

NEC News



NEC Meeting Updates & Deadlines

The next NEC meeting will be held January 20-22, 2017 in Bentonville/Rogers, Arkansas. The meeting location will be the Fairfield Inn & Suite-Rogers, located at 4611 Rozell Road, Rogers, AR 72756. Point of contact is: Leah Hendricks/Director of Sales, (479) 936-5901. If you will be attending and would like to get the discounted room rate of \$79.00+ please call Leah and advise her you are with the AVA and want the discounted group room rate. You must call before December 12, 2016.

The deadline to submit Agenda items for the January 2017 NEC meeting has passed. Please note the following additional deadlines:

December 06, 2016: Final list of agenda items sent to clubs for review and comment to their respective RD.

December 21, 2016: All meeting reports from RD's and committees due to AVA

[Click here for Officer Report Form](#)

[Click here for Committee Report Form](#)

December 30, 2016: Agenda and reports sent out to the NEC



Gateway Milers World Bird Sanctuary Walk in St. Louis, MO on 11/12/16. This was also a designated Girl Scout "Walk Together" entitled Ramble with the Raptors.
Deb Kruep

NEC Committee Updates

Information and Technology—Frank Sayers, Chair



“Volksbikers on the Rehoboth Beach, DE Sea Witch Festival bike ride on October 29, 2016”.

Spam, Scams and Shopping

If you receive an unsolicited email from anyone asking you to follow a link and login or to download an attachment – your friends, neighbors, office mates, regional directors, bank, credit union, credit card company, FedEx, UPS, gas company, electric company, IRS, anyone at all.

IT IS A SCAM

DELETE IT, DELETE IT, DELETE IT

Do not think about it. Do not try to analyze the email. DO NOT CLICK or DOWNLOAD from it.

DELETE IT, DELETE IT, DELETE IT

There are no exceptions to this rule. Even if you know the name and the company and it really looks legitimate, it is a scam, they want your money and your identity, IT IS A SCAM, DELETE IT.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions – right after you have deleted the email. Do not keep it, do not put it into another folder, do not analyze it, simply delete it. No one and no company will EVER ask you to follow a link in an email to login or download a .zip file. Never. It is a scam. Delete it. Please let me know if this is not clear. Right after you delete that unsolicited email from Microsoft. Delete it.

Online Shopping Rules

Use Familiar Websites - Do not follow search engine links, go directly to where you want to go by typing the address directly into your address bar

Look for the Lock - The address will begin with https://, and there is a padlock either right next to the URL or on the bottom status bar

Don't Tell All - No shopping site needs your social security number or birth date, do not give them up

Check your Statements online - Confirm what you expect to see that you spent, and take immediate action if something strange shows up

Run an Anti-Virus - Your choice

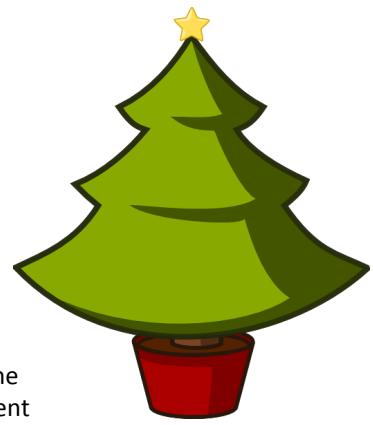
Use Strong Passwords - lower case letter, upper case letter, number, special character - no dictionary words

Mobile Shopping - Only use official store apps

Think Three Times before using a Public Wi-Fi

Hope everyone has a happy holiday season.





AVA Best Practices Get Ready to Grow!

The following excerpts are from Steve Hughart, Membership Chair of the Sacramento Walking Sticks (SWS), regarding growing your club. SWS went from 8 members to over 400 members, the largest club in California!

Decide to grow your club by making a commitment to do the work necessary. Think big and long-term. Growth doesn't happen overnight.

Make growth your first priority, money your second. While money is important, growth brings in more club dues and participants' fees that can solve money issues.

Value volunteer hours over money. The first is harder to come by.

Understand that you may have to change the way you do business—when considering practices, “we’ve always done it that way” is not a reason to avoid changing.

Be willing to learn new things—take ideas from other clubs, members, non-members, other groups that are service providers or anybody.

