

## News from N.E.W. May 17, 2015

- 1. All clubs in good standing:** I am pleased that all clubs are in good standing and able to vote at convention or send proxies. The NEC had a conference call and voted special “dispensation” to three clubs whose first quarter YRE reports had not been received by AVA by May 4. One was from our region. Strange things have happened in the AVA’s database in the past. So. **Please, Please print a copy for proof whenever you enter each/any participation reports for an event – traditional or YRE.**
- 2. 2016 NW Regional Conference: Treasure Valley Volkssports** is busy planning our next regional conference. The dates will be Friday through Sunday, **September 16 – 18, 2016 in Boise, ID.** Put it on your calendar now. As I mentioned in an earlier News, they will need help and we will put out a volunteer list later this summer. We will have hotel information later this summer.
- 3. IVV Americas:** If your club has **not received your IVV Americas ballot, let me know NOW!** A few clubs across the country have not received ballots, I’ve heard. It was sent to each club’s official address on the AVA website – usually the President. The ballot was sent in a manila envelope with a stamped return envelope inside made out to the AVA’s attorney. **IT MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 1,** not just postmarked.

You all know my opinion – that we should join IVV Americas. I’ve sent out information in March and April. Even if you see no reason to join, or don’t know anything about it, a vote for joining is a vote in favor of spreading volkssporting in the Americas.

#### **4. Salem Convention:**

- **Deadline for pre-registration is Monday, May 18.** After tomorrow you must register at the convention in Salem.
- **Just doing convention walks?** If you do not want an award and are not going to any other convention meeting or function, don’t pre-register for walks. Just show up at the walk. The line will be shorter. Remember except for the swim and bike, which are put on by OTSVA, all walks are sponsored by AVA, not a club in the region. This means that some walks where we do not have a contractual obligation to allow free walkers will charge a \$2 “Non-IVV” fee if you do not walk for credit. These walks are Portland, Eugene, Lincoln City and Bend. Remember clubs have worked hard to make these memorable events. \$2 is not much to pay for a great walk. Clear Lake, Silver Falls, Vancouver, Salem and Mt. St Helens will accept free walkers.
- **Volunteers are still needed!** We still need some volunteers, especially at the hotel. We are using SignUp Genius, an online volunteer application to gather help for the convention. If you have any questions call Maryann Brown at 541-961-4279. The link is <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0544abad29a1ff2-19th/> or find it on the Convention website.
- **Proxies, etc.:** Please see the Checkpoint about voting at convention, proxies, etc. If your club is not sending a delegate and need another delegate to carry your proxy, contact your state association president or me. Forms (all three copies) must either be postmarked by May 19 – this Tuesday – or brought to convention credentialing booth by your delegate, alternate or proxy, properly filled out and signed.

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### 5. Convention Voting Issues:

- **Voting for President:** I am supporting Chris Mellen for President over our current President, Dennis Michele. Chris has sent a candidate letter to each club outlining his stance supporting participation, club strengthening and gaining recognition through marketing and collaborative partnerships. As he has a computer background, I feel he can support and encourage proper IT systems development at AVA.
- **Next AVA Convention:** Delegates at this convention will need to select the next convention location. As you know, we have seen a proposal about a Billings, MT convention in 2017 from Rocky Mountain Region. I believe Albany, NY may also present a proposal for a 2017 convention. I would like to see Billings, simply because it is closer and there has never been a convention in that area. It would be the week after Crazy Horse in June, 2017.
- **Bylaws changes:** Although the NEC voted to support these bylaws, it was by no means unanimous. My thoughts:
  - **Call for voice vote** – vote for, a no-brainer.
  - **Mail Definition** – vote for. Allows email and other delivery services.
  - **RD Election Procedures** – vote for.
  - **Deputy Regional Directors** – vote for. Can provide someone to take over if the RD dies or is incapacitated and could take some work off the RD.
  - **Affiliating with other organizations** – Vote Against. This is an issue the NEC should decide. We should not have to have clubs vote with a 2/3 majority whether to affiliate with another organization that is devoted to our same “non-competitive, family-oriented, participatory lifetime sports.”
  - **Two-thirds majority vote on bylaws changes**— I am not in favor of this motion as it will be too difficult to get changes made to AVA.

6. **Canadian (CVF) Convention 2016:** The next CVF convention will be in Langley, BC, Thursday May 26 – Sunday, May 29, 2016 at the Langley Coast Hotel and convention center. You can register online now at [www.CVFconvention2016.ca](http://www.CVFconvention2016.ca).

7. **IVV-Americas Special Program Book:** You may have seen people with IVV-Americas Special program books. Any sanction stamp for an event in a country covered by the IVV-Americas, including the US and Canada, can be placed in this book. You don't need to walk for credit. The book requires 20 event stamps. Download the form from [www.IVV-Americas.org](http://www.IVV-Americas.org). Click on “A Challenge” at the top and then on “Residents of USA” to download a form. Cost is \$12 for a patch and certificate or \$10 for a certificate only. Or if you see Curt Myron at an event, he is carrying forms with him and has books.

8. **Did you or your club give to the Big Give S.A.** on May 5<sup>th</sup> or send AVA a check by that date? I received this message from our ED, Henry Rosales: “Congratulations and thank you very much for your support of the Big Give fundraising initiative. We have exceeded our goal of \$30,000. These numbers are preliminary as checks are still arriving in the mail.

Total raised via mail:	\$12,240
Total raised online in 24 hours on May 5 <sup>th</sup> :	\$27,442
Anonymous Donor Match:	\$30,000
Grand Total 5/6/2015:	\$69,682

Our members have spoken and now we must act”.

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- 9. Walking Adventures International:** WAI has sanctioned two walks in the San Juan Islands as part of their Victoria, Vancouver and San Juan Islands walking adventure. Both are guided walks with set start times. Sucia Island will be Monday, June 22. San Juan Island will be Tuesday, June 23. Both would require your own transportation. If anyone would like a brochure, let me know. If anyone would like to join them from outside their tour group, call their tour leader, Scott Isom, [scott@walkingadventures.com](mailto:scott@walkingadventures.com), phone 800-779-0353.
- 10. June 1 opening date to enter 2016 YRE/Seasonals:** You have until August 31 to renew any YRE/Seasonals. There will be a box to check if you are not renewing an event.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I am sorry it has taken so long to get this issue out. I've been too busy walking and gardening. Just on my way back from Shady Cove and the wonderful hikes down in Southern Oregon. We will have another destination event at Shady Cove this time in 2017. Plan to come.

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