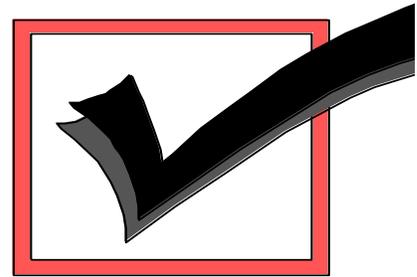


AVA CHECKPOINT



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

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NEC MEETING

Our next official National Executive Council XVII Meeting will be held July 6 and 7, 2012 at the Fairfield Inn Orlando Airport, 7100 Augusta National Drive, Orlando, Florida 32822, telephone 407.888.2666. The meeting schedule is as follows: 1) Friday, July 6: 7 to 10 p.m. 2) Saturday, July 7: 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.. Both of these meetings are formal meetings. We no longer have an informal meeting on Friday evening. The recommended dress is Business.

Note: Headquarters will announce the official agenda items to Club Officers/RDs/State Associations by email.

TAW DEADLINE

The deadline for the August/September issue of *The American Wanderer* is June 25. All articles, including *Tails on the Trails*, 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.

URGENT REMINDER FROM THE PACIFIC REGIONAL DIRECTOR AND IT COMMITTEE CHAIR

An article recently ran in *TAW* about what is happening with the AVA and its IT (Information Technology) Committee. I want to repeat a bit of that article as well as parts of the IT committee summary presented January, 2012 at the National Executive Council (NEC) meeting here as a reminder of the call to action that certain clubs must heed.

Since August of 2011, our committee has been established and hard at work researching the history of AVA's IT. From all the background work, we came up with our initial proposal and timeline for work necessary to move the AVA IT department into the 21st century. I am offering here a *condensed* version where we are at the moment, and where we are going.

- There is a gaping security hole where certain sensitive functionalities are all hosted on a server interconnected to the website with general external access both through the internet and WiFi. These functions should be behind a firewall. Unfortunately, there is neither a simple nor cheap fix.
- The AVA applications are run on technology no longer supported by Microsoft. This really means that the technology is problematic and lacking in the basic ability to fix the security holes.
- One basic security hole is that AVA hosts about 40 to 60 club websites on the same system, giving those clubs intimate access to the computers.

As a result, we have been contacting individual clubs to alert them to the need to have their club websites hosted separately from AVA by September, 2012. AVA is not charging any of the clubs for the hosting for the months of 2012 that are being utilized.

All clubs were contacted in February using the email address on record at AVA. If you weren't contacted, this means we do not have your current contact information.

If your club is currently hosted on the AVA servers, and you have not been contacted by the IT Committee members Chris Zegelin or Chris Mellen, please contact Holly Pelking at pa_rd@ava.org immediately.

18th AVA BIENNIAL CONVENTION ROOM BLOCK RESERVATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

Hotel room reservations can now be made by calling 1.800.380.6751 or simply clicking on this link, [Orlando Airport Marriott >>](#). A reservation form is located on the left side of the homepage. If you call, be sure to request the AVA convention room block.

The negotiated rate of \$99 applies only to the convention dates Monday, April 29 thru Friday, May 3, 2013. The overall dates including the pre and post events are April 27 thru May 5.

Hotel information: Orlando Airport Marriott, 7499 Augusta National Drive, Orlando, Florida 32822-5015.

LOUISIANA CAPITAL WALK CHANGE

The location of the Louisiana State Capital Walk in Baton Rouge has been temporarily changed to New Orleans, Louisiana, effective immediately. This change was necessitated by the inactivation of the Volkssport club in Baton Rouge. The Capital City event is now being hosted by the Crescent City Volkssport Club, AVA-473.

The AVA Special Program, Walking the United States: FIFTY-ONE CAPITALS PROGRAM, on the LA line, now can be stamped with the **YR 76** IVV Certification Stamp. The official event designation is **New Orleans – State Capital/French Quarter Walk**. Event details are listed in the *Starting Point* 2012 (page 259) or on the AVA web site.

