

News from N.E.W. #7, Wednesday, October 30, 2013

1. **The next National Executive Council meeting** will be held January 10-11, 2014 in Tucson, AZ. The call for agenda items should come soon. Clubs will then have **30 days** or by **December 10th**, to get any proposed motions to their RD – me. I'll send the form to use for any motions you might want to make with the announcement. So, be thinking about what you might want the NEC to consider.
2. **Reminder Again: November 15th is getting closer.** It's critical that you submit these financial reports. Remember also, to go in and update your officer information. If it hasn't changed just go in and click on submit. This changes the date of submission.
 - a. **Entering the IRS E-postcard.** Clubs must have entered their E-postcard by **November 15th** in order to keep their IRS 501(c)3 non-profit status and, therefore, their existence as an AVA club. I can not emphasize enough how critical this is. The IRS **will** dump your non-profit status. And it will take 6 and more months to get it back. When you do, it will not be under the AVA's umbrella and you will likely be a 501(c)4 organization, not able to accept donations, and changed to a calendar year reporting cycle. Please be sure your treasurer has done this!!! Instructions are on the www.ava.org website under Administrative/Clubs Only/E-Postcard Filings. Click on this and you'll get a PDF file you can print out and follow. You must use your club's own EIN number, not AVA's.
 - b. **Club Financial Report.** This report must be entered by November 15th. Use AVA form 102C3F found on the AVA.org website under Administrative/Clubs Only/AVA Club Forms. Scroll to the bottom of the list.
3. **Changes to YRE Events:**
 - a. **The Yakima Sun Striders intends to “renew” the Quincy, WA walk for 2014.** This seasonal walk had very few walkers in 2013. This appears to be the only 'Q' on the west coast for those doing the AVA's A-Z, which is an ongoing program like the states and capitols.
 - b. **Both YREs that start at the Bellevue Botanical Gardens have been cancelled until further notice due to construction in the gardens. The cancellations will extend into 2014.**
4. **My AVA Tasks:**
 - a. As AVA Training Committee Chair, I'm working on two items: A Practical Guide on How to Start a Volkssport Club, which I got from Shirley Lindberg; and, Best Practices for the Traditional Walk Start Location. Look for me at your starting point. I may want to take some pictures of great start location organization and your great work introducing new walkers to our sport.
 - b. I am submitting clubs names who have best practices in some area to the Pacific Regional Director who has the job of creating criteria for “Star Clubs”, a potential award for great clubs the NEC will be considering. Some of the criteria which I see in our region are great publicity and working well with community organizations. I'd appreciate the names of clubs with these and other best practices. How about getting and keeping new members, mentoring, etc.?

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- c. Our region has the “honor” in 2014 of piloting “make your own stamps” for traditional events. I’ve asked several clubs who have many traditional events to be guinea pigs. They will get rubber stamp number kits, similar to the one I have as RD, and stamp handles with the rest of the stamp info on them. The club will assemble the event stamp number in the handle for their event. The point is to eliminate AVA having to mail the club their stamp prior to their event and has some other potential benefits. Clubs will critique the process. No date has been set for beginning this process.
5. **Remember to register for the NW Regional Conference:** They already have registrants from several east coast states. The Conference will be held at Portland State University June 23-28, 2014, right after the Columbia Gorge Walks. Go to <http://www.walkoregon.org/conf/nw2014.htm> and click on the links for housing and registration. See the video there as well. Registering as early as you can helps the committee plan for transportation and other offerings. You ask why register? Why not just go to the walks? The conference will have a Meet and Greet, a social room to gather in informally, a dinner, several training opportunities. It’s a great chance to get to know other walkers from around the region and other parts of the country. I hope to see you all there.

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