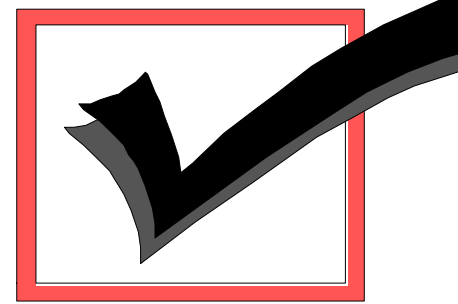


AVA CHECKPOINT



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TAW Deadline

The deadline for the February, 2008 issue of *The American Wanderer* is December 24. All articles and photographs should be submitted directly to: The American Wanderer, Laurel Parrott, Editor, 3526 Humboldt Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55412, email TAW@bhi.com Be sure to include "TAW" in the subject line of the email.

IRS Q&A

By Bob Wright

Have a question or comments? Contact Bob at 43224 Cardston Pl, Leesburg, VA 20176 or rwright2@jhu.edu

Disclaimer: Bob is not a tax professional or lawyer. He volunteers his time to research and write this column, offering general guidance and advice. AVA members always should seek professional help when dealing with tax-related matters.

As a public charity, what does my club need to know?

Believe it or not, the IRS considers your club a public charity. The IRS publishes a lot of useful information on its website at www.irs.gov/charities/index.html. I recommend you check it out.

There is a figure showing the life cycle of a public charity. It expands to discuss your responsibilities regarding annual filings and ongoing compliance. It references the key IRS publications with which your club should be familiar (e.g., 557, Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization, and 4221-pc, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities)—if you don't have copies, use the links to download them.

The site also links to free on-line training on topics very pertinent to your operations: maintaining your tax-exempt status, unrelated business income, and disclosures.

You will find information on the new e-Postcard should you want to delve into that. (My recommendation: leave it to Jackie, Candy, and me to keep you posted; the information is still in its formative stage!)

Want to keep apprised on issues pertaining to public charities? You may register for the IRS' free on-line EO (exempt organization) newsletter. It's one of my resources for following information of interest to AVA clubs.

The IRS is doing a good job posting pertinent information to its website. Take full advantage; it will steer you straight.

Call for Agenda Items

Have any items you would like to consider at their next meeting? Submit agenda items for the March, 2008 NEC meeting to your Regional Director by January 5, 2008.

March 1, 2008 NEC Meeting

This meeting will be held at the Hotel Harrington, 11th & E Streets, NW, Washington, D.C.

Volunteering for AVA

By Curt Myron, AVA President

This year your AVA leadership will focus its efforts on growing AVA. I believe your new officers are very committed people, but they can't cause growth by themselves. You will have to help as well.

One way you can help is to volunteer to work on an AVA Committee. Everyone thinks AVA should attract younger people, publicize AVA and give club training but those AVA Committees can't help much with only one or two members.

Volunteering is sometimes a bit scary because you don't know what you are getting into. I'll try to make it easier to volunteer by asking each of the committee Chairs to design specific tasks based on your desires so that you can know how much of your time and effort is required. But you must start the process by expressing your interest. Descriptions of committees are at www.ava.org. Click on the MEMBERSHIP button, then on AVA COMMITTEES. Then contact the committee chair in your area of interest. Or contact me: president@ava.org

Clubs and E-Commerce Orders

This is just a reminder that all clubs must have a unique email address to use the e-commerce system. The person ordering for your club cannot use their personal email address if they are also in the system as a Volkssports Associate member. Call us at 210-659-2112 or email Candy at candy@ava.org with the email address you would like to use.

Youth Program Email Postings

Nancy Wittenberg, AVA Youth Coordinator, is using the Volkssport Yahoo group to communicate about AVA Youth Programs. She would like to hear about clubs' experiences working with youth groups: what's working and what's not; ideas about working with youth groups, including Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and others; how you've worked with schools to include volkssports or establish volkssport clubs in schools and any other topics concerning the AVA Youth Programs.

We can use this group to give all of us ideas about including youth in our walks. To join this group click on <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/volkssport/> and click on "Join This Group". To send a message to the group, send to volkssport@yahogroups.com and please put "AVA Youth Programs" in the subject line.

You can always communicate directly with Nancy through avayouth@ava.org

New Walker Packets and 2008

If you have New Walker Packets in your club stock, please look through them and pull out the inserts for the 2007 Starting Point. Call Linda at 210-659-2112 to request new replacements. You may also email her at Linda@ava.org If you are in a hurry because you have an event coming up, you can also go to the AVA web page and print the order blank from there. Scroll down on the home page and there is a link.

Customized Business Cards

Would your club be interested in having the business cards that AVA carries for clubs personalized? We can get the shells over printed with your club's information for \$22.36 for 500. This is just under consideration right now so please email avahq@ava.org so we can get an idea if enough clubs would be interested.

Ordering Specialty Items for Christmas?

Remember to give us three weeks. We are one person departments and when people are out sick or on vacation, things can backlog. It usually won't take that long.

Checkpoint

Remember to share the knowledge and bring the Checkpoint to club meetings so that it can be read by others. Ensure that all of your officers and members know that it is also posted on the AVA web page.

Enclosures:

2008 Certificate of Insurance