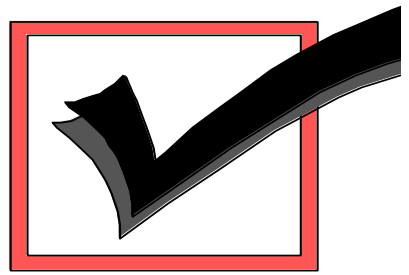


AVA CHECKPOINT



**Official voice of the American Volkssport Association,
America's premier noncompetitive sports organization!**

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NEC Meeting

The next NEC meeting will be held in Orlando, Florida on July 6-7, 2012. Site to be determined, and will be announced at a later date.

Call For Club Agenda Items

All AVA Clubs are called to submit to their Regional Directors and State Associations, agenda items for consideration at the July NEC meeting. This notification from HQ will fulfill the 90 day notice requirement. All Club agenda items are due to their Regional Directors by Monday, May 7, fulfilling the 60 day requirement. (form attached)

Annual AVA Club Dues

Club dues will be billed in May 2012 for the period of July 2012 through June 2013. Dues are due July 1 and late after September 1st. A \$25.00 late dues fee will be assessed if not received by September 1. If your club deactivates within the months of July, August, or September they will still be responsible for \$12.50 in dues. Deactivation within October, November or December, responsible for dues of \$25.00. Deactivation within January, February, or March the club is responsible for \$37.50 in dues. Deactivation within April, May or June the full \$50.00 is payable.

Nonprofit Group Acknowledgement Letters

Acknowledgement letters to all clubs under our group income tax exemption that are in compliance have been mailed out along with a copy of AVA's letter of exemption received from the IRS. Many clubs have found it hard in the past to be recognized as a nonprofit without this IRS letter of determination so Candy has included it. The group exemption does not cover sales tax, state taxes or any other form of tax exemption, only Federal Income tax. All clubs must use their own tax ID number and our group number which is printed in the letter.

E-postcards and other 990 IRS filings

A 990 is the IRS income tax form for nonprofits. Late fees will be assessed for delinquent proof of filing E-postcards and any other form of 990 required by AVA. Proof of E-postcards and other 990 forms filed must be received in HQ no later than November 15, 2012. Past November 15 these reports are past due and will be assessed a \$10 late fee. Same as Officer updates and Financial Reports.

Electronic Sanction Requests - Event City Input Errors

When entering data for the Event City on the sanctioning page for your event, do not include the state, zip code, commas, or use all CAPS, or other location information. Simply enter the event city name ONLY. The city will appear under the appropriate state heading.

National Physical Fitness & Sports Month (NPFMS) and National Volkssport Month (NVM)

Dorm Batson from Federal Way, Washington, has designed another set of beautiful patches for the 2012 National Physical Fitness & Sports Month held in May, and the 2012 National Volkssport Month held in October. Photos of the patches are posted to the *Publications-Forms* web link under the *Graphics/Logos* link. Price to clubs \$2.50 each, individuals \$5.00 each. (club order forms are attached)

Event Sanctioning

An Event Sanctioning Request (ESR) is to be entered into the AVA Electronic Sanction System (ESS) no later than 90 days before the event. The Sanctioning Authority (RD) will review all event sanction requests to ensure they are complete and correct. The Sanctioning Authority must approve an event no less than 60 days prior to the event; before September 30 for Year Round Events and applicable. Sanctioning Authorities may approve sanction requests with less than 90 days lead-time on case-by-case basis to meet special circumstances/opportunities. Such deviation must be coordinated with the Events Coordinator at AVA Headquarters to ensure timely delivery of the IVV Certifications Stamp(s). YRE and seasonals must be sanctioned by August 31 midnight to be included in *the IVV Calendar of Events* book. September 30 is the deadline to be included in the *Starting Point* book for 2013.

IVV Certification Stamp – Return for Seasonal

For Seasonals lasting 3 months or longer, the IVV Certifications Stamp is retained as long as the event is renewed within the proper time frame. Participation reports if not entered within 30 days after the stated end date must be called or emailed to HQ at events@ava.org. The report is NOT late and will not have a late fee charged until 30 days after the quarter following the end date. For seasonals less than 3 months, the participation report is due 30 days after the stated end date of the event, and a late charge WILL be charged if not received within that time frame. If there are any extenuating circumstances why the report cannot be entered on a timely basis, the club needs to notify their Regional Director, who will contact the Executive Director.

