive Committee. Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote, except the Executive Director who shall have no vote.

Proposed Wording:

6.3: Duties. Each National Director shall:

- (a) apply their regional familiarity to the general national supervision of the AVA;
- (b) with regional assistants coordinate and promote the AVA program of activities;
- (c) with regional assistants promote the development of new clubs within the Region;
- (d) perform such other duties as are prescribed by the AVA President and the National Executive Council.

6.6(a): A Nominating Committee shall be appointed in each Region by the respective National Director at least twelve months prior to the regular membership meeting. It shall work in coordination with the

National Nominating Committee to ensure the Board of Directors has members with the expertise it needs to lead the AVA strategically.

6.6(b): It shall be the duty of the Regional Nominating Committee to seek and nominate qualified candidates for National Director from that Region. No member of the Nominating Committee may accept nomination for National Director. If a committee member does choose to run for National Director, such candidate's membership on the Nominating Committee shall terminate and the National Director shall immediately appoint a replacement. The Regional Nominating Committee shall consider the same criteria as in section 5.6(b) when evaluating candidates to be nominated.

7.6(a): **Membership.** The elected National Officers, two representatives of the National Directors who has been elected by the National Directors, and the Executive Director shall constitute the Executive Committee. Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote, except the Executive Director who shall have no vote.

Rationale for Proposed Amendment:

The dual regional and national responsibilities of RDs limit the RDs' effectiveness at the national and/or regional level in most cases. The NEC historically has not had the time to effectively address many of the key responsibilities of a governing body. This shortcoming is evidenced by the limited amount of time devoted to purposeful strategic thinking and direction, effective planning, adequate financial resourcing, effective performance measurement, and ongoing board development and succession. Freeing Directors to address national matters would make the NEC more productive strategically while also serving the regions better.

Regional duties would move to regional assistants, or whatever term the ED would like to use, who would report to the Executive Director (ED); these details are not part of governance which is the purpose of bylaws, but the intent of the membership would be for the ED to appoint these regional assistants after consultation with National Directors, state organization presidents, and club presidents in the regions since these assistants would be working closely with clubs and state organizations on the regional duties removed from section 6.3. Clubs and state organizations still would have direct access to the AVA headquarters where the work is getting done through their regional assistants and national headquarters staff; strategic policy matters still would be submitted to the NEC for action.

WRT section 6.3: Added the responsibility to lead from a national perspective; removed responsibilities not of a national nature. This underscores what is already implied in the NEC Handbook—to always act for the good of the volkssporting community. Those responsibilities which are operational extensions of the national headquarters would transfer to regional assistants reporting to the ED. As a national advocate for the AVA National Directors would work with regional assistants to grow the AVA.

WRT section 6.6(a): Adds a sentence to have Regional Nominating Committees coordinate with the National Nominating Committee so they work in concert to fill NEC positions: Increases the lead time for the Regional Nominating Committees so they have more time to seek out and vet qualified candidates.

WRT section 6.6(b): Puts an emphasis on seeking *qualified* candidates. Presently the AVA has no explicit qualifications for candidates for NEC positions. Specifying general qualifications would lead to better candidates for office and better NEC performance.

WRT section 7.6(a): Adds a second National Director to the Executive Committee to provide greater regional perspective.

This amendment would not become effective until July, 2019. In fairness to the ED he should have time to prepare for implementation—set up policies and procedures, line up people for the assistant positions. Also, in fairness to candidates, they should not be forced to seek an office that could change in nature just before they take office.

Submitted By:

Loudoun Walking and Volkssport Club (0892), Robert Wright (President), rwright2@lhu.edu, 703-737-2175

Date: October 17, 2016

AVA Bylaws Committee Use Only:

Recommendation: Recommend Approval

Recommend Rejection

Rationale for Recommendation:

NEC Use Only:

Recommendation: Recommend Approval

Recommend Rejection

5.3(a)(2): [The President shall] chair the Governance Committee and be a member ex-officio of all other board committees except the Nominating Committee.

