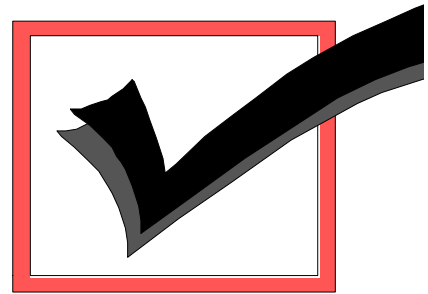


AVA CHECKPOINT



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Next NEC Meeting will be held in Schertz, Texas on January 2012, Friday evening (20), Saturday (21), and Sunday morning (22), if necessary. Details will be posted when they become available.

IVV Congress of Delegates Meeting will take place on October 19, 2011 in Turkey. The delegation will be headed by David Johnston, followed by Claudia Johnston (both from Evergreen, Colorado), Dale Boone of Pueblo, Colorado, and Kevin Ross of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

TAW Deadline for the December/January issue of *The American Wanderer* is October 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.

NEC Statement on Director of Marketing Hire by Bonnie Johnson, AVA Secretary - The National Executive Council (NEC) has decided to hire a Director of Marketing to implement our vision statement that we are the Premier Walking Association of America. In this regard, the NEC has determined that the Interim Executive Director be designated as the Acting Executive Director. Further, the hiring of an Executive Director will be considered at a later date. The Executive Council, in concert with the Acting Executive Director, will develop a job description of the Marketing Director. The Executive Committee, with approval of the NEC, will hire the Director of Marketing. It is expected that the new Director of Marketing will be on board no later than February 28, 2012.

Museum Committee is in need of your help. We are missing some convention items to complete the museum set. Please send only the *requested* donations below to the AVA Headquarters, Attention: Joanne Forinash. Please call (210).872.2743 before sending *any* donations as we do not have space for duplicates.

Needed: Convention Patches for 1979, 1981, 1983, 1999 and 2003.

Needed: Convention Pins for 1979, 1983, 1993, 2001, 2007 and 2009.

Needed: Convention Event Awards for 2001, 2005 and 2007.

2013 Convention – Marvin Stokes Chair Many of you have asked where the location is for the next AVA Convention. It will be held in Orlando, Florida on April 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26.

2011 Convention Merchandise Order yours while supplies last. Convention Cane Shield, General Patch and Pin, Suzy Belle Mascot Cow, and Rain Ponchos are available at HQ. Details will be in the October/November *TAW* newspaper and on the *Merchandise Store* web link.

Post Convention Photos to the Web Site

Share your convention fun and memories. Susan Pinneke has set up a shared album on the AVA 2011 Convention web site for you. The instructions for posting your photos are on the web site <http://www.ava.org/clubs/ava2011convention/index.asp> This link will be removed from the main AVA web page on September 30.

Mass Email from Headquarters by Candace Purcell Acting Executive Director - From time to time you will receive mass emails from the Executive Assistant. Please be assured that all such emails are reviewed and or requested by the AVA President or myself.

South Central Region Vokssporters – Ken Miles has established a Blog, to the messages, pictures, and videos upon which you are at liberty to respond at your own length. The internet address for that Blog is <http://AVASCRD.blogspot.com/> and found on the *AVA Leadership* web page. Ken can also be reached at e-mail address ava.scrd@hotmail.com Ken strongly believes in communicating.

Brazos Walking Sticks – Outfit your group. Get 20% off when you order 6 to 10 walking sticks and/or walking canes, all worth \$300 or more! Visit their website link for details. <http://www.brazos-walking-sticks.com/pages/Outfit-Your-Group.html>

Starting Point 2012 Edition Club Pre-Order Form – Due to the lower volume ordered this year and higher cost, the NEC unanimously voted to lower the club discount 20% to 10% on Starting Points only. Club Pre-Order Form is attached.

Paula Crist-Pickett of Santa Rosa, California donated \$681 to the AVA Convention from the sale of handcrafted cow theme items. Thank you again for the hard work Paula, and your creative way in which you helped this organization.

Reminders

- ✚ **Preparation of 2012 Starting Point** - Each year a few clubs fail to meet the midnight August 31st deadline for renewing their Year Round Events (YREs) or adding new ones. This has been shown to impact event participation. For example, in 2010 three clubs missed the deadline and their events had lower participation numbers than in previous years. Two of these clubs “got with the program” this year and renewed their 2012 YREs and Seasonal Events during the first week of June. Take a few minutes and review all of your 2012 entries on the Event Listings section (Find Walking Events) on the AVA Web Site. If any are missing you need to immediately contact your Regional Director. The annual Start Point is a valuable resource to all AVA Members and it is very important that it is complete by listing all of the YREs and Seasonal Events throughout the country.
- ✚ Please remember that if you have error messages or difficulty viewing a page of the AVA website or Club ESR area, make sure that you 1) delete Cookies, 2) make AVA a Trusted Site, 3) use *FireFox* as your browser if possible, before you contact HQ.
- ✚ **All Regional Directors** have until September 10 midnight to look over, approve and note any changes so that these YREs/SEs will be printed in the *2012 Starting Point* book and the *2012 IVV Calendar of Events* book. HQ must send this information to the IVV before September 15.
- ✚ **Annual Financial Report and Worksheet** – If you have not submitted these forms you have until November 15. Please use the latest forms that are posted on the AVA website at the *Publications-Forms* link, *AVA Club Forms* link.
- ✚ **AVA Headquarters** – will be standardizing all email addresses in the future, and will eventually have all position names instead of individual names. At this time the only position affected by this format is Marie Bebley HQ Events Coordinator, please make note that her email address is Events@ava.org
- ✚ **Mike Green, Rocky Mountain Region Director** – correct zip code is 80227-3135. Revised NEC XVII Roster is attached.
- ✚ **Questions concerning Clubs or Events** - please contact your Regional Director first, and then the HQ Events Coordinator at Events@ava.org if further assistance is needed.
- ✚ **August Statements** - will be mailed after the September 6 Holiday.
- ✚ **Tentative Vacation** - Linda Rebmann HQ Webmaster/Executive Assistant is planning to take vacation September 12 – 16.

Attachments:

Starting Point 2012 Edition Club Pre-Order Form
Revised NEC XVII Roster