

1. GroupWorks

- a. **Club use of Groupworks Recommended But Not Required** - The AVA Executive Director arranged for the creation of GroupWorks club accounts for all AVA clubs as well as for GroupWorks leader accounts for the club officers. Club usage of these accounts is not required but strongly encouraged.
- b. **GroupWorks Features** - GroupWorks includes lots of useful features to help clubs maintain contact with their members that include:
 - i. **A Club Calendar** - Designated Club "Leaders" are permitted to enter club events (upcoming group walks, meetings, parties).
 - ii. **Club Event Reminders** - Club Leaders may setup the automatic e-mail reminders to all club members of upcoming events
 - iii. **Club Blog/Facebook-like Posting Service** – All members may post information on the club's Groupworks posting service. Posting by non-leader members does not result in an email notification being sent out to call all members. Individual members are permitted to configure the frequency at which they are notified of new posts (Daily, every 3 days, weekly, never). Club leaders may choose to have all or selected members be automatically notified of their postings.
 - iv. **Collection of club dues, event fees, etc. via Credit Card** - Once set up, GroupWorks supports a club's collection of money from members by way of the member entering an online payment via credit card (not PayPal). Members pay for the transaction fee.
 - v. **Support for the AVA Organization Hierarchy** - Club leaders are also "GroupWorks members" of their State Association (if any), their Region, and the AVA.
- c. **More Integration of AVA Online Features with GroupWorks is under Investigation** - The GroupWorks event calendar feature is best used for now for club group walks, parties, meetings, etc. Possible support in the future for
 - i. **TE's in Club Calendars** - The automatic appearance of event info for a club's approved Traditional Events in the club's GroupWorks calendar.
 - ii. **Single Login for Club Leaders** - A direct connection/link to AVA ESR system from GroupWorks without having to login again on the AVA ESR system for club officers.
 - iii. **Single Login Club Member** - A direct connection/link to a member's AVA account without logging in again. (See below).

2. AVA Login Accounts - A new NEC/BOD Motion

- a. **You Feedback is Needed** - This a proposal/motion that will possibly be voted on in January by the NEC/BOD. (A similar motion was passed during a previous NEC/BOD meeting but there was no technically feasible way to implement the motion on the Legacy AVA web site.)
- b. **Login Required for online display of Event Location Details** - In order to see the detailed location and directions for an event, a user is required to first login using their AVA login account. Yes, this means you will have to create an AVA account and remember the password.
- c. **Anyone is Permitted to Create an AVA Account** - You don't need to be a lifetime or associate AVA member to create an AVA account. Account creation and login will operate similar to the OLSB.

- d. **Event Brochures and AVA Starting Point Book are Unchanged** - Event brochures and the AVA Starting Point book should continue to contain detailed event location and direction information.
 - e. **Electronically Sign the AVA Waiver** - Like the OLSB, once a user has created an AVA account, he/she will be required to Electronically sign the AVA Athletic waiver (one time) for their account before being allowed to view detailed location and direction info for an event.
 - f. **Searching for Events without Login Allowed** - No login will be required to search for events and view city, state, event type, event name, and event description, and dates. Detailed event location and directions will only be displayed after the user has logged in.
- 3. Recent Motions passed at NEC/BOD Electronic Board Meetings, EBMs**
- a. **Cut and Paste of Insert Card Stamps** - IVV credit event participants may now cut individual stamp imprints from insert cards and paste them into their IVV distance and event books as well as Special Program books. Either glue or clear tape may be used to attach/place stamp imprints into your books, please don't use staples.
 - b. **Quarterly TAW** - Beginning April 2019, "The American Wanderer" (TAW) will be distributed on a quarterly basis (4 times a year). In the past, the TAW has been published 6 times a year. This means clubs will need to plan a bit further ahead for any articles or events they wish to appear in a TAW before the event occurs.
- 2. Four Aces** - AVA Community Events (ACEs) including ACE-T, ACE-Y, ACE-P, and ACE-WG events are now officially supported as discussed in the latest TAW and Checkpoint. How a club sanctions an ACE event is described on the web page: <http://nodegreen.com/esr/>
- a. **ACE-WG are Weekday Guided Events** - ACE-WG (ACE Weekday Guided events) are designed to encourage clubs to do regular weekday guided group walks with the hope that new club members might be attracted if these walks are conducted on a regular weekly basis on the same day of the week.
 - b. **Once a Year Approval for ACE-WG** - Once a club receives ACE-WG approval for a given year, a club may do as many of these walks as it wishes at a minimum of \$3 per guided event
 - c. **Post ACE-WG Event Procedures to Assure Insurance Coverage** - After each ACE-WG walk, the date/time, participation paid and free, the guide's name and contact info must be entered. Also, each participant must have signed an AVA log with the Athletic Waiver at the top. This log must be archived along with a map of the route taken by the group. By following these procedures, your club officers and walk guide are covered by AVA event insurance.
 - d. **ACE-WG Events Should Not Replace YRE/SE Group Walks** - ACE-WG events are not intended to replace the common practice of clubs walking their YRE/SEs on a regular basis. But ACE-WG events provide a way for a club to do/tryout a walk that might become a sanctioned walk in the future or whose route distance is shorter than the required 10km for an IVV sanctioned walk.
- 3. Fee Increase Decision Delayed** - The current plan is for the AVA NEC/BOD to take-up/consider the motion to increase paid participant fees at the next meeting in January 2019. There are some who expect this issue may be further delayed to a vote during the 2019 convention.
- 4. Don't Forget to Edit Your Stamps** - Remember to edit the event stamp text for your upcoming YRE/SE/TEs promptly after they are RD approved.
- a. **Be Creative** - There are no restrictions on the text content as long as it fits. Text longer than the displayed entry box may fit. Freely use the submit button to try different text possibilities.
 - b. **No Restrictions on Stamp Text** - For events near holidays like New Years for example, it's OK to use "HAPPY NEW YEAR" or other appropriate greeting. Inclusion of the event city and state are

