



AVA President, David Bonewitz, Executive Director, Henry Rosales, and Crazy Horse Coordinator, Diane Johannesen, speak with the local media at Crazy Horse Memorial Walk.

## **Training Development Committee—Tom Baltes, Chair**

During the June NEC meeting in Albany the Convention Workshop Committee and I met to review the convention workshop plan. They have done a terrific job of outlining some engaging topics related to the history surrounding the walks and local area. You won't want to miss these presentations. Our national committees and board leadership have also provided some timely and vital topics for presentation, so plan to spend some time at the convention to learn some history, receive updates on key program topics, share your knowledge and hear from your national board.

## **National Special Programs—Susan Medlin, Chair**

Tour de Las Misiones is a one of a kind opportunity to visit and learn about San Antonio's World Heritage Site Historic Missions. The Bike, Run and 10/5km Walk will all start at Mission Park Pavilion. The first 500 participants who register before August 31 will receive a Finisher Commemorative Medal, Collectable T-shirt, and Goodie Bag. Hope to see all of you there!

## **AVA National Office Team**

### **Awards and Membership Coordinator—Karen Winkle**

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

Please make sure we have your correct address. AVA does not give or sell your address to anyone outside of the NEC. If written requests are made by Regional Directors for a specific reason, and approved by the Executive Director, your address will be given to the RD in your area only. You must send a written request for your information to be withheld.

If you do not want pins, patches or certificates for your awards, please let me know when sending in your books or email me at [karen@ava.org](mailto:karen@ava.org). I will put that information in your records.

### **Information and Technology Specialist—Hector Hernandez**

#### **Quarterly Reports**

The deadline to submit 2nd Quarter Participation Reports is July 31st. Clubs will be able to submit participation numbers through the ESR for 30 days after this date. If you need help please call or email [hector@ava.org](mailto:hector@ava.org) to submit participation numbers. Please note if the participation report is filed after the due date, a late fee of \$10.00 will be charged.

#### **Renewal Season**

It's time to renew your events for sanctioning and get them in the Starting Point. Events need to be entered into the ESR so that stamps can be made and mailed out in November/December.

The 2019 YRE and Seasonal Renewal process is open. The deadline is midnight September 15, 2018. Please renew your walks at your earliest convenience. Click the link for [Renewal Instruction](#).

Here are some tips to renew your YREs and Seasonals.

- Please do not mark your events “No Renewal” if undecided. There is no “undo” button, you will have to re-enter a new ESR.
- For a faster and error free renewal, do a fast and quick renewal without changes. Simply click renew and submit. You may enter your changes or updates by going the to ESR Listing page to edit your event information.
- Your event will disappear from your renewal list if you enter incorrect information. Contact Hector to have your event reactivated if your event disappeared during renewal.
- Most the errors occur when entering information in the POC section . Please follow the instructions carefully.

Contact Hector at [hector@ava.org](mailto:hector@ava.org) for any ESR renewal problems and concerns.

## 2019 Starting Point Books Print Deadline

Sanctioning of 2019 YREs and Seasonals began June 1, 2018 and ends September 15, 2018. RDs have until September 30 to review their region's events; after September 30 if your club sanctions a YRE or seasonal it will not appear in the 2019 Starting Point Book.

For tips and guidelines on entering information in the ESR for the Starting Point Book please [click here](#).

## Starting Point Changes

Starting Point changes on the AVA website are only for events published in the Starting Point.

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](mailto:hector@ava.org).

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

## Starting Point Photo Contest

What is the essence of Volkssporting in the USA? Is it the "People", "Places" or "Things" you encounter! Can you capture the essence of Volkssporting? Let's try! Please submit your entries for this year's photo contest. Capturing the People, Places and Things you encounter while walking.

The first and second place winners will get their photo printed on the front side (1st place) and backside (2nd place) cover of the 2019 Starting Point book. Winners will also get a complimentary copy of the Starting Point!

Entries are due to AVA National office no later than August 31, 2018. Rules, guidelines and the official entry form are [attached here](#). Participation in the nationwide contest is open to AVA members, clubs and state organizations. All entries must have been created or occurred during the time period from July 1, 2017 – August 31, 2018. For more information contact Hector at [hector@ava.org](mailto:hector@ava.org).



## Club Anniversaries

Congratulations to all clubs celebrating an AVA anniversary this year! Your anniversary certificates are being mailed to your Regional Director. Clubs will no longer receive an anniversary slug instead you can now customize your stamp to celebrate any event for your anniversary. More information on this process will be announced in the July Checkpoint.

## Walks to Remember

The sun is out and in full effect! Who will brave the heat? Or maybe you have a nice shady walk you'd like to share? Share it with your friends, share it with AVA. If you are in need of assistance marketing July walks and events please email your walk or event information to [hector@ava.org](mailto:hector@ava.org).

