

Northeast Regional Director—Chris Mellen

Electronic Sanctioning



The sanctioning of our Year Round and Seasonal Events opens June 1. All sanctioned events appear on the AVA website where they can be viewed by seasoned Volkssporters as well as potential new participants.

Clubs have the responsibility of providing good information that will interest people in attending the event and enable them to get there. These events identified as Year Round or Seasonal (Begin February 1) during the identified sanctioning window are included in the Start Point Book published annually by AVA. Additional information may be entered from the Edit page and will appear on the AVA Events webpage only under Comments. This provides free information for the clubs and accuracy is important.

North Central Regional Director—Jerry Wilson

Wisconsin Ice Age Trail (WI IAT) Regional Program Status

All sixteen Wisconsin Ice Age Trail (WI IAT) Regional Program routes have been loaded to the On-line Start Box (OLSB), however, we ask that you wait to sign-on to register for these hikes until a PayPal Account can be set-up and linked to these events. The cost for this program will be \$10.00. With these events being set up under the North Central Regional Director, Jerry Wilson, all funds collected will go directly to AVA. Likewise, the payment and registration process for the WI IAT Regional Program will be available June 1, 2018 and published in the June Checkpoint and on the AVA website.

Training Development Committee—Tom Baltes, Chair

Route Mapping

One of the most marketable features of our walking program is that we work diligently to deliver accurate turn by turn walk instructions and readable maps. Pages 11 and 13 of the Trailmaster Guide discuss in detail the various sources available to create maps and how to customize them with arrows and other information. Since the Guide was first published much has

changed and those changes will be addressed in the next update to the Guide. Some of the best software at the time, such as Microsoft Streets & Trips, is no longer available and newer products are now in use. One program getting more use is Plotaroute, which is available for free or at a small fee with some added storage capacity. My club paid for a subscription and we make it available to all our Trailmasters under one account. While not a perfect and highly robust solution, it does have some decent capability. You will find it at www.plotaroute.com and hopefully we'll be able to host a hands on workshop at the 2019 convention to allow clubs to gain some better skills in map making. Another program I was recently exposed to is viewranger at www.viewranger.com. Viewranger appears to be particularly good for trail systems and more open terrain. Do you have other inexpensive and easy to use mapmaking software for average users to learn how to use? Please share that with us as we want to identify the best available programs in the Trailmaster Guide and help all our clubs produce the best possible maps. Submit ideas to: training@ava.org.

Special Programs —Bonnie Johnson, Chair

New Special Programs for 2019 and Looking Forward>>>>>

We are looking forward to the new Special Programs which will start January 1, 2019. You may contact these poc's to order your book now for only \$10 each giving you ample time to get your walking schedule in order for 2019.

"Carousels Across America" was submitted by the Albany Fitwalkers of Oregon. With this program you will need to complete 15 events where you would pass by a carousel that is a permanent structure and operational to qualify. POC : Don Reed % Albany Fitwalkers Volkssporting Club, PO Box 1218, Albany, OR 97321 541-926-8327 donreed1946@yahoo.com.

"Little Free Libraries" submitted by Greater Des Moines Volkssport Association of Iowa has 20 qualifying events. Only registered Little Free Libraries with an official charter sign and charter number can be used. The charter number is the qualifier. Unregistered libraries do not count. POC: Deb Gaskins %GDMVA, PO Box 110 , Des Moines, IA 50301-0110 515-238-2486 gaskins.deb@gmail.com.

Both programs will run January 1, 2019-December 31, 2021 when book sales are in effect. You can then redeem completed books for the award until December 31, 2022.

Any eligible club may now send in proposals until November 1, 2018 to be considered for approval at the January 2019 NEC meeting in which the Special Program would begin January 1, 2020. Please follow the AVA Special Program guidelines noted in AVA Policy Special Programs/ Club Challenges 4.05. Any questions and mailings may be directed to Bonnie Johnson, 25 - 66th Way NE, Fridley, MN 55432 763-229-3584 bonjohn@comcast.net.

AVA Programs—Debra Kruep, Chair

Youth

Here is the new Navigator USA patch for 2018-2019. It may be used until December 31, 2019. Congratulations to Marina Venture from the Brooklyn, NY Chapter 102 Navigators USA for her winning design.

The new design has also been implemented as a “generic” Walk Together patch. Walking Together with an AVA club has become popular! So popular in fact, we have had requests from Boy Scouts and other youth groups who would like to earn a patch. It is impossible to accommodate every group by coordinating a contest for each one. Here is the next best thing; a patch that can be earned by any youth that attends a Walk Together. Order forms for these patches are available on the ava.org website under the “club” tab. For more information or questions contact avayouth@ava.org.

