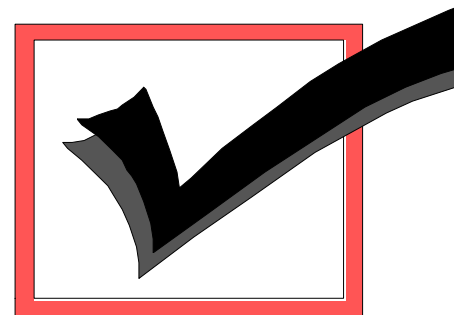


AVA CHECKPOINT



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

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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.

Convention Items by Susan Pinneke, Convention Chair

Convention Registration - Postmarked by May 4: Just a reminder that the deadline for convention registration is fast approaching. Your registration must be postmarked by May 4th to guarantee your registration. After that date, and before May 15th, limited email registration is available. No discounts will apply after May 4th. Be warned the email registration is not working perfectly. Also, very limited registration will be available in Des Moines, at additional cost.

Cow Races: One activity that occurs with every convention is NEC fund raising. For this convention, we are using a cow race theme for this fund raising activity. Each member of the NEC created a unique cow to race against all the other NEC cows. You can visit the herd on our web site (www.ava.org, click on the *2011 AVA Convention* link, then "*Meet the Herd*" link). Your donations will move the cows along the track. The two top finishing cows will be Suzy Belle's special guests at the Barn Dance held on Thursday, June 23. The four lowest finishing cows will need to work for their supper that night. They will don hair nets and aprons as they serve us our 3-piece chicken dinner. To make a donation to power the cow of your choice along the track, please send it to: Susan Pinneke, 221 Prospect Ave, West Des Moines, IA 50265 or give it to the cow's owner. Please make the check out to 17th Biennial AVA Convention, note that it is for the cow races; this will insure proper crediting of your donation. I'm sure you will be hearing more about this from your regional directors as they work to avoid the hair net.

Volunteers: We need bunches of help with all aspects of the convention. You can volunteer online on the convention website (www.ava.org, click on the *2011 AVA Convention* link) or by sending in a volunteer form included with this *Checkpoint* issue. If you have any questions please contact Marg Powell at 515-277-3233 or by email at powellmarg@msn.com. All volunteers will get a unique t-shirt to wear that is only available to volunteers.

Convention Booths – Deadline May 15

Convention Booths for AVA clubs, state organizations and RD's are now available. The 10' by 19' booths are **\$30** each (super low price), 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, where you will find the AVA Club Booth Packet (www.ava.org, click on the *2011 AVA Convention* link). Questions please contact Susan Pinneke 515-277-3653 (evenings) or by email susanp221@msn.com. Don't pass up this great deal to spread the word about your club activities.

Questions: Check the convention website (www.ava.org, click on the *2011 AVA Convention* link) or contact Suzy Belle herself at susanp221@msn.com or 515-277-3653.

Silent Auction: Many thanks to all those who have made donations so far. It's not too late to plan to bring something to the convention or get a package in the mail. If you are thinking about donating 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 is available on our website (www.ava.org, click on the *2011 AVA Convention* link). If you have questions, please contact one of us. There will be some new features to the auction this year, you won't want to miss it.

Agenda Items and Forms from Clubs to Regional Directors – Deadline April 24

All Clubs must have agenda items to your Regional Director no later than April 24. **All Regional Directors please have the final agenda items submitted to Headquarters by May 9.** Blank forms are included with this *Checkpoint* issue. Agreed upon Agenda items will be posted in the June *Checkpoint*.

Necrology - Reporting due no later than May 14 to Linda Rebmann Linda@ava.org. List will be given to Joan Lampart for reading at the AVA Convention.

Regional and State Recognition Awards

Regional Directors please make sure that you have requested Recognition Certificates, Pins and Patches if you need them. Contact Karen Winkle at Karen@ava.org.

Delegate/Alternate/Proxy Form 500 – Revised Postmark Deadline June 1

Please disregard the postmark date of April 15 that was printed in error on this form. Note that the revised deadline to have Form 500 postmarked is June 1. Get to know the AVA candidates. A listing of current Officer Candidate Biographies has been posted to the *AVA Leadership* web page, source April/May issue of *The American Wanderer*.

