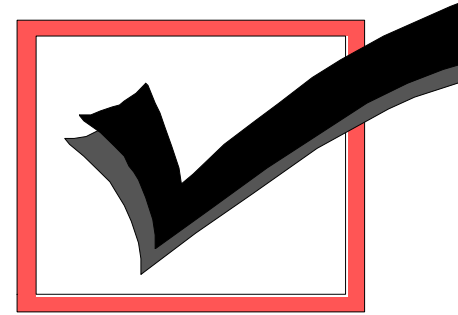


AVA CHECKPOINT



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NEC Meeting

The next meeting of the National Executive Council will be November 13-14, 2009. The location will be the Holiday Inn Express Lake Buena Vista at 8686 Palm Parkway, Orlando, FL 32836. Agenda items for this meeting are included with this **Checkpoint**. All interested volkssporters are encouraged to attend.

TAW Deadline

The deadline for the December, 2009 issue of *The American Wanderer* is October 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.

AVA Banner

Just a reminder that if your club would like one of the new banners, contact us to be put on the list. We only order these when we have several clubs who want them to help keep the costs down. You may also use the paper form found on the internet at http://www.ava.org/checkpoint/May_2009/AVA%20Banner.pdf

Club Tips

By Bob Wright

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

Appreciate Your Members

Involve and engage your members all you want, but that won't get you much unless you show your appreciation for what they do. You hear a lot about "give thanks," and this is one of those times that you should take it to heart.

Recognize Accomplishments

People like feeling appreciated for what they do at the request of others. If they don't, would they continue? Saying you appreciate what they do is such a small price to pay to keep them helping.

You might be surprised how inexpensive the number one form of recognition is. It's a personal "thank you!" That's not to say your volunteers wouldn't appreciate something more—the same surveys show that they do. So here are some other ways to say thanks.

Reward Accomplishments Locally

Clubs have some unique means at their disposal to say thank you.

- Publicly thank them at your meeting; hang a poster for the occasion (and let them take it home afterwards).
- Put it in writing in your newsletter and on your web site (and state association and/or regional publications).
- Give them something tangible: a certificate, pin, special club nametag or shirt (my club has a special club T-shirt that says "volunteer" on it too).
- Include a reception with a little food (e.g., cake, snacks) and drink (e.g., punch) at a ceremony.
- Have a reserved row of seats up front at meetings for honored volunteers.
- Give volunteers seniority in filling event assignments based on their degree of volunteerism.

Don't Overlook Recognition in the Community

- Submit an article to local papers. If you can tie it to an activity or long-time service, you have a better chance of getting published. Photos should show activity, not a posed presentation.
- Nominate exceptional volunteers for your county's "Volunteer of the Year" and similar honors.

Reward Accomplishments through the AVA and IVV

Take advantage of the graduated recognition the AVA offers. See Section 3 of AVA Policy Manual.

- Regional awards: Certificate of Service Award for at least three years of service; Meritorious Service Award for at least five years of service.
- National awards: Distinguished Achievement Award for at least eight years at various levels, including national; AVA Hall of Fame Award for at least 10 years at all levels.
- Special categories: Award for Youth and Trailblazer.

And the AVA is a member of the IVV, which has its own graduated recognition program. Your club may make nominations through your regional director who will take it to the NEC.

- Merit Pin for 8, 15, and 25 or more years of service at the national level.
- Pin of Honor for national service.

If you are creative, there are plenty of more ways to recognize your volunteers, and there are even books written on the subject. If your club has other ways that it shows its appreciation, let me know so I may share these with all of you—and give your club some public recognition for doing something unusual to say thank you to your members.

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.

Convention 2013

Is your club or region interested in hosting the 2013 Convention? If so, please contact your Regional Director or Jackie at the National Headquarters. We can provide information to help in the decision making process. You will be required to present your proposal to the NEC at one of their meetings and if they approve, they will travel to your location before final approval to present to the entire Convention in 2011.

Wanted: Coordinator for AVA Clubs in Schools Project

If you attended the AVA Convention, you heard about AVA's project to create AVA clubs in schools. Here is the concept. AVA asks for volunteers to work with ONE SCHOOL, preferably a school with which they are familiar. The job is to contact the school's business manager or principal to share information regarding how the school can increase physical education to its students, cost-free to the school, by forming a Volkssport club as one of the school's after hours activities. Also needed is a national coordinator that does not contact schools, but supports each of the school volunteers by assuring that they receive AVA materials, providing support and recording progress to report to the national officers.

Everyone agrees that AVA needs more young people. Now is the time to help AVA 'make it happen'! If you are interested in making this project succeed, contact President Curt Myron (president@ava.org) or Jacklyn Wilson (jackie@ava.org) to get started.

Attachments:

Agenda Items for NEC Meeting (3)