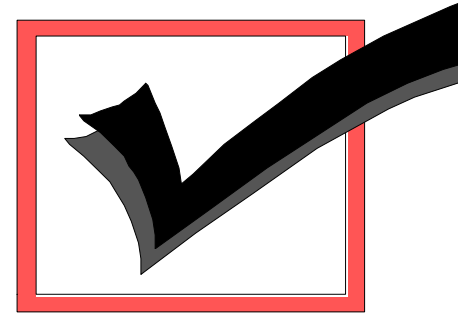


AVA CHECKPOINT



Official Voice of the American Volkssport Association • 1001 Pat Booker Rd, Suite 101 Universal City, TX 78148
Phone (210) 659-2112 Fax (210) 659-1212 Email avahq@ava.org

Volume 19 • Number 4

April 2011

National Executive Council Meeting

The next meeting of the NEC will be held in beautiful Des Moines, Iowa at the AVA Biennial Convention, June 22 - 24, 2011. The convention itself starts on June 18.

TAW Deadline

Deadline for the June/July issue of *The American Wanderer* is April 25. All articles and photographs should be submitted directly to Laurel Parrott, Editor taw@bhi.com or 3526 Humboldt Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55412. Be sure to include "TAW" in the subject line of the email. Please send advertising agreements and advertisements to Linda Rebmann Linda@ava.org.

Convention Items by Susan Pinneke Convention Chair

Convention time is almost here!! We're very excited about the fun walks and activities we have planned for everyone here in Iowa! We can't do it without you; we need your help and participation.

Registration booklets were mailed a couple of weeks ago, delivery is now up to the United States Postal Service. We're sorry if your booklets have been delayed even further. All registration information is available on line on the convention website; you can even email in your registration form.

- **The Birthday Party slide show** is coming along. We've gotten some pictures, but definitely could use more. Be sure your club is included!! Please send or email pictures by May 1 deadline to: Kim Young, 701 S 25th Ct., West Des Moines, IA 50265. If you need the photos returned, you must put your name and address on the back of each photo. They will be available for pickup at the convention or returned by mail if a stamped self-addressed envelope is included. Photos may be emailed as an attachment in tiff or jpeg format to: kimyong1981@gmail.com. Be sure to include all the identification information in your email.
- Don't forget the **Silent Auction**. Many thanks to all those who have donated something so far. We know many of you are planning to bring your donation to the convention, this is wonderful and we thank you. You may not even know what you plan to donate right now, but if you plan to donate something please let us know. We are trying to plan space right now and want to make sure we have plenty of room to display your items to their very best advantage. Please email Tom Doyle at tjdoyle98@msn.com, just to let me know you plan to make a donation or have any questions. If you want to ship your item ahead, please send it to: Susan Pinneke, 221 Prospect Ave, West Des Moines, IA 50265. Please indicate silent auction item on the outside of the box. The silent auction donation form was attached to the January, 2011 *Checkpoint*.

- **Convention Booths** are available to AVA clubs or affiliates at a very reasonable \$30. Thanks to all that have applied for a booth so far. The deadline for application is May 14, 2011. All application materials were attached to the March 2011 *Checkpoint*.
- **Volunteers** are needed. We need bunches of help with all aspects of the convention. You can volunteer online on the convention website or by sending in a volunteer form, attached to the February, 2011 *Checkpoint*. If you have any questions please contact Marg Powell at 515-277-3233 or by email at powellmarg@msn.com. Remember all volunteers will get a cow print t-shirt to wear. This will be a unique shirt only available to volunteers.
- **Questions**, check the convention website or contact Suzy Belle herself at susanp221@msn.com

Call for Convention items and Agenda Forms

All Clubs send your agenda items to your Regional Director no later than April 24 deadline. All Regional Directors please have the final agenda items submitted to Headquarters by May 9 deadline.

Bylaws Committee by Dennis Michele, AVA President

Proposed AVA Bylaws changes, NEC voted and approved recommendations to be included in this *Checkpoint* to meet the 60 day requirement. Listing of amendments to the AVA Bylaws which will be presented for vote at the Convention are attached.