Virtual Online Programs

401K: Invest in Your Health has been popular and walkers are strolling across the finish line! T-shirts will be mailed in July (date to be determined) to anyone completing the challenge by May 31, 2018. Those who complete the challenge after May 31 will receive their T-shirt in the second mailing after the program ends in December 2018.



The “Tour of Italy” virtual map program began May 1. If you are enrolled in the 401K program you will automatically be enrolled. It will be listed under your challenges. As you move along the trail narrative photos boxes will pop up at points of interest to give you information about that point. One of folksporting’s pleasures is travel but not all of us are able. So let’s do the next best thing and travel virtually! “Tour of Italy” is step based so there is nothing extra to do if you are logging steps from a device. If you are logging kilometers you must put them in manually. If you have questions please contact VOP@ava.org. There is still time to enroll and complete both programs, just go to the AVA website and click on the 401K logo to register.



AVA National Office Team

Accounting Specialist—Marian DeVaul

Fiscal/Operational Updates:

We are implementing a new process regarding the Event Participation Coupons that were previously returned with the event stamps at the end of the quarter, they may be submitted to the National Office with club payments or you may scan and e-mail to marian@ava.org.

Also, in the past, annual dues have been billed the beginning of May, which creates adjustments to get the revenue in the proper fiscal year requirements.

Due to the upgrade of our server, the ESR has not been automatically sending out confirmation e-mails when participation numbers are entered. Our IT department is working on a way to rectify this issue. In the meantime, to verify the system has accepted your entries, you may use your club’s ESR Account to view your sanctioned events. Next click on the “Participation Report” button for the event in question to view your entered participation. Finally, use the print option on your web browser to generate a pdf or print a copy of the submitted data. Thank you for your patience.

Awards and Membership Coordinator—Karen Winkle

To view the Monthly Comparison Chart for the Total Number of Awards processed [click here](#).

Don't forget, World Walking Day is May 8th! Order your WorldWalkingDay Certificates now!

You can use the certificates throughout the month. There is no cost.

Information and Technology Specialist—Hector Hernandez

UPDATES!

All June event stamps have been sent out to the clubs' POC. Please remember that after you use your stamp you do not have to send it back. You can save it or dispose of it. Please hold on to all stamp handles for future use.

Thank you all who have submitted photos. We are still in need of more pictures. Share your memorable moments and help keep the slideshow up to date. Please send in any pictures you'd like us to post with a brief caption, email hector@ava.org.

Walks to Remember

If you are in need of assistance marketing May walks and events, please email your walk or event information and details to hector@ava.org.



Starting Point Changes

Please remember to make all changes within your ESR and then send to Hector. The website will be updated weekly. Email changes to hector@ava.org.

Click here for this months [Starting Point Changes](#)

Communications—Samanta Sanchez

You Gave Big to the Big Give! - \$73,841 Raised!

2018 was another successful year for our Big Give fundraiser campaign. Thanks to our donors, the AVA reached and surpassed it's \$70,000 goal! Our supporters *Led the Way to \$70K* but did stop there. With their support, the AVA raised \$72,341. Special thanks to those who donated online. Our online donors helped us earn 2nd place in the Health and Wellness category, leveraging an additional \$1,500 in prize money. In total, the AVA raised **\$73,841** for our 2018 Big

Give campaign. A big THANK YOU to all our 505* donors who participated in the Giving Celebration! To show our appreciation, all individuals and clubs who donated to the Big Give through April 30th will participate in a drawing to win AVA prizes. Prize winners will be announced on May 19, 2018 during our post Big Give Celebration. We will be livestreaming the event and the announcement of our prize winners. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

*includes duplicate donors



Lace it Up for the Big Give Celebration

To celebrate the success of this year's Big Give, the AVA will be participating in the *Lace It Up for Our Seniors Run/Walk* hosted by the WellMed Charitable foundation on May 19, 2018. This will be a 5k or 2.5k run/walk for all ages to raise money to help seniors and caregivers. The event will be taking place at the Mission County Park & Pavillion on Saturday, May 19 at 8 a.m. In addition to the run/walk, there will be food and music. We are inviting all our local members to be part of the **American Volkssport Association Walk Team**. Registration is free for Seniors 60+ and for children 10 and under. To register and participate under our AVA Team please visit the event's [registration site](#) or [mail out this registration form](#) to WellMed Charitable Foundation 8637 Fredericksburg Rd. Suite 100 San Antonio, TX 78240 (please note American Volkssport Association under Senior Center). WellMed will recognize the largest team of seniors and will award a prize. After your walk, come visit us at our booth. We will be having small giveaways and we'll be announcing the Big Give Prize Winners. Not in the San Antonio area? Make sure to check out our livestream of the event. This is an event you won't want to miss. Don't forget to wear your AVA shirts to make our presence known! [Click here for more information on the event](#).

