

*Congratulations and welcome to all of our new and returning AVA
Officers, Directors and Deputy Directors!.*



President	David	Bonewitz	president@ava.org
Vice-President	Nancy	Wittenberg	vicepres@ava.org
Secretary	Sam	Korff	secretary@ava.org
Treasurer	Bob	Morrison	treasurer@ava.org
Executive Director	Henry	Rosales	execdir@ava.org

Atlantic	RD	Mike	Green	at_rd@ava.org
Atlantic	DRD	Dolores	Grenier	at_drd@ava.org
Mid-America	RD	Arthur	Bacon	ma_rd@ava.org
Mid-America	DRD	Cheryl	Elser	ma_drd@ava.org
North Central	RD	Jerry	Wilson	nc_rd@ava.org
North Central	DRD	Butch	Spaulding	nc_drd@ava.org
Northeast	RD	Chris	Mellen	ne_rd@ava.org
Northeast	DRD	Carolyn	Adams	ne_drd@ava.org

Northwest	RD	Tom	Baltes	nw_rd@ava.org
Pacific	RD	Suzi	Glass	pa_rd@ava.org
Pacific	DRD	Carl	Cordes	pa_drd@ava.org
Rocky Mountain	RD	Sherry	Sayers	rm_rd@ava.org
Rocky Mountain	DRD	Lynette	Reagan	rm_drd@ava.org
South Central	RD	Lucy	Yother	sc_rd@ava.org
Southeast	RD	John	McClellan	se_rd@ava.org
Southeast	DRD	Robert	McDaniel	se_drd@ava.org
Southwest	RD	Susan	Medlin	sw_rd@ava.org
Southwest	DRD	Ruthi	Worsham	sw_drd@ava.org

David Bonewitz, AVA President

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Have you ever said or thought "Why are they doing it this way?" or "I've got a better idea" or something along those lines. Well, now is the opportunity to put your thoughts into action. Volunteers are needed on various AVA National Committees. Take a look at the committee list at <http://www.ava.org/avacom.php>, and give some thought to your interests, skills, and talents. Then send an email to volunteer@ava.org and make your self available to help AVA grow.

CLUBS IN COMMUNITY

Not only do our AVA clubs have events that provide fun, fitness, and friendship, many of them also reach out to their communities in service. Does your club volunteer to do trash pick up along a road in your community? Does your club hold a special event to support or honor a group in your community, like veterans or teachers or others? Does your club partner with another non-profit in your community to raise money for that non-profit, like the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life? Does your club do something else that has your club involved in serving your community? We'd like to know about what your club is doing to be a good member of your community. Please send an email to community@ava.org and tell us what you are doing.

CONVENTION 2019 DATE CHANGE

Due to the conflict with the Crazy Horse event, the dates for the AVA 2019 Biennial Convention have been changed to June 9 - 16, 2019. Be sure to change your calendar!

National Special Programs—Susan Medlin, Chair



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.

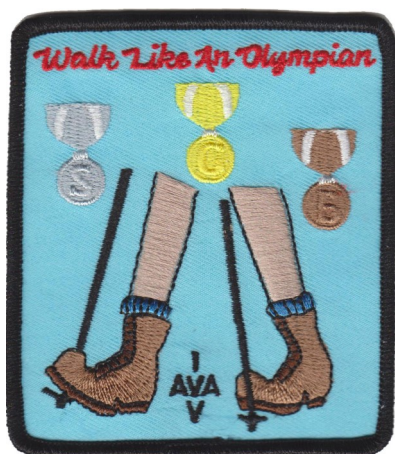
Please note if you register early the fee is only \$10. For more information please [click here](#).

Special Programs —Bonnie Johnson, Chair

AVA Special Programs

It's time to start thinking of new Special Programs which would begin in January 2019. Presentation and proposals will be done at the January 2018 NEC Meeting. Rules and regulations regarding the Special Program process is in the AVA Policy Manual 4.05. Any new Special Program proposal must be received by the Special Programs Chair by November 1, 2017 and conform to the following portion of the policy recapped from the AVA Policy Manual 4.05: III as follows:

[To see full article click here.](#)