recommended but not required. After all, prior slugged stamps just had a number for identification that still appears on the new single piece stamps along with the 2 lines of custom text.

5. Guided Walks – Possibly the best tool to recruit/attract new club members

- a. **Guided Walk is a Traditional Event Type** - The AVA has permitted clubs to sanction normal Traditional Event walks as guided walks, for a number of years now.
- b. **Guides and Sweeps** - As the name suggests, clubs are expected to provide one or more guides to lead participants. It is strongly recommended that clubs provide more than one guide to accommodate 10k, 5k, fast, and slow walkers. In addition, there should be designated trail sweep(s) with route directions to make sure all participants complete the event.
- c. **Advantages of doing a guided walk** include:
 - i. **A Briefly Staffed Start Point** - No need to staff a start/finish point after the scheduled start time (clubs typically stamp walkers early).
 - ii. **Fewer Walk Direction Copies** - No need to create more than a few copies of walk directions (only enough for the walk guides and sweeps).
 - iii. **No Route Marking** - No need to mark the route or have a trail sweep to pickup markers after an event.
 - iv. **Guided Walking** - Certain event participants (especially newbies who have done meetup events in the past) like not having to read/understand walk directions to do the walk.
 - v. **Social Walking** - During the walk, club members can talk with one another as well as new walkers about volkssporting.
 - vi. **Post Event Lunch/Dinner** - The possibility of scheduling a place for lunch/dinner after the event available to all attending the event.

6. Traveling Guided Walks

- a. **Traveling Guided Walk is a Trial Event Type** - The AVA NEC/BOD approved a couple of years ago a special guided walk type, Travel Guided Walk. This event type was approved for a 2 year trial ending April 2019 with a vote to possibly continue TGWs indefinitely.
- b. **Sanctioning Rules for a Traveling Guided Walk (TGW):**
 - i. **First TGW sanctioning fee is \$75, no sanctioning fee for following TGWs** - The sanctioning fee for the **first** TGW sanctioned in a calendar year by a club is \$75, **later** TGWs are assessed no sanctioning fee.
 - ii. **First TGW gets a stamp, following TGWs use the same stamp** - The club is provided an IVV stamp for the first TGW, but no stamp is sent for later TGWs. The club should use the same stamp for later TGWs.
 - iii. **Before the first TGW is sanctioned, a non-TGW TE must be sanctioned** - Before a club sanctions its first TGW, it must first sanction a normal (non-TGW) Traditional Event. The start date for the required TE can be anytime within the calendar year in question.
- c. **Advantages of a TGW:**
 - i. **Short Lead Time Sanctioning of Following TGWs** - The second and following TGWs can be sanctioned with very little lead time since AVA HQ does not need to send a stamp.
 - ii. **TGW is GW** - All of the advantages of a GW listed above.
- d. **No Customized Stamps for Each TGW** – The disadvantage of a TGW is that the customized text for the single stamp used for all TGWs must be fairly general in order to apply for all TGWs held by the club.