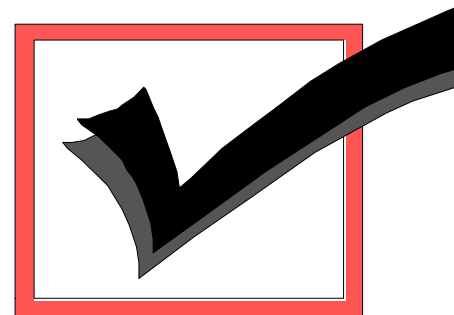


# AVA CHECKPOINT



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Volume 17 • Number 9

September 2009

## Call for Agenda Items

The next meeting of the National Executive Council is November 13-15, 2009, in Orlando, FL. For those who wish to attend the meeting, location details will be included in a future issue. Clubs wishing to submit an item for this meeting's agenda should send it to their Regional Director no later than September 14, 2009. Hope to see you there!

## TAW Deadline

The deadline for the October, 2009 issue of *The American Wanderer* is August 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](mailto: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.

## Convention Meeting Minutes

The DRAFT minutes from the June, 2009 AVA Convention are included with this **Checkpoint** and are also posted on the AVA Website under AVA Club News Updates link.

## Convention Awards Booklet

The AVA Headquarters has copies of these books available. If you would like one, call us at 210-659-2112 or email us with your request and mailing information and we'll be happy to send you one.

## YRE/Seasonal Reminder

Just a reminder that all 2010 YRE/Seasonal events need to be entered into the electronic sanctioning system no later than August 31, 2009. Please pay special attention to the Event Extended Description. Many of you have put Special Event info in that section that may no longer apply if the Special Event has ended.

## 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.

## New Girl Scout Patch

An order form for the 2009-2010 GS Patch is included with this **Checkpoint**. A copy of the patch is on the form.

## 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](mailto:president@ava.org)) or Jackie Wilson ([jackie@ava.org](mailto:jackie@ava.org)) to get started.

## **AVA Committee Members Needed**

AVA Committees organize our efforts to spread the word about our sport. Most of the Committee Chairs were recently appointed so now it is time for you to step forward and lend a hand. Your help is important and AVA can not succeed without you. We urge you to look at the AVA Committees, their Chairs and what they do. Why not negotiate an assignment as a member of a committee in which you are interested? Contact the Committee Chair for details. You can find a description of each committee and contact information for each Committee Chair on the AVA Website by clicking on AVA Leadership, scrolling to the bottom of the next page and clicking on AVA Committees.

## **Most AVA Committee Chairs Approved**

In a conference call meeting held on August 4, the National Executive Council approved nominations for most Chairs and NEC Liaisons to AVA Committees. There are still openings for the Chairs of the Publicity, Nominating, Sponsorship and Partnership Committees, as well for Coordinator of the AVA Clubs in Schools project.

## **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.

## **Engage Your Members**

Once you involve members as volunteers, take them to the next level—engagement.

### **Agree on a Job**

With interview information and your needs in hand, find a match. A perfect match is ideal. Otherwise look for the next best match. Work with your volunteer to find a good enough match—maybe their second choice, but something you both agree needs to be done.

If your volunteer has a passion, pursue it, even if not one of your needs. Adding something new to the club's program is good. What have you got to lose? The volunteer if you don't satisfy that passion!

Steering a volunteer toward your needs is an option, but beware. If the volunteer doesn't grow into the job, you'll have to succeed a problem. Watch for signs of trouble, and make a change if necessary to keep your volunteer engaged.

### **Explain the Job**

When the volunteer starts the job, initially sit down and explain it. They may have their own ideas, and everyone puts their own imprint on a job, but the objective(s) should be agreed. As Yogi Berra said, "If you don't know where you're going, you'll end up somewhere else." Don't let that happen. Answer questions; agree on answers. In the end, agreement is imperative.

### **Set Expectations**

Make part of that initial meeting about expectations. What outcome do you expect? A report by a certain date, weekly news releases, a web site with a specific look and content, written directions for a 10-km walking trail through a park, checking a year-round walk box monthly? If there is a schedule, spell it out. Come to agreement on expectations too.

### **Mentor and Monitor**

Now turn the volunteer loose to do the job you agreed to. Sort of. All volunteers need mentoring. Pair them up with knowledgeable club members, perhaps an officer, their committee chair, or someone familiar with the job. Less knowledgeable volunteers need more help initially than those with previous experience in the job or a similar one. Tailor the amount accordingly. Take all the time you need.

Periodically follow up. Check progress, especially if there are milestones along the way. Course correction is easiest when there is not too much time between status checks. Wait too long and the volunteer may stray far from agreed expectations.

If you see problems, address them with the volunteer promptly. You want the volunteer to succeed.

Don't micro-manage or stifle your volunteer (that's overdoing it), rather ensure your agreement is on track. Agree on what your volunteers will do, and stick to it; all will be pleased with the results.

## **November's tips will discuss the final part of the volunteer triad—appreciating volunteers.**

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

**Enclosures:**

Draft 2009 Convention Minutes

2009-2010 GS Consignment Order Form