



CHECKPOINT

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

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Message from the AVA President – Voting on IVV-Americas:

The following is a listing of reasons to join or not join IVV-Americas. To some the pros may seem cons and the cons seem pros. Some are difference between how we do business and how IVV-Americas does theirs. The listing was prepared from input by the IVV-Americas President, Curt Myron; Bob Wright, the AVA representative to the IVV-Americas Bylaws formation committee and Lori Seitz, the AVA attorney. For more information on IVV-Americas, it is strongly recommended that you visit the IVV-Americas website, (IVV-Americas.org) and read their FAQs which will give more insight on what they are and what they hope to accomplish. While there, take a look at their Bylaws to see how they will govern. I hope that you will give the issue the importance it requires and fully determine what your club wishes to do.

Issues Concerning Joining IVV-Americas

Reasons for:

1. Primary mission is to promote volkssport in its geographic area through education: creation of new clubs in other countries and helping them obtain IVV membership; and provide advice, guidance and support to keep these clubs viable.
2. Secondary mission is to support its client members (AVA if join).
3. Status of AVA in IVV unchanged. We still represent AVA at IVV Congresses.
4. IVV-Americas does not have the authority to hold or approve events in the US and its possessions.
5. IVV-Americas President has a vote at IVV Presidium.
6. Allows IVV-Americas Olympiads to be held in even numbered years. IVV-Americas would sell right to hold the Olympiad and host would reap any benefits from holding such events which can attract world-wide interest.
7. IVV-Americas will derive its income from member country dues (presently \$100), annual fees from other forms of membership, sponsorship, an IVV-Americas special event book, and fee from member nations to hold Olympiads.

Reasons against:

1. No real support to AVA or its ability to service individual clubs. Emphasis on new countries.
2. Sponsorships could be in direct conflict with AVA efforts to gain sponsorships.
3. No budget. Activities including travel other than IVV-Presidium to prospective members could be expensive and would require higher fees and assessments.
4. AVA would have largest number of member clubs, financial reserves, and events yet only same number of delegates' votes as other members.

5. Short notification by written notification of meetings (60 days for Annual meeting and 21 days for Special Meetings) does not provide enough time to digest and formulate inputs and positions with AVA.
6. Quorum is 10% of members eligible to vote. With present membership, quorum could be 3 people.
7. No term limits for IVV-Americas Governing officers.
8. Members of Nominating Committee may accept nomination for office.
9. Governing Council may amend any part of the Bylaws except those concerning conditions of membership, notice of meetings, transferable membership and absentee proxy voting. This ability to change purpose of activities could conflict with the provisions of our Charter and our status as a non-profit entity.
10. Not recommended by our attorney who has concerns about the possible effect on our IRS non-profit status.

Each club in good standing as of May 4, 2015 will be eligible to vote. The vote will be simple – yes we join, no we do not join. Each eligible club will be sent on May 5 a ballot to record its vote and requiring signature of the club president and secretary (be sure they correspond to what you have listed as club officers). Also included will be a stamped self-addressed envelope in which you will mail your vote to the AVA attorney for compilation. The form must be received by June 1, 2015.

Call to Convention 2015:

I hereby notify all AVA National Officers, Regional Directors, State Organization and AVA Member Clubs of the 2015 American Volkssport Association 19th Biennial Convention and invite you to participate. The AVA will hold the convention at the Salem Convention Center, Salem, Oregon from Monday, June 15 through Friday, June 19, 2015 to elect officers, to receive reports of officers and committees and to conduct other business that may arise. Pre-walks begin Saturday June 13 and post walks begin Saturday June 20, 2015.

Call to Clubs for Agenda Items: [Click here for Agenda Items Form](#)

Please complete as soon as possible.

This is an official notification for 90 days prior to the convention.

April 17: Clubs email Agenda Items to Regional Directors.

May 4: Agenda Items from Regional Directors due to AVA National Headquarters.

May 18: Final list of official Agenda Items sent to AVA Clubs.

Officer's Reports and Committee Reports: [Click here for Officer Report Form](#)

[Click here for Committee Report Form](#)

May 19: Officer's and Committee Reports due at AVA National Headquarters.

