

News from N.E.W. #14, Monday, March 31, 2014

- 1. Starting Point Changes:** Here are the latest, but be sure to check the www.ava.org website.
 - **Gig Harbor – Y1234** has a new start point: **Ace Hardware**, 3104 Judson St., Peninsula Shopping Center. Hours Mon – Sat 9am – 6pm; Sun 10am – 4pm. An additional 1K option has been added to both the 5K and 10K.
- 2. WA State Centennial State Parks Challenge:** The WA State challenge committee has extended the completion date for this challenge to May 31, 2014. No further books are for sale, but if you have a book, you can still do WA state parks walks to finish and return completed books.
- 3. Additional Insureds:** The last Checkpoint had a clarification of the requirements to add an entity to our policy as an additional insured. Only property owners can be an additional insured on our policy. Or, if you are a vendor at an entity's event (health fair or expo), they may be added as an additional insured. All circumstances other than property owners should be reviewed by AVA. I have a write up on this which I have given out at the ESVA meeting and will again at the next OTSVA meeting. Let me know if you have a circumstance and want a copy.
- 4. Complete ESR Entries on the AVA website:** Again, **please** go back in after you first enter an ESR for a new event and update the fields that do not show in the first screen. We have many clubs that don't do this and we end up with nothing anyone can use to tell if the event is something they want to do – no description, no driving directions, no start times. In addition it would help if we could cut and paste event information to other websites, such as the ESVA website or Meetup websites. You are missing out on this free publicity. If you need help to find out how to do this, check out the online directions: www2.ava.org/clubhelp.php. This is a downloadable PDF you can save, print out and follow.
- 5. Pathway to Excellence:** There's an article in the latest TAW (The American Wanderer) introducing this program. I will be giving a workshop on this at the NW Regional Conference. If your club is a great club or if your club wants to be, this is a program to help you succeed. The Excel spreadsheet of items to look at that make up an excellent club is available. Email me if you want a copy.
- 6. Next National Executive Council:** The next NEC is June 13-14 in Indianapolis. Each *Checkpoint* has an AVA Bylaws Amendment Form. Forms can also be found on the AVA website with the online Checkpoint. Proposed Bylaws amendments must be submitted to the NEC by the January 2015 meeting, which means submit to the AVA by December 1. Please send them to me. I can review wording and advise on probability of success. And, I can work on support for the amendment.
- 7. AVA Convention 2015 Hotel Reservations:** The Grand Hotel, Salem, OR, will accept reservations now. Call 877-540-7800. Mention the American Volkssport Convention. Dates are **June 13-21, 2015**. Room rates are \$127 for king or Double Queen rooms. You get a FREE full buffet breakfast, free parking. All rooms have microwaves, refrigerators and free wi-fi.
- 8. Columbia River Gorge Biennial Classic: June 19-22, Cascade Locks, OR, Marine Park.** See www.columbiagorgewalks.com for information about the 13 walks and one bike and social events. These are some of the most spectacular walks and day hikes anywhere.
- 9. NW Regional Conference:** Portland State University **June 23-28**, including seven walks and 4 swim events. Go to <http://www.walkoregon.org/conf/nw2014.htm> for information, video, brochure and links to registration. You don't need to register if you're just doing walks, but if you want awards or to go to any event meals, pre-registration is required, \$5 more per meal if after June 1.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Nancy Wittenberg, NW RD, nw_rd@ava.org