

CHECKPOINT



The official voice of the American Volkssport Association
America's premier noncompetitive sports organization

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NEC Committee News

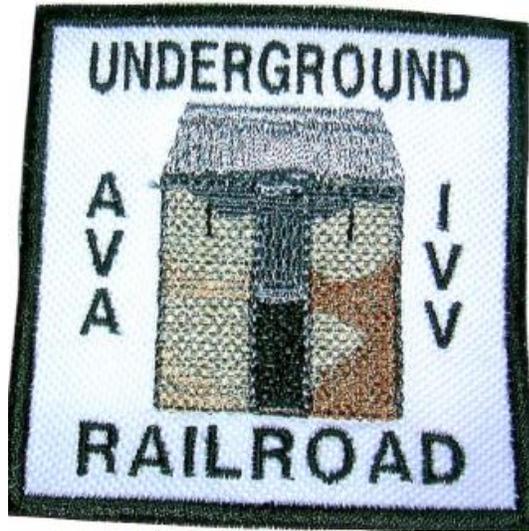
Special Programs 2017 – Bonnie Johnson, Chair, Special Programs Committee

On Jan 22 2016, the NEC approved the revised AVA Special Programs Management with a starting date of Feb 1, 2016; and directed that it be moved into the Policy Manual. Highlights of the revised AVA Special Programs Management include:

1. The NEC established a goal of 12 active Special Programs per year. The current large number of Special Programs will be downsized through attrition. AVA is now projected to be at or below its goal in 2020.
2. For 2017 and 2018, the NEC limited itself to approving no more than 2 additional Special Programs per year.
3. The NEC will use the following 6 criteria to evaluate potential Special Programs:
 - A. Historical Significance: Will the Volkssporter learn about events of historical significance or cultural interest?
 - B. Scenic Interest: Will the Volkssporter visit sites of scenic interest or significant natural beauty?
 - C. Geographic Area: Will the Special Program be relevant in all or most of the United States?
 - D. Qualifying Events: Are the qualifiers clearly described and easily understandable? Will it be easy to determine which walks qualify?
 - E. Award Appearance: Is the Award attractive?
 - F. Entertainment Value: Will the Special Program be fun?
4. Since the Special Programs will be limited to 12 per year, no club or individual may have more than one Special Program approved at a time.
5. The revision also includes the ability for the NEC to reactivate an old Special Program, and lays out the conditions under which this could occur (it must have been 10 years since it ended and it must have sold at least 150 books).
6. The NEC directed the National Programs Chair (SWRD Susan Medlin) to create a new National Program with more challenging events of distance or difficulty. All proposed Special Programs to be considered for approval

at the January 2017 NEC meeting must be sent to your Regional Director and to Bonnie Johnson, Special Program Chair, for review.

7. The NEC approved the following 2 new Special Programs in 2016 which will begin January 1, 2017.



Strategic Planning Update – David Bonewitz, Chair, Strategic Planning Committee

STRATEGIC PLANNING – The Roadmap Begins to Take Shape

At its January meeting in Las Vegas, the National Executive Council heard the report from the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC). For over 3 hours on January 22nd, the NEC heard a high-level review of the recommendations of the SPC; then on the 23rd, the NEC worked through the details and edited the Courses of Action. Some agreed actions were immediately assigned to Standing and Ad hoc committees to begin fleshing out the plan. Other parts will need further study and review.



Given the amount of work done, it will take a bit of time to review the results and ensure that everyone is on the same sheet of music. So, it would be premature to put a lot of detail here. However, it is important that you recognize that we are moving forward. In the area of Mission Achievement, we are looking at mechanisms to grow our membership, improve our member programs, and establish a program to enhance club development. In Financial Sustainability, we are looking at developing donors and sponsors, increasing grants, and meeting standard nonprofit financial ratios. In the area of Operational Efficiency, we are focused on a national publicity strategy, member-centered data management, and a review of operational costs. In Governance and Leadership, we are looking at restructuring the NEC committee structure and meetings to enhance our strategic capacity and editing the Bylaws to move operational details into the Policy Manual. All of this and more is just in the first phase from now to December 2017. With two more phases in the following years, there is much more to come.

So, stay tuned. Lots of details will soon be available. If you weren't already, it is certainly time to get excited about the bright future of AVA.