May 28: Meeting data information package emailed to NEC members.

Credentialing:

This week the 2015 Delegate Selection and Proxy Designation Forms are being mailed out to every person listed in the data base as the official POC for every club and state association. Please read this form carefully.

Some things to keep in mind:

1. Clubs must be in good standing to vote by May 4th which is 45 days prior to be the first membership meeting. In Good Standing means that all reports received on time including participation reports, stamps that should be returned are returned on time, and no past due amounts on club accounts owed to AVA.

2. Section D. Certification is where the club officer signs not Section E. Verification. Verification is for the Executive Director's signature.
3. A person running for a National officer or Regional Director cannot be a delegate, alternate or carry proxies.
4. The form consists of a white, yellow, and pink self-carbon form. All three must be returned to the AVA with a post mark date no later than May 19, 2015 to the address on the form. If the deadline is missed, the three copies need to be brought to the credentialing booth at the convention by the delegate, alternate, or proxy. However, the club must be in good standing May 4, 2015.
5. This credentialing process is required for all voting whether at the convention or by paper ballot.

Voting Privileges: Each National Officer, Regional Director, State Organization and Regular Member club in good standing forty-five (45) days (May 4, 2015) before the opening general session is entitled to one vote in each election and on each matter submitted to a vote of the members. The Executive Director shall have no vote.

Delegates: A delegate normally represents each State Organization and Regular Member Club at the General Sessions. Each State Organization and Regular Member Club designates its delegate by completing AVA Form 500, Delegate Selection and Proxy Designation, and ensures the designated delegate registers for the Biennial Convention. The AVA National Headquarters will mail the AVA Form 500 to State Organizations and Regular Member Clubs.

Alternates: State Organizations and Regular Member Clubs in good standing may designate an alternate to the Delegate by completing AVA Form 500 and ensuring the designated alternate registers for the Biennial Convention.

Proxies: State Organizations and Regular Member Clubs in good standing may vote by proxy by designating a proxy on AVA Form 500. A proxy can only be given to a person certified as a delegate for the Biennial Convention. **Candidates for AVA National Office or candidates for Regional Director may not carry proxies.**

Responsibilities: Delegates, alternates and proxies will present their copy of AVA Form 500 to the Credentials Committee at the convention, attend the convention participate in all general sessions and attend workshops. A club may transfer voting privileges to an alternate only in an emergency. The club should advise the delegate, alternate or proxy on voting positions for elections and other business upon which the membership might vote. Delegates should report back to the club they represent on the general sessions and workshops. **Delegates, Alternates, or Proxies must be at least registered for the Convention under the Delegate registration, cost \$185.**

Convention Registration form:

Whether you want to register online using pay pal or mail in your registration click on this link ([click here](#)) and fill out the form completely. If online print the form out before submitting, if mailing into HQ and include with your payment. This form will be available in the convention section of the AVA website, under the blog area and on our official Facebook page. This site has been tested, but if you have any problems email avawebmaster@ava.org. The form cannot be edited online, delete incorrect form and then reenter.

National Events Information:

The great success of “Time to Walk” as a national event has prompted the NEC to begin looking at other opportunities to provide support and encouragement to local clubs with other national events.

The first suggested opportunity for an event like “Time to Walk” is Pi Day, March 14. As those who are more mathematically inclined will point out, the term Pi is the ratio of a circle’s circumference to its diameter. This number is a constant and is equal to 3.141592653. . . and the digits go on forever without repeating. As you may have noticed, this year is particularly unique for Pi Day (which falls on a Saturday) as we will have 3/14/15 and at 9:26:53 we have Pi to 9 decimal points. That is enough to get even the most couch-bound nerd up and walking. Unfortunately, we were too wrapped up in “Time to Walk” and lost the lead-time needed to prepare patches, special stamp slug, t-shirts, and such for this event. This doesn’t mean that we don’t encourage clubs to host an event on Pi Day. A number of clubs are walking and eating pie that day. If your club conducts a Pi Day event, be sure to send a picture and information about the event, including how many people participated and how many pies were consumed, to SERD4AVA@gmail.com with your subject as “Pi Day.”

