

**American Volkssport Association
Acceptance of New, Reactivated, and Deactivated Clubs**

June 2018

New

PA Region- Central Coast Beach Boardwalkers - pending RD approval
SC Region - Northland Steppers - pending RD approval

Reactivated

None

Deactivated

SW Region 11-AVA-0179 Sparkling City Strollers	4/16/2018
AT Region 02-AVA-0980 Steel Turtles	2/7/2018
*AT Region 02-AVA-0021 Washington DC Area Volksmarch Club	pending
*NC Region 04-AVA-0564 Panhandle Walkers	pending
*PA Region 07-AVA-0941 Sierra Gold Striders	pending

*Deactivation status is pending receipt of all required documents.

American Volkssport Association
Committee Report

FOR THE CONVENTION COMMITTEE
FOR THE JUNE 2018 NEC/OFFICERS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
FROM (Name) LEA DARLING

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- * Henry signed the Red Lion Hotel contract and haggled an outstanding room rate with breakfast-\$109.00
- * Banking account open and AVA has given us start up funds of \$1500.00

ACTIVITIES:

- * Fund Raising-we will share our idea at the meeting, working on the specifics
- * Graphic Artist-produced our Convention letterhead stationary, Subaru sponsorship presentation-local and perhaps national, Thank you postcard for prospective sponsors
- * Local Sponsorships-all paperwork is ready, looking to begin soon
- * Merchandise-decided on silk screened logo tee shirt, embroidered polo shirt, volunteer vests and water bottle clip
- * Photography-has volunteer photographers and a computer to view convention pictures
- * Publicity-since August, 2017 has had a convention article submitted and will continue through August 2019
- * Registration-our IT person is working with Jeff Giddings Format is coming along. We were hoping to keep folks from picking and choosing to get more Full Registrations, but that seems insurmountable.
- * Silent Auction/Raffles-soliciting items from businesses and creating paperwork for collecting donations from individuals and clubs
- * Socials-Tuesday Eve-ice cream social, Wed. Eve-Meet & Greet-Take me Out to the Ballgame food, Thurs. Eve-Desserts & A Musical Walk Thru NY History, Fri. Eve still need inspirational speaker, Banquet, AVA Awards, photo booth
- * Transportation- getting bids with the current one being \$22,000 for all 3 days of convention walks
- * Treasurer-banking account open and Erin sent two Voucher Books for our use in requesting AVA's payment on larger expenditures (ones not paid through our AVA "Petty Cash" account at NBT Bank).
- * Walks-collecting budgets from all 8 POC's, refining the walks, getting permits lined up to pay
- * Workshops-local history topics, health, How to Keep Your Club Numbers Up, waiting for list of AVA workshops, and beginning to zero in on leaders for them
- * Vendor Fair- thinking New York State Food and Beverage Fair, vendors selling t shirts, shoes, Health Care representative with healthy lifestyles, reflective safety items, etc.
- * Volunteer-Chris Mellen got us off to a great start with signing folks up in Billings and at the airport when he was going home last year, within our club, Northeast clubs, and will advertise through TAW and registration

* Operation-at-Ease (OAE) operationatease.org , is the not-for-profit organization we will be supporting with a \$1000.00 donation. OAE works with several different shelters and rescues throughout the United States pairing unwanted dogs with disabled veterans at no cost. Tentative plans are for a Community 5k walk with families/ dogs and an Introduction to Volkswalking. We will have TV, radio, newspaper, Facebook and other electronic coverage of this event. Hoping to create a fair theme with face painting, OAE dogs with their handlers, cotton candy, ice cream cones and balloons before and after the walk. We will be collecting donations for OAE. We are planning to hold this 5K Introductory AVA walk/Operation-at- Ease charity on Tuesday late afternoon ending with our Ice Cream Social in a park within a 1/2 mile walk from the Red Lion Hotel. We are hoping some folks coming in for the Convention will join in the walk and support the OAE. These are the plans, but we have yet to meet with OAE.