Voting at the AVA Biennial Convention – Reports and Debts Deadline May 8

An email was sent to all Regional Directors this week listing Clubs that have a report and / or debt outstanding at this time. In order to vote at the convention Club reports and debts must be current as of May 8. Any questions email Candy@ava.org.

TAW Deadline

Deadline for the August / September issue of *The American Wanderer* is June 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.

Join The "Cow Belles" and Help Support AVA

Paula Crist-Pickett is a national associate member of AVA. She is hand making everything and selling Cow Hats, Hat Bands and Bandanas to encourage *Team Spirit* for the upcoming AVA Convention. Paula is donating a large portion of the sales to the AVA Convention / AVA. If you would like to help out, an order form has been included with this *Checkpoint* issue. If you have any questions please email geldas@earthlink.net.

Headquarters

An *Events Coordinator* is in training at this time. Please email questions or concerns to Events@ava.org. We would like to thank everyone for your understanding during this time of transition.

The *Convention Registration* database was tested by none other than Jacklyn Wilson this morning and we have been given the thumbs up to start entering registration forms and payments. A confirmation letter will be mailed to you before long. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

1st Quarter 2011 Participation Reports – Deadline April 30

If you did not report Seasonal or Year Round Events for 2010 or 1st Quarter 2011 within 30 days of the end date, please email Events Coordinator at Events@ava.org with your final participation report figures so that they may be entered by Headquarters.

AVA Club Statements

Beginning with the May Club Statements, club accounts with a zero balance will no longer receive a Statement in the mail. This change is taking place in order to save AVA related cost of printing and mailing notification of a zero balance.

Did You Know

Even though Club Volunteers work at their events and obtain free credit in their books the club is still required to pay a Participation Fee on these folks. Please do not show these volunteers as Free Walkers on the Participation Report as this skews Free Walker information. Free Walkers do not receive stamps in any books.

Volkswalking “Off the Beaten Path” Marketing Video

Many of you have requested use of the beautiful video prepared for AVA friends like Dick Baker, by Kaiser Permanente a large health care provider in the Northwest and Colorado area. The video is featured on *Every Body Walk* web site <http://everybodywalk.org/films/volkswalking-off-the-beaten-path> as *Volkswalking “Off the Beaten Path”*. The AVA webmaster and AVA Clubs have been granted permission to use this video found on *You Tube* at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hISCd4v-ng> as a marketing aide and opportunity for growth. Many familiar smiling faces are featured on this video, along with a positive message about our wonderful organization, and our AVA family. If you have general comments please direct them to Linda@ava.org and I will forward them to the folks involved.

Trailmaster Guide and Trailmaster Certification by Sam Korff

An up to the minute Trailmaster Guide and Trailmaster Certification manual has been posted to the AVA website home page www.ava.org under the link called *Help For Clubs*. A copy is also posted under the *Publications-Forms* link. Many have contributed so much to this project. Hardworking Club volunteers will know the latest information on selecting and marking event trails. The more knowledge you have, will surely help the participants have a great time at your event. A copy is included with *Checkpoint* issue.

IVV Record of Achievement Book by Karen Winkle, Awards Processing

We would like for you to mention at the Finish Table at your event as a reminder to your participants, to please mail in the IVV Record of Achievement book at the same time they mail in the Distance or Event booklet. This Record of Achievement booklet is best updated at the same time as processing the Awards. If your participant has lost this Record of Achievement book, please let Karen Winkle at Karen@ava.org know so that she may prepare a duplicate.

IVV Liaison - Hans Dieter Fuhr

Headquarters is currently sold out of the *2011 IVV Calendar of Events* books. We have had many folks call our office needing assistance in finding events during their European travel plans. The best person we can refer you and your friends to is Hans Dieter Fuhr, IVV Liaison. Hans recently sent his new / alternate email address hdf1940@googlemail.com. You may also use hans-d.fuhr@t-online.de.

Attachments:

AVA Convention Volunteer Registration Form
AVA Club Proposed Agenda Item Motion Form
AVA Executive Council Agenda Item Form
Join the “Cow Belles” Help Support AVA Order Form
Trailmaster Guide and Trailmaster Certification