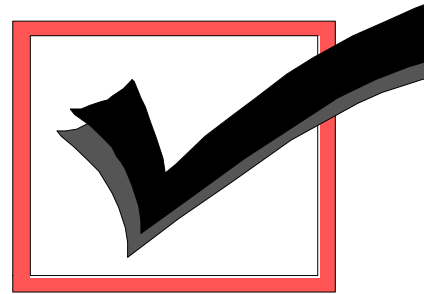


AVA CHECKPOINT



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Call for Agenda items Per the October *Checkpoint* newsletter, the form that clubs are required to submit to their RD for agenda items was enclosed and the clubs were informed of the submission deadline of Monday, November 21. A copy is attached. An email was sent October 12, along with the form/format which Regional Directors must use to submit an agenda item for official consideration at the January board meeting. Please remember that the deadline for your submission of agenda items to Headquarters is Wednesday, December 7. All AVA Officer and AVA Committee reports are to be submitted to Headquarters no later than Wednesday, December 21. Meeting information will be emailed to you in a PDF format for your notebooks no later than Friday, December 30. The next NEC meeting will be held at Fairfield Inn & Suites, 5008 Corridor Loop Road, Schertz, Texas, 78154, January 2012, on Friday evening (20), Saturday (21), and Sunday morning (22), if necessary.

Deadline November 15, 2011:

All Clubs must have these documents submitted by the deadline.

- **E-Postcard IRS 990-N** (Instructions attached) http://www.ava.org/avaclub/E_Postcard.pdf
- **Club Officer Updates** (update electronically through Club Maintenance site)
- **Club Annual Financial Report and Worksheet** - submit both pages. (Form attached) http://www.ava.org/forms/AVAFForm102C3_F.pdf

TAW Deadline The February/March issue of *The American Wanderer* deadline is, December 25. All articles and photographs should be submitted directly to Laurel Parrott, Editor taw@bhi.com or mail to: 3526 Humboldt Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55412. Be sure to include "TAW" in the subject line if emailing.

Change of Addresses for TAW Distribution Individual Associate Members (current residence), and Clubs (official club addresses), please remember that if your address has changed, you must update your mailing information by the 24th day of the month in order to receive the next issue of *The American Wanderer*. Otherwise, the USPS will return your issue to AVA and charge .50 postage for each undeliverable newspaper. Clubs please go online and update your official club address. Individuals contact Linda Rebmann linda@ava.org if your address has changed. Thank you.

Starting Point 2012 Book AVA Club Pre-Order Form for 10 copies or more, must reach Headquarters no later than midnight Central Standard Time, Friday, November 11. An Order Form for Individuals is attached. No guarantee on shipping date, once we receive our shipment, we will do our best to ship them as soon as possible to fill individual orders. We should be able to ship in time for Christmas delivery.

Winners of the Starting Point 2012 Edition - Photo Contest Winners were selected by the NEC XVII at its August Meeting. Winner Front Cover Photo: Starvation Creek Walk, Columbia River Gorge, Oregon "Walking in the Rain" submitted by Doris Simon, Volkssport Associate Member of Philadelphia, PA and Club Treasurer of the Liberty Bell Wanderers in Ambler, PA. Winner Back Cover Photo: Grand Canyon National Park, South Rim, Arizona, walking event Tucson Volkssport Klub "Discovering America the AVA Way" submitted by Qeldas Pickett, Volkssport Associate Member of Santa Rosa, California. Both of you will receive a complimentary copy of the *Starting Point 2012*. Thanks to everyone who entered. Congratulations Winners!

AVA Committee Chairs, Liaisons, Members and Advisors 2011-2013 To see the listing of the AVA Standing and Special Committees thus far, click on the *AVA Leadership* link, scroll down to the bottom of the web page and click on the *AVA Committees* link <http://www.ava.org/membership/avacom.htm>

Merchandise Store Before you click on the *Merchandise Store* link, go to the menu bar on your browser and select *Tools*, then select *Internet Options*. Select *FireFox* as your default browser if possible. Delete *cookies*, turn off your *pop-up blocker*, and make AVA a *trusted site*. You may experience difficulty viewing the web pages, or completing your order if these items are not set prior to entering the *Merchandise Store*. Read the *Helpful Hints* listed just below the *Merchandise Store* link at http://www.ava.org/Merchandise_Store/welcome_to_the_improved_ava_merc.htm Thank you.

Brazos Walking Sticks – Sponsorship contract ended September 30, 2011 and declined to renew contract with AVA. Please ensure that all logos and information promoting Brazos Walking Sticks, have been removed from your club web pages, and literature.

Email Distributions from Headquarters – Ensure the email address that you have for your Club Officers is the address where you want to receive email notifications.

Where did it go? The *2011 AVA Biennial Convention* website link officially moved to the *Articles and Workshops* web page. Listed under the 2011 Des Moines, IA link name <http://www.ava.org/clubs/ava2011convention/index.asp>

Updated Material The *AVA Policy Manual* has been revised and posted under the *Publications-Forms* link <http://www.ava.org/Publications/AVA-Policy-Manual.pdf> The *AVA BYLAWS* have been revised and are posted under the *Publications-Forms* link http://www.ava.org/Publications/Bylaws_June_23_2011.pdf Please familiarize yourself with these documents.

Fantastic Help Modules Please remember that there are 14 *Help For Clubs* modules posted near the bottom of the main side menu under the *AVA Clubs Only* area. Simply click on the link called *Help For Clubs* http://www.ava.org/help_for_clubs/TableOfContents.htm Modules are very helpful and pertain to the Electronic Sanction Data entry and Participation reporting. If you have additional questions, please remember to contact your Club President or Regional Director for further assistance.

New Walker Packets Please remember to remove any outdated materials from your club inventory of *New Walker Packets*. Replace the old *Starting Point* order form with the new 2012 order form. Form is attached.

Contact Your Club President First All clubs are reminded to contact their Club President first, then the Regional Director, or State Association with any questions or problems. By doing this, we will all learn more directly how to help one another.

Request from the TAW production staff: We've been seeing a decrease in submissions of articles and good photos for *The American Wanderer* in the past few months. The *TAW* is AVA's in house paper that promotes Volkssporting to members around the country. All articles and photos printed in *TAW* are submitted by club members from around the country. There are no paid professional writers on staff at *TAW*. So it's imperative that the NEC keep reminding clubs to submit short (under 500 words) articles about upcoming events, as well as good high resolution photos (no more than two) about their events or area. If club members are unsure of how to submit, we have guidelines available in PDF format that gives them lots of tips and parameters on submitting to *TAW*. We have attached a copy that you may forward in your communications with clubs. We would also like to see regional directors submitting a short article about special events coming up in their region that could be directly under the regional heading in *TAW*. This could be used to promote several events in your region, or new clubs that have formed, or an area person who's done some exceptional work in promoting our sport in their area. Something that's specific to your region or an event that you want to promote. Please keep reminding clubs to support *TAW* through their articles and photos. If you've got some questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us! Thanks!
Donna and Laurel, TAW production staff, alamacque@earthlink.net, taw@bhi.com

From our AVA family to yours, *Happy Thanksgiving* to all! Headquarters will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday, November 24, and Friday, November 25.

Attachments:

- AVA Club Proposed Agenda Item Suggestions (deadline to RD November 21)
- E-Postcard IRS 990 N Instructions (IRS deadline November 15)
- Annual Financial Report and Worksheet (deadline November 15)
- Starting Point 2012* Order Form for Individuals
- TAW Article Guidelines