Rationale for Proposed Amendment:

10.1: This amendment shifts the board's focus to strategic matters, where it belongs, leaving operational matters and committees supporting them under the Executive Director. The board cannot objectively oversee and evaluate areas in which it is involved day-to-day nor can it devote adequate time to strategic matters purely within the board's purview when it has so much operational work to do. The AVA's future success requires that the NEC devote more attention to strategic needs, something only the board can do; this is how the AVA should make the time for that.

10.2: With committees strategically focused, the emphasis on their membership shifts to the NEC itself. Hence, the majority should be NEC members; furthermore, the AVA President should chair the all-important Governance Committee, which would incorporate Bylaws (subcommittees of this comparatively larger committee are common). Non board members should continue to serve on these committees, not only to involve club members and experts in specialized fields but also to evaluate those people for future board membership (a key part of board succession planning). With only one NEC member on the Nominating Committee this emphasizes the membership's role in the process.

10.3: NEC committees should focus on NEC operations and subjects that focus strategically on the long term. The committees listed reflect strategic governance areas. Those deleted are operational and should be continued under the Executive Director.

5.3(a)(2): Again, the AVA President should chair the all-important new Governance Committee which would be responsible for all governance-related issues for the AVA, including Bylaws. It should have a comparatively larger membership in order to deal with typical subareas—e.g., bylaws, nominations and elections, board development.

Submitted By:

Loudoun Walking and Volkssport Club (0892), Robert Wright (President), rwright2@lhw.edu, 703-737-2175

Date: October 18, 2016

AVA Bylaws Committee Use Only:

Recommendation: Recommend Approval

Recommend Rejection

Rationale for Recommendation:

NEC Use Only:

Recommendation: Recommend Approval

Recommend Rejection

2(d)-ad

American Volkssport Association Proposed Bylaws Amendment

One proposed amendment per form.
Please attach all backup materials to support the proposed amendment.

Title: Standing Committees and Their Orientation

Motion: I move that the AVA Bylaws be amended as follows: [Deletes struckthrough in red; adds in Blue; Note: the amendments are slightly out of order to better understand the proposed changes.]

10.1: Board committees, standing and special, as deemed necessary by the National Executive Council to carry on the work of the AVA-NEC shall be appointed by the AVA President with the advice and approval of the National Executive Council. All committees dealing with day-to-day operational subjects shall be established by and report to the Executive Director.

10.2: All committees, standing and special, shall consist of at least one member of the National Executive Council. ~~have a majority of the members shall not be members of from the National Executive Council.~~ No One member of the National Executive Council shall be on the Nominating Committee. The AVA President shall chair the Governance Committee and be a member ex-officio of all other board committees except the Nominating Committee.

10.3: There shall be the following standing committees: Audit, Finance and Investments, Governance, and National and IVV Awards. ~~Bylaws, Convention, Internet Technology, Publicity, and Standards and Evaluation.~~

5.3(a)(2): [The President shall] serve chair the Governance Committee and be a member ex-officio as a member of all other board committees except the Nominating Committee.

Current Wording: Standing Committees

10.1: Committees, standing and special, as deemed necessary by the National Executive Council to carry on the work of the AVA shall be appointed by the AVA President with the advice and approval of the National Executive Council.

10.2: All committees... shall consist of at least one member of the National Executive Council. A majority of the members shall not be members of the National Executive Council. No member of the National Executive Council shall be on the Nominating Committee. The AVA President shall be a member ex-officio of all committees, except the Nominating Committee.

10.3: There shall be the following standing committees: Audit, Bylaws, Convention, Internet Technology, Publicity, and Standards and Evaluation.

5.3(a)(2): [The President shall] serve ex-officio as a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

Proposed Wording:

10.1: Board committees, standing and special, as deemed necessary by the National Executive Council to carry on the work of the NEC shall be appointed by the AVA President with the advice and approval of the National Executive Council. All committees dealing with day-to-day operational subjects shall be established and overseen by the Executive Director.

