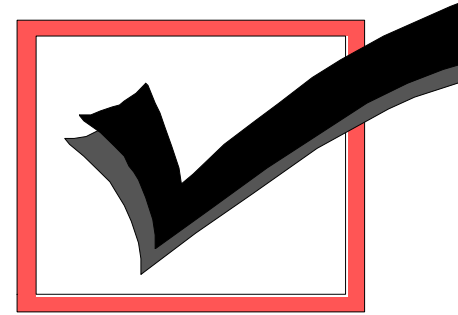


AVA CHECKPOINT



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TAW Deadline

The deadline for the April, 2010 issue of *The American Wanderer* is February 25. 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. Some folks continue to send these to AVA Headquarters and this causes delays in your information getting in.

Club Tips

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Bob shares 34+ years of experience, research, and insights about building stronger volkssport clubs, better IVV events, and greater participation.

Resources on the Web for Your Club

In the course of preparing columns for you and answering questions sent my way I've come across some valuable web resources. I'd like to share some of the good ones with you.

Looking for general information about nonprofit organizations? These sites offer plenty of topics.

- The National Council on Nonprofits (<http://www.councilofnonprofits.org>) is a great place to start. It provides links to state organizations that support nonprofits. So if you have a question specific to our state, start here.
- Board Source (<http://www.boardsource.org/>) sells publications on many subjects, mostly related to national (AVA-level) organizations. But if you think about it, our clubs merely are local chapters of a national nonprofit, so some of that information also relates to us.

Looking for good practices?

- Check out the Nonprofit Good Practice Guide at <http://www.npgoodpractice.org/Topics/nonprofitresources/Default.aspx>.
- The Nonprofit Expert (<http://www.nonprofitexpert.com/>) offers a free newsletter. And don't overlook <http://www.not-for-profit.org/>.

Looking for ways to raise money?

- If so, <http://www.fundraising123.org/> offers plenty of ideas.

Need IRS Information?

- I'll repeat this site again. Need anything IRS-related regarding exempt organizations (that's what the IRS calls us)? Start at <http://www.irs.gov/eo/>.

Legal Information

- We face legal issues all of the time. Here are places I look for information. (Disclaimer: This doesn't take the place of good legal counsel regarding specific issues you have.)

Nonprofit Issues

- (<http://www.nonprofitissues.com/>) is published by a long-time attorney specializing in nonprofits. Great e-letter: just a few weeks ago he answered a question on 50/50 drawings. You can send questions; I've had one answered on-line. The archive is searchable. Want a personal answer; be prepared to pay for that.
- Hurwitz Associates (<http://www.hurwitassociates.com/>) is another firm specializing in nonprofits. Extensive amount of information on-line.
- You may have seen the legal books from Nolo Press (e.g., do your own will, trust). It covers the nonprofit world too. Check out <http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/nonprofits/>.

Technology

- I happened across this one. Learn about free software and training. Sound worth checking out? <http://www.techsoup.org/index.cfm>.
- The Academic Superstore (www.acadmicsuperstore.com) passes along deep company software discounts to nonprofits.

Have you found useful sites? Send them along. It's an easy way to share them with all of your fellow clubs.

Got tips to share or a topic to suggest? Contact Bob Wright at rwright2@jhu.edu or 43224 Cardston Place, Leesburg, VA 20176. Include an evening phone number for any follow-up.

Awards

It is not too early to be thinking about individual and club recognition awards. Too few clubs enter nominations for the Publicity and Trailblazer awards. Remember your volunteers and nominate them for Certificates of Service, Meritorious Service, Distinguished Service and even recommend them for the President's Award. Nominate the businesses that allow you to place your walk boxes for Year Round Events; a framed certificate in their place of business may just attract a new walker.