Voting at the AVA Biennial Convention

Clubs must have all reports and debts current as of May 8, 2011 deadline in order to vote at the AVA's Biennial Convention. This means that no stamp or required report is past due and all finances must be less than 60 days past due. Check your items now to protect your vote. AVA Form 500 was mailed to each AVA Club and State Organization along with a Call to Convention letter. Any questions email Linda Rebmann at Linda@ava.org

Get to know the AVA candidates. Officer Candidate Biographies have been posted to the AVA *Leadership* web page as they were printed in the April/May issue of *The American Wanderer*.

AVA Trail/Route Rating System by Heinz Johnson

The AVA Trail Rating System has been revised and a new one developed. This is a two-part rating system. It now takes into consideration Incline and Terrain and these features should give participants a better idea of what to expect on a route. The new system kicks into gear for all events beginning on January 1, 2012 next year. A copy of the new system is attached.

Trail Marking Supplies

AVA can no longer offer free since we have not had a sponsor for many years. These items are sold to AVA Clubs at cost plus freight and handling. Mail is taking longer for delivery also, so order early. Trail Marking Supplies order form is under revision at this time. Email Kevin Davis at Kevin@ava.org with your orders.

Necrology

May 14 deadline for submitting those loved ones to Linda Rebmann at Linda@ava.org. Names will be listed in the Convention program booklets.

National Physical Fitness and Sports Month

Just a reminder that May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. Club order forms were sent with the March *Checkpoint* and are posted to the *Publications-Forms* link, *AVA Club Forms* link and web page. You may also email Kevin Davis at Kevin@ava.org to order. If your club chooses not to purchase patches for your May events, please let folks know that they can get one through the AVA Headquarters by calling (1-210-659-2112 and asking for Kevin Davis). As long as they participated in an event in May, it qualifies for the special patch. Information is also posted to the home page at www.ava.org

YRE/Seasonal Walk Boxes

Please remember to check your walk boxes to make sure they have maps/instructions and all other supplies for your walkers. Everyone has had the experience of trying to attend an event only to find no supplies in the box and knows how frustrating it is.

1st Quarter 2011 Participation Reports

First quarter 2011 participation reports are due April 30, 2011. If you did not report Seasonal or Year Round Events for 2010 within 30 days of the end date, please email Linda Rebmann at Linda@ava.org with your final participation report figures so that they may be input by our office.

Headquarters Events Coordinator

Position is vacant at this time. Send detailed email to Linda Rebmann at Linda@ava.org with event stamp number, insurance or other club/event related inquiries that you may have. Thank you for your continued understanding during this transitional time. Event Insurance Certificate inquiries please direct to Kevin Davis at Kevin@ava.org

Publicity Pointers by Joan Lampart, Publicity Chair

First, let me thank all who have submitted entries to the Biennial Publicity Contest. I am happy not to be a judge, there are so many good entries for all categories. Winners will be announced at the Iowa Convention. Hope you will be there to possibly pick up your winning ribbon.

Secondly, never miss an opportunity to get some publicity for AVA. I was visiting my orthopedic doctor last week and we were discussing some surgery. I told him I would not make any decisions until after volksmarching at the IOWA convention. He asked me what was volksmarching -- and then I proceed to tell him as briefly as possible (you know how difficult that can be) all about our sport. He was very excited and asked me to get more information. I told him about the AVA website, which a member of his staff checked, immediately. He became more enthused and told me to bring some literature (I am sending the grabber with my name on the back). He thought this was a great idea and will start recommending it to his patients.

Discontinued Telephone Number

Please continue to check your brochures, newsletters, and web site information to remove mention of the 1-800-830-WALK telephone number that was discontinued over two years ago. Some in the general public have reported seeing it out there.

Online Merchandise Store

AVA currently holds a Compliance Certificate and all credit card transactions are officially secure. Things to remember when visiting the online merchandise store: be sure you are using the correct password, delete cookies, make AVA a trusted site, change browser to Fire Fox if possible and once a quantity is ordered the person must add it to the "cart". Any questions email Kevin Davis at Kevin@ava.org.

Shipping and Handling Charges

With bulk rate mail delivery taking much longer these days and continuous US Postal Service increases over the years, attached with this *Checkpoint* is the new shipping and handling charges.

Attachments:

AVA Proposed ByLaw Changes
AVA Trail/Route Rating System
Shipping and Handling Charges