## **Operational Changes Effective July 1, 2018**

In an effort to cut costs and streamline services the following operational changes will be implemented on July 1, 2018.

The NEC approved an increase of annual club dues from \$50.00 to \$75.00 effective July 1, 2018. The increase will help offset the \$318 cost per club of general liability insurance, IVV club dues, 6 issues of The American Wanderer publication, and staff time dedicated to maintenance of club administrative functions. It should be noted that this is the first actual dues increase in AVA history. Please contact your Regional Director with questions and concerns. Annual club dues, previously billed on May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, will not be billed until July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 to align with our fiscal year requirements. Late fees will be assessed, after 60 days, on the September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

Due to the growing costs in printing and shipping, AVA will have a price increase for the following merchandise items effective July 1, 2018:

Red & Blue Vinyl Book Covers: \$5.00 each  
Start Cards and Insert Cards: \$.10 each (\$10.00 a pack)

Please note that even though we are raising the price of the start and insert cards in an effort to cover costs, the insert cards will be available on the website beginning July 1, 2018 as a free download in a .pdf format.

Thank you,

Erin Grosso

Marian DeVaul

## **AVA's Executive Director's Update—Henry Rosales**

### **Publicity Committee Update**

The Publicity Committee is working on a Request for Quotes (RFQ) proposal for support with the planning and implementation of a national publicity campaign. The RFQ is tentatively scheduled for release this August. The timeline and process are as follows:

June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – First draft of RFQ completed

June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Second draft of RFQ completed and approved by the Publicity Committee

July 12, 2018 – RFQ forwarded to the NEC for input

July 17, 2018 – RFQ discussed and contract amount approved (Teams NEC meeting)

August-September 2018 – RFQ released to the public

October 2018 – Publicity committee reviews RFQ's

November 2018 – Publicity committee interviews finalists and recommends to the NEC/EC

December 2018 – contract negotiations/work begins

June 2019 – Kickoff of national publicity campaign in Albany during the AVA convention

## Update on the Release of Liability Form for Minors

The National Executive Council (NEC) passed a motion to create a policy for youth under the age of 18 who participate in AVA events. The drafting of this policy was referred to the Standards and Evaluation committee, after which it must be approved by the NEC. If you have comments or recommendations regarding the creation of this policy, please send your comments to Jerry at [nc\\_rd@ava.org](mailto:nc_rd@ava.org)

Please put "Youth Participant Policy" in the subject line.

In the meantime, although it is recommended, clubs are not required to use the Release of Liability Assumption of Risk and Photo Liability Release for Minor Participants.

[To view this form click here.](#)

## FINANCE (Unaudited Report)

**2018-2019 AVA Budget** - The 2018-2019 proposed budget of **\$561,393** was approved by the NEC. Revenues are projected at \$454,140 and expenses are projected at \$561,393 leaving a funding gap of \$107,253 to be covered by funds from the investment account if needed. This amount does not include convention expenses projected at \$97,063 and convention revenues projected at \$118,852. The anticipated convention revenue gain would lower the funding gap to \$85,465. In addition, committee Chair requests for funds to support enhanced or new initiatives per the strategic plan were also approved.

To view the 2018-2019 budget [click here](#).

### **Account Balances as of 05.16.2018:**

Savings Account	\$19,719.00
Specialties Account	\$1,590.00 (credit card account)
Operational Account	\$21,530.00
Convention Account	\$843.00

**AVA Investments Account Value as of April 27, 2018 = \$736,099.39**

### **Streamlining of Services to Reduce AVA Expenses**

In effort to reduce costs and increase efficiency, the AVA national office has undertaken the following:

- initiated e-mailing of invoices and statements;
- reduced the quantity of inventory items and supplies ordered;
- restructured the mailing system cutting down on supply cost and employee time;
- reduced the cost of TAW postage;
- renegotiated contracts with vendors and the office landlord;
- converted from MAS 90 to QuickBooks;
- secured college interns to support the national office.

## FUND DEVELOPMENT

The solicitation of grant funding continues to be a challenge primarily because the AVA does not have a history of receiving funding from outside sources or data that demonstrates the impact our clubs have on local communities. The following grants have been submitted.

