

News from N.E.W. #10, Monday, January 13, 2014

1. I'm back from the National Executive Council meeting January 10-11, 2014 in Tucson, AZ.

Here are some of the highlights:

- The NEC unanimously approved the Executive Committee's choice for **National Executive Director**. Her name is **Stephanie Sinclair**. She is young, fit and full of energy and ideas. She was there the entire NEC and walked with us on the Downtown Tucson walk Saturday morning along with many from Arizona clubs. Her husband works for AAA Baseball as an umpire supervisor. She lives in San Antonio and starts work January 27. She intends to get out to our regions to be visible and listen to us all.
- **Special Programs**: The NEC approved six special programs with some changes beginning January 1, 2015 and turned down one other. They are; Amphitheatres, Animal Safari, Boardwalks, Doin' the Louisiana Purchase (extended to four years), Food for Thought, and Volcanos. You'll see more later in the TAW. These special programs will be given the option of paying a flat fee to AVA to hold their special program, with only a final report at the end of their program, rather than the periodic reporting and payments now required. Special programs beginning 2016 will be under the flat fee/single reporting method. Details later.
- **The Training Committee** (I'm the chair) will finish a guide we've started as soon as possible on How to Start a New Club. The AVA website page is confusing.
- **Pathway to Excellence voluntary club program**: Once labeled a Star Program revival, this voluntary program is now called Pathway to Excellence and will provide a weighted self-assessment of practices which should be part of a great club. More about this in the TAW and on the AVA website. Once this information is out, clubs may begin assessing their own performance for this calendar year. If they choose and if their assessment indicates they are eligible for an award, they may submit their information to their RD.
- **Stamp Kits Ad Hoc Committee**: We will wait until we have better cost information before doing anything further on a pilot in this region with some clubs to build their own traditional event stamps.
- **On Call Ad Hoc Committee**: The Emergency Notification procedures proposed will go back to committee to be updated and reviewed.
- **Region Realignment Ad Hoc Committee**: The committee recommended against realignment into six regions, which was the committee's charge. The recommendation against was approved by the NEC, because support to clubs is so important and increasing the number of clubs for RDs would go against this need.
- **Ad Hoc Bicycle Participation Committee**: Information will be added to the Trail Master certification program about Bike Cue sheets, Dan Henrys and other information pertaining to holding bike events. A fourth category – "Other than walking events" – should be added to the AVA event search page to find bike and other non-walk events.
- **Online Start Box Ad Hoc Committee**: There are some issues with insurance and PayPal that the committee needs to find a way around. The committee needs to find people with web application development experience with a working knowledge of PHP, HTML and Javascript who would be willing to work for free – perhaps interns. It would be great to also find someone that has mobile platform (phones) application development skills and application testers.

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- **Proposed Motions clubs may have seen:**

- i. Motion that youth master program logbooks become a saleable item for AVA clubs passed. The Logbook format will be revised first.
- ii. Motion to clarify the approval process for Club Membership Applications passed as amended.
- iii. Motion to clarify event cancellation policies for weather/safety passed as amended.
- iv. Motion to clarify the after action reporting policy for Traditional Events passed.
- v. Motion to clarify the after action reporting policy for Seasonal Events passed as amended.
- vi. Motion to clarify the IVV certification stamp return policy passed.

2. I've received some feedback about the \$100 club dues with \$50 credit when the first traditional event is held. One response is that this is just about the money. This is NOT true. The NEC wants clubs to hold traditional events because these are the events that bring new people to our sport. If your club can't put on a traditional event by yourself – even a guided walk – **ask for help**. If you are in Washington or Oregon, ask your state association president or area coordinator. And, let me know. If you plan to do a traditional event, but can't afford the \$100 by July 1, but can afford the \$50, ask your state association if they will loan you the \$50, on condition you sanction a walk and get help.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Nancy Wittenberg, NW RD, nw_rd@ava.org