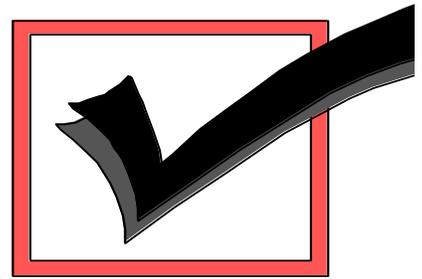


AVA CHECKPOINT



**The official voice of the American Volkssport Association
America's premier noncompetitive sports organization!**

This newsletter is intended especially for AVA Club Presidents as well as Club Officers.
It is used to relay timely information, pass on policy and operational changes
and be a reminder of approaching deadlines.

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June 2013

New AVA President Elected

Dennis Michele was elected by a close vote at the 18th AVA Biennial Convention to become the new president of the AVA. His two-year term of office will begin on July 1, 2013 and he will succeed President Heinz Johnson who did not seek a second term.

Convention Representation

Our 18th AVA Biennial Convention showed that there were 249 AVA Clubs eligible to vote and they were represented by 216 Delegates or Proxy Designations. Adding the 14 AVA Officers and Regional Directors, the total voting strength was 230.

Footloose in Florida

Preliminary statistics show there were 3,337 walkers who took part in the nine convention walk events. This is an average of 371 walkers taking part in each event. Daily stats are: April 27: 328; April 28: 346; April 29: 354; April 30: 411; May 1: 414; May 2: 427; May 3: 454 (President's Walk); May 4: 322; and May 5: 281.

It's Salem, Oregon!

Yes...the state of Oregon in the Great Northwest was voted at the 18th AVA Biennial Convention to be the location for our next convention. It is slated to be held on June 15 – 19, 2015 and this moves the biennial convention back into the traditional June timeframe. The Oregon Trail State Volkssport Association proposes to center the convention at the Phoenix Grand Hotel in Salem. Daily convention walks are planned to begin on Saturday, June 13 and end on Sunday, June 21.

More information and convention details will be released in the days ahead as the convention organizing committee begins its planning process.

20th AVA Biennial Convention

The follow-on biennial convention will be held in 2017...a "short" four years away. If any club or state association would like to make a formal bid for this convention it needs to be done at the next convention in Salem, Oregon. A convention can be held anytime during the months of April, May or June.

Charlie Gentile made an announcement after Salem, Oregon was selected for the convention in 2015 that there is interest in Billings, Montana for that city to serve as the convention site in June of 2017.

Membership Meeting Minutes

Currently, when the minutes of the membership meeting at a biennial convention are compiled they are placed in draft form and put on the AVA web site to await approval at the next membership meeting two years later. It makes no sense to wait two years to have the minutes approved so they can become an official document of the AVA. Realistically, it is difficult for most people to remember what happened two weeks ago let alone two years ago. Thus, a new approval process is considered to be appropriate so the minutes can be approved in a timely manner.

The conventioners agreed that effective with the minutes of the membership meeting at the 18th AVA Biennial Convention the approval process will be changed as follows:

- 1) The meeting minutes will be compiled, reviewed by the NEC for correctness and temporarily posted online in draft form.
- 2) The minutes then will be sent to each member club to review for accuracy such as a misspelling, omission, correctness, and the like.
- 3) Upon this review, the NEC will make applicable changes submitted by member clubs, again review the minutes and then approve them.
- 4) The approved minutes then will be official and posted on the AVA web site.

IVV-Americas

A proposed amendment was sent to you by President Johnson in an email on April 11, 2013 at 3:31 PM, Subject: Proposed Amendment to AVA Bylaws. The amendment specifically said in part:

- 1) That the AVA continue working with the IVV-Americas organizing committee to resolve to all parties' satisfaction all issues identified above and to finalize IVV-Americas' organizing documents consistent with the AVA's organizing documents and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) 501(C)(3) determination, and
- 2) That the AVA membership will hold a vote on whether to join IVV-Americas once the NEC affirms that the above issues are resolved to the AVA's satisfaction.

The second part of this motion was amended at the convention as follows:

- 1) That concurrently with the Canadian Volkssport Federation and ANDA Brazil, the American Volkssport Association becomes a member of a not-for-profit IVV-Americas.

After much discussion it was decided to suspend the rules so a simplified version of the first part of the motion could be considered first:

- 1) That the AVA shall continue working to join IVV-Americas.

The vote on that motion was very close: 117 in favor of it to 113 against it.

Afterwards, the amendment to the original motion was withdrawn; then the original motion was withdrawn; then the motion to amend the AVA Bylaws was withdrawn. The issue to continue working with the IVV Americas Committee stands for the time being.

The AVA Representative to the IVV-Americas Organizing Committee, Bob Wright, has been instructed to continue to work to resolve any issues so a vote on whether to join IVV-Americas can be held later. You will be kept up-to-date on this issue.

