

## Atlantic Region Ramblings #24

1. All clubs that are under the AVA non-profit umbrella need to go onto the IRS web site and do a one- time registration by June 1. Please report to your State Association President when you have completed this. Clubs in Delaware and New Jersey should report to me. State Association Presidents should give me a status report by June 1.

I know there have been numerous problems with the IRS web site. I also know that IRS has been making changes so what worked for one club in the past, will not work now for another club.

The trailing email and the first attachment are from the Rock Mountain Regional Director who is also Chairman of the AVA IT Committee. If you have not yet registered, follow the instructions in the email and the attachment. I recommend you do this now before IRS makes further changes.

If you follow the instructions and are still unable to register, please let me know.

2. AVA's annual fund raising effort is going to be the Big Give San Antonio (Big Give SA) on May 3. The second attachment explains Big Give SA and there have also been articles in The American Wanderer and previous Checkpoints.

Please consider having your club make a donation and encourage your members to personally donate.

On-line donations, using a credit card, may be made only on May 3. Instructions are in the second attachment. Checks should be mailed in time to arrive at AVA Headquarters by May 3. The checks should be made payable to "AVA" and write "Big Give SA" in the space provided at the bottom left corner. Also include the donation form (the third attachment) with any checks.

3. Please encourage your club members to participate in one of the "40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Volkssporting in the US" events on June 11. The big event is in Fredericksburg, TX which is where the first volksmarch in the United States was held. However if you cannot make it to Fredericksburg, TX, go to Fredericksburg, VA; Laurel, MD; or Hanover – Codorus State Park, PA.

4. You should be able to sanction the 2017 Year Round/Seasonal Events beginning June 1. Sanctioning must be completed by August 31. I recommend you delay sanctioning any 2017 events until after the next NEC meeting, which is June 10-12.

We have a lot of YREs in the Atlantic Region that have been around for some time and do not get a lot of participation. Unless you are going to do something different to promote your event, why do you think participation will improve in 2017? I challenge you to not renew some of these events and instead, replace them with new walks. Hopefully, I will share with you by the end of next week the 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr Participation Reports. From what I have seen, the new 2016 events are doing very well.

5. Henry Rosales, the AVA Executive Director, hosts a weekly on-line discussion on Facebook. I think the next one will be Monday, May 2, and Holly Pelking, the AVA Vice President, will probably participate also. Holly has the lead on the On-line Start Box Initiative. If you are interested in participating, contact me and I will give you the details.

Thanks,  
Tom Jackson  
Atlantic Region Director