



I still like this picture, so here it is again. From Rogers, Arkansas.

20th AVA Biennial Convention

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Frank Sayers | NEC Convention Liaison | Issue Number 5

Welcome!

Good day everyone, and welcome to the 20th AVA Biennial Convention Newsletter. A lot of things have been going on, but everything is falling into place.

Questions and Answers

I appreciate the questions I have received. I will attempt to answer them here, as many are of general interest.

- Susan asks: When will the convention registration prices and registration be available?
 - Convention Registration was turned on February 1, 2017. It is a completely online registration and payment process, and is accessible from the Registration Tab on the convention web site.
 - If you know someone who wants to pre-register for the convention but does not have a computer or an email address, please let us know at 'info@2017AVAConvention.org'. We will contact them and do the registration for them. They can also contact AVA headquarters at 210-659-2112 and they will put them in contact with us to get them registered. You can also add them to your registration, as we allow multiple registrations at the same time with one payment.
 - Cost of the full convention will be \$295, before Annual and Lifetime Associate Member discounts. There will also be the ability to sign up for specific parts only.
- Multiple folks have asked when the Convention Events Brochure will be available
 - Good News! It is NOW available. You can go to the Convention Web Site and find it on the Newsletter Tab, or on the Events Tab. There are two versions. The first is a straight up PDF. You can display it on the web site, or download it to your computer and read it or print it there.
 - I have also put up a WORD version. This has been formatted to print as a booklet that folds in the middle, on both sides of the page. If your printer has a duplex capability, just send the file to the printer. If you have to print both sides manually, choose that option and the program will format the booklet correctly, then you have to turn the pages over in the correct order to print the second side.
 - If you need any assistance with any of the above, you should contact your 10-year old granddaughter. She will understand. ☺

The American Wanderer

There are several articles that will appear in the next issue of The American Wanderer. Do not know placement yet, but they are available for download on the Newsletter Tab. We start with our Post-Convention Events. Lynette Reagan writes all about Stepping Out of Bounds in Red Lodge,

Montana. There is much to see and do. Then, Kevin Ross brings us Stepping Out of Bounds in Cody – The Last Hurrah. A very fitting end to the convention events with a plethora of things to do.

Lois Petersen has gone above and beyond to make our first pre-convention event in Buffalo, Wyoming a very exciting place to be. We start on Sunday June 4th with a huge party for us at the Occidental Hotel, and Free Museum Tours on both Sunday and Monday (Yup, I said Free!). Don't miss this outstanding opportunity – or the three Seasonal Events that are in Buffalo. We also are partnering with the local YMCA at our walk on Monday. Please make them feel welcome.

During the convention itself, there is much to do in addition to the meetings. Sherry, your Convention Chairperson, writes about Stepping Out of Bounds in Billings at What We Do Best – Eat!! All the information you want to know about our food plans for you.

Specialties Update

We have received some initial samples of our convention specialties. The Polo Shirts with Embroidered Logo, our T-Shirts with Embroidered Logo, and our plush bear mascot gAVAn. Here is a quick look with a couple of the best models in the industry!!



The Convention Hotel

The Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center is the headquarters hotel for our convention. The walks in Billings start there, and all the meetings and socials are there as well. The Silent Auction is a way for you to assemble a donation that reflects your club, your region and your interests that someone will enjoy, and the money benefits the AVA and yourself with a tax deduction. If you know ahead of time, and want to save time, please send an email to SilentAuction@2017AVAConvention.org and we will get you a form for information we can pre-load so all you have to do is check in and drop off your donation at the Silent Auction Room. The Convention Center area is where all the vendor tables will be placed, all containing useful information – see near the bottom of the convention web site home page for photos. Of course, once you have decided on your schedule there will be many opportunities to volunteer in all areas. Please see the volunteer tab, sign up for as many positions as you can, and then sign up for your Volunteer T-Shirt.

Planning your Trip to the Convention

You can use the current capabilities of <http://AVA.org> using the Interactive maps (Events->Interactive Maps) to see those Traditional, Seasonal and Year-Round Events that are on YOUR way to the convention. There are opportunities from every direction.

The Convention Web Site

You will find it at <http://2017AVAConvention.org>. As I make changes to the site, they do not always show up when you check because your browser caches the information to make it quicker to load. If you have not been to the site for a while, please click on the 'Refresh' button at the top of a page to insure you can see the latest content. Of course, I say that because I have made changes to several of the pages recently.

Convention Workshops

We have set aside Thursday morning for our workshops. Many times at conventions in the past, it was difficult to get to the workshops because they were running at the same time as a morning walk and lunch. This year the workshops are the only things on the schedule Thursday morning so everyone will be able to attend if you can get up early enough! Each workshop will be 75 minutes in length. There will be three separate sessions, with seven workshops available during each session. As you register for the convention, we have included a question where you can indicate your preferences for the three workshop sessions you can attend. We will use this information in case we cannot fit everything into the schedule. Please check the workshop titles in the convention registration questions area, and on the workshops page of the convention web site (<http://2017AVAConvention.org/workshops.html>) to make your selections.

Stay Tuned

Watch for the monthly newsletters. If something critical comes up, you may see it more often. During the convention itself we will be publishing a daily newsletter with schedules and participation. Connect with the web site to be as current as can be.

See you on the trails.

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