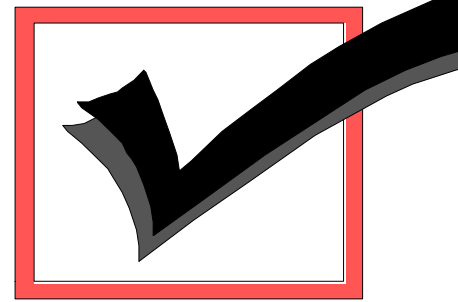


AVA CHECKPOINT



Official Voice of the American Volkssport Association • 1001 Pat Booker Rd, Ste 101 Universal City, TX 78148
Phone (210) 659-2112 Fax (210) 659-1212 Email avahq@ava.org

Volume 17 • Number 5

May 2009

TAW Deadline

The deadline for the August, 2009 issue of *The American Wanderer* is June 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 By Bob Wright

Bob shares 33+ years of experience, research, and insights about building stronger volkssport clubs, better IVV events, and greater participation. 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.

Robert's Rules

When it's convention time, what do you think of? Walking, of course. But when it's time for business, you'd better be thinking about Robert's Rules, the authoritative guide to parliamentary procedure for the AVA (and many of its members, I might add). [The current latest version is *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RRO [NR])*. If you want to buy your own copy, AVA Parliamentarian Paul Lamb recommends *RRO (NR) In Brief*. The same team publishes both, but the latter covers the essentials in an easy to read style.]

With convention around the corner, there are some things you need to know, whether or not your club actually attends, courtesy of Paul and me.

Delegates at Convention

Their responsibility is to be present at business meetings and make a report to the club (or state association) of what transpired. They must follow any instructions from the club (or state association) they represent; in situations not covered by instructions, they are free to vote as they see fit. (See section 58, page 586, lines 20-31.)

Instructing Delegates

Be careful what instructions you provide. While it is tempting to be very specific, think twice before you do. The more specific your instructions, the less your delegate can react to things as situations unfold. What if a better candidate comes forward, or an amendment to a proposed bylaws amendment motion changes it sufficiently to make it acceptable to you? If your instructions are specific, they must follow your instructions.

If the delegate is from your club, they would have a good sense of how your club thinks. If you give a proxy to someone in another club (or the state association delegate or RD), you should provide greater detail.

Convention Business

Paul notes that Robert's Rules governs the conduct of business at convention, and at the convention you will hear reports on the state of the organization and on actions and programs being implemented. Most of these are for information only. There may be a few items requiring votes of the delegates.

Motions

Motions are common in the conduct of business. Know the precedence of motions? There are several comprehensive charts in the book, but a simple one is on-line at <http://www.robertsrules.org/motions.htm> (or email me for a 1-page Acrobat PDF version of it).

One motion will be an amendment to the AVA Bylaws. Paul reminds us that only that part of the bylaws which is being changed is open for discussion, not all those other words which surround the change. And, in spite of its name, a bylaw amendment is a main motion, subject to amendments of both the first and second degree.

Next month: **Robert's Rules Too**

Voting at the AVA Biennial Convention

All clubs must have all reports and debts current as of May 11, 2009 in order to vote at the AVA's Biennial Convention. This means that no stamp or required report is past due and all finances must be less than 60 days past due. Check your items now to protect your vote.

National Physical Fitness and Sports Month

Just a reminder that your club can order the 2009 National Physical Fitness and Sports Month patches to use for their May events. A copy of the order form is included.

Club Officer Updates

When you fill out the Club Officer Information for your club, please be sure to put in the number of people who are members of your club. If possible, we want total individuals as we use this information for publicity, marketing, etc. If you only keep numbers by families, please make an estimate.

Convention Auction News

A Pick and Pay Table will be located in the auction area. Please donate small items like a club patch, pin, "B" Medals and any other small items. A person will pick the item and pay on the spot. If a person wants a "B" Medal, proof of walking a convention event has to be shown.

Contact Ellen at ellenott@sbcglobal.net for more information.

E-Postcard Reminder

Just a reminder that starting July 1, you can file your E-Postcard for the IRS. Be sure to use the EIN# for your club and not the AVA's. If you don't know what it is, contact us and we can give it to you. All clubs under the AVA's 501(c)(3) umbrella with income under \$25,000 are required to file this postcard.

YRE Start Boxes

If you encounter a start box that doesn't have instructions or other needed supplies, please contact the POC for the event. Sometimes, they simply do not know that anything is missing or that they've had a large group hit their event. The POCs for these events are all volunteers and it is often a pretty thankless job!

Email Etiquette Hints

Always fill in the Subject line.

Avoid typing in all capital letters.

When sending to a large group, put your address in the "to" field and all others in the "bcc" field to avoid other folks having access to all of those email addresses.

AVA Banner

The new AVA Banner is available to all clubs. You can get it in a 3' x 5' size or a 4' x 6' size. An order form is included with this **Checkpoint**.

Enclosures:

Order form for NPFSM patch

Order form for AVA Banner