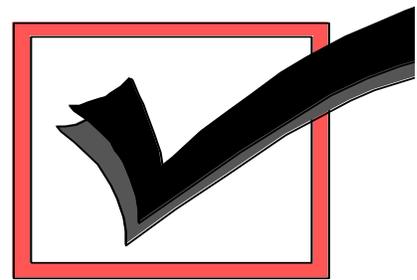


AVA CHECKPOINT



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

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The New Role of the IVV, Heinz Johnson, President

The American Volkssport Association has been a member of the International Federation of Popular Sports (IVV) since 1979. The IVV was an organization that was formed to encourage health, foster international friendships and sponsor noncompetitive sports events. A significant component is the IVV Achievement Awards Program where participants can earn a pin, patch and certificate for every level that is achieved. This is the “carrot” that seems to hook most people on volkssporting.

Members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families who were stationed in Europe, particularly Germany, in the 1970s and 80s got accustomed to spending weekends out-of-doors walking through forests, vineyards, agricultures areas, and small villages in a new program called “volksmarching.” By taking part in this new program participants had an unusual opportunity to visit new places and see historical landmarks as well as meet new people and gain new friendships. After walking there was always an anticipated social activity...a fest with music and a variety of local foods and beverages.

Once a military member's overseas tour ended there was reassignment back to the “states” and those people that were hooked on volksmarching were eager to continue with it in the United States. Thus, the military can be credited for being the catalyst to spread volkssporting throughout the United States throughout the 1980s and helping to get new clubs chartered and new events organized.

The IVV as the “Mother” organization continued over the years to oversee volkssporting and it remained pretty much Europe oriented. However, as more and more national associations joined from different parts of the world it became clear that changes needed to be made. Two years ago the governing body of the IVV began to reorganize with the idea that the organization needed to increase its international role for worldwide promotion, growth and extension.

One of the main elements in reorganizing was the creation of continental associations...a concept that would lend itself to better cooperation between volkssport associations on the same continent. It was a way to reflect the unique cultural and social characteristics within a continent and operate with some independence. This in turn would let the IVV governing body truly focus on international issues.

In 2010 two new continental associations were formed: IVV-Europe and IVV-Asia. This was followed by a restructuring of the IVV through a new set of governing statutes at the Congress of Delegates in October of 2011. It gave legitimacy to the creation of the continental associations and work began on forming an association on this continent.

At the 2012 Congress of Delegates in Zhaoqing, China, which I attended, a new continental association called IVV-Americas was approved. It includes the volkssport federations of Brazil and

Canada and the IVV governing body announced that it hoped the AVA would formally join in the future.

Our national executive council held a special meeting on 8 October and approved our joining IVV-Americas contingent on approval by the AVA membership (chartered clubs) rather than the National Executive Council. I believe this was the correct decision. In my opinion, it was the right thing to do to involve the AVA membership.

Our joining IVV-Americas is expected to be decided at our next regular membership meeting which will be at the 18th AVA Biennial Convention in Orlando next May. In the meantime, we will develop a package of background information to send to you, as a club president, to help your club in formulating a voting decision on this important matter. The information package should be ready for distribution before the end of the year.

The national clearing house that was set up for questions relating to IVV-Americas is still open and you can email any questions to Bob Wright at rcwright_va@comcast.net

IVV Headoffice, Graham Fawcett, IVV Vice-President

This headquarters was notified by the IVV Vice-President that the IVV has created a new web site. The address remains the same, but you will find that the appearance is quite different. Several features, such as a discussion forum, remain to be added in the next few months. Changes in the web site will not be possible until after the 2012 IVV Congress of Delegates (29 October or later). If the new IVV web site does not appear immediately, you may have to reset your “Favorites” or “Bookmarks” setting for the IVV website first, in order to clear the web site information stored in your computer. Your Internet browser should have a means of letting you see a list of all “Favorites” or “Bookmarks”. Delete the existing “Favorites” or “Bookmarks” for the IVV web site only, then enter the IVV web address manually in the URL command line, and then save the IVV web site as a new setting. If you have any other questions or problems, please do not hesitate to contact me. Your suggestions for improvement will also be appreciated.” Please contact Graham through the Contacts – Web Manager button on the top right corner of the Home Page. He looks forward to your feedback.

Nominations for AVA Officers, Glen Conyers

Glen Conyers, Chair of the 2013 National Nominating Committee, is reminding you that nominations for officer candidates for NEC XVIII are due NLT midnight/30 November. That is the final deadline. This is for the office of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Their terms of office will begin on 1 July 2013 and end on 30 June 2015. The elections will take place at the 18th AVA Biennial Convention in Orlando, Florida on 3 May 2013.

Nomination letters (expressing an interest in everyone becoming a candidate for office) will be accepted until **midnight of Friday, 16 November 2012** by sending a “hard copy” letter to:

Glen Conyers
PO Box 3191
Joplin, MO 64803

Note: deadline is affirmed by postmark date.

For additional information, contact Glen at glenconyers@sbcglobal.net or 417.434.0977.

Canadian Volkssport Association, David Hall

The Canadian Volkssport Federation National Convention will be 30-31 May and 1 June 2014 in Banff, Alberta, Canada. Information may be found at <http://cvfconvention2014.ca/>. Information also is posted to the AVA website under the Locate Walking Events link, Multi Event Calendar web page for future reference. Stay tuned for more information in late 2012 and early in 2013.