Walk Like An Olympian

Program runs January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2020. Redeem completed books by December 31, 2021. Walkers can achieve Bronze, Silver or Gold levels. Ten walks in cities where the Olympics have been held or in American cities with the same names as Olympic hosts will earn walkers the Bronze level, 15 for the Silver and 20 events for the Gold. The patch has places for all three “medals” so go for the gold! There have been 44 host cities around the world since the beginning of the modern Olympic Games in 1896 through the completion of this program in 2021. Examples: Athens, Innsbruck, Lake Placid, Los Angeles, Paris and St Moritz. There are plenty of opportunities in America such as Atlanta, GA, Lake

Placid, NY, Los Angeles, CA, St Louis, MO and Salt Lake City, UT. Walks are also listed in AL & GA (Athens), ID (Moscow), and Vancouver, WA. Qualifiers for all levels must be on sanctioned events. An event may be used two times per year.

Book cost is \$10. The patch is 3" x 4". Checks are payable to South Bay Striders. POC is Suzi Glass, 5562 Vassar Dr, San Jose, CA 95118. (408) 592-3935 or email glass2walk@gmail.com

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](#).

Information and Technology Specialist—Hector Hernandez

New Stamps and Handles Update

We are excited to begin the process of making our own stamps! At this point it is hard to gauge what the price of handles and stamps will be, however it will not cost \$25 to replace a handle! We are looking into the timing of the whole process, getting the best machine and pricing for all our clubs. Customized stamps and handles will be available for a nominal fee. All clubs will receive two stamps and one stamp handle to begin their events as of January 1, 2018. By that time, we should have an order form in place to order customized stamps for all your events!

Walks to Remember

It sure is hot outside. Got any shaded walks? What is your club's famous walk coming up for the month of August? Email your club's walks information to hector@ava.org and we will help market your walk.

***Don't wait until the last minute.
Pre-order your Starting Point
Books today!
[Click here for order form](#)***

2018 Starting Point Books

Sanctioning of 2017 YRE's and Seasonals began June 1, 2017 and ends September 15, 2017. RDs have until September 30 to review their region's events; after September 30 if your club sanctions a YRE or seasonal it will not appear in the 2018 Starting Point Book. Starting Point changes are listed only for events published in the Starting Point.

** The sanction window closes on 9/15/2017. After this date, you must go to Traditional Events pull down menu for Type and select YRE or Seasonal. **

For tips and guidelines on entering information in the ESR for the Starting Point Book please [click here](#).

Starting Point Photo Contest

It's that time of the year again where AVA looks for those two photos that capture the essence of Volkssporting in the USA! The first and second place winners will get their photo printed on the front side (1st place) and backside (2nd place) cover of the 2017 Starting Point book. Winners will also get a complimentary copy of the Starting Point!

Entries are due to AVA National office no later than August 31, 2017. Rules, guidelines and the official entry form are [attached here](#). Participation in the nationwide contest is open to AVA members, clubs and state organizations. All entries must have been created or occurred during the time period from June 30, 2017 – August 31, 2017. For more information contact Hector at hector@ava.org.

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](#)

Reminder: Please update all Club and contact info in your ESR asap to make sure you get all your important updates.

Communications—Samanta Sanchez

Quarterly Reports

The deadline to submit 2nd Quarter Participation Reports is July 31st. Clubs are not able to submit participation numbers through the ESR after this date. Those who missed the deadline must call or email [sa-manta@ava.org](mailto:samanta@ava.org) to submit participation numbers. A late fee will be applied. Thank you!

Renewal Season

It's Renewal time again. The 2018 YRE and Seasonal Renewal is happening now, deadline is midnight September 15, 2017. Please renew your walks at your earliest convenience.

Link to the Renewal Instruction below for your convenience.

[Click here.](#)

Here are some tips to renew your YREs and Seasonals.

- Please do not mark your events “No Renewal” if undecided. There is no “undo” button, you will have to re-enter a new ESR.
- For faster and to avoid error during renewal, do a fast and quick renewal without changes. [Simply click renew and submit.](#) You may enter your changes or updates by going to ESR Listing page to edit your event information.
- Your event will disappear from your renewal list if you entered incorrect information. Contact Samanta to have your event reactivated if your event disappeared during renewal.
- Most of the errors you will encounter occur in the POC section when entering information. Please follow the instructions accordingly.