Make sure to read the AVA Policy Manual and By-Laws, as well as those of your state association (if applicable) and your club before starting new things.

Publicize anywhere you can and target the entire population. At first, avoid focusing on a certain demographic, since volkssporting is unknown by most folks.

Not all ideas will work, especially the first time. Consider failures learning experiences.

Take objective, honest measurements of your membership and event participation to see if your efforts are paying off. For comparison, keep track of numbers in a spreadsheet.

Programs Committee—Debra Kruep, Chair



We had approximately 33 AVA clubs #optoutside on Black Friday! Thank you and congratulations to the clubs, our president, our executive director, the program committee and Headquarters staff for a fantastic team effort! The first of many I hope. The enthusiasm during this movement was just an eye opener. I love to see so many people excited. We are calculating figures now and will have a full report in the next TAW. Please keep #optoutside in your thoughts as your club designs your walk calendar for 2017.

The program committee is still looking for one club to host the 2017-2018 Walk Together Girl Scout patch contest. The Midwest has hosted for the last several years. I would like a club from a different region. If your club is interested in sponsoring the contest and working with your local Girl Scout council contact me by December 31, 2016 debmarkkruep1@yahoo.com.

Nominating Committee Chair—Glen Conyers

2017 Elections

As we approach the 20th Biennial Billings Montana convention in June of 2017, we must remember that we are also approaching the election of officers for the upcoming new term. Positions open are President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

This is when you as an AVA member choose to run for a national office. Look at yourself and the services you have provided to your club, state and region. Are you ready to stand up and say “Elect me. I am qualified to serve you as a National Officer.” It is easy to sit back and criticize. This may be the time you step forward and make a difference.

Your Nominating Committee is a group of interested AVA members who volunteer their time to serve on this committee. Their purpose is to assist the candidates seeking office to understand the time lines and procedures to seek an office.

Election Guidelines for candidates to the NEC XX are in the December/January issue of TAW and the AVA website.



National Special Programs—Susan Medlin, Chair

AVA Mascot Contest

The wait is over! Our AVA Mascot Contest closed 30 Nov 2016. We received a number of clever, original submissions. Thanks to all the artistic folk who took the time to create a potential AVA Mascot. Now the possible mascots are circulating throughout AVA. Please review the submissions, take a look at the grading criteria, and let your Regional Director know which one you prefer. At the January 2017 NEC meeting, the NEC will vote on the AVA Mascot, and the winner will be revealed at the AVA Convention in June 2017, in beautiful Billings, Montana. A special note; the Blue Walker has plush blue fur and is gender neutral. If Weldon the Walker is chosen, a female version (Heidi the Hiker?) will be provided by the artist.



AVA IVY



AVA Millie: the millipede



[Click here to view mascot submissions.](#)

AVA National Office Team

Awards and Membership Coordinator—Karen Winkle

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

2016 Centurion Books

THE END IS NEAR!!!!

December 31st is coming soon. All 2016 Centurion books must be in by February 15th, 2017.

Now is also the time to purchase your 2017 Centurion book. (\$15 first book, \$10 for second book purchased for same year).

You must be a National Associate Member to participate in the program. So join today. ([Click here for membership form](#))



For more information and form [please click here](#).

Information and Technology Specialist—Hector Hernandez

Starting Point Books On Sale NOW!

Thanks to our team, all preordered books are in the mail. We are still taking orders. Remember this is a first-come first-served basis, so don't forget to buy your book today for \$25 plus shipping and handling. To place an order please contact Theresa at (210) 659-2112.



Walks to Remember

Lets begin the New Year with a walk. What is your club's famous walk coming up for the month of January? Email your club's walks information to hector@ava.org and we will help to market your walk.

Starting Point Changes

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

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

Shop Online and Support AVA

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



Sign up for Goodshop by going to https://www.goodsearch.com/login?return_path=%2Finvite-friends. Your user profile will help keep track of the amount



you've raised. Select **American Volkssport Association—AVA** from the participating organizations and begin shopping. At no cost to you, a portion of all eligible purchases will go to your chosen cause. 100% of the donation amount displayed on merchant's Goodshop page will go to the charity or school of your choice. *(We hope it is AVA!)*



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

Thank you to all our online shoppers!