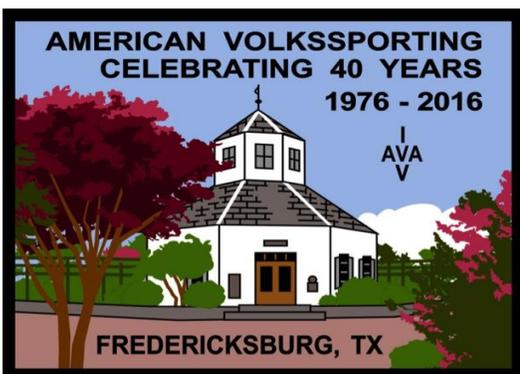
On an on-going basis, your input continues to be valuable. Send your thoughts and ideas to your RD and/or to the Strategic Planning Committee at SPC4AVA@gmail.com.

40 Years of Volksmarching - Susan Medlin, Chair, 40th Anniversary Committee

Mark your calendar. Come to Fredericksburg, Texas on June 10 - 12, 2016 and join us in celebrating the 40th anniversary of Volkssporting in America. The very first walking event was held in Fredericksburg June 12-13, 1976.

In the spin up to the anniversary celebration, we are still looking for human interest stories, humorous antidotes, lessons learned, and other interesting events that would encourage folks to become volksmarchers. Please forward your memories to John McClellan, President of the Happy Wanderers, johnmc82@cfl.rr.com by **April 1, 2016**. We hope to include your memories in articles for Reader's Digest, AARP magazine, TAW and other publications.

40th Anniversary of U.S. Volksmarching Commemorative Patches on Sale Now!



CELEBRATING 40
YEARS!

**SAVE THE
DATE!**

June 10-12, 2016

Fredricksburg, Texas

For more information contact
Ellen Ott at
ellenott@sbcglobal.net

Celebrating 40-Years of American Volkssporting

ADVANCE EVENTS SCHEDULE (Detailed event information to be published shortly)

Friday/10 June 2016

Volkssportverein Friedrichsburg, AVA-1. AVA Pilgrimage
YRE Y0001 (Evening Walk)

Saturday/11 June 2016

TVA FOUNDERS DAY

Market Plaza Pavilion
100 W. Main St
Fredericksburg

TVA Footsteps of the Founders Walk, 20km/10km/5km. Start window: 6:00am to 9:00am. Finish by NOON. Awards: An Award, a medal patterned after the one awarded in 1976.

TVA Vereinskirche Volksmarch, 10km/5km. Start window: 8:00am to 11:00am. Finish by 2:00pm. Awards: TBD.

TVA Founders Day Bike, 25km. Start window: 6:00am to 10:00am. Finish by 1:00pm. Awards: IVV Credit Only.

TVA Founders Day Swim, 300 meters. Start window: 11:00am to 1:00pm. Finish by 1:30pm. Awards: IVV Credit Only.

40th Anniversary Dinner: 6:00pm at [Andy's Steak & Seafood Grille, 413 South Washington St, Fredericksburg, TX 78624](#). The room seats 64 people and the meal costs \$20. Details on pre-registering will be announced shortly.

Sunday/12 June 2016

Volkssportverein Friedrichsburg, AVA-1. Cross Mountain
YRE Y1114 (Morning Walk)

TVA Seasonal Events

Llano and Mason, Texas

Llano, TX: 38.0 miles/41 minute drive.

Mason, TX: 42.4 miles/41 minute drive.

Llano to Mason or vice versa: 34.6 miles/34 minute drive.

Commemorative Souvenir Sales

A beer stein commemorating **TVA FOUNDERS DAY I** featuring the TVA Logo.

Buy Your Commemorative Patches Now!

The 40th Anniversary patch is available for purchase while quantities last! The club price is \$3 per patch which includes shipping. The patch is 4.25" by 3.25" and is 100% embroidered. The patches may be used at any volksmarching Traditional event in 2016 as an A award or as a commemorative patch celebrating our 40 years of Volkssporting in the USA! Please allow 3 (three) weeks for the patch to arrive. Patches can be ordered through November 1, 2016. If you plan to host an event in November or December where you will use this patch please order in advance of the deadline. Email your order information to Theresa at Theresa@ava.org

Youth Programs, Debbie Kruep, Chair

Special thanks to Laura Anderson and the Clay-Platte Trackers of Kansas City, MO for conducting the Girl Scout Walk Together Patch Contest for 2016-2017 with the Girl Scout Council of NE Kansas & NW Missouri.

