



CHECKPOINT

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

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August 2015

NEC Meeting:

The NEC meeting on August 12, 2015 will be in San Antonio, TX. Due to the time constraints for receiving agenda items, disseminating them to clubs and returning comments to RDs, there are no action agenda items for this NEC meeting. The NEC will concentrate on training new members, receiving reports from officers and on-going committee actions and finalizing unresolved issues from previous actions approved but procedures not established (see section below New Policy). The NEC will also meet with the Strategic Planning Committee to discuss their actions.

Upcoming Deadlines:

The *2016 YRE and Seasonal Renewal* **deadline is midnight August 31, 2015** to be included in the 2016 Starting Point book. Regional Directors deadline is **September 15, 2015** to review renewals.

2016 Starting Point Book ([click here for fillable pre-order form](#))

Pre-Order deadline no later than midnight, September 15 (Deadline necessary for Publisher).

Starting Point 2016 Cover Contest :

The **August 14 deadline** is just around the corner for submission of photos you feel should grace the front and back cover of the AVA Starting Point book.

When using digital camera, adjust for the highest resolution available (minimum resolution 2560x2048).

Photographers must attempt to incorporate in their submissions the AVA logo and walkers in action (preferably frontal shots with faces showing). Images should, in some way, express our core values of "fun, fitness and friendship".

First and second place selected entries will receive an official AVA jacket. The first place entry will be the front cover of the starting point book and the second place will be the backside of the starting point book cover.

Email your submissions to avawebmaster@ava.org or mail a CD to: American Volkssport Association, 1001Pat Booker Rd, Suite 101, Universal City, TX 78148.

Girl Scout 2015-2016 Patches and Order Form: ([click here for fillable order form](#))

To order the 2015-2016 Girl Scout patch simply complete the form and return to Karen Winkle at the AVA headquarters. You may fill out and submit the form by email to Karen@ava.org or print the form and submit by mailing it to The American Volkssport Association, 1001 Pat Booker Road, Suite 101, Universal City, TX 78148.

National Volkssport Month – October 2015: ([click here for fillable order form](#))

October is National Volkssport Month. Clubs hosting events during the month of October can order patches by filling out and returning this form to AVA national headquarters at least 30 days prior to the event(s). Supplies are limited, so orders will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Clubs may place preorders until supply is exhausted. Don't miss the chance to offer this collectible patch to walk participants. Contact Theresa at Theresa@ava.org to order your patches or fill out the attached form.

The American Wanderer:

The next TAW deadline is August 25th. Articles must come as Word or text document attached to your email, do not send articles in PDF format. Photos should be attached to the email, not embedded in the article. Put in your email subject line: TAW/your region/article title. Send to taw@ava.org.

HQ Awards and Membership Coordinator – Karen Winkle:

It's summertime! Please make sure to send me your address changes for Summer and Winter addresses.

For books – put a note in the envelope if address is different from the book.

For The American Wanderer – the information is due almost 2 months before the issue is received. (e.g. – Oct/Nov issue information is due to printer on Aug 25th).

2015 patches for the Centurion Program have not yet been received. Karen will return books as soon as possible.

The charts for [AVA Processing](#) and [Ten Events](#) are included as attachments.

HQ Events Coordinator – Marie Bebley:

Contact Marie at events@ava.org or 210-659-2112 for any ESR renewal issues. Please do not mark "No Renewal" if renewal is uncertain.

Annual Financial Reports, e-postcards, and Officer Updates are **due November 15, 2015**.

AVA Executive Director's Update – Henry Rosales:

Correction on amount raised by The Big Give S.A: ([click here for letter from the San Antonio Area Foundation](#))

The total number of donors for the Big Give was 230 individuals and clubs. The total online contribution amount that was published was incorrect because it already included the match. The final figures for the Big Give are as follows:

Online Contributions	\$13,771
Checks Received	\$12,283
Donor Contribution	\$30,000
Online Fee	- \$1,032.65
Total Raised	<u>\$55,021.35</u>



Congratulations again to everyone! This was a phenomenal success and serves an indicator that AVA is moving in an optimistic direction. Thank you Ms. Phillips for jumpstarting it all!

