

Atlantic Region Ramblings #28

1. I have noticed a few problems with some of the 2017 YREs that were submitted for approval:

- Make sure the street address includes St, Ave, Rd, Ln, Way, Cir, etc. if appropriate.
- The “times” should be when the start location is open. If there are extenuating circumstances that need to be explained, use the comments. For example, if the park office (where the start box is located) is open until 4:30 pm but the gate across the parking lot closes at 5:00 pm.

2. Most clubs have just gone through a drill where they had to reregister with the IRS. During this process, the person reregistering had to choose a username and password and answer security questions. Make sure that there is a second person in the club who also knows the username and password and the answers.

3. If you are one of the clubs that do not allow Free Walkers, Susan Medlin, Southwest Region Director would like to hear from you. This is her post on Facebook:

When we discussed the proposal to charge \$1.25 for each Free Walker, I realized we were leading with our hearts, and not so much with our heads (exception Tom and Larry). Everyone is very passionate about this issue, and I am one of the chief offenders. So let's take a deep breath and step back. I'd like to take the emotion out of this issue and look at the facts before we tackle this issue again.

I am putting out a call for all AVA clubs in America, who have (in the last five years), switched from allowing Free Walkers to not allowing Free Walkers. What happened? Did club membership and walker participation falter? Did it kill your club? Did Club membership and participation increase? Did any club switch, and then switch back? Where there any significant issues or concerns that you can share with everyone? Is this mostly an issue with walkers. or is the issue being debated with bikers, swimmers, and so on?

Please provide your feedback to me, over the next 9 months. You can email me, text me, call me, grab me on a walk, or send me a letter. At the end of March 2017, I'll compile what I get and prepare a report for the NEC meeting in June 2017. I'll also post the results in the TAW and in the Checkpoint.

It would be great if we could work together to resolve this issue next June and move on.

Hopefully,
Susan A. Medlin
Southwest Regional Director
American Volkssport Association
210-325-3523
sueammed@aol.com
Susan Medlin
12527 Fern Creek
San Antonio, TX 78253

4. Betty Green, the Northeast Region Director, is requesting personal narratives on how volkssporting has benefited you. This is from an email she sent to the Regional Directors:

Please communicate to your clubs that I will be collecting brief narratives from AVA participants who would like to share how being an AVA participant has benefited them. For example, I once spoke with a recently widowed woman who felt her local walking club gave her a reason to get out of her home, to be with other people, feeling the natural endorphin effect from walking and being outdoors, a sense of purpose.....

You get the picture. This is true of new members who find us as well as long-time members that have felt the support of other Volkssporters. The sense of purpose those who no longer walk but support their clubs in other ways is just as valuable. They don't have to still be walking to share their narratives. I need to be able to identify emails coming in to me regarding this specific topic.

Please ask your members to use the subject line I used "***AVA: Positive Personal Narratives***" sent to bettyg52@gmail.com.

5. This is from the Editor of The American Wanderer. She would like articles for the next edition of the TAW. She would also like photos from the Freestate Happy Wanderers, Germanna Volkssport Association, and York White Rose Wanderers of your 40th Anniversary event.

Articles are very slowly trickling in for the August/September issue of TAW. Would you please contact the clubs in your region and encourage them to submit an article and/or photo of their upcoming events? Especially would like to see photos from events that highlight the 40th anniversary around the country. Would be nice if we got enough good photos to do a color spread!

The deadline is Saturday and usually articles come in right on deadline ... but a friendly reminder can't hurt! Thanks much! Have a good week!

Donna

Donna Seline
TAW Production
taw@ava.org

6. If you are one of the clubs that fall under AVA's umbrella as a non-profit, just a reminder that the annual financial report needs to be submitted to AVA between July 1 and Nov 15. After Oct 31, everyone will be asking about the missing reports so please give a little buffer and submit it by then.

7. A correction to Atlantic Region Ramblings #27. At the NEC Meeting, the new tag line chosen was "AVA: America's Walking Club" not "...Clubs".