AVA HEADQUARTERS TEAM NEWS

HQ Finance & Operations Director – Candace Purcell

Requirements for Starting a New AVA Club

There is now a requirement sheet and checklist for starting a new club. You can find this information by going under the Clubs tab > Clubs Only > AVA Club Forms.

HQ Events Coordinator – Marie Bebley

Please see attached list of clubs that have not submitted their 3rd and 4th Quarterly Report for 2015 YRE and Seasonal Events. These events are no longer accessible on the website; please forward your reports to events@ava.org to be keyed in the system. Please be advised these reports are now past due and a late fee will be assessed.

[Click Here To View PDF](#)

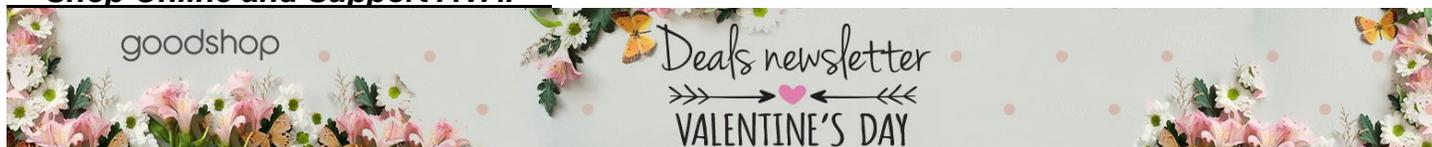
HQ Awards and Membership Coordinator – Karen Winkle

Due to the developmental stages of the new database, the monthly comparison charts for new walkers and awards processed cannot be completed at this time. These charts will be provided in the March Checkpoint.

Thank you for your patience

Melinda Riggsby – Communications

*****Shop Online and Support AVA!*****



Valentine's Day is just two weeks away. Surprise that special someone with thoughtful gifts from some of the country's finest retailers—and enjoy valuable savings in the process. This week's Goodshop offers include something for everyone, from apparel and undergarments to jewelry and decadent treats. Best of all, when you're logged in to Goodshop, you're not just saving money for yourself; you're helping others, as these deals raise crucial funds for American Volkssport Association - AVA.

Here is how it works:

1. Invite your supporters to sign up for Goodshop through your unique referral link. You can get yours by going [here](#), or by pasting this link into your browser: www.goodsearch.com/invite-friends
2. When your supporters complete a \$25 purchase, we will make a \$5 bonus donation to your cause and your friends, with a total of \$10 going to American Volkssport Association - AVA.
3. If *their* friends sign up for Goodshop and make a \$25 purchase, another \$10 will go to your cause!

And Don't Forget to Pick Out a Gift For Your Significant Other!

Shop at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2164037> and 0.5% of your eligible amazonsmile purchase will be donated to AVA directly from Amazon! It's as simple as that!



AVA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATES - HENRY ROSALES

AVA Headquarters wants to be Snowed Under With Your Ideas About a New DBA for AVA!



Last week during the NEC meeting the Council approved of a DBA (Doing Business As) name for the AVA and now we would like to know what you think about this DBA. The DBA is:

America's Walking Club.

Send us your thoughts on what you think about our new DBA. Do you like it, not like it or do you think we should modify it and if so how? Send your comments to execdir@ava.org. Please put "**AVA DBA**" on the subject line. Your comments and recommendations will be

presented to the NEC at the June 2016 meeting in Fredericksburg, Texas.

The AVA Headquarters is still exploring ways to reformat our monthly newsletter, the Checkpoint, in effort to send out information to clubs that is timely, relevant and qualitative. Please send us your ideas regarding the type of information you think is pertinent to your clubs so that we can refine the information in the Checkpoint to better meet your needs. Email your ideas to Executive Director at execdir@ava.org Please note on the subject line "**checkpoint ideas**".

Checkpoint Available Via Email to All Club Members Who Request It

In the past the checkpoint has gone out via email to all Club Officers and POC's in the AVA database. Effective March 2016 the checkpoint will be sent via email to any club member who requests it. Simply send us an email to the attention of Melinda 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 intern@ava.org

The American Volkssport Association

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