

News from N.E.W. #16, Wednesday, May 14, 2014

1. **Renew YREs/Seasonals starting June 1:** Yes, it's time again to decide on what YRE's and Seasonal events your club will sanction for 2015. You have through August 31 to renew. After that you can correct or complete entries until mid-September. Please **check the dates** the renewal shows. It may have defaulted to a full year, and you might need to change it, especially if it was a seasonal. If you find after you renew that either the date or the city is incorrect, I can change it for you. Please remember to go in and **enter all Special Programs**, even those that were there this year, as **they do not carry forward** on the renewal. Please check the AVA website or the TAW if you need to see what they are. You can enter new YREs at any time during the year, but, to get into the Starting Point, new walk entries must be in by mid-September. **If you don't intend to renew an event**, please check the box on the renewal. Otherwise I'll have to bug you as the renewal season goes on.
2. **Walk Directions with Maps:** For this year, please send me walk directions with maps for any **new YREs/Seasonals** and those **whose routes have changed**. Email is best, but if you don't have electronic copies, send them snail mail. Thanks, all.
3. **YRE/Seasonal Changes:** Be sure to check the AVA website before you go.
 - Grants Pass Walks: Start Box is now located at the "Inn on the Rogue" in the lobby. Ask at the desk. Directions to the Inn: From the North, take the second Grants Pass exit 55. You will be on Grants Pass Parkway (Hwy 199). Turn right on "M" Street. Left on 7th Street to the Inn.
 - Winthrop, WA Seasonal is still **not** open. The motel is undergoing a remodel.
4. **Future Events:** For everyone's planning purposes, please sanction your events as far in advance as you can. You'll note that clubs are putting in their 2015 events. If you have dates you want, get your events sanctioned. Basic information will hold the date. But, be sure to log back in and click on "Check ESRs" to enter details. Please don't step on any of those great "**destination events**" that have multiple events. The idea with these is to bring people from all over. You know which these are: AVA Convention, Ocean Shores, Shady Cove, Whidbey Island, NW Hiking weekends, etc. If you are planning any "destination events", get these in ASAP.
5. **Quick Sanction:** If you have an opportunity to hold a traditional event, for instance, when a community event asks you to, you can have a sanction approved sixty days and **even closer** to the event. You **MUST** let me know that this is happening so I can be sure to approve the sanction quickly and inform AVA so that you can get your stamp on time. Be sure to publicize your event.
6. **Pathway to Excellence:** I've reworked the instructions and the Excel spreadsheet is ready for this program. I'll be going over the program at the Regional Conference. The Excel spreadsheet is designed to be used on your computer. I will email all materials to whoever wants it after the Regional Conference workshop I'm giving.
7. **Next National Executive Council:** The next NEC is June 13-14 in Indianapolis. I'll report on this council meeting at the NW Regional Conference in Portland at a town hall workshop and answer any questions or find out the answers if you have anything you'd like to talk about re. AVA.
8. **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 plus tax for king or Double Queen rooms. You get a **FREE** full buffet breakfast, free parking. All rooms have microwaves, refrigerators and free wi-fi.

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

Nancy Wittenberg, NW RD, nw_rd@ava.org