Next NEC Meeting

The new NEC XVIII members will conduct an official NEC meeting in Schertz, Texas on Saturday, August 24 at the Fairfield Inn. Thursday, August 22 and Friday, August 23 will be official training and orientation for all Regional Directors. Those who did not attend the Orlando, Florida NEC meeting April 30, may view an approved draft copy of the official meeting minutes as well as a posting of the final NEC meeting minutes of the January 18-19, 2013 in Universal City, Texas on the AVA website at [Administrative/General Admin/EC/NEC Meetings link](#).

Call for Club Agenda Items

An email announcement and official agenda item form was sent out (no later than 90 days prior to the August 24 NEC Meeting) to all new NEC XVIII members and to all Club Officers on Monday, May 20, requesting proposed agenda items from all clubs. Proposed agenda items from clubs must be forwarded to your Regional Director no later than 60 days prior to the August 24 NEC meeting.

Shipping Cost Clarification

When making a single order of four or less IVV Distance, Event or Special Program Record Books, the total shipping cost will be \$1.50.

18th AVA Biennial Convention Reports

If you want a copy of the Biennial Report (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2013) OR the Recognition Awards 2011-2013 booklets send an email to linda@ava.org.

Postings are located on the AVA website at the [Conventions menu tab, History link, 2013, Recognition Awards and Biennial Report links](#).

National Physical Fitness & Sports Month Patches (NPFMSM)

If anyone needs a May 2013 NPFMSM patch you can still purchase one. The club price is \$2.50 and the cost for individuals is \$5.00. There is no shipping charge or discounts. These one-of-a-kind patches make a nice gift for someone who took part in a May event but did not get one. At the same time, the sale of these patches helps support the AVA. To order a patch, contact theresa@ava.org.

Club Input for *Starting Point* 2014

It's time to begin thinking about the event details that you want printed for your YREs and SEs next year in *Starting Point* 2014. The deadline for all events that will be listed in this annual publication is midnight, August 31. The event for any ESR submitted after that date will NOT appear in the *Starting Point* 2014.

Please cooperate and make every effort to submit as many of your 2014 YREs and SEs in June and July rather than waiting until the last minute crush. This will allow time for our copy editor to review them and contact you to make any corrections that may be needed.

For detailed references, explaining each step of the ESR data entry process, visit the [Administrative menu tab – Clubs Only link – Help For Clubs link](#). To login to the ESR area on the AVA website, select the [Administrative menu tab – Clubs Only link – Club Home Page-ESR link](#).

When submitting information, use the allotted field for **Description**, limiting the length of your input in this area. Additional information can be added in the "Comments" field. Guidelines for input are provided in the [AVA Policy Manual, Appendix E, page 49-51](#).

Starting Point Pre-Order Form

This year only pre-orders for the *Starting Point* 2014 will be accepted. The deadline for pre-ordering is no later than midnight, August 1. The deadline is necessary for publisher to ensure a pre-Christmas delivery. All orders will be shipped from the headquarters. Estimated delivery time is after Thanksgiving – early December. Pre-order form is attached.

AVA- Girl Scouts USA Walk-Together 2013-2014 Patch

Many thanks to Debbie Kruep of the Illinois Trekkers and Nancy Wittenberg AVA Youth Programs Chair, for encouraging participation of young Girl Scouts to design the 2013-2014 AVA-GSUSA Walk-Together patch. Debbie Kruep will be presenting a beautiful AVA certificate to the design winner on June 6 at an AVA Master Program Awards ceremony. AVA appreciates the beautiful artistic winning design by Sydney Vokes, Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois Council, Troop 813. Please help support this great effort to involve youth in our events. Watch for more details on the new patch.

If your club is interested in purchasing a 2012/2013 Walk-Together patch for \$2.00 each, or a prior year patch, please contact karen@ava.org.

Club Compliance Spreadsheet

It is very important for you to review the attached spreadsheet to see if your club is behind on a compliance item. If so, you need to take immediate action to get the matter resolved. Most of the things that are listed are simple to do and take very little time. However, if you put them off and ignore the requirement you will easily make the NOT IN GOOD STANDING list. Compliance eliminates future problems.

TAW Deadline

The deadline for the August/September issue of *The American Wanderer* is June 25, 2013. All articles, including *Tails on the Trails* and photographs should be emailed directly to Laurel Parrott, Editor taw@bhi.com or mailed to: 3526 Humboldt Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55412. Be sure to include "TAW" in the subject line if emailing. The article length limit is 500 words or less.

If you are submitting an advertisement, print the Advertising Agreement from the AVA website [Administrative menu tab/Clubs Only link AVA Club Forms link, Club AVA Form 907](#) and submit the advertisement copy and the advertising agreement directly to linda@ava.org. This is a binding contract between AVA headquarters and the Advertiser. Any changes to the contracted advertisement MUST BE received by linda@ava.org no later than 10 days (June 15) prior to the June 25 deadline.

Special thanks to our sponsor Yamax and to our partners for their continued support!



Official AVA Pedometer Sponsor



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Attachments

[Starting Point Pre-Order Form](#)

[Guidelines for Entering and Updating Year Round/Seasonal Events 2014](#)

[Club Compliance Spreadsheet](#)

[Awards Processed Comparisons](#)