

## News from N.E.W. #23, October 20, 2014

1. **Time to Walk 10-11-12-13-14 (December 13, 2014):** These are the clubs that the SE RD has on his list that will be doing a walk. Please let me know if your club is doing a “Time to Walk” walk and **is not on this list:**

Anchorage Volkssport, Cedar Milers, Daffodil Valley/Evergreen Wanderers/Capitol Volkssport, East County Windwalkers, Eugene Springfield Mossbacks, FS Family Wanderers, Interlaken Trailblazers, Lilac City Volkssports, Rogue Valley Walkers, Treasure Valley Volkssports, Vancouver USA Volkssporters, Willamette Wanderers, Yachats Coastal Gems.
2. **New Executive Director:** AVA President, Dennis Michele announced that he has hired a new ED, Henry Rosales, who begins work December 1. The NEC at its January meeting will have a chance to meet Mr. Rosales and will confirm his hire at that time.
3. **Albany National Executive Council Results:**
  - The motion to reverse the previous decision to increase annual dues to \$100 for clubs that do not hold a traditional event during the year was withdrawn. The intent was confirmed, but the implementation was flawed. All clubs who have been billed \$100 will be credited \$50 if they have not been already. At the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2014) those clubs that have not held a traditional event during the year will be billed the extra \$50. An adhoc committee, chaired by Bob Morrison, will review the dues issue. The dues have been \$50 since the AVA began and have not ever been increased. It costs the AVA \$162 a year for each club, \$138 of which is for insurance.
  - The motion to change the Certificate of Service Award from a longevity award to an “impact” award was amended to the Commendable Service Award and approved. The Certificate of Service will continue to be used through December 31, 2015. And, will always be used for AVA Committee awards. The pin will be like the Meritorious Service pin, but will be blue and silver.
  - The motion to remove the requirement to have a map to the start point on event brochures was approved, but will be optional should clubs feel a map is needed.
  - The motion to change the Trail Rating System that was submitted by Interlaken Trailblazers, but not sent out to clubs, was approved, but the mention of high altitude was removed in 5. The rating system will now be nearly identical to that used in Canada, and will be effective when it appears on the AVA website and Policy Manual. It will be very important for clubs to have complete event descriptions that describes the trail, significant start elevation, and steepness of any hills.
  - The next NEC meeting will be in Sacramento, January 30-31, 2015. Travel will be on Thursday, January 29 and Sunday, February 1. The session will be significantly longer with a brainstorming session devoted to the AVA’s business model.
  - The NEC recommended approval of a bylaws change to allow regions to choose to elect a Deputy Regional Director. This will be one of the bylaws changes the Bylaws Committee will send to clubs for voting on at the Convention.
  - The convention hotel’s rooms at \$127 are full.
  - Holly Pelking, Vice President announced that everything is a go for the online registration trial by California clubs and will start in January. They are now readying the postcard which will be a postcard with sufficient event stickers for record books. The stickers are of a type that can’t be removed once in place and have a readable “Q” code.

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### 5. Other Information:

- The next IVV Congress will be in Brazil, near Rio, in 2016. (This year it was in Hamburg, Germany.)
- The 2017 Olympiad will be in Cologne, Germany.

### 6. Walk Directions: So, while you are getting those YRE walk directions ready for the new year, will you take a look at them?

- When was the last time the route changed? Is it time to make some adjustments?
- Are the directions in two columns, or are they run-on paragraphs across the page with multiple directions that are difficult to follow?
- Are they in 12 point type? Remember if your audience is over 40, anything smaller is getting difficult to read.
- Do you have the **required** copyright notice? “Copyright © 2014 by MyClubsName”
- Do you have the **required** Emergency Notification number for the area of your walk? There’s a box on the AVA website under logos to use, but you don’t need that.
- And, of course, a map on the back **with the route marked**. I swear someone sent me directions with a map of the area on the back, but no route marked.
- The ESVA voted to set up a process to review YREs and critique them. They used to do this many years ago for all new YREs for the benefit of the club. Be sure someone who isn’t familiar with the area checks out your directions.

### 7. Another reminder: You want your club to be in “good standing” with the AVA so you can vote at convention. So: Remember **November 15** is the deadline for:

- Updating the **Officer Updates page** of your AVA club website. If there are no changes, you need to click on “submit” anyway.
- **AVA financial report**. Find the form on the AVA Forms page under Administration. Fill out and mail to AVA. Send me a copy as well.
- **IRS 990 e-postcard** (this is critical as you will lose your 501(c)3 IRS status and lose your club if you don’t make this deadline) and **forward AVA and me a copy of the IRS email response saying you filed**.

### 8. AVA Recognition Awards:

- **National Level Awards:** Nominations for Distinguished Achievement, Hall of Fame, Trailblazer and Ted Ballman Youth Awards are due November 1. You must use forms found on the AVA’s forms web page with all fields filled out. Be sure to sign and you may scan and email or snail mail, but I need them by Monday, the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- **Regional Level Awards:** Various levels of Certificate of Service, Meritorious Service, and Certificates of Appreciation must be to me by November 15 so I can send them in to the Awards Committee for inclusion in the Awards book you get at the convention. Again, forms are on the AVA’s forms web page.

**See you all on the trail.** Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

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