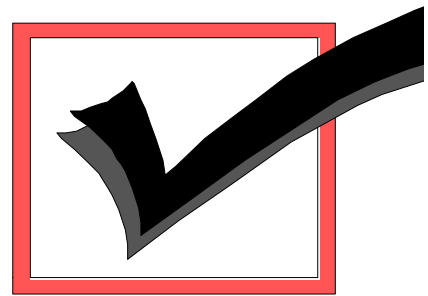


# AVA CHECKPOINT



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**Message From the President** This December issue of the *AVA Checkpoint* is being released just prior to Thanksgiving 2011 so I would like to take this opportunity to wish you, your family members and your club members a very **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**.

This holiday is a special time in our great country for families and friends to get together to enjoy a sumptuous feast and to give thanks for their many blessings over the past year. As Americans, we have been richly blessed, especially by the freedoms that are a unique part of this nation and to those who protect us from danger.

We should pause and give special thanks to the men and women of the armed forces for the extreme sacrifices that they have made to protect us and our way of life...an immeasurable gift.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING to everyone!**

Heinz Johnson, President

**Officers and Regional Directors** The next NEC meeting will be held at Fairfield Inn & Suites, 5008 Corridor Loop Road, Schertz, Texas, 78154. Meeting starts Friday evening, January (20), Saturday (21), and Sunday morning (22), if necessary. Remember all agenda items from the officers and RDs are due at the AVA NATHQ no later than Wednesday/7 December. Please use the form attached. All officer and committee reports are due at the AVA NATHQ no later than Wednesday/21 December. Please use the forms attached. The agenda will be sent to the NEC for review no later than Wednesday/21 December. The agenda will be e-mailed to all club presidents no later than Wednesday/21 December. The meeting agenda, including agenda items and reports, will be e-mailed to the NEC no later than Friday/30 December.

**TAW Deadline** The February/March issue of *The American Wanderer* deadline is, December 25. All articles and photographs should be submitted directly to Laurel Parrott, Editor [taw@bhi.com](mailto:taw@bhi.com) or mail to: 3526 Humboldt Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55412. Be sure to include "TAW" in the subject line if emailing.

**Starting Point 2012** Once we receive our shipment, we will do our best to ship them as soon as possible to fill individual orders. We should be able to ship in time for Christmas delivery. Order form is attached.

**E-Postcard** Clubs have until December 31, 2011 to file for a Reinstatement of Tax Exemption with the IRS with a reduced filing fee. See IRS attachment for further information.

**Year Round Event Walk Boxes** Start everyone off on the right foot by taking the time to ensure that your Event Walk Boxes are fully stocked with updated maps, brochures and supplies. You will no doubt leave a lasting impression of what a great organization we are. Remember to replace the 2011 event stamp slug, with a new 2012 slug.

**Club Inventory Items** Remember to remove any outdated materials from your club inventory of *New Walker Packets* or anything else that you have on hand for participants to purchase or look through. Replace the old *Starting Point* order form with the new 2012 order form. A new form is attached for your convenience. Remember to remove any mention of the old 1-800 number, old AVA logos and tag lines, also that Brazos Walking Sticks is no longer a sponsor. Update any information about the new Event and Distance Rules for stamping IVV Books.

**No Dash - or X in your Data** When you are entering you zip code, club phone numbers or emails into the Club database records, only input the numbers, do not input (dashes -, XX or anything else) between the sets of numbers. If you do, the phone number and zip code will appear incorrect on the website listing for your events. Do not use the “enter” key, simply click in the area you need to update. The general public, as well as headquarters, will not be able to reach you for assistance. Click on the *Help for Clubs* link [http://www.ava.org/help\\_for\\_clubs/TableOfContents.htm](http://www.ava.org/help_for_clubs/TableOfContents.htm) and watch for specific details in the module that tells you how to input the data carefully.

**Club Websites and Marketing Material** On a daily basis, we are still seeing many club websites, newsletters, and brochures depicting the old AVA tag line and outdated partnership logos. Please ensure that you have the AVA, *Fun, Fitness, Friendship* logo/tagline, and that our current sponsor is Yamax.

**Biennial Report Revisions** Recently NATHQ revised a few minor items in the official 2009 - 2011 Biennial Report. A current copy has been posted to the AVA website, *Publications-Forms* link, then select *AVA Biennial Reports* link [http://www.ava.org/ava\\_biennial\\_reports/ava\\_biennial\\_reports.htm](http://www.ava.org/ava_biennial_reports/ava_biennial_reports.htm). If you have questions or concerns please contact [AVAHQ@ava.org](mailto:AVAHQ@ava.org).

**Gift Giving** – Consider giving Holiday gifts of AVA merchandise at your AVA event, to an AVA volunteer, or to family and friends from the *Merchandise Store*. Don't forget to *refresh* web pages 2, 3, or 4 if you happen to receive an error message.

**Headquarters Holiday Closings** Mondays, December 26 and January 2. Wishing all AVA Clubs and fellow Volkssporters a *Joyous and Happy Holiday Season* from our AVA family to yours.

#### **The Money Bag by Candace Purcell**

**GREAT LAKES SPECIAL EVENT PROGRAM:** If you completed this program and have not received your award from the program POC please email your name, and address to [AVAHQ@ava.org](mailto:AVAHQ@ava.org). AVA has placed an order for these patches and will be happy to send one to you. We regret that we are unable to replace your book.

**ATTENTION ALL SPECIAL EVENT PROGRAMS:** Hosting Clubs are ultimately responsible to the participants of these programs, please read number 5 of the *Special Event Program Policy*. (policy is attached) Please select an alternate POC for your program, someone who can carry out the duties in the event the POC is unable or unwilling to fulfill their obligations; someone who will see the event through to the official end and the nine months after, even if the club is no longer active.

Please email your alternate's name, address and contact information along with the name of the sponsoring club and the name of the Special Event Program to [AVAHQ@ava.org](mailto:AVAHQ@ava.org). Please do not select an alternate who resides in the same household as the POC. It is necessary that the alternate have full access to all records and materials of your program. AVA will keep this information on file for each Special Event Program. Hopefully having an alternate will help future participants be assured that when completing one of these events they will receive the awards they earned.

Please always use the official name of your program, as it was submitted and approved by the National Executive Council. This official name must be used on all materials and printing for your program. No variation can be used.

**FootMatters** Winter season products like their hand and toe warmers, or the *Ice Claw* are available at a discounted price to AVA participants. Promotional flyer attached.

#### **Attachments:**

NEC Agenda Item Motion Form  
AVA Officer Report Form  
AVA Committee Report Form  
*Starting Point 2012* order form for individuals  
Reinstatement of Tax Exemption IRS Information  
Special Event Programs Management Policy  
FootMatters promotional for AVA participants