



CHECKPOINT ✓

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

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Upcoming Deadlines:

The 2016 YRE and Seasonal Renewal deadline was midnight August 31, 2015 to be included in the 2016 Starting Point book. Regional Directors deadline is September 15, 2015 to review renewals.

2016 Starting Point Book ([click here for fillable pre-order form](#))

Pre-Order deadline has been extended to **no later than midnight, October 16** (Deadline necessary for Publisher). Pre-order forms will also be in the Oct/Nov TAW.

Special Programs 2017 – Special Programs Committee Chair Bonnie Johnson:

At each January NEC meeting, new Special Programs are introduced for review and approval by the NEC to begin the following year. In January 2016, the Special Programs will be introduced which, if approved, would start up on January 1, 2017.

Any club considering a new Special Program must have all the documentation sent to your Regional Director and to the Special Program Committee Chair, Bonnie Johnson **by November 1, 2015**. The documents must include a colored copy of the patch and its dimensions, a mock up booklet with your particular Special Program rules and qualifiers. An expense report with a minimum order of 100 patches, postage and printing for a cost estimation to support your program must also be attached. Please check the AVA website under: Administrative, General Administration, Publications/Policies, AVA Special Programs Management Policy for the information and procedures in hosting an AVA Special Program.

Send the documentation for your proposed Special Program to Bonnie Johnson, Special Program Committee Chair, 25-66th Way NE, Fridley MN 55432 or send a pdf file to bonjohn@comcast.net.

Special Programs 2015:

All Programs which began in 2015 please check to see if you have paid the fee of \$300 for each of your programs. If not, please do so. Send payment to Candace Purcell at National Headquarters.

Invoice and Statement Addresses:

Changes for the addresses of club individuals receiving invoices and statements should be updated no later than the 25th day of the Month in club maintenance to ensure the correct information is pulled for the addressee.

HQ Awards and Membership Coordinator – Karen Winkle:

Please make sure that the correct address is on your Event and Distance books, as well as on Membership renewals, so that Karen can verify the database listing.

Please keep in mind information that will be printed in TAW is sent in almost 2 months before the issue the issue is sent out.

To view the Monthly Comparison Chart for new walkers completing their first 10 Events [click here](#), and to

see the Monthly Comparison Chart for the Total Number of Awards processed [click here](#). The charts are also included as attachments.

Girl Scout 2015-2016 Patches and Order Form: ([click here for fillable order form](#))

To order the 2015-2016 Girl Scout patch simply complete the form and return to Karen Winkle at the AVA headquarters. You may fill out and submit the form by email to Karen@ava.org or print the form and submit by mailing it to The American Volkssport Association, 1001 Pat Booker Road, Suite 101, Universal City, TX 78148.

National Volkssport Month – October 2015: ([click here for fillable order form](#))

October is National Volkssport Month. Clubs hosting events during the month of October can order patches by filling out and returning this form to AVA national headquarters at least 30 days prior to the event(s). Supplies are limited, so orders will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Clubs may place preorders until supply is exhausted. Don't miss the chance to offer this collectible patch to walk participants. Contact Theresa at Theresa@ava.org to order your patches or fill out the attached form.

HQ Events Coordinator – Marie Bebley:

Annual Financial Reports, e-postcards, and Officer Updates deadline is **November 15, 2015**.

- Now that you renewed your YRE and Seasonal Events, please check your event information and descriptions to ensure updates if necessary. Please add all qualified Special Programs to be added on the 2016 Start Point Book.
- Please see attached list of clubs still missing 2nd Quarterly Reports ([click here](#)). All late reports are subject to \$10/report Late Fee.

AVA Executive Director's Updates

Strategic Planning Update – Keep the information coming!

The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) met in San Antonio, Texas August 13-15, 2015. All AVA Regions were represented in the meetings. For a detailed report please read the update below by the SPC Vice-Chair, Nancy Wittenberg. The next scheduled convening of the SPC is November 17-19, in Dallas, Texas.



Within the next few weeks a survey will go out via email and mail to all clubs and individual members of AVA. Your response to this survey is critical because it is one of the tools the SPC will utilize in assessing the current and future status of AVA as identified by our Clubs and Volkssporters.

If you would like to give the Strategic Planning Committee input on how you see the future of AVA and what things we need to change or add to keep AVA moving forward send your comments directly to me at execdir@ava.org. Be sure to put **Strategic Plan Input** on the subject line.

Special thanks to the Randolph Road Runners Club for their support with the NEC and SPC meetings!

Strategic Planning Committee Report – By Nancy Wittenberg, Vice-Chair

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) met from Thursday morning, August 13, through Saturday morning, August 15. Chair, David Bonewitz, was not able to attend, because of previous European travel commitments.

To review, at our joint meeting Thursday morning we jointly reviewed the Charter and the Roadmap timeline, and made adjustments. You also provided instructions.

