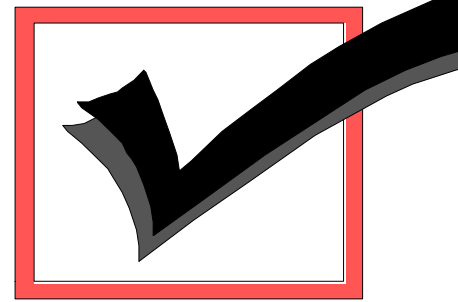


AVA CHECKPOINT



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Happy Holidays!

The staff at the AVA National Headquarters wishes you a safe and glorious Christmas and New Years!

Special Event Checklist

Attached is a Special Events Checklist for your use. This is helpful in your YRE/Seasonal event start boxes to alert walkers to the Special Events your event qualifies for.

GNC

The contract between GNC and AVA has expired. Those of you who are using their stores as start locations or checkpoints are still free to do so. Any future deals with their stores should be handled by the club and the store manager. There is no need to put information about GNC on your flyers as they are no longer a partner.

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.

Learn to Succeed

Everyone wants to succeed.

From my experience as a military commander, manager, and business executive success is learned—and that means someone or something was a teacher.

Let's look at some ways you can learn and pass that knowledge along to your club or state association.

Observe and Listen to Others

Teachers are all around you if you take the time to observe.

Take the walks you participate in, for example.

- What worked well; what didn't? Make mental notes.
- What's better? Compare mental notes regularly.
- Make a list, and use it.

Talk with others. Learn what worked for them, or not, and why. Ask questions. Talk situations through.

Does it work? You bet! Newly arrived in Germany and days after my first volksmarsch, I took on coordinating my club's next event. For 10 months I observed and refined what I learned. My walking companions and I compared experiences constantly. The result was a great walk that drew 2,500 on our Bicentennial.

Take Advantage of Learning Opportunities

There is a lot of training available—avail yourself of it.

- AVA convention workshops. Some are posted to the AVA website. Send me an email, I'll send you the list of available unposted 2005 and 2007 workshops, you choose which you want, and I'll email them to you. (Or get them all on a CD: send me \$5 to defray expenses [I'll donate any left to the AVA].)
- State and regional volkssport association meetings. Stick around when they offer it, or ask them to repeat it.
- The Web. For topics not unique to volkssports you will find plenty of information.
- Local training. My county volunteer services organization conducts training for non-profits. Check out community colleges and professional organizations (they may send out speakers too). I attended the IRS' basic tax-exempt workshop and learned about convention planning from the best in the business that way.

Train Your Members

Share knowledge you learned.

- Arrange for a speaker to repeat a seminar or workshop.
- Prepare short training sessions. (Boy Scout meetings end with a Scoutmaster's Minute—a brief opportunity to pass along a value lesson.)
- Act out situations you might encounter, such as talking a friend into coming to a volkswalk with you.

Homework Assignment

Homework is a good way to reinforce learning experiences. Really.

- Write down the best practices you've observed.
- Gather handouts from good training you've given or attended.
- Make a list of training you would like to receive.

Send your homework to me to be compiled and shared in future columns. In fact, a future column on training will address worthwhile topics to teach and provide tips for teaching adults (it's not the same as teaching children).

Let's learn together for the success of volkssports and the AVA.

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.

Attachments:

Special Events Checklist