CONCERNS

- * Busing Costs
- * Available parking for those who insist on driving
- * Hotel space for groups
- * Correct pricing of convention registration
- * Getting a well known inspirational speaker

7(b)

AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE REPORT

FOR THE IT COMMITTEE

FOR THE JUNE 2018 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

FROM: CHRIS ZEGELIN

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The major accomplishments over the last 6 months were:

1. Upgrade to ESR server. This was an operating system upgrade from 2003 (no longer supported) to 2012 which is supported with bug and security fixes. This effort led by Mike Green was a major coup, taking much of the pressure off the IT committee to make choices in a crisis mode.
 - a. On the record, this upgrade could and should have been done 5 years ago, and much of grief that we have encountered with the legacy ESR system would have been mitigated. The system is now stable, and working well.
 - b. Mike has also added some new features and scripts to help RDs, and provide better integration with the OSB and the new stamp software.
 - c. A few issues remain with the upgrade such as email. We are having similar problems with email from the GoDaddy web site. Appears to be DNS, and the choice of Microsoft as our email host. There has to be a solution.
2. The new stamps were rolled out in December of last year. They have been a true success story. The last 6 months have seen new production software for the creation and management of the stamps. There is a flow that is being established to make the process efficient and cost effective.
 - a. The new software allows both HQ and the clubs to modify the text on the stamps. This is live now, and will work for any stamp that has not yet been queued for the laser cutter. This will be demonstrated at the NEC meeting.
3. The member portal "my.ava.org" is still in progress but is able support a legacy club login and access for the clubs to modify the stamp text.
 - a. We will announce this as part of the renewal process for 2019.
 - b. The majority of the work completed is stamp production software and backend HQ management software. This is not visible to the public but is a critical part of making the portal useful to the organization.
 - i. The software breakdown is: 1/3 for the overall structure of the web site, 1/3 for HQ management, while the last 1/3 are member pages and functionality.

ACTIVITIES:

The major ongoing work is as follows:

1. Improvements to the stamp production software.
2. Moving the OSB from the "cva4u.org" web site to the new member portal. The management pages are moving first with the ability to fully manage the events, and the money. Once the management is working well, the member functionality will be moved.

3. Completing a new participation reporting module. The first effort will focus on the ACE events.
4. Capturing more of the legacy ESR data into a form where it is readily accessible. This is a prelude to moving the ESR into the member portal.
5. A new "presentation layer" for finding clubs and events. This will replace the existing legacy pages to provide a much better experience for members.
 - a. The difficulty is that many of our events are not Geolocation ready. There is no consistent field in the sanction that allows us to use Google services to accurately mark a map.
 - b. Providing a consistent way that we present the sanction information that spans across all media types. This becomes important as we add new features and functionality.
6. 2019 convention registration and management software. We are creating a new strategy for pre and onsite registration with the goal of reducing both the people required and the time that participants spend onsite to get their registration packets.
 - a. Features:
 - i. The signed waiver, registration and payment can be done in advance.
 - ii. Onsite registration kiosk. The personal waiver and receipt is printed. Payments by Paypal, check or physical credit card.
 - iii. Bar coding and labels to manage participation. A label machine will print registration cards onsite.
 - b. The software and equipment (\$8000) will be usable for at least three conventions, including the possibility of hosting an IVV Olympiad.
 - i. It will scale to 5000 attendees.
 - c. A convention web site is under construction.
7. Working with the Membership committee to identify easy to implement features that will be attractive to the membership.

CONCERNS:

There is only one minor concern. There is so much need in so many places, and everyone smells progress. We want it all now. Even with 5 developers actively working on the projects, it will take years to catch up.

We have taken a full year to understand and plan for the future with a set of projects that meet the current critical needs. This is a typical and appropriate length of time to formulate a solid strategy that is a transition, not a train wreck.

We are modifying and improving current functionality while our members are using the systems. This is akin to building the plane while it is flying along. There are ways to mitigate the problems that are encountered when faced with this reality, and we are spending the extra effort to lessen the impact of the new work on the existing systems. It all takes time.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

We need to figure out what to do with the current AVA.org web site. This needs to be a collective effort because it affects most of the committees. There is a need to redo the look and feel into something more this decade (century??), and to reorganize the information so it is easier to find. This web site does not help a new walker with the basic question, "what do I do next?". The "new walker story" proposal is insufficient to accomplish the goals.