For history buffs: New Orleans served as the capital of Louisiana from 1812 – 1849 except for a brief period from 1830 - 1831.

REVOKED CLUBS NON-PROFIT STATUS BY IRS

Keep in mind that the AVA Board of Directors voted in January 2012 to allow all revoked clubs until June 30, 2012 to become re-instated as a non-profit. If on July 1, 2012 your club is still not in compliance per policy, your club will be deactivated. Keep your Regional Director informed of your progress, especially if you are having problems. All clubs which have been revoked are not allowed to come under AVA's group exemption per the IRS when re-instated. Each club then will be under their own exemption and must provide a copy of the letter of determination issued by the IRS.

CLUBS NOT UNDER AVA'S GROUP EXEMPTION

There are still many clubs under another group exemption or under their own that have not provided proof to the AVA from the parent organization of their exemption or provided their letter of determination. This is a one-time requirement to ensure that all clubs are in compliance; not providing this proof will keep the club from voting at the convention and could cause a late fee for non-compliance with policy. All Regional Directors are urged to ensure the clubs in their region which have been identified as non-AVA group clubs provide this proof.

OUTSTANDING FIRST QUARTER PARTICIPATION REPORTS

There are a few clubs that have not reported their first quarter participation reports. If you are one of those who have not done so, send an email to Marie Bebley at events@ava.org and she will manually enter totals. Include in your email, the Year Round Event number and all totals.

2013 ELECTRONIC SANCTIONING WINDOW OPENS ON JUNE 1

All YREs and SEs for 2013 need to be submitted for sanctioning between June 1st and August 31st. All events should have a starting point location, and beginning and ending dates. The use of "To Be Determined" (TBD) should only be used as a last resort because it causes problems for travelers who are unable to plan for the events.

PAYMENTS FOR EVENT CREDIT

All checks from walking participants must be made out to the AVA club that sponsored the event. Checks must not be written to an individual; each club must have a bank account in the club's name so that personal income and club income is not co-mingled. This is a requirement.

STARTING POINT 2013

This year only pre-orders for clubs and individuals for *Starting Point* 2013 will be accepted and will not be billed until books arrive. The deadline for pre-orders is no later than midnight Sunday, July 1. The deadline is necessary for the publisher to ensure books will be delivered before Christmas. All orders will be shipped from the headquarters. Estimated delivery time is after Thanksgiving – early December. Pre-order form attached.

STARTING POINT 2012

The price has been reduced to \$13.50 which is our cost. There are no further discounts.

MAINTAINING CLUB HISTORY

In the May *Checkpoint*, an error was made in the information provided for a club history article. The correct information, in part, is as follows:

"We strongly suggest that each Volkssporter maintain a personal journal to record this information, and to make sure they have a club name and at least the event # per event. If a participant needs the journal information from the event, they will need to record details on perhaps the Event Brochure, or some other form of tracking, themselves. Both copies of the AVA Start Card are kept by our AVA clubs."

AVA VOLKSSPORTERS MARCH IN FIESTA PARADE

Volkssporting received international attention recently as part of a tie-in event with a nationally acclaimed city event, Fiesta San Antonio. The AVA provided a 42 member joint marching unit to walk in the April 28, 2012, Fiesta Flambeau Night Parade. This is the largest illuminated night parade in the nation.

Gaining recognition and publicity for AVA on a local, regional and national level remains an essential element of efforts to retain and increase membership in existing clubs and to establish new clubs nationwide. Visit <http://www.klrn.org/fiesta/> click on the Fiesta Flambeau button. To view the specific AVA portion advance video to setting 2:35:41. For more information, see attachment.

"A FAMILY AFFAIR"

There is another new video on volkssporting titled "A Family Affair" on www.everybodywalks.org. Please check it out and consider using it for publicity on your club website. The direct URL address to view the video is: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-94z0OS7SHo&list=UU6HKoewppuwDGj-S3vuf03Q&index=3&feature=plcp>

Attachments:

Starting Point 2013 Pre-Order Form for Clubs and Individuals

"Newsroom" web page – AVA Volkssporters March in Fiesta Parade