10.2: All committees, standing and special, shall have a majority of members from the National Executive Council. One member of the National Executive Council shall be on the Nominating Committee. The AVA President shall chair the Governance Committee and be a member ex-officio of all other board committees except the Nominating Committee.

10.3: There shall be the following standing committees: Audit, Executive, Governance, Finance and Investments, and National and IVV Awards.

3(a)

AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE REPORT

FOR THE _____ Special Programs _____ COMMITTEE

FOR THE _____ June 7-9, 2017 _____ EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

FROM (Name): _____ Bonnie Johnson, _____

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The policy for the Special Programs was revised and approved by the NEC at the January 2016 NEC meeting with changes and detailed information located in the AVA Policy Manual 4.05.

Two Special Programs were proposed and then approved by the NEC at the same meeting to start effective January 1, 2017.

Ice Cream Parlors
Underground Railroad

On January 21, 2017, the NEC approved the 'Walk Like an Olympian' Special Program to begin January 1, 2018.

ACTIVITIES:

Attached is the list of all Special Programs active at this time. With the approval of two or three Special Programs per year, the number of programs will decrease by attrition and become more manageable. You are encouraged to submit a proposal by November 1 (note Policy Manual 4.05 for guidelines) to meet the NEC approval at the January meeting.

Eight have ended but are still available to redeem any completed books through December 31, 2017.

Twenty two are ending between December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2023.

One will start on January 1, 2018.

3(a)-1

Special Program**Start Date****End Date**

(SP Books may be purchased until the End of the Special Program Completed books may be redeemed for the award one year after end date.)

Border Crossings	01/01/14	12/31/14
Lakes and Reservoirs	01/01/14	12/31/14
Alternative Capitals	01/01/14	12/31/14
Cities in Song	01/01/14	12/31/14
Honoring Our Flag	01/01/14	12/31/14
National Register of Historic Places	01/01/14	12/31/14
Trekking With the Trees	01/01/14	12/31/14
Water Towers	01/01/14	12/31/14
You'll Never Walk Alone	01/01/14	12/31/14
Amphitheaters	01/01/15	12/31/17
Animal Safari	01/01/15	12/31/17
Boardwalks	01/01/15	12/31/17
Join' the Louisiana Purchase	01/01/15	12/31/18
Food for Thought	01/01/15	12/31/17
Volcanoes	01/01/15	12/31/17
Bridges Spanning the USA	01/01/16	12/31/18
Lady Liberty	01/01/16	12/31/18
Make a Wish at a Water Fountain	01/01/16	12/31/18
National Parks Centennial	01/01/16	12/31/18
Points of Reference	01/01/16	12/31/18
State Street Sashay	01/01/16	12/31/18
Take a Walk in a City Park	01/01/16	12/31/18
Treasure Hunt	01/01/16	12/31/18
Vice Presidential Walks	01/01/16	12/31/18
United States Post Offices	01/01/16	12/31/18
Walking America's Ports of Call	01/01/16	12/31/18
Walking the Path of Inventors	01/01/16	12/31/18
Walk the USA-Street by Street	01/01/16	12/31/18
Ice Cream Parlors	01/01/17	12/31/19
Underground Railroad	01/01/17	12/31/19
Walk Like an Olympian	01/01/18	12/31/20

3(b)

**AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE REPORT**

FOR THE _____ **National Programs** _____ **COMMITTEE**

FOR THE _____ **June 7 - 9, 2017** _____ **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