AVA's Executive Director's Update—Henry Rosales

Important Deadlines for the June 2018 NEC Meeting

May 9, 2018 (30 days before meeting):
Officer's, Regional Director's and Committee written reports are due at AVA National Headquarters

May 18, 2018 (21 days before meeting):
Meeting information package emailed to NEC members.

AVA NEC Officer's Reports and Committee Reports:

[Click here for Officer Report Form](#)

[Click here for Committee Report Form](#)

June 2018 NEC Meeting

The next NEC meeting will be June 8-10, 2018 in Albany, NY. The meeting will start at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 8th and 8:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The meeting will be held in the *Stonehenge A* room. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

All meetings will be at the:
Red Lion Hotel Albany
205 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12205
(518) 458-7264

[Click here for the June 2018 NEC Meeting Agenda](#)

NEC 2018-2019 Meeting Calendar (In Person Meetings)

June 8—10, 2018—Albany, NY
January 11—13, 2019—Arizona
June 9—16, 2019—Albany, NY

Changes to the AVA Event Registration Log Form 900A and 900B

In effort to safeguard the personal information of our YRE participants that is kept in the walk boxes, the participant's ADDRESS in the Event Registration Log form is no longer REQUIRED. If a participant would like to put their address on this form it is optional but not required. [To view these forms click here and here.](#)

Clarification on Release of Liability Form for Minors (Release of Liability Assumption of Risk and Photo Liability Release for Minor Participants)

The National Executive Council will be revisiting the use of a Release of Liability form for Minors to determine what is the best policy for the AVA. During the interim, AVA Clubs are not Required to use this form for minors who participate in our events with family members, grandparents or a supervisory adult.

A Release of Liability form for Minors is still required for groups of youth who attend our events like the Girl Scouts, Navigators, etc. Clubs can use the AVA form on our website or one provided by the non-AVA organization. The AVA's Release of Liability form is also still required for the AVA Master program. When applying for the AVA Master Program, a copy of this form should be submitted to the AVA with the registration form.

Also, under no circumstance should a minor be allowed to participate in any of our events unsupervised by an adult. Photos of minors should never be reproduced or published without the express written consent of the legal guardian.

[To view the AVA's Release of Liability Assumption of Risk and Photo Liability Release for Minor Participants form click here.](#)

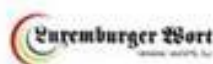
BIG GIVE BY THE NUMBERS

The Big Give campaign exceeded its goal for the third straight year generating over \$73,000! This would not be possible without the support of our clubs, individual members, friends and matching donors. We are still finalizing all the numbers and will have a detailed update in the June issue.

Support Our National and International Friends!

International

National



Click on image to view flyer.



Click on image to learn more.

When You Stay at the Red Roof You Save and the AVA Gains!



The AVA will receive 5% of all room revenues when you book at a Red Roof Inn using the Volume Plus Number (623002)! Red Roof Inn's great rates and quality rooms means that you won't be breaking the bank to afford a comfortable room. Through the American Volkssport Association, Red Roof Inn is

also offering additional value. When you book your reservation using Volume Plus Number 623002, you'll save 15% off Red Roof Inn's Best Available rate. Red Roof Inn's Volume Plus Number works just like an online coupon code. Use this link — [https://www.redroof.com/deals/partner/American Volkssport Association](https://www.redroof.com/deals/partner/American_Volkssport_Association) and Red Roof Inn's online discount code will automatically be filled in for you! Or go to www.RedRoof.com to make a reservation. All you have to do to receive a discount at participating inns is enter Volume Plus Number 623002 in the VP+ / ID # slot. You can also make a reservation with an inn directly by calling 1-800-RED-ROOF (800-733-7663). You are required to provide the Volume Plus Number 623002 to the reservationist when you make your reservation, BEFORE arriving at any Red Roof Inn property.

Checkpoint Available Via Email to All Club Members Who Request It

To receive an electronic copy of the Checkpoint send us an email to the attention of Samanta requesting that you be put on our distribution list for the Checkpoint. Please note on the subject line: Request for Checkpoint. Send your request to Samanta at samanta@ava.org.



Fun, Fitness, Friendship



The American Volkssport Association

The Mission of AVA is to promote and organize noncompetitive physical fitness activities that encourage lifelong fun, fitness, and friendship for all ages and abilities.