Contact Samanta at samanta@ava.org for any ESR renewal problems and concerns or [click here for starting point tips.](#)

Giving Back to Our Big Givers

Congratulations to our AVA Big Give Grand Prize Winners: Sara Ricaurte and the Menehune Marchers Volkssport Club! Both of you are the lucky winners of a **free 2019 Convention Registration!**

Congratulations to all our other prize winners: Randolph Roadrunners, Tahoe Trail Trekkers, Daffodil Valley Volkssport Assn., Kris Colburn, Patricia Eby, Burton Paynter, Sondra Spaulding, and Marilyn Nasi. Our club winners will receive one customized stamp for the event of their choice and our individual winners will receive a 2018 Starting Point Book.

All AVA Prize winners have been notified via email with instructions on how to collect your prize. If you did not receive a notification please email samanta@ava.org.

Thank you all for giving to your favorite walking organization, America’s Walking Club!

Finance Manager—Erin Grosso

Club Reminders and Upcoming Dates

Annual Club dues were invoiced in May and mailed along with the May statement. Annual dues for each AVA club and state association are \$50.



Please remember:

- Annual dues are due July 1, 2017 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.
- A late fee of \$25 will be charged if dues are not paid by September 1, 2017.

Clubs that did not hold a Traditional Event from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 will be charged a fee of \$50.00. Each club must hold at least one traditional event per year in order to avoid this fee. A guided event qualifies as a traditional event.

Annual Reports: The following annual reports can be filed after July 1, 2017 and before November 15, 2017. Click on the links below for more information on how to file these reports.

- IRS 990 N Form—[Click here for instructions](#)
- Annual Financial Report—[Click here for form](#)—[Click here for instructions](#)
- Officer Update—[Click here for instructions](#)

A late fee of \$10.00 will be charged for each report that is filed after November 15th, 2017.

If you have any questions or need help filing any of these reports, please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

M. Erin Grosso

Finance Manager

American Volkssport Association, Inc.

(210) 659-2112

erin@ava.org

AVA's Executive Director's Update—Henry Rosales

Big Give 2017 Generates \$67,966!

Through the generous support of our individual donors and clubs the Big Give individual donor campaign was very successful, exceeding amounts raised in the previous two years! When our lifetime volkssporter, Ms. Charlotte Phillips initiated this campaign two years ago with her match contribution this is exactly what she envisioned, a legacy of giving! This year we had 393 individual donors and 92 club donors. A total of \$20,600 was raised in matching funds from current and former NEC members and the private sector. Thank you to everyone who supported the AVA. Special thanks to Nancy Wittenberg and the fund development committee. Your continued support is inspiring to all!

No More Charges for Additional Insured Certificates!

Effective July 1, 2017 there will no longer be charges for securing additional insured certificates for your events unless your club or a third party associated with the event is requesting additional coverage that is not included in our existing policy. When this is the case, the additional cost will be passed on to the clubs. There will be no mark up or other fees, only what the insurance is charging us for the additional coverage. If your club has already been billed for additional insurance certificates for events after July 1, 2017 you will receive a credit. For more information please contact Erin at erin@ava.org

ESR-Sanctioning of Events Update

Be advised clubs can begin sanctioning 2018 YRE's and Seasonal events in the "old database" (the existing ESR database) immediately. Clubs should sanction events the same way they have done in the

past. We will not switch over to the upgraded system until it has been properly tested and users have had ample time to train on it. Once we switch over all information entered into the old system will be migrated into the upgraded system.

Also note the deadline to enter YRE and Seasonal events in the ESR has been extended to September 15, 2017.

June 2017 NEC and General Membership Meetings

The membership voted in favor of changing the name of National Executive Council (NEC) to Board of Directors. Hence moving forward the term NEC will now be referenced as the Board of Directors. The selection of an AVA mascot from the exhibits presented was voted down by the membership. No mascot was selected. To review the meeting minutes [click here](#).

The 2017-2018 AVA Budget was presented and approved during the NEC meeting. The total budget amount is \$539,285. Projected revenues are \$540,166. This includes a deposit of \$110,000 from the investment account. To review the budget [click here](#).



CONGRATULATIONS to the Empire State Capital Volkssporters and Northeast Region clubs on being selected to host the 2019 convention in Albany, NY! Plans are already under development to make this one of the biggest and best conventions ever! See you in New York!

Support Our National and International Friends!

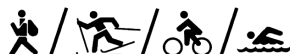


Checkpoint Available Via Email to All Club Members Who Request It

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.