8(a)

AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE REPORT

FOR THE National Programs and IML Committee COMMITTEE

FOR THE June 2018 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

FROM (Name): Susan Medlin, SWRD

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. The Appalachian Trail Special Program opened on January 1, 2018. As of May 10, 2018, we sold 180 of the first 200 books. Tom Jackson has done an outstanding job getting the program set up and he and Helen Garamone have been selling books. Instead of making this a "true" National Program without an end date, we decided to sell books for 10 years. This lessens the burden on the clubs who are sanctioning the events.
2. Wisconsin's Ice Age Trail Special Program will open this summer. All walks used the Online Start Box. Once Pay Pal is set up the program will be up and running. If it is successful, we will look at regional programs in Missouri and Ohio.
3. The Pacific Crest Trail Special Program is pushed back to 2019 or later; due to the devastating fires along the West Coast that have damaged the trails.
4. The briefing to the IML Congress in Sweden was successful, thanks to all who attended and provided support. We will be inspected 23 - 25 Feb 2019 by the IML President and Vice President, so it would be great if everyone made a special effort to be there. The IML President is coming a few days early to meet with the leadership, and I could set up a dinner with those NEC members present.
4. Reminder: we are ending the SNOB Special Program on December 31, 2018.

ACTIVITIES:

CONCERNS:

I am asking for \$5,000 in 2019 to cover the cost of the two IML Inspectors at our San Antonio event. I would like the AVA budget beginning in 2020 to cover the annual 350 Euro fee for hosting each of the two American IML events, Arlington VA and San Antonio, TX.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve the budget recommendations.

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

Print Form

Reset Form

Submit AVA Committee Report to AVA Headquarters by Email

8(b)

AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE REPORT

For the: Awards and Recognition Committee
For the: June, 2018 National Executive Council Meeting
From: Suzi Glass, Chairperson

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The Committee now has 3 members—in need of at least 2 more.
Creating nominations timeline – see draft under Activities.

ACTIVITIES:

Nominations timeline (draft):

July 31, 2018 --RD's submit to Awards Chair awards for Meritorious Service, Commendable Service, Trailmaster Certification and Certificates of Appreciation they issued between the June, 2017 AVA Convention and June 30, 2018. Include the person's, club's or business name, city, state and award received. Meritorious Service awards also require the qualifying nomination paragraph.

November 1, 2018 --the following National Award Nominations due to RD's for approval or reworking: AVA Hall of Fame Award, AVA Distinguished Achievement Award, Ted Ballman Youth Award, Trailblazer Award and IVV Honors. Nominations for President's Award are sent directly to the AVA President.

December 1, 2018 --RD's send all nominations to Awards Chair.

December 15, 2018 --Awards Committee members vote on national nominations. Award Chair tallies votes and comments for NEC.

January, 2019 NEC Meeting -- NEC votes on all national nominations.

March 1, 2019 --RD's collect all nominations for Meritorious Service, Commendable Service, Trailmaster Certifications and Certificates of Appreciation they issued between June 2018 and March, 2019. NEC members list the Committee Members they wish to recognize for

committee work and order the green certificates and patches.

March 15, 2019 --All NEC members forward their awards to the Awards Committee Chair.

March 30, 2019 --draft of all nominations since the 2017 AVA Convention sent to NEC members for corrections and additions.

April 10, 2019 --final list of all nominations sent to NEC members for final checkoff.

April 20, 2019 --Awards booklet for the Convention goes to print.

CONCERNS: None

RECOMMENDATIONS: Each member of the NEC suggest an active volkssporter to serve on the Awards Committee.

ACTIVITIES

1. 313 Participants enrolled in VOP as of May 4, 2018
2. Developing research for VOP map for 2019- Walk Across Canada, incorporating permanent Canadian Volkspport Trails.
3. Completing design of 401K T-shirt.
4. Scrubbing Walker Tracker reports to correct address changes to prepare for sending first batch of 401K T-shirts in July.
5. Creating a Thank you to send with T-shirt.
6. Working with office to compare Walker Tracker report to AVA Associate Member report. Non-AVA members will be sent AVA membership information with their T-shirt.
7. Creating list of items to correct/streamline in order to move the VOP registration/billing and administrative duties the AVA office.
8. Working with Asheville Amblers school program liaison for the grade school program.
9. Continue to promote VOP through Facebook, checkpoint and Regional Directors.
10. Continue working with Windy City Walkers to help implement their first large Girl Scout event.
11. Research 0-60 President Physical Fitness Challenge.

No Concerns at this time

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Continuing the Walk Together Patch competition as a generic patch to be used for all scouts and youth.
2. Continue the VOP into 2019 with one of the new programs focused on "Walk Across Canada." the other, a Regional Team Competition with a traveling trophy to be awarded at the AVA convention in Albany.
3. Initiate VOP as a separate committee:
 - a) To help VOP and office coordinate the transfer^c administrative duties (if desired)
 - b) VOP will still need a creative team to build maps and decide what programs to offer. This is time consuming.
 - c) To solicit team members who are focused primarily on VOP technology.

