

News from N.E.W. #42, February 3, 2016

1. Two more YRE/Seasonals Not in the Starting Point:

Washington:

- Y0379, Ocean Shores, WA – Beach Walk up to 20k – Ocean Shores IGA -- Same as 2015, Capitol Volkssport Club.

Oregon:

- Y0806, Portland – Interstate Bridges Bike– McDonalds Airport Way – 34K – Columbia River Volkssport Club

2. **Deputy Regional Director: Tom Baltes**, President of Vancouver USA Volkssporters and Treasurer of All Weather Walkers has been elected Deputy Regional Director for the NW Region. Welcome Tom! We will be discussing how he can help in the region. Meanwhile he will be making a presentation to a Portland Seniors organization about volkssporting.

3. **National Executive Council (NEC) meeting Las Vegas January 22-24**: This has been an excellent meeting with significant decisions.

- **Special Programs**: Changes were made to the Special Programs Policies which will be moved to the Policy Handbook, rather than keeping them in a separate manual. The policies include new criteria for deciding on whether a special program is appropriate.
- The NEC will approve **only two new programs a year** until the total of club sponsored special programs is reduced to 12 through attrition. This doesn't count the national special programs of 50 States/51 Capitols/USA A-Z. The NEC used the criteria to evaluate the three programs presented and approved two new programs for 2017 – **Underground Railroads** and **Ice Cream Parlors**.
- **The AVA asked a tax attorney to review the effect on AVA's IRS status should clubs or individuals join IVV-Americas, or if AVA joined. There never was any problem with those clubs NOT under AVA's IRS umbrella joining IVV-Americas. The attorney's opinion: there is no effect to AVA's tax status if any clubs or individuals joined IVV-Americas. There could be some issues with AVA joining and he gave his opinion on items in IVV-Americas bylaws. Result: if your club is considering joining IVV-Americas, have at it.**

4. **Strategic Planning**: David Bonewitz, chair, gave an excellent presentation of the report from the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC). The plan presented was based on the results of the individual and club surveys you all filled out. Survey summaries should be put on the website soon. I notice the AVA office has a new intern working on the website. I know there is a backlog of items to be done. The NEC approved the plan, with lots of discussion. I am very pleased of the way this NEC handled itself.

- The plan consists of three Courses of Action (COAs) or phases. Some items were moved to an earlier phase and others pushed to a later phase. Some items were deleted because they are already being done. The result itself has become the strategic plan for the next five years with goals, objectives and action steps. There is too much detail to delineate it here and without explanation. There will be reports in following American Wanderers (TAW) and Checkpoints.
- We rewrote the Purpose, Vision, Mission and the Core Values of the AVA for the public face of the organization. We extracted the wording from the wording already in the Bylaws. They are not a change, but a reorganization.
- The SPC will have a conference call to assign action steps and communication about the plan so "stay tuned". **The final report will be given to the NEC at its June meeting in Fredericksburg, TX. The NEC will then vote on its implementation.**

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- 5. Where are your records?:** Recent deaths and illnesses have reminded me that clubs need to have more than one person know where your club's vital information is. Who knows your EIN number? Who knows passwords to enter your e-postcard? Is your club's financial information reported to club members? Do you save ALL signed waivers for ALL events – traditional and YREs – for seven years for liability purposes as required? If you have any questions about record keeping, please discuss in your meetings and let me know if you have questions.

- 6. Northwest Regional Conference: Friday – Sunday, September 16 – 18, 2016:**
Sharon Moats has begun to set up a website for the conference:
<http://nwregionalconferenceboise2016.weebly.com/>.
Check out the website for information as it becomes available.

- 7. Canadian (CVF) Convention in Langley, BC, May 26-29:** Go to www.CVFconvention2016.ca to register and see all the walks and activities for the Convention. It's a great opportunity to do some walks in BC and see friends from all over. Brenda Dudfield, VABC President, has said that although many people have booked accommodations for the convention, registrations for the conference itself, are slow to come in.

- 8. Out of the country:** My family and I are taking a cruise around New Zealand and Australia March 10 - 28th. I will have limited Internet access on board ship, but will get emails on my phone. I will answer my emails, but probably not as quickly as I would otherwise. Try to get sanctions done before my trip if possible.

Hope to see you soon.

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