Club Affiliation with non 501 (c)3 Organizations:

Discussions between the AVA Executive Director and the AVA President, Dennis Michele, have concluded the need for definitive proof one way or the other concerning the implications of club affiliation with non 501 c-3 organizations. To this end, and with the concurrence with the AVA President, the Executive Director will seek in the upcoming weeks support from the appropriate independent professional legal, tax, and nonprofit experts, to include the IRS and tax attorneys, who can give us guidance on the implications or non- implications of AVA's Federal tax exemption status if AVA clubs join or affiliate with other organizations that are non 501 c-3 or for profit organizations.

In the meantime AVA Headquarters advises all clubs that are under the AVA's umbrella tax exemption not to become members of any non 501 c-3 organizations until this issue is clarified and resolved by NEC with the guidance of external experts.

NEW POLICY-Per Participant Sanctioning Fee (PPSF) Program:

At the NEC meeting convened January 30-31, 2015 the NEC passed a motion to change the AVA policy on sanctioning events to include a "per participant sanctioning fees for events which regularly have insufficient paying participants to support the current sanction fee for such events. The PPSF program will be reviewed and reapproved 2 years after implementation. Fees under the PPSF will be established by the ED. The PPSF program is a test for two years upon implementation."

The per participant sanctioning fee established by the Executive Director was recommended at \$1.00 per participant. At the NEC meeting June 16, 2015 the NEC approved of the \$1.00 per participant sanctioning fee in lieu of the standard sanctioning fee. This means that clubs who voluntarily choose to sanction an event as a PPSF event would have to pay \$1.00 for all participants (to include free walkers) in addition to the \$1.25 for credit walkers instead of paying the sanction fee to AVA.

The intent behind this policy is to support, promote and increase participation at AVA events which regularly have low participation. It is unclear as to what type of events this would include or not include and what the threshold is for "regularly" insufficient paying participants. The process for submitting these new sanctioning requests is also still being created and warrants review by the NEC.

Therefore this new sanctioning policy is not ready for implementation until it has been revisited by the NEC at the upcoming meeting in August for clarification and input on the submission and review process. A notice will go out to the Regional Directors once the policy is ready to be implemented.

Strategic Planning Update and Request for information:

Strategic Planning Members from all ten regions have been appointed by their Regional Directors. The committee will convene in San Antonio, Texas August 13 – 15 to begin building the framework for the strategic plan. This is the first of several meetings over the next 12 months.

We are still in the data collection phase seeking information from our clubs, Volkssporters and other key stakeholders. A membership survey will be going out in the next issue of the Checkpoint. Thank you to those who gave us their input at the Convention and to those who have been sending emails with your suggestions.

If you would like to give the Strategic Planning Committee input on how you see the future of AVA and what things we need to change or add to keep AVA moving forward send your comments directly to me at execdir@ava.org. Be sure to put **Strategic Plan Input** on the subject line.

Meet your Strategic Planning Committee:

Chair:	David Bonewitz	serd4ava@gmail.com
Vice-Chair	Nancy Wittenberg	newittenberg@gmail.com

Regional Representatives:

Atlantic:	Helen Garamone	hkgaramone@hotmail.com
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Southwest:	Susan Ives	suives@texas.net

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Bob Wright	rcwright_va@comcast.net
Chris Mellen	walkpauu@verizon.net
Stephanie Sinclair	

Henry Rosales	execdir@ava.org
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Ex Officio Member:	Dennis Michele	president@ava.org
Consultant/Facilitator	Bobbi Bilnoski	bobbi@bilnoski.onmicrosoft.com

The AVA National Headquarters office will be closed August 13, 2015 from 8:00am to 12:30pm to attend the Strategic Planning session.

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