

## News from N.E.W. #27, February 6, 2015

1. **Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes:** The Lilac City Volkssport Association has sanctioned the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes, a 115km long trail across Idaho as a seasonal walk. This is a remote start walk so you will need to send a waiver to the POC who will in turn either email or snail mail you a copy of the walk directions. You may start this walk at any trail head, walk any distance in any direction and return. Check the AVA website for this event for particulars. This illustrates something about start locations. There is nothing in policy that says you have to have a fixed start point for an YRE. You could start anywhere along the route if it is convenient for you and figure out how far you went. This is especially interesting for rail trail routes.
2. **Salem Convention Registration:**
  - **Online Registration:** Please, please **fill out the registration form online**. Print off the form whether you pay by PayPal or send in a copy with a check. Filling out online populates the database that allows the convention committee to print off various reports needed for the convention, as well as your name tag, with what you've signed up for. If you don't register online, someone has to enter all your information into the database. Please note the cutoff date for off-site registration and for cancellation refunds. If you wait to register until you get there, you will not be able to register for socials.
  - **Registration Price:** Even though the AVA Financial Officer has approved the pricing, it is cheaper for yearly Associate members to sign up for the convention only, all socials, walks with awards and convention patch separately, without using their discount. The total for non associate members is \$442.00 vs \$455.00 for the full convention price for non-life associate members. Life associates still have a cheaper full convention price. So much for the perception that it pays to be an associate member! The \$505.00 mentioned for a non member is a ploy for those who have no math skills. Check it out.
  - **Event Fees:** All events except the swim and bike are AVA walks not individual NW clubs' walks. AVA decided that there would be no free walkers. If you want to walk for free, do not sign up for walks through the registration form. When you arrive at a walk, state you want to walk for free. You will sign a separate waiver form, and get a particular start card. But you will not be counted in the total number of walkers for AVA purposes.
  - **Teller from this region:** Each region must provide a teller for the Teller Committee to tabulate votes at the convention. The person **can not be a delegate**. If you are interested in being a teller, please let me know. All bylaws votes will be done by written ballot to avoid some of the mess experienced at the last convention.
3. **Sacramento National Executive Council (NEC) meeting:** I'm going to take it slow to tell you about this meeting:
  - **New Executive Director:** The NEC formally approved hiring Henry Rosales as Executive Director. He was at the meeting to meet us all. We have great hopes.
  - **2016 Special Programs:** All 13 new special programs for 2016 passed. There were no criteria for not approving them. We have three new ones from the Northwest: National Parks (2016 centennial year), Bridges and Ports of Call. Clubs were sent the proposal earlier and explanations will be in articles in a future TAW.
  - **Online Start Box:** We saw a demo of the California 100% Online Start Box trial application that will be introduced at the California Volkssport Association convention May 1-3 in Tuolumne, CA. It will be used this year for four walks: Bel Air - UCLA, Westwood & Marilyn; Beverly Hills - Hollywood Flats; Los Angeles - Griffith Park; and, Whittier - Home Town. We will have a workshop at the convention so you can see what it is all about. It's a great application.

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- **Trail Rating Change:** The policy manual has been updated for the Trail Rating modifications passed at the October NEC meeting to eliminate elevation requirements. However, event descriptions MUST be descriptive enough to tell participants what to expect.
- **Club Dues Committee:** The ad hoc committee formed to relook at the change to require an additional \$50 dues at the end of the fiscal year for those clubs that do not host a traditional event, recommended no change and this passed. The committee and the NEC felt it was easy enough for a club to host a traditional guided walk to avoid the extra cost. If any club is in this position, and needs information about how to put on a traditional guided walk, please let me know.
- **Extended Distance Bike Event:** A single bike event stamp can be used for any ride on a long distance trail. There needs to be one recommended start location or provide remote registration.
- **Travelling IVV Guided Bike Stamp:** We passed a test of two years for a unique “traveling stamp” for guided bike events. See # 2-7 in the proposal. However, AVA must work out the details about how such an event is described and implemented in the ESR and how much the stamp will cost before the two year test can start.
- **Per Participant Sanction Fee:** Again, a test of two years passed once details are worked out by AVA such as what the per participant fee will be, how it will be entered in the ESR. Remember this is a fee paid by the club INSTEAD of the normal fee for an event, and will be billed after the event along with credit and non-IVV fees. Whether you will want to use this form of sanctioning will depend on the particular situation.
- **Electronic TAW:** The NEC voted to provide a PDF version of the The American Wanderer to Associate Members **in addition** to the paper copy effective November, 2015. I am disappointed that it couldn't at least be a choice, so that those who would rather not get a paper copy, could opt out.
- **NEC Contract Approval:** The motion passed to require NEC approval of contracts longer than twelve months or exceeding an amount of \$5000.
- **Number of TAW issues:** The motion to reduce the TAW to four issues a year failed.

### 4. The Northwest Pathfinder:

- As mentioned in the last News issue, the Bylaws state there is a governing Board consisting of officers and two voting representatives each from ESVA and OTSVA. We still need one more representative each from ESVA and OTSVA. In addition we still need a Secretary to keep the minutes of the meeting. Please let me know if you are interested.
- The next issue will have a welcome from the President, Elisabeth Wittenberg.

### 5. National Officers:

The national nominating committee is still looking for candidates for **Treasurer and Secretary**. If you or anyone you know might be interested in finding out about these national offices, please contact Doug Reynolds, the nominating committee chair at [dougreynolds@juno.com](mailto:dougreynolds@juno.com), deadline end of February. Officers' resumes will be in the April TAW. Otherwise there may be people nominated from the floor.

### 6. IVV Americas:

I will send a document of FAQs from Curt Myron, IVV Americas President to clubs. See President Dennis Michele's message in The American Wanderer (TAW) about the club voting process.

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

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