



CHECKPOINT

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

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AVA Executive Director Selection

The American Volkssport Association National Executive Council XVIII is pleased to announce the appointment of Stephanie Sánchez Sinclair as its national executive director effective January 27, 2014. The selection was approved by the National Executive Council during its meeting held January 10-11, 2014 in Tucson, Arizona. [Click here to view the full story!](#)

Special Thanks from Executive Director Stephanie S. Sinclair

I would like to extend a word of thanks to our National Board President, Dennis Michele and our entire National Executive Council for offering me the opportunity to join your team. I believe in our mission to provide fun, fitness, and friendship through noncompetitive sports and am glad to be able to offer my skill set to help secure a viable future for the AVA.

A special word of thanks goes to Candace Purcell. Candy has “held down the fort” at the AVA Headquarters serving in two capacities as both Finance & Operations Director and Interim Executive Director. Please continue to show your appreciation for all her hard efforts throughout the years. Candy, and our headquarters staff, has welcomed me aboard seamlessly. I am tremendously thankful to her for all she does for AVA. Candy continues in her work as our Finance & Operations Director and direct supervisor for our staff. Thanks to her expertise and dedication, I feel confident in moving into the public realm across the country to work with you all as we actively seek partners for our movement and promote our mission.

AVA National Headquarters Staff Updates

Marketing & Publicity Director Position—In the interest of available funding, the NEC made the decision to eliminate the position of Marketing & Publicity Director. We thank Chuck Blische for his work completed for AVA, especially in compiling the Club publicity toolkit and organizing the biennial publicity contest. Mr. Blische will be departing AVA on February 22. We wish him the best in his future endeavors.

IVV World Walking Day

Scheduled for May 8, 2014. Walks are held by International Association of Popular Sports (IVV) associated clubs worldwide. AVAHQ requests that AVA clubs provide to them, no later than March 15, the number of achievement certificates needed to support your walking events for this activity. Walks may be hosted the weekend before May 8, or on May 8, or the weekend after. Participating walkers will receive a certificate, if ordered from AVA.



Save the Date 12-13-14

Regional Directors are seeking buy-in from their respective clubs to conduct an AVA national day of volkssporting starting at 10:11 a.m. on December 13, 2014. Events that day would take advantage of a special date configuration that won't happen again for another five decades (10, 11, 12, 13, 14). The NEC is asking clubs to check their event schedules for December 13. There has been discussion about creating a national participation patch and a special event slug. More information to follow.

Sanctioning Requirements for Bicycle Events

Clubs sponsoring bicycle events are reminded that in accordance with Policy 4.02 II B, a minimum trail distance of 24 km is required for sanctioning. Once sanctioned, an event may offer a minor distance route of as little as 13 km. The minor distance route would work well on out and back rail trail courses. Offering minor distances can attract families with young children and older adults to your event. Longer routes of 100 km or more may also be offered for the more skilled riders.

IMPORTANT—Emergency Notification Information

The August 2011 tragedy in the NE Region demonstrated that there is a need to establish a notification process for walking accidents. That incident took place during normal office hours of our AVA Headquarters and the RD was present at the walk. He was able to assist first responders with information and notify Headquarters. New concern has developed over incidents that take place when the AVA office is **not** open such as weekends when most of our events take place. Therefore, a notification phone number for the RD and the POC should be made available for such events. An emergency procedure plan has been created by Glen Conyers, SCRDR that would make available an 'emergency notification box' in the club logo information on the website. Clubs could access it like any other logo, only on this one they would add their RD notification number and that of the POC. This information would then be added to walk directions for all walks. RDs would have their numbers to contact to see that information reaches Headquarters promptly.

Also, all walk instructions should have an emergency phone number for Emergency Services such as '911.' It should be pointed out, however, that not every walk location may have access to '911.' Other numbers should be listed in these cases such as the local sheriff, constable, or police department. POCs need to see what emergency services are available in the area of the walk to add to the walk instructions. Efforts are underway to install the information box on the website and should be operational soon. These procedures will be added to Standards and Procedures Manual once they are finalized." These procedures do not replace the incident report that must be sent to HQ.

