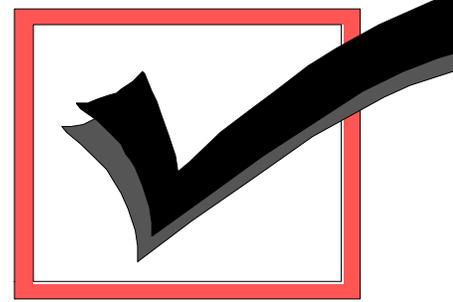


AVA CHECKPOINT



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National Executive Council Meeting

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

Presidents Message

The National Executive Council (NEC), in a closed session on Friday, February 18, 2011 exercised its right in accordance with the AVA Bylaws to approve the hiring of the AVA Executive Director. By a majority vote, the hiring was disapproved. As a result of the vote, the AVA President and AVA Vice President resigned. As this situation was not covered by the AVA Bylaws, the remaining members elected Dennis Michele, AVA Southeast Regional Director as President until new elections are held at the upcoming AVA convention, June 2011. Marvin Stokes, AVA Treasurer, was elected Vice President. Both men, as required by the AVA Bylaws, resigned from their previous respective positions on the NEC. Annette Tollett was elected as the Treasurer to fill the vacant AVA Treasurers position. These actions were necessary to complete the NEC meeting and the business before it which had to be accomplished. From a personal stand point, it is regrettable that these matters had to be done, but it was necessary to keep the NEC and the AVA operating. I take no great pleasure in becoming the AVA President and will not seek election to this position at the upcoming elections at the AVA convention. AVA President Dennis Michele.

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 or 1001 Pat Booker Rd, Suite 101, Universal City, TX 78148.

Merchandise Store

To ensure that AVA's credit card processing is in compliance with current standards, there are several compliance security checks and scans through our credit card processor that have to be accomplished. This takes time, and while our IT provider is completing these, to protect our online customers the online store will remain down. Once those are completed, the store will be back online. We apologize for any inconvenience, but the security of our customers credit card information is vital and of the utmost importance to AVA. Contact Kevin Davis Accounting Department at Kevin@ava.org to place your order.

2011 Convention

Registration packets have been mailed to all AVA Clubs and Volkssports Associate Members last week. You may also download from the convention web site <http://www.ava.org/clubs/ava2011convention/index.asp> Please direct all questions and concerns to Convention Chair Susan Pinneke susanp221@msn.com or Convention Liaison Bonnie Johnson nc_rd@ava.org Deadline for pre-registration is Wednesday, May 4.

Convention Booths for AVA clubs, state organizations and RD's are now available. The 10' by 19' booths are \$30 each, and include an 8 foot skirted table, 2 chairs and identification sign. The area is surrounded by 3 foot pipe and drape. Also, visit our website for this information. Questions please contact Susan Pinneke 515-277-3653 (evenings) or by email susanp221@msn.com Details and order form attached.

State Associations – if you want to hold your meeting at the convention, please contact Susan Pinneke. Regional Meetings have been planned for Tuesday afternoon.

Call to Convention and Credentialing Forms were mailed March 1 to all AVA Clubs and State Associations. Copy of the Call to Convention letter is attached. If you have concerns please contact Linda Rebmann at Linda@ava.org.

Necrology

If you know of any fellow volkssporters who have passed away since the last convention, please send their name, city, state and club information to Linda Rebmann at Linda@ava.org so that we may add their name to our remembrance list and read at the convention.

AVA Fun, Fitness, Friendship

As we are in difficult financial times, we have a lot of material which states the old AVA logo. Please use the old AVA logo through June 2011 at which time the new NEC will implement their choice. The AVA Fun, Fitness, Friendship logo is attached.

Publicity Pointers

Over the past months, I have attempted to give some pointers on how you can get walkers to your events. Remember, the first thing you have to want is more participation. If you are not interested, the rest of this is worthless. You can't really expect walkers to miraculously appear, you have to work at getting them. Following are a few suggestions:

Do you use **FACEBOOK**? This is a great place to write your adventures on the trail. Ask your kids how to get onto this – its fun.

Have you ever written a **blog**? Wayne Holloway, our AVA Awards and Recognition Committee Chair sent me his blog recently and it was great. Wayne would help anyone get started, but just check out <http://wordpress.com/> and it will walk you through the set up process.

Then there are the “**grabbers**” at AVA Headquarters – they are free. Order some for your club and distribute them to shoe stores, doctor offices, fitness centers, etc. Let your imagination take over for all manner of places these great publicity/marketing tools can be left. Be sure to put your club contact on them, before you leave them. To order from AVA, go to *Merchandise Store*, under the *Club Items Only* link, or you can simply call in an order, or email it to Kevin Davis Kevin@ava.org.

Do you have a club **website**? Is it current and up to date? Yet another way to get the word out about volkssporting.

Any questions, call or email the Publicity Committee Chair Joan Lampart at 215-529-5686 or jmlampart@verizon.net

Event Stamps

Greetings all! I've spoken and/or corresponded with many of you and looking forward to having the chance to interact with the rest of you. I am truly enjoying my time at work, which is a significant statement. The HQS staffers are a riot to work along side and volkssporters across the country are a hoot! Stamps went out late. I made mistakes. As a measure to prevent this from happening again, all stamps will be sent out the first of the month of the month preceding the event (as approved by the Interim Executive Director), ie: April event stamps will be sent out March 1. In addition to ensuring prompt stamp service, it should help those clubs that have requested that stamps be sent earlier than the previously required 20 days so they may pass them on to the event POCs. Happy Sporting and Kind Regards, Kelly Scott Events Coordinator Kelly@ava.org

National Physical Fitness and Sports Month

May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. Once again Dorman L. Batson, an AVA Lifetime Member from our Northwest Region has designed a unique patch for AVA. If your club would like to order patches to have available at your May events, an order form is attached. The order form will also be posted under the *Publications-Forms* link, *AVA Club Forms* link web page.

Android Applications for Mapping Walks

Linda Ellingboe with the FS Family Wanderers has requested information to use with her new smart phone with Android application technology. Does anyone have recommendations about applications, preferably free, that can allow her to walk a potential route using her GPS, and determine length of the walk and possibly even produce a map? Her club has used a wheel for many years, but it would seem that new technology would make it easier to figure out routes, Linda says. Please send your thoughts and assistance to LindaElli@aol.com

Attachments:

Convention Exhibit Space Rules and Regulations
Convention Exhibit Space Application/Contract
Call to Convention Letter
AVA Fun, Fitness, Friendship Logo
National Physical Fitness and Sports Month Patch Club Order Form