FROM (Name): _____ **Susan A. Medlin, SWRD** _____

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. We held a national contest for an AVA Mascot. Club Presidents will vote for the winner, or for no Mascot, at the 2017 Convention (Attached).
2. The Selma Pathfinders are partnering with the City of San Antonio's World Heritage Office. The Club will design and run the walk portion of the 2017 World Heritage Festival in San Antonio in September (Attached). The City funds the media and mass marketing campaign.
4. We are on track to apply for IML Candidate Status at the 2020 IML General Meeting. We hosted our first proposed IML event in San Antonio in February 2017 and sold 399 Start Cards. Our second event will be February 23 - 24, 2018 (Attached).
5. I am working with the Sun Country Striders in Las Cruces, New Mexico to build a new 3 day walking event in Ruidoso, NM (Attached).
6. We are making progress on a National Program on the Appalachian Trail. We hope to start selling books in January 2018, with mostly seasonal walks that will open in the spring. If the walks are sanctioned by 31 August, we will launch in 2018. If not, we will postpone the official launch till 2019, but honor any AT walks done in 2018.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Continue to work on the 2017 World Heritage Festival with City and County Officials. We plan to stuff 50 New Walker Packets with our 2017 and 2018 walk calendars, upcoming event flyers, and free membership in the Selma Pathfinders.
2. Starting in September 2017, I will host AVA seminars at the Universal City Library, then take attendees on a short walk over to the AVA HQ for a tour.
3. Create a new 3 day event in Ruidoso, New Mexico, to increase visibility of Volkssporting in New Mexico and build membership in the three New Mexico Clubs.
4. Improve the walks and social events for the 2018 proposed IML weekend.

CONCERNS:

None

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Support the proposed IML event in San Antonio.

Please attach any additional material that is part of your report.

Print Form

Reset Form

Submit AVA Committee Report to AVA Headquarters by Email

AVA Mascot Contest Score Card

Judging Criteria	AVA Millie	AVA Ivy	Blue Walker	Weldon Walker*	Adam & Alice Ambler	No Mascot
1. Projects a positive image of AVA (25 points possible)						
2. Alignment with AVA Values & Mission (25 points possible)						
3. Overall appearance and design (25 points possible)						
4. Creativity (25 points possible)						
Total Points						

* = Female version (Heidi the Hiker?) will be provided if this entry is selected.

MISSION Promote and organize noncompetitive physical fitness activities that encourage lifelong fun, fitness and friendship for all ages and abilities.

CORE VALUES

- Health & Safety** - AVA's self-paced, fun, physical fitness activities contribute to participants' health and well-being. Participant safety is a high priority in activity design.
- Volunteering & Public Service** - Volunteers are at the heart of programs and activities to improve your health. In the spirit of national service, we provide opportunities for community engagement.
- Non-Competitive and Inclusion** - We welcome the public to join in events that lead to lifelong fun, fitness and friendship. Everyone is welcome and performs at their own ability level.
- Adventure & Camaraderie** - Every AVA and IVV event is an adventure - scenery, terrain, history - whether in the United States or around the world. Our events and activities provide opportunities to stay connected with friends and make friendships.
- Environmental Stewardship** - We take only memories and leave only footprints. AVA events increase awareness of the importance of preserving our environment for future generations.
- Transparency & Accountability** - From the Club level through the National level, we are open to all. Our tax-exempt nonprofit organization conducts its business openly and complies with all nonprofit legal requirements.

3(b)-1

78



Please join us in San Antonio, TX for the World Heritage Festival September 6 - 10. The Festival is an annual collaborative event to celebrate and promote the San Antonio Missions (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), and raise funds to preserve, maintain, and promote the five Missions. For us, the fun begins the evening of September 8 with *Restored by Light*. We will enjoy seeing Mission Concepcion in its original appearance using projection technology illumination. This free evening event kicks off at 6:30 p.m. with family-friendly activities and entertainment. For more information contact, contact Cory Edwards at 210-207-1496. Mission Concepcion is located at 807 Mission Rd, San Antonio, TX 78210.

On September 9, the *World Heritage Walk* hosted by the Selma Pathfinders starts at Mission Park Pavilion, 6030 Padre Drive, San Antonio, TX at 8 a.m. The start window closes promptly at 9 a.m., and we urge everyone to be here by 8 a.m. for the grand opening. Registered participants will enjoy a 5K or 10K Walk along San Antonio's Hike & Bike Trail, the Acequia Trail, and through Mission San Jose. The walk is sanctioned by AVA: America's Walking Club. For more information, contact Susan Medlin (sueammed@aol.com) or visit AVA.org.

