

News from N.E.W. #50, January 26, 2017

1. **Checkpoint:** All officers of record (on your club's AVA website officers page) get the Checkpoint. Although it goes to officers, it is not only for officers. It is the official newsletter of the AVA. So there is lots of information in it for all volkssporters. So **please** forward it to all club members! As mentioned before in the Checkpoint anyone who wants their own copy emailed to them directly each month can send an email to Samanta@ava.org telling her you want it emailed to you.
2. **Election for the next Northwest Regional Director:** As mentioned previously, the nominations for NW Regional Director and Deputy NW Regional Director for the July 1, 2017- June 30, 2019 term are now open. Each club in the region will be given a ballot. Unless all clubs object, elections will be held by mail-in ballot. Elections must not be held before March 7, 2017, 90 days before the AVA convention. Dick Baker will announce all nominees to clubs prior to that time. If you would like to run for NW Regional Director or Deputy NW Regional Director, please send your resume to Dick Baker at dickbkr@q.com **before February 1** to give him enough time to notify clubs.
3. **Results of the National Executive Council meeting held in Rogers, AR January 20-21.** The NEC meeting was a good one overall. The Ozark Hill Hikers were very friendly and accommodating. I got to do 2 walks in the area and they were great walks. Not all flat. Sam Walton (of Walmart) has really contributed to trails and other public facilities in the area. Trails all over are being connected, paved, upgraded, etc. so you can bike or walk all over with little interruption. Here are some of the results of interest to clubs:
 - **IVV bike distances:** The IVV changed the minimum distance for all bike events from 25k to 10k and the NEC approved changing our requirements as well. In reality a bike can be any distance, but 10k is now the minimum.
 - **AVA Event Stamps:** The AVA approved a motion to upgrade the look of AVA stamps and how they are made. Holly Pelking, AVA VP, presented a proposal to create the stamp using a laser device cutting the stamp on a thin sheet of rubber. The stamp would be sent to a club along with two strips of double sided tape. The club would attach the rubber strip to a wooden block whose stamp edge is approximately 8cm long and a little shy of 1cm deep. The wooden block would not be returned to AVA. It would be kept for the next event, saving mailing costs to return the stamps. The first stamps using this method will be the convention event stamps, followed by traditional events in July to December. New YRE stamps for 2018 would be next. One nice change will be that the club can specify what they would like on the stamp, such as an event name within space and font size limits. I will attach a sample from Holly's record book. After the initial year, AVA would save at least 50% from its current cost of producing and mailing stamps and handles.
 - **New AVA Privacy Policy:** A copy of the new privacy policy will be sent to all AVA members via mail relating to certain personal data that is collected by the AVA related to AVA services and activities.
 - **Walk Like an Olympian:** One new Special Program for 2018-2021 was approved. Walk Like an Olympian requires 20 events in a city with the same name as a city where an Olympic Games were held. If your club would like to develop a special program that would begin in January 2019, please see the AVA Policy Manual section on Special Programs.

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- **National Special Programs:** Beginning January 2018, various trail systems will each have program books with patches for hiking certain numbers of events on these trails. These include the Pacific Crest trail, Appalachian Trail, Wisconsin Ice Age Trail. For 2017 eight events have been sanctioned on the Pacific Crest Trail, all using the Online Start Box: 2 in Washington, 2 in Oregon and 4 in California.
- **Training Committee:** Changes to the Trailmaster Guide have been made to include a Bike portion with Bike Cue sheets. A draft Club Operations Guide has been developed and hopefully will be added to the AVA website. Various topics need to be added in the future.
- **Extended Distance Bike Events and Guided Bike Events:** These types of events are now permanent. They had been pilot programs for the past two years.
- **AVA Mascot:** The NEC didn't approve any of the mascot contest entries.
- **Renewal of Year Round and Seasonal Events:** The resolution to allow clubs to automatically renew all YRE/Seasonals for the next year pending approving authority (RD) approval was passed. How this will be implemented has not been determined.
- **Per Participant Sanction Fee method:** The PPSF method was made permanent. IT had been a pilot program. It still will require RD approval.
- **Traveling IVV Stamp for Guided Walk Events:** The proposal to conduct a two year pilot program for a "Traveling Guided Walk" event with a unique IVV Stamp that can be used for multiple guided walk events passed effective April 1. TGW will be made an event type. This is primarily for remote clubs that want to walk frequently without enough YREs/Seasonals to maintain a weekly walk schedule of different walks. Policy information will be sent to interested clubs.

Hope to see you soon.

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