Your intent is that

Within five years, we will reverse the decline and set conditions for positive growth and a transition to a healthy and vibrant organization.

Your specific guidance (prepared in executive session, Wednesday, August 12) is:

- Strive for simplicity
- Produce achievable goals with success measures
- Prioritize implementation
- Initially planned unrestrained funding
- Provide periodic reporting at least monthly
- Reps keep your RDs informed
- Game club and membership support and input survey
- NEC fully supports the SPC

In short, you expect a plan that is doable, with goals that are achievable in five years with the understanding that there will be more to do beyond that time frame.

We organized into subcommittees:

- Membership,
- Programs and data,
- Governance and policy,
- Communications and marketing,
- Financial (the AVA treasurer is handling this),
- Staff (our facilitator, Bobbi Bilnoski, is coordinating their self-assessment), and
- Planning.

The membership subcommittee started developing surveys for clubs, associate members and participants for distribution on or about September 1.

The communications subcommittee has prepared articles for the next issue of The American Wanderer (TAW) describing the committee and the surveys they may have seen by the time the TAW comes out.

A data subcommittee prepared a list of data that would be useful for this effort—some will be used by the programs subcommittee, and some by the membership committee.

Dennis Michele further clarified the role of at-large members. Regional representatives are the major players in the SPC. The strategic plan will be based on what they feel best for AVA and their regions.

- At-large members are free to attend SPC meetings, but at their own expense.
- Only regional representatives may chair sub-committees of the SPC.
- At-large members will have no vote in SPC decisions.

Our next meeting will be November 17 – 19 in Dallas, TX. This will be the second face-to-face meeting that has been budgeted, and we will develop scenarios for the NEC at its January meeting. The NEC will need to review and choose one for the SPC to flush out in its final recommendations that will be presented at the June 2016 NEC meeting in Fredericksburg, TX.

CONCERNS: None at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None at this time.

-End of Report

Strategic Planning Committee Members

CHAIR: David Bonewitz serd4ava@gmail.com
VICE-CHAIR: Nancy Wittenberg newittenberg@gmail.com

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

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CONSULTANT/FACILITATOR: Bobbi Bilnoski bobbi@bilnoski.onmicrosoft.com

NEW POLICY- Per Participant Sanctioning Fee (PPSF) Program Ready to Roll!

At the NEC meeting convened January 30-31, 2015 the NEC passed a motion to change the AVA policy on sanctioning events to implement a 2 year pilot “per participant sanctioning fee” program for events which regularly have insufficient paying participants to support the current sanction fee for such events. Effective immediately clubs can submit a request to their Regional Directors to have an event sanctioned as a PPSF program. If approved by the RD the club will not be charged the traditional sanction fee for the event and instead the club will pay \$1.00 per each participant in addition to the standard \$1.25 payable to the AVA for credit or non IVV participants.

The Per Participant Sanction Fee (PPSF) process is as follows:

1. Clubs must go onto the AVA event sanction site and sanction an event in the same manner. (Clubs may want to wait to do this until after the RD has made a decision on the approval or disapproval of their event.)
2. Clubs will submit a request to their RD’s to have an event sanctioned as a PPSF. It is up to the RD to determine how they want to receive these requests.
3. The RD will use the “Approval Guidelines” to either approve or disapprove of the club’s request for a PPSF. Although some State Associations approve of sanctions, only the RD can approve of a PPSF request during this two year trial of the PPSF program.
4. If not approved the RD will contact the club as to the rationale why it was not approved and the club will pay the traditional sanction fee.
5. If approved the RD will submit the fillable form, found on the AVA website, within reasonable time to the AVA Headquarters to the attention of Theresa Hutchison so that the club is not billed the traditional sanction fee.
6. The club will be billed \$1.00 per each participant in addition to the standard \$1.25 for credit or non-IVV participants once participation reports have been processed.

The “approval guidelines” adopted by the NEC to be used by an RD when considering a PPSF request are as follows:

The Regional Director is the final decider if a club’s event qualifies. The Regional Director should use the following guidelines in the decision process:

- Non-walking events would qualify. However, if your region has a lot of a particular type of non-walking event, you may decide that type wouldn’t qualify in your region or in a particular area.
- Events might be either traditional or year-round/seasonal.
- Remote walks, far from any clubs’ areas would qualify. Consider driving time, population centers, club members’ home locations and driving habits of club members in defining what is remote for you.
- Consider the club:
 - Is this a new event, or a new type of event that the club is trying?
 - Was the event in existence but originally subsidized by the state association?
 - Is this club providing this event in remote areas of the state to support challenges or special programs, such as county challenges?
 - Is there a chance of starting a club in a new area and the state association or another club could provide a traditional event there to help?
 - Is this club providing means to support the walks they have, such as group walks or publicity? We don’t want to discourage group walks because the club finds it easier just to pay less for sanctioning.
- Differences in the ways regional directors interpret the guidelines is to be expected.

The American Volkssport Association

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