We have two long standing opportunities for national events. These events are in May (National Physical Fitness and Sports Month) and October (National Volkssport Month). There is a bit more flexibility with these events as clubs do not have to hold a Traditional Event on a particular day in either month. In both cases, clubs can order special patches from AVA Headquarters to use as A-Awards for their Traditional Event held that respective month, current year patches cannot be used as “B” awards, previous year patches can be used as “B” awards. ([Click here for May physical fitness and sports month patch order form](#)). Please check cafépress for National Physical Fitness and Sports Month t-shirts, which will be on the store shortly. Watch for more information. As with the other national events, clubs are invited to send a photo of their event along with information about the event to SERD4AVA@gmail.com using the subject “Fitness Month” and “Volkssport Month.”

World Walking Day occurs on May 8 every year. Walks are held by IVV clubs around the world with a special stamp slug and certificates for walkers. AVA Headquarters with the support of local clubs will be hosting its 2nd annual IVV World Walk Day Event. Watch for more information about that event. If you can’t make it to San Antonio, consider having your club host a World Walking Day event. A Traditional Event or a group walk of a YRE both qualify as World Walking Day events if they are held on May 8th or between the weekends on either side of May 8th. This would mean that this year an event held between May 2nd and May 16th would qualify. Watch for ordering information for participant certificates and a special slug that can be used in your YRE stamp the day you have your World Walking Day event. T-shirts will also be available for purchase through Café Press. Additional information on this event will follow. As with Pi Day, we will collect pictures of participants and information about your event for a special TAW article. Be sure to send those pictures and information to SERD4AVA@gmail.com with your subject “World Walking Day.”

Another opportunity for a national event is National Trails Day held on the first Saturday in June. This year National Trails Day will be on June 6th. This idea for a national event first came to our attention with a Facebook posting by Missy McBride who counted 12 clubs with Traditional Events on June 6th. More may have been added as her posting began to generate interest. Once again, if your club holds an event on National Trails Day, be sure to capture the excitement with a photo and send it to SERD4AVA@gmail.com along with information about your walk using the subject “National Trails Day.”

If you have other ideas for a national event that we might be able to use to generate more interest, excitement, and fun, please send the idea along to SERD4AVA@gmail.com.

Finally, watch for more information on the next really big national event—AVA's 40th Anniversary in 2016. We have plenty of lead-time to make this the next "Time to Walk."

Extended Distance Bike Events:

The NEC has approved a two year test of Extended Distance Bike Events. The sponsoring club just needs to sanction the entire distance of a rail trail, canal towpath, or bike path; identify a start point and provide directions for at least a 25K and 13K route; and provide the website that provides directions to the other trail heads. Participants may take IVV credit for the distance actually biked and must pay the \$3 fee for IVV event credit for each day they ride.

The trail must be completed and off-road. If parts of the trail are under construction and it is possible to do at least a 25K ride on a completed section, it qualifies. If the trail was constructed with a short section of the trail on-road, it qualifies. If multiple trails converge at a single point (i.e. the train station in Xenia, OH), they may be sanctioned as one event. If a bike event is in an area where there is a network of connecting trails giving the possibility of a loop ride(s), the event qualifies. For more information, contact Tom Jackson at thomasjackson@embarqmail.com

Biennial Publicity Contest:

Entries are due to AVAHQ no later than April 10, 2015. Participation in the nationwide contest is open to AVA members, clubs and state organizations. All entries must have been created or occurred during the time period from May 1, 2013 to December 31, 2014. ([click here](#))

From HQ Awards and Membership Coordinator:

Please let your club members know that we have orders placed, and others waiting to be placed for various awards. Some samples are 125 Event pins, 4500 Distance pins, 400 Event patches, 50/51 T-Shirts and convention awards. Our supplier is also having a one week shut down. Karen will get all items sent out to members as quickly as she can. Thank you for your patience.

From HQ Awards Processing:

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

From HQ Events Coordinator:

[Items Due Report](#) and [Past Due Stamp](#)

The American Volkssport Association

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