Also on September 9, the *Tour de las Misiones Bike Ride* will kick off at 8 a.m. with an organized Bike Tour. Registered participants will begin and end their 7, 14 or 22 mile ride at Mission Park Pavilion #1. Participants will tour the Southside of San Antonio, the Alamo, and stop at each Mission. For more information, contact Cristian Sandoval at cristian@earnabikecoop.org.

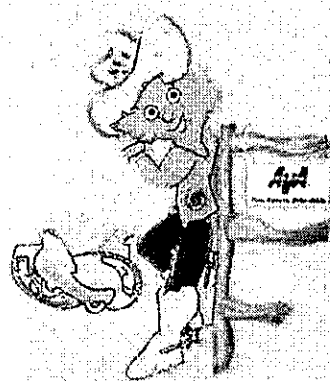
Starting at 10 a.m. there will be a *World Heritage Festival Mission Pachanga* (party) open to all. The Pachanga celebrates our Missions' designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site by bringing together musicians and local artists to highlight the distinct and diverse spirit of our city; rich in history, folk-art, and musical tradition. This free family-friendly event will

feature local art and activities from vendors, food trucks, and musical performances from three fun, upbeat acts.

On September 10, in partnership with Las Misiones, a *Celebratory Mass* will take place in recognition of the World Heritage UNESCO designation as a World Heritage Site. Sunday Mass will be held at Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción, located at Mission Concepcion, 807 Mission Rd, San Antonio, TX 78210, beginning at 10 a.m.

Please register for the walk NLT July 31. The walk is \$15 (\$5 for children 17 and under). August 1 the price rises to \$25 (\$10 for children). All registered walkers receive a t-shirt, goody bag, beer tickets (adults only), IVV/AVA credit, and a completion medal (finishers only). There will be free food, beverages, and entertainment at the Finish. You can register at the Start on the day of the event, but it will be \$25 and your shirt size and goody bag may not be available. For information on the Bike Event, please check the website at worldheritagefestival.org.

3(b)-3



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

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

The Missions are a
UNESCO World Heritage Site

During the San Antonio
Stock Show and Rodeo

SECTIONAL
TEXAS TRAIL
ROUNDUP

San Antonio, Texas
February 23-25, 2018

John Ives, President
Texas Trail Roundup
1.210.849.9498
president@texastrailroundup.org

Susan Medlin
AVA SW Regional Director
1.210.325.3523
trailmaster@texastrailroundup.org



Rendezvous in Ruidoso

3(b)-4

June 1-3, 2018

120 miles north of El Paso is the Lincoln National Forest in the Sacramento Mountains of New Mexico. Both Cloudcroft and Ruidoso are in beautiful pine forests that make for a great escape from hot lowlands. Cloudcroft is a small mountain town at 9,000 feet that prides itself in maintaining its historic nature. Ruidoso is a larger tourist town at about 7,000 feet. During summer, high temperatures are normally 80 in Ruidoso and 74 in Cloudcroft. We are delighted to offer a new 3 day event in Ruidoso, NM in 2018.

Dale Boone and Kevin Ross plan to restart their popular Memorial Day weekend walks in Colorado, May 26-28, 2018, location TBD. Then walkers can spend the next 3 days driving to Ruidoso, doing YRE's along the way. The exact route will depend on the Colorado location, but could include some of the many YRE's in Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Trinidad, Raton, Los Alamos, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque.

Because this is a very small club, we will use the Columbia River Gorge concept. The three Traditional Walks will be sanctioned for all three days. We will operate out of the La Quinta lobby, where folks register and pick up directions & maps. The Start Table will be open from 7 a.m. to noon, and the Finish Table will close at 5 p.m., daily. The trails will be marked for all three days. No checkpoints, and we ask that you check back in at the Lobby at the end of your walks, so we can be sure you have finished safely. These are high altitudes hikes, and walkers are asked to wear hiking boots, use hiking sticks, use sun screen, and carry plenty of water. If you are a flatlander, be prepared to walk slowly and take it easy.