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

Print Form

Reset Form

Submit AVA Committee Report to AVA Headquarters by Email



Virtual Online Program Statistic Reports as of 5/31/18



Fun, Fitness, Friendship

Would you like information on AVA?

Row Labels	Count of Email
no	3
no thanks i am already a volkswalker	28
yes	220
Grand Total	51

Participants by Ethnicity

Row Labels	Count of Email
asian or pacific islander	9
black or african american	4
hispanic or latino	6
native american	6
other	1
white or caucasian	7
Grand Total	268

Participants by gender

Row Labels	Count of Email
female	215
male	86
Grand Total	301

44% of participants found this program a source other than the official AVA communication. *from*

Row Labels	Count of Email
from a friend and or club member	4
i searched it on the internet social media	92
other	26
the checkpoint	42
the tav	76
Grand Total	61

Participants by age

Row Labels	Count of Email
17 and under	2
18 29	1
30 39	8
40 49	20
50 59	69
60 69	131
70 79	60
80 89	5
(blank)	5
Grand Total	301

Row Labels	Count of Email
married	8
single	194
Grand Total	99



Virtual Online Program Statistic Reports as of 5/31/18



Participants by Region

Northwest	71
Pacific	14
Rocky Mountain	11
North Central	20
South Central	12
Southwest	19
Mid America	34
Southeast	42
Atlantic	49
Northeast	8
England	1
Nova Scotia	1
Canada	1
Blank	18

Participants by State

Row Labels	Count of Email
AL	3
Alberta	1
AZ	1
Bedfordshire	1
CA	11
CO	8
FL	26
GA	1
IA	3
ID	2
IL	10
IN	11
KS	1
MA	3
MD	17
MI	2
MN	4
MO	10
NC	5
Ne	4
NM	2
Nova Scotia	1
NV	2
NY	4
OH	11
OK	1
OR	22
PA	12
SC	1
TN	6
TX	17
UT	1
VA	18
VT	1
WA	47
WI	9
WV	2
WY	2
(blank)	18
Grand Total	301

Participants who are not AVA Associate Members 21

8(d)

**AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE REPORT**

FOR THE _____ Training Development _____ **COMMITTEE**

FOR THE _____ June 2018 _____ **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

FROM (Name): _____ Tom Baltes, Committee Chair _____

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- As a committee we've published monthly articles in the Checkpoint publication to engage Volkssporters and especially club officers in discussions about policies and procedures. This has led to some very fruitful discussions with clubs and individuals from across the country.
- Solicited and received inputs for workshop topics for the 2019 convention and are working with the convention committee to formulate a plan.

ACTIVITIES:

Working with the convention committee and many other players we have been engaged in identifying workshop topics and presenters for the June 2019 convention. At the June NEC meeting we will have a good outline of the plan to present.

Henry Rosales and I have explored the potential for a college level course involving some elements of Volkssporting. In the not so distant past Becky Forsythe from WA and one or two other colleagues hosted a course on Volkssporting through Portland Community College. Becky has shared some of the course materials and I'm sure could be a good resource if there's a move to reintroduce the concept.

Several RDs and others have identified the need for updating the Trailmaster's Guide and Club Operations Guide. We've had that on our agenda from the beginning of my tenure, but the process for updating and timing are still being worked.

Budget development: Having little history to fall back on, we estimate that Training will have administrative costs of about \$750 for printing. Costs associated with workshops at the convention we would suggest be budgeted through the convention committee.

CONCERNS:

- Identifying the target market for training is a difficult challenge and the types of training desired is also hard to pinpoint. Calls for topics from clubs and individuals hasn't produced a lot of insight. The "old heads" are generally familiar with our processes and procedures. What they generally lack is familiarity with newer technologies and often they don't want to adopt new ways of doing business.
- In developing the convention workshop plan we have to speculate on who the attendees will be. For the most part it will be long time Volkssporters, so they need more workshops oriented toward the latest innovations. For newcomers we need to have a variety of basic sessions on various club officer duties, the ESR system and the functions of the national office.
- Innovations from the IT Committee and several others will have a growing impact on Training Development beyond the convention. We need to find efficient, low-cost ways to proliferate that training once the processes and programs are ready to roll out to the clubs.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Finalizing committee charters is a necessary bit of organizing and then we need to stabilize our committee membership. While it may be necessary or desirable to change chairmanships with new board leadership, it would help our continuity by having some committee membership remain on board.

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

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