- America Walks - \$1,500 – To increase event participation (Declined)
- Robert Woods Johnson Foundation (RWJF) - \$432,538 – To address social isolation (Declined)
- WellMed Foundation - \$18,600 – To increase the number of senior participants (Declined)
- KEEN Effect (Footwear) - \$10,000 – To increase the number of youth participants (Declined)

***On the other hand, the Big Give was another big success thanks to the support of all our individual and club donors!*** The goal for this year was to raise a match of \$20,000 and \$50,000 from individual and club donors for a grand total of **\$70,000**. The Big Give surpassed our goal for the 3<sup>rd</sup> straight year raising a grand total of **\$74,536!** The Peer to Peer category raised \$2,615. Match donations were increased by \$2,925. This year donors were invited to earmark their contributions for the work of a specific committee. The results of these contributions are as follows:

<b>IT - \$3,907</b>	<b>Publicity - \$1,750</b>
<b>Programs - \$813</b>	<b>Membership - \$145</b>
<b>National Programs - \$200</b>	<b>Club Development – \$1,835</b>
<b>General Operations/Unrestricted- \$65,886</b>	

Special thanks to the Big Give committee and Nancy Wittenberg and Susan Medlin for their generous match contributions. ***I am very grateful for the continued generosity of our donors who make every effort to ensure the success of the AVA! Together we will keep the AVA moving forward for generations to come.***

For more information on the Big Give read below.

### **Communications—Samanta Sanchez**

#### **Big Give, Big Impact**

The Big Give 2018 has been one of our most successful fundraisers yet, raising a total of \$74,536. As you all know, the AVA has participated during the Big Give for four consecutive years now and thanks to our generous donors we have raised a grand total of **\$254,829.25!** Now that's something to celebrate!

This year we were able to leverage additional money by winning 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Health and Wellness category (\$1,500). We were also able to raise additional funds through our Peer to Peer fundraisers. Thank you to all who participated and thank you to our Top 3 Peer to Peer Fundraisers: Nancy Wittenberg, Erin Grosso, and Henry Rosales.

We also want to give a special thanks to our Match donors: *Nancy Wittenberg, AVA National*

Executive Committee, American Family Insurance Dreams Foundations, Boeing Company, The Robert & Diana Adelman Charitable Foundation, Eagle Print, Mary Ptacek (Tater Tours), Terra Investments, Walking Adventures International, Bobbi Bilnoski (Concinnity Network), and Frazier Insurance Agency, Inc.

Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!

#### Big Give Comparison 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

	2015	\$ Amount Raised	2016	\$ Amount Raised	2017	\$ Amount Raised	2018	\$ Amount Raised
Online Individual Donors	129	\$10,496	223	\$14,572	218	\$16,820	169	\$15,430.66
Online Club Donors	12	\$3,275	13	\$2,100	9	\$1,459	14	\$3,095
Peer 2 Peer Donors *							40	\$2,615
Mailed Individual Donations by Check/Cash	93	\$8,240	262	\$12,236.25	160	\$13,457	126	\$12,390.34
Mailed Club Donations by Check/Cash	27	\$6,630	68	\$9,927.75	73	\$13,862	93	\$14,280
Prize Money		\$0		\$3,500		\$500 *	1	\$1,500 **
Employee Contribution					4	\$1,268.25*	3	\$2,650**
<b>Total Donors</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>\$28,641</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>\$42,336</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>\$47,366.25</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>\$51,961</b>
<b>Match Breakdown</b>								
Individual Match		\$30,000		0	1	\$10,000	1	\$10,000
NEC Current			14	\$11,000	10	\$5,000	19	\$6,890
NEC Former					6	\$950	10	\$2,535
Business Match					4	\$4,650*	6	\$3,500**
<b>Total Donors</b>	<b>261</b>		<b>580</b>		<b>485</b>		<b>482</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$58,641</b>		<b>\$53,336</b>		<b>\$67,966.25</b>		<b>\$74,886</b>
<b>4-Year Impact Total:</b>								<b>\$254,829.25</b>

## Congratulations to our AVA Prize Winners!

(2018 or 2019) Starting Point Book winner: Richard Penrod

Free Traditional Sanctioned Event winner: Lee Lupus Volksverband

Free 2019 Convention Registration winners: John Schmuck and Virginia Volkssport Association

Congratulations to our winners! All winners have been notified through mail or email. If you have any questions, please send an email to [samanta@ava.org](mailto:samanta@ava.org).

## 2019 Convention Hotel

A block of rooms for the 2019 AVA Convention has been reserved with the Red Lion Hotel Albany. We have blocked room nights for June 11-15 at a discounted group rate of \$109 + tax per night.

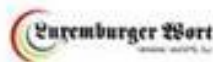
Red Lion Hotel Albany  
205 Wolf Road  
Albany, NY 12205

The hotel will begin taking reservations starting **July 20, 2018**. To make your reservations: please dial 1-844-248-7467 or 518-458-7250. Please make sure to ask for the American Volkssport Association Block to get the discounted rate. Stay tuned for Convention updates on Facebook and our AVA website.

*Support Our National and International Friends!*

**International**

**National**



Click on image to view flyer.



Click on image to learn more.



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](http://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](mailto: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.