1. For a seasonal lasting 3 months or more, participation report must be entered no later than 30 days after the quarter following the end date.
2. For a seasonal lasting less than 3 months, the stamp will be returned 30 days upon completion of the seasonal.

Youth Program

Revised information for the new 2011-2012 Girl Scout Walk Together patch and revised brochure are available on the AVA web site at http://www.ava.org/girlscouts_youth_master/Girl_ScoutWalkTogetherBrochure.pdf. Requirements have been revised to 6 walks per 12 month period for the Master Walker Program. (brochure attached)

AVA Special Programs

Check your website, brochures, publicity and newsletters to insure that our *AVA Special Programs* are referenced in this way. We no longer use the term Special Event Programs. Use the term “program” instead of “event.” Completed books may be redeemed no later than 12 months after the ending date of the Special Program.

Volkssports Associate Membership

Membership clarification – Any family, friends (2) who agree to use a single mailing address for AVA materials, or businesses that wish to become a Volkssports Associate on an annual or life time basis should submit a written application along with the appropriate dues directly to AVA National Headquarters. A Life Member may add a spouse or a friend for an additional cost.

IVV Congress of Delegates

The meeting date and location for the 2012 IVV Congress of Delegates meeting will be held in October 19 – 21 in Zhaoqing, China. The next IVV Olympiad will be held in Val Gardena, South Tyrol (Italy) on June 25 – 29, 2013.

TAW Deadline

The June/July issue of *The American Wanderer* deadline is April 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.

AVA Website Under Construction

If you haven't been to the official website lately, you might want to check it out www.ava.org. Make sure you find the official site. There are several AVA club sites and all kinds of nonrelated sites also using the title AVA.

We're making changes to the site and have added two new links on the homepage. Click on "**Newsroom**" and you will see recent news on selected matters of interest to AVA.

Then go to the "**What's Happening,**" link, where we are listing photos and articles sent in from other AVA organizations. This gives us the opportunity to list more material and ensures more timely posting of your information.

Other major changes are coming up. If you have any suggestions on what you would like to see on your official AVA headquarters website, drop a note to marketing@ava.org.

AVA Tie-in With Nationally Acclaimed Parade

Gaining recognition and publicity for the American Volkssport Association on a local, regional and national level is an essential element of our efforts to increase membership in existing clubs and to establish new clubs. We all must play a part.

One of the accepted methods to gain publicity and exposure is to Tie-In with already existing events that occur in your city or neighboring communities. A good example of this Tie-In principle will play out April 28 in San Antonio through the efforts of the AVA Headquarters in Universal City, Texas.

With April on the way, it will soon be Fiesta time in the city. Fiesta is one of the largest festivals in America with over 100 events over a 10-day period. One of these events happens to be a parade and taking advantage of the opportunity to walk a few kilometers and gain tons of publicity for volkssporting was a no brainer.

Getting involved with existing events is not difficult. Quite often community event leaders are looking for participants and they advertise on community event calendars. In this case, AVA requested and was granted the opportunity to march as a unit in the Fiesta Flambeau Night Parade, the largest illuminated night parade in the United States. The parade will be viewed by a crowd of over 600,000 street spectators along a 2.6 mile parade route.

As the umbrella organization for our several hundred volkssport clubs, AVA HQ really tries to maintain a national focus. This parade participation effort may seem local at first glance. However, that is not the case. An estimated 1.5 million viewers will watch the parade live and commercial free on KLRN, a public television station. There will be groups from all over the U.S. watching the parade as spectators. And, last but certainly not least, it will also be streamed on the World Wide Web www.fiestaflambeau.org, adding international exposure for volkssporting.

So if you're outside the TV viewing area and not attending the parade, log onto your computer at 7:30 p.m. (central time) on April 28 and look for our AVA banner and members from some local clubs. We're scheduled in the second half of the parade so look for us around 8:30 to 9 p.m. (only an estimate).

If your club has participated in any Tie-in events, send a photo or article to marketing.org and we can maybe post them on the website link "What's Happening."

Attachments:

Call to Clubs for Agenda Items Form (90 day notice)

NPFMS (May) Club Order form

NVM (October) Club Order Form

2011 – 2012 Girl Scout Walk Together Brochure