Traditional walks are planned for *Ski Apache to Lookout via Crest Trail* (20/10/5k trails) altitude: 11,400 feet, *Cloudcroft Rail Trails* (20/14/5k) altitude: 10,000 feet, and *Fort Stanton* (23/14/6k) altitude: 6,300 feet. Year Round Walks are *Grindstone Lake* (20/12/6k), *Ruidoso Town* (10/5k) and *Cloudcroft Town* (10/5k).

We plan to offer a Meet & Greet on Thursday evening, time and place TBD. On Friday, 1 June, dinner is at the *Flying J Chuck Wagon*, which features a small western town, old west type chuck wagon dinner and western music stage show. On Saturday, 2 June, dinner at *Cattle Barons*, which has a great salad bar. Our recommended lodging is La Quinta Inn, 26147 US Highway 70, Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346. Rate is \$119 plus tax on Friday and Saturday, and \$89 plus tax on Thursday and Sunday.

Additional areas of interest include Alamogordo's New Mexico Museum of Space History, Smokey Bear Historical Park, the Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort & Casino, the Hubbard Museum of the American West, the Billy the Kid National Scenic Byway Visitor's Center, and Old Apple Barn (for unique gifts, food and fun) on Hwy 82 between Alamogordo and Cloudcroft.

AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE REPORT

3(c)

FOR THE Awards Committee COMMITTEE

FOR THE June 6, 2017 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

FROM (Name): Linda Neu

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

ACTIVITIES:

We have talked among the committee, and we can not come to an agreement about the award in name of Jackie Wilson. some feel that the Trailblazer award is the same as what was requested in the motion.

We have talked about an award between Meritorious service and Distinguished service. This would be a regional award, not a national award. We feel that it is needed for those who do outstanding service, for several years, to both the club and regional level. At this time we could not come up with a name for this award. We suggest that this be passed on to the next awards chair, and that it become a new award for 2019 Biennial convention.

CONCERNS:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please attach any additional material that is part of your report.

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AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE REPORT

3(d)

FOR THE Training COMMITTEE

FOR THE 7 June 2017 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

FROM (Name): Sam Korff

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Completed the Club Operations Guide. Copies will be printed and available at Convention.

ACTIVITIES:

CONCERNS:

There are ESR updates that are not included in the Club Operations Guide.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Club Operations Guide be turned over to the Training Committee for continued update.

Please attach any additional material that is part of your report.

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3(e)

**AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE REPORT**

FOR THE Bike Committee COMMITTEE

FOR THE June 7, 2017 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

FROM (Name): Tom Jackson

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

A report was sent on March 13 to all of the NEC members providing the participation at the Non-Walking Events in 2016. This was the report summary:

2016 Non-Walking YRE/Seasonals

Comparison of 2015 vs 2016			
	2015	2016	Change
Bike	1556	1351	-205
Swim	67	185	118
XC Ski	0	0	0
Snowshoe	0	10	10

2016 Non-Walking Traditional Events

Comparison of 2014 vs 2016			
	2014	2016	Change
Bike	37	366	229
Swim	772	458	-314
XC Ski	14	23	9
Snowshoe	113	143	30
Boating	0	19	19

ACTIVITIES:

Article on sanctioning a snowshoe event was in the Feb/Mar edition of the TAW.

CONCERNS:

As of May 8, the AVA Policy Manual has not been updated to reflect the changes approved at the January NEC Meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

When RDs are approving the 2018 YRE and Seasonals:

All: Use Pay Per Participant Sanctioning if you think participation will be an issue.

Bike:

- Minimum distance to sanction a bike event has been changed to 10K; however, strongly recommend that you sanction at least 25K and offer a shorter option.
- Extended Distance Bike Events - if on an canal towpath or rail trail, sanction the entire completed length.

Swim:

- If the start location for a walk has a swimming pool, consider sanctioning a Volkswim.

Snowshoe:

- There is no minimum distance. Sanction an event where people can rent snowshoes.

Please attach any additional material that is part of your report.

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