



# CHECKPOINT



The official voice of the American Volkssport Association  
*AVA: America's Walking Club*

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June 2017

## Transition of Leadership—Dennis A. Michele, President, AVA

**NEC Members Meet and Greet Reception** – I am inviting all NEC members whether they be departing, returning or becoming a new member of the NEC to join me for a *Meet and Greet Reception* immediately following the General Membership meeting on Friday, June 9th, 2017 at the AVA convention. During this time, I will provide brief instruction on the transition of leadership to include dates, timelines, completion of required paperwork and other pertinent information for NEC members. We will also use this time to take photos of the new NEC members. Join me in welcoming our new members and bidding farewell to our departing members.

**NEC Orientation August 2017-** In order to provide as much time for planning and travel as possible, I have concurred with the two current candidates for AVA President who are in agreement to conduct NEC member training and orientation August 10th-12th in San Antonio, Texas. Travel dates should be August 9th (arrival before 5pm) and August 13th (departure after 12 noon). More details will be made available following

## Convention Update-Stepping Out of Bounds in Billings

By Frank Sayers, NEC Liaison

It is almost here. The 20<sup>th</sup> AVA Biennial Convention, being held June 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> in Billings, Montana. Our Pre-Convention Events are June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, and the Post-Convention Events are June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. We have over 450 folks that have registered for some portion of the activities, with about 300 attending the Friday evening 'Out of Bounds Bash'. There will be entertainment, education, multiple opportunities to volunteer and donate, and our four 'Fs' – Fun, Fitness, Friendship and Food!!

If you have not already signed up, you can still do so at the convention. You can sign up for the events as they happen. All the walks are sanctioned June 5<sup>th</sup> through June 11<sup>th</sup>. You will need special instructions to do them at other than the scheduled day and time, so contact us. This is a lean, green convention. If you see someone or some function that needs assistance, please join in. We have many folks that have already volunteered, and they will be receiving instructions this week. Our awards are simply stupendous. We have gone back to a 3-inch, 3-millimeter thick sand-

cast medal, gold color base with Full Color Enamel for the design. And the designs themselves are exceptional.

Our convention hotel, the Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center in Billings, is going all out for us. The food will be tremendous. They have put in a new coffee shop. The décor is fabulous. And, of course, we have ordered up Great Weather. That being said, Montana in the summer means sunshine and bugs, including giant mosquitos. We will have some generic sunscreen and bug spray with DEET on hand, but if you have special requirements you should bring your own.

We are looking forward to hosting all of you in Billings. Come Step Out of Bounds in Billings with us. You will not be disappointed.

## **STANDARDS & EVALUATION -- Best Practices**

**By Suzi Glass**

This is the time of year we thank teachers and outgoing officers of service organizations. As a club, how and when do you honor and thank volunteers? The Tahoe Trail Trekkers give immediate gratitude with a pot luck the day after their summer event. Annually, the Freestate Happy Wanderers hold a dinner noting contributors and recognizing a "YRE POC of the Year".

Written acknowledgement is not difficult. The Sonoma County Stompers mail hand-written thank-you notes on stationery that bears their name and logo. By this method, versus the use of emails and social media, they give added value to the time their volunteers invest.

## **Program Committee**

**By Debbie Kruep, Chair**

South Carolina did not make it into the Convention Program Report on the Navigator USA list. Thanks to the Upstate Pathfinders for hosting an AVA/ Navigator USA Walk Together! Remember clubs, when your AVA/Navigator USA Walk Together even is over email those photos to [debmarkkruep1@yahoo.com](mailto:debmarkkruep1@yahoo.com) or [avayouth@ava.org](mailto:avayouth@ava.org)

The Program Committee is still looking for two clubs to participate in the grade school pilot program. Kids say the "darndest" things and you could have the chance to walk and talk with them. If your club would like to walk, talk and laugh with the grade schoolers contact [avayouth@ava.org](mailto:avayouth@ava.org)

## **AVA Special Programs**

**By Bonnie Johnson, Chair**

It is time to start thinking of new Special Programs which would begin in January 2019. Presentations will be done at the January 2018 NEC Meeting. All information regarding the

Special Program process is available in the AVA Policy Manual 4.05 and must be received by the Special Programs Committee Chair by November 1, 2017.

*Thank you to all our BIG GIVE  
DONORS! We exceeded our goal and  
raised \$68,146!*

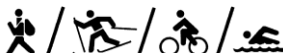
**Safe travels and enjoy the Convention!**

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To receive an electronic copy of the Checkpoint send us an email to the attention of Samanta requesting that you be put on our distribution list for the Checkpoint. Please note on the subject line: Request for Checkpoint. Send your request to Samanta at [samanta@ava.org](mailto:samanta@ava.org).



*Fun, Fitness, Friendship*



*The American Volkssport Association*

*The Mission of AVA is to promote and organize noncompetitive physical fitness activities that encourage lifelong fun, fitness, and friendship for all ages and abilities.*

