

News from N.E.W. #33 June 26, 2015

1. **Salem Convention:** If you didn't participate in any of the walks or convention activities, you missed a great one. There couldn't have been better weather. OTSVA and the many volunteers from around the region and the country did a bang up job. Lots of smiles and good customer service. The convention committee will have an evaluation meeting in a couple of weeks.
 - **Bylaws Proposed Amendments Results:**
 - To require a 2/3 vote of clubs to affiliate with another organization **failed**.
 - To require a 2/3 vote to amend bylaws **failed**.
 - To call for a voice vote by the President, rather than the Secretary if there is only one candidate for National office **passed**.
 - To expand the definition of "Mail" to electronic means **passed**.
 - The clarification of RD election procedures **passed**.
 - To establish the position of Deputy RD should a region choose to have one **passed**. Our region needs to decide if we want to do this (I am in favor) and have an election like we did for RD.
 - **Bob Morrison, Treasurer** reported that we ended with a positive balance this last year largely due to the \$72K in donations we received because of the Big Give S.A. (I hope this is correct, Bob?)
 - **New National Officers:**
 - President – Dennis Michele
 - Vice President – Holly Pelking
 - Secretary – Sam Korff
 - Treasurer – Larry Lehman
 - **Next AVA Convention :** We did have a presentation from Albany, NY but the delegates voted to have the next convention in Billings, MT, June 7th – 9th, 2017 following Crazy Horse.
2. **NEC Meeting Tuesday, June 16:**
 - **Strategic Planning Committee** – The NEC approved the contract for a consultant for strategic planning. This will be a year-long committee, chaired by David Bonewitz, SE RD. I am vice-chair. Each region is to select a committee member. I will send out the information including a job description separately. **"We want a diverse group of volkssporters who can work together to develop a road map for a bright future for AVA."** First meeting will be in San Antonio, September 17-19. It will require a monthly time commitment of approximately 4-8 hours. Airfare will be reimbursed (up to a limit) and hotel will be paid for. Be thinking if this is something you would be interested in. This is critical for our future.
 - **Budget:** The NEC passed a balanced budget for 2016.
 - **Information Technology:** The NEC approved a contract of \$12K, \$1000/month to continue building our new database. There will be a lot of data clean up. But they are approximately 30% complete. They still need to build a reporting platform. This is not new functionality, but it creates a platform that works together in the cloud using Microsoft Azure.
 - **Per Participant Sanctioning** – The fee for Per Participant Sanctioning in lieu of the standard up-front sanctioning method was set at \$1/participant, billed following after action reports along with credit fees. I've written an article for the next Checkpoint and TAW about this method. Let me know if you have any questions. The Checkpoint is supposed to be out by July 1.

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- **Clubs in Good Standing Status:** The NEC amended policies to give RDs ten days to resolve club deficiencies or identify extenuating circumstances before a club is placed in not in good standing status
- 3. **IVV Americas:** Curt Myron has informed me that IVV-Americas will have the forms approved and available for Affiliate Membership at their meeting at the end of this month. The fee is proposed to be \$25. Capitol Volkssport Club has voted to become an affiliate member. I've informed Curt of this, and they will be Affiliate Number One. Consider whether your club or state association might follow suit to show support for IVV-Americas. Affiliate Members are non-voting members.
- 4. **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. I will have more information in August sometime.
- 5. **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.
- 6. **YRE/Seasonal Sanction Time:** Guidelines for Entering and Updating Year Round/Seasonal Events was in the June 2015 Special Edition Checkpoint. If you haven't seen it and are responsible for renewing events, please ask your President to forward it to you or see it on the AVA website. Although you have until August 31 to renew YRE/Seasonals, please don't wait that long. I have to approve nearly 400 events, and I don't want a no-sleep marathon. Please go in and check the box if you don't intend to renew so I don't have to keep bugging you. Are any of these candidates for a Per Participant Sanction, above?

My new term begins July 1. Thank you for your confidence in me. This will be a very busy year with Strategic Planning.

**Nancy Wittenberg
AVA NW Regional Director**