2013 Centurion Achievement Challenge

A reminder to all holders of the 2013 Centurion book, challenge ended December 31. AVAHQ must receive your completed 2013 book, post marked no later than February 15.

TAW Deadline

February 25 is the article/photo submission deadline for the April/May issue. All articles to include Tails on Trails and photographs should be submitted to taw@ava.org. Please include the following information in your email Subject Line: "TAW, the region you're covering, and the article title." Send information concerning advertisements in TAW, ad contracts, and TAW contract revisions to Linda Rebmann, linda@ava.org.

2014 Starting Points Are Sold Out

AVAHQ has used a pre-order procedure for two years now to prevent having to pay for excess copies of the book that were not purchased. The 2014 Starting Point books are now sold out. Pre-orders for the 2015 book will be accepted from individuals and clubs beginning July 2014.

Special Program Flat Fee

A motion was made and passed at the January 10-11, 2014 NEC meeting, giving two options to POCs of any Special Program which starts in 2015: (1) pay a flat fee of \$300 with no income reports or (2) submit your reports with income portion to include copies of deposit slips and expense receipts every six months as is currently being done. This flat fee amount was determined using findings from a study that indicated an average amount that clubs have paid over the three-year time period of programs. The \$300 flat fee will alleviate problems with the yearly AVA audit that requires substantial documentation from clubs holding special national programs. The fee must be paid in one lump sum within six months after the start of your program.

In speaking to President Dennis Michele and Candace Purcell, Finance & Operations Director, clubs with programs that started January 1, 2014 will also be given the same two options since they have not submitted reports on any of their programs yet. They can elect to pay the flat fee of \$300 direct to AVA by June 30, 2014 or continue submitting the report with AVA's portion of your program net income every six months for the three-year duration of the program. All required documents showing income and expense must be attached to the report. You cannot start with the six-month reporting option and then change your mind. The only report you need to submit as part of the flat fee option is a final report at the end of your program. Required report information includes the number of books sold and the number of completed program books that you received. Contact Bonnie Johnson, Special Program Chair, secretary@ava.org if you have any questions or need more clarification.

Special Programs List

[Click here](#) to view a compilation of all current AVA special programs. You should use this information as handouts at your club meetings and events, or just for reference purposes. This program information is also listed on the AVA <http://www2.ava.org/specprog.php>. Please forward any necessary revisions to avawebmaster@ava.org.

Trail Maps & Directions

Reminder that for the *safety* of all event participants, according to AVA Policy Manual Section 4, Paragraph 4.06.II.E.7:

Event trails will be clearly marked. The markings will be distinctive and easily recognizable by the participants. In locations where clubs cannot use trail markers, they must provide the participant a **map** and/or directions for the route. For Year Round Events and Seasonal Events, the participant shall be provided with written directions and a **map** description of the route.

AVA Bylaws Amendment Form

[Click here](#) to view the form for use by club members in requesting an amendment to the AVA Bylaws. After the amendment proposal screening process is completed by the Bylaws Committee and the NEC, those that are recommended for approval will be voted on at the General Membership meeting during the 2015 AVA Biennial Convention.

2014 Certificate of Liability Insurance

This document is posted on the AVA website, www.ava.org, under the Administrative menu tab, Clubs Only section from the drop down menu, and AVA Club Forms web page. [Click here](#) to view a copy of the form for your convenience.

AVA Awards

Click to view the charts for [AVA Award Processing](#) and [Ten Events](#) comparison.

Items Due Report

All items listed on [this report](#) are past due. A spreadsheet containing information on submissions of e-postcard filings, officer information, and the two-page Financial Report and Worksheet was sent to Regional Directors. If you feel you are incorrectly on the list, contact your RD.

The American Volkssport Association

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