Accounting Specialist—Theresa Hutchison

Changes in Billing Addresses

When your Clubs change Treasures please call AVA National Office to report a change in billing address to Theresa Hutchison at (210) 659-2112.

2017 Starting Points are on their way!



AVA National Office Transition

The team at our National Office asks for your patience as we work through the transition due to the departure of Marie. Her main responsibility was to work with clubs. During the interim, please refer your questions and concerns to the following individuals at the National office:

For questions about late fees, sanction fees, participation fees and all invoice related questions please contact Erin.

For questions about stamps, sanction numbers, club insurance, reports and all other club related questions about an event please contact Samanta.

For any technical support and website related questions please contact Hector. He will work closely with our IT Chair to help resolve any database related issues.

We are very grateful for the many years of service Marie gave to the AVA and wish her the best with her new job!

2017 Convention Update-Club Exhibit Tables, Paid Sponsorships & Silent Auction

If your club would like to host an exhibit table or send literature to be displayed during the convention this June in Billings, Montana please contact Sherry Sayers at ChairPerson@2017AVAConvention.org. The tables are free for all State Associations and Clubs on a first come first served basis.

Help us lower convention costs by supporting our efforts to identify individuals, organizations or companies who might be interested in purchasing a table or sponsorship for the convention. If you know of anyone feel free to send them the attached sponsorship form and contact Henry Rosales at henry@ava.org so that he can follow up. [For sponsorship form click here.](#)

The convention committee is seeking donated auction items for the silent auction. If you have something you would like to donate or need more information, please contact Sherry Sayers at ChairPerson@2017AVAConvention.org

2019 Convention Application/Proposal

The application/proposal for the 2019 convention is still under construction and expected to be released in early January 2017. The application will provide all details needed to apply as a host site for the 2019 convention.

AVA Insurance Policy (Part II)

As promised attached is a document from our insurance broker entitled "Insurance 101". This document was prepared by our broker to help us better understand our coverage. Should you have questions about our club insurance you can always call the AVA office.

[Click her to view "Insurance 101" document.](#)

Financial Update

The 2015-2016 audit has been completed and will be posted on the website after it has been reviewed by the NEC in January.

Special thanks to Debra Kruep, the Programs committee and all of our clubs who contributed to the success of the REI #Optoutside initiative. Support and participation in these types of activities can only expand the footprint of the AVA!

Happy Holidays to all!

Thank you to all Clubs who participated in the #OptOutside initiative

Asheville Amblers	Indiana Volkssport Association	Susquehanna Rovers
Cedar Milers	Interlaken Trailblazers Volkssport Club	The Happy Wanderers
Clay Platte Trackers of Kansas City	Las Vegas High Rollers & Strollers	The Rolla Roadrunners
Colorado River Walkers, Austin, Tx	Liberty Bell Wanderers	The South Bay Striders
Columbia River Volkssport Club	Low Desert Roadrunners	Tulsa Walking Club
Daffodil Valley Volkssport Association	Metrolina Walkers	Twin Cities Volkssport
Dallas Trekkers, Inc.	Mid-Florida Milers	U.S. Freedom Walk Festival Club
Delta Tule Trekkers	NW Tulip Trekkers	Walk 'N Mass Volkssport Club
Florida Volkssport Assn.	Sacramento Walking Sticks	Whatever of Texas Sporting Club
Gateway Milers NFP	Saguaro Sun Striders	Windy City Walkers
Hawkeye Hikers	Suncoast Sandpipers Volkssport Club	Winston Wanderers

Support Our National and International Friends!

National

Great opportunity for clubs to get involved.



Call for Presentations
Deadline December 9, 2016

[Visit Webpage](#)

[View/Download PDF](#)



Click image for more information.

[Click here the call for proposals.](#)



[Click here for brochure.](#)

International



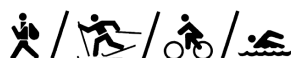
Click image for more information.

Checkpoint Available Via Email to All Club Members Who Request It

To receive an electronic copy of the Checkpoint send us an email to the attention of Samanta requesting that you be put on our distribution list for the Checkpoint. Please note on the subject line: Request for Checkpoint. Send your request to Samanta at samanta@ava.org.



Fun, Fitness, Friendship



The American Volkssport Association

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

