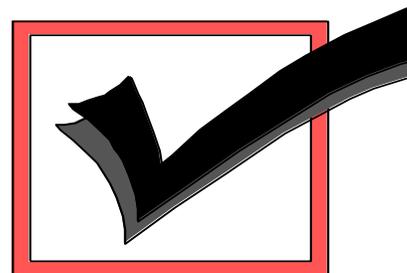


# AVA CHECKPOINT



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

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**September 2013**

## **Next NEC Meeting**

The next NEC meeting is scheduled for January 10-11, 2014, in the Pacific Region. Specific location to be announced.

## **No Sanction, No Coverage**

Did you know only sanctioned events are covered by insurance? If your club conducts an unsanctioned event it will not receive coverage and AVA is not potentially liable if an incident occurs. Insurance officials further clarified that "Walk Together," held by AVA clubs that are unsanctioned and where Start Cards are not used, cannot be covered by AVA insurance. Don't take the chance. The stakes are high.

## **IRS Letter of Determination for Reinstated Clubs**

Check the letter your club received from the IRS. In many instances, it appears that clubs are being reinstated as a 501(c)(4) nonprofit. This designation does not allow your club to collect tax deductible donations. If your IRS letter states any designation other than a 501(c)(3), visit the IRS website to see if your designation allows tax deductible donations to be collected by your club. The club may remain a club as long as it is a non-profit, but at all your events, a notice which is very prominent and visible must be placed at your tables stating that donations to the club are not tax deductible. You can still encourage tax deductible donations to the AVA national organization. Additionally, clubs have reported that the IRS in some instances has changed the fiscal year for reinstated clubs to January thru December. This means the club cannot file the E-postcard until December 31. All reinstated clubs should forward to AVA Headquarters a copy of their letter of determination so we can ensure you are covered under the AVA umbrella for federal tax exemption.

## **Postal Service Problems**

AVA Headquarters has been experiencing problems with incoming and outgoing mail items being damaged or lost. We reported this to the postal service and suggest that you copy your books prior to sending them to us. We have no way to recreate your books. You can add a tracking service to your mailed items for about 90 cents.

## **Event Start Point Change Submissions**

When submitting changes to Headquarters [avawebmaster@ava.org](mailto:avawebmaster@ava.org), the following items should be addressed at a minimum: city, state, sanction number, YRE number and nature of the change.

## **October is National Volkssport Month**

Background information and the patch order form (attached).

## **Spreadsheet of Club Items Due**

The "Items Due" spreadsheet (see attachment) is meant as a reminder to clubs that they have commitments past due to the AVA Headquarters.

## **Club Publicity Toolkit is Ready**

The Toolkit was created by AVA Headquarters to provide a one-stop shopping resource center to assist local member clubs with their grassroots efforts to generate publicity. The kit will be posted to the AVA website at [Administrative/Clubs Only/ Publicity Toolkit](#) NLT September 6. It is hoped that in using this resource package clubs can move forward to greater notoriety and event success and save time and effort at the same time. It includes an introduction to social media with "how to" tutorial links, several fill-in-the-blank press releases, two factsheets, three public service announcements, and a nationwide listing of media contacts sorted by state. Also it provides several speakers bureau presentations, a resource library and samples of several new promotional brochures. These items listed above can be downloaded for immediate use. AVA Headquarters will gladly print the color brochures in-house and mail them to clubs at no cost. A request email from a club officer to [avawebmaster@ava.org](mailto:avawebmaster@ava.org) is required. Use the word "Brochure" in the subject line. Maximum order of 75 on each brochure please.

There is much more that can be added to your kit by fellow club members so all can share in the knowledge. Success stories on member recruitment, event enhancement, collaborations with local community organizations, fundraising initiatives, ideas for club use of social media, interesting website addresses, and more. Clubs are encouraged to share with other clubs. Submit your stories, ideas and suggestions to [avawebmaster@ava.org](mailto:avawebmaster@ava.org). Please use "Resource Library" in the subject line. You can also use the "Contact Us" link on the AVA website.

## **TAW Submissions**

Articles and photographs for submission to *The American Wanderer (TAW)* newspaper must be submitted to their new email address, [taw@ava.org](mailto:taw@ava.org). When you send your email, include in the subject line, "TAW, the region you're covering and the article title." Send information regarding advertisements in TAW, ad contracts or contract revisions to Linda Rebmann at AVA National Headquarters, [linda@ava.org](mailto:linda@ava.org). Submission deadline for the December/January TAW issue is Friday, October 25.

## **Record Book Cost Increase**

It was decided at the August NEC meeting that the cost of record books will increase by \$1 beginning October 1, 2013. They will now cost \$6. The shipping fee remains the same at \$1.50 for one to four books.

## **Anniversary and Customized Event Stamps**

Do you have a club anniversary or other special occasion coming up that you want to recognize with an event? AVA Headquarters can loan clubs event stamps with slugs indicating 20, 25, 30 and 35-year anniversaries. Stamps should be returned no later than 10 days after your anniversary walk. Clubs may also purchase stamps from AVA Headquarters with customized special occasion slugs. Clubs can keep the slug but must return the stamp handle. These stamps must be ordered at least 60 days prior to your event to ensure slugs are received in time for your event. [events@ava.org](mailto:events@ava.org)

## **Record Book/Award Processing Chart**

See attachments.

**Special thanks** to our AVA partners for their continued support!



### **Attachments:**

***NVM Background Information***

***2013 National Volkssport Month (NVM) Patch Order Form***

***Club Items Due***

***AVA Award Processing Chart Comparisons***

***AVA Ten Event Book Processing Comparisons***