2013 AVA Club Anniversaries

Preparations are being made to distribute all AVA Club Anniversary letters and ribbons for 2013 to Regional Directors by the end of November. Years of recognition are for those clubs meeting the 10/15/20/25/30/35 bench mark. Congratulations.

Walk Map Directions, Holly Pelking

Per the motion carried at the July 2012 NEC meeting all new walk directions effective 1 January 2013, are to include the copyright symbol and the year © 2013 on walk map directions.

IT Committee Chair, Holly Pelking

The Information Technology (IT) Committee has been busy at work for you. Our first goal was to improve the security and stability of the AVA website and computer systems. We have been actively working on this issue with an expected completion by the end of the year.

Our next step is to improve the Electronic Sanctioning Request (ESR) fields, which affects pretty much everything we do as clubs. It is the center of information for everything we search and use to identify our walks. It is how people find out about our walks, it helps us describe our walks and it navigates people to our walks.

The information from the ESR is also used to create reports for feedback about our walks. The participation reports tell us how many walkers completed the walks and how are they categorized (Free, Credit Only, Award, Non-IVV) and provide a snapshot of the event.

However, we feel there is much more that can be done with the ESR information and many ways to get the information out to you and the public at large.

We need your help and input to hear what you have to say about the process and how we can make it better for you. This committee does not want to make assumptions or use personal bias to decide how to proceed.

Please take a few minutes and complete the attached survey with your club members. We value your input so we can make a better quality product for you.

The survey time frame ends **midnight of Thursday, 15 November 2012**. All responses need to be in to us so we can compile the feedback for presentation at the January National Executive Council (NEC) meeting. You will find the various ways you can return your survey at the bottom of the survey form. Thank you for your help and patience as we continue improving AVA! Your IT Committee

1. On the AVA Site scroll down below the photo.
2. Proceed to **IT Committee Website Survey**
3. [Click here](#) {wait}
4. At File click on Save As
5. My Documents comes up with File Name [Website Survey 2012](#)
6. Save this. Now, if you happened to have saved this file before.
Save it again YES If not NO go to Documents and Return to My Documents

7. Come out of this Attachment by closing X and back out of the AVA Site.
8. Hit Start at the left bottom of the screen. And go to My Documents at the top.
9. Proceed to pdf file Website Survey 2012 and double click.
10. Expand form to 100%
11. Fill in Form - Print Form - Save it
12. Go to your e-mail and attach the IT Website 2012 form.

Starting Point 2013

Extra copies are available after the preorders were filled. If you would like to order a copy, please fill out and send in the attached multi-use order form (for clubs and/or individuals).

18th AVA Biennial Convention Update

Convention Committee officials are planning an 8 November mail out of registration booklets and forms for the 18th AVA Biennial Convention. Please send your completed forms by e-mail to AVAHQ@ava.org, or fax 210.659.1212, or mail them to the regular headquarters address. Online payment is not available.

Remember, the conference pre-registration deadline is March 21. However, you must register by February 1 to take advantage of the Manatee Adoption Package offer.

Finally, if rooms are available, the convention hotel will honor the \$99 rate three days before (26-28 April) and three days after (4-6 May) the convention dates. First come, first served. To make reservations, go to ava.org homepage for further information. Don't wait. Book today.

Capitol or Capital

When entering event descriptions, be mindful that the correct spelling for the AVA Special Program, Walking the United States (50 States/51 Capitals) is C-A-P-I-T-A-L. The spelling Capitol - as defined in the Webster dictionary is - the building in which the U.S. Congress meets in Washington, D.C. or the building in which a State legislature meets. All other descriptions should be spelled, Capital.

TAW Deadline

The deadline for the February/March issue of *The American Wanderer* is Tuesday, 25 December 2012. 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 e-mailing. Article length no longer than 500 words please.

Next NEC Meeting

The next NEC meeting will be held all day Friday and Saturday, 18 & 19 January 2013, in Schertz, TX. Details will follow.

Reminders

-  15 November - Reply to the IT Committee Website Survey – Survey is featured on the AVA home web page, mid-center <http://www.ava.org/>
-  15 November - Last day for clubs to submit club officer information (update) to this headquarters
-  15 November - A 990 is the IRS income tax form for nonprofits. Proof of your online E-postcard and other 990 forms must be sent to this headquarters.

- ✚ 15 November – Annual Financial Reports and Worksheet AVA Form 102C3F <http://www.ava.org/forms/avaformn.htm> are due as this headquarters.
- ✚ 16 November – Club reports are past due on this date, a \$10 late fee will be assessed.
- ✚ 19 November – Club agenda item proposals must be submitted to Regional Directors.
- ✚ 1 December – Deadline for national award nominations (Distinguished Achievement, Hall of Fame, Trailblazer, Ted Ballman Youth Award, and IVV Award) submitted to HQ from the Regional Directors.
- ✚ 1 February – Regional Directors must submit the names of those presented the AVA Meritorious Service Award, the AVA Certificate of Service or the AVA Certification of Appreciation to the AVA Awards Committee.
- ✚ 1 February – Deadline for submission of Pulbicity Contest entries to Chuck Blische, AVA HQ.
- ✚ 1 February – Deadline to register for Convention to take advantage of Manatee Adoption Package offer.
- ✚ 21 March – Deadline for 18th AVA Biennial Convention pre-registration.

The AVA National Headquarters staff, would like to wish you and yours a very Happy Thanksgiving.

A special thanks to our sponsor Yamax and to our two partners!



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Attachments:

Information Technology (IT) Survey
Starting Point 2013 Order Form