

News from N.E.W. #45, June 12, 2016

1. **National Executive Council Results:** I just came back last night from the NEC meeting in Fredericksburg, TX. The Randolph Roadrunners provided a great weekend celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the first volksmarch in the US. This issue of News is devoted to the results:
 - **Strategic Plan:** The report of the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) was approved by the NEC. This is a five year plan. Committees were formed for some of the areas of the plan. You will get information on this and the plan itself in the very near future.
 - **DBA:** After reviewing all the comments received from our clubs and walkers, the DBA of the AVA was confirmed as “**AVA: America’s Walking Club**”. You can begin using this instead of the name “American Volkssport Association.”
 - **Budget:** The NEC accepted the budget for 2016-2017. Although the ED and Treasurer presented a balanced budget, participation income continues to decline and is resulting in a \$60,000 dip into reserves for the current fiscal year.
 - **Audit:** The NEC accepted the unqualified auditor’s report for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.
 - **SNOB National Program:** The SNOB National Program has had weak sales and will end December 31, 2017. The SNOB program required a stamp from all officers and RDs. There’s still time to complete at the Billings convention in 2017.
 - **San Antonio IML walks:** San Antonio has applied to the International Marching League to begin the 4 year process to become an IML event, like the Freedom Walks in Washington, DC. The first weekend in this process, which will include walks from 5k through a 42k marathon, will be next year February 24-26, 2017. I’ll let you know more so we can all plan to be in San Antonio☺
 - **National Programs of Challenging Events of Distance and/or Difficulty:** We will be able to find events of 20K or longer through the search events function on the AVA website by the end of the year.
 - **Pacific Crest Trail and other long Trail systems:** We intend to sanction various sections of some long trails, including the PCT, for 2017. These will probably be seasonals due to elevation and snow. They will be on the online start box.
 - **Commendable Service Awards:** The Commendable Service Award program started June 1. It replaces the Award for Service we’ve had in the past. Information is in the Policy Manual under AVA Recognition Awards Program – Guide for Nominations. It’s a layer below Meritorious Service.
 - **Training Committee:** The committee under Sam Korff has completed a Club Treasurer’s Duties guide that will be put on the AVA website. Other club officer guides will be developed.
 - **Non-IVV AVA walks:** Guidelines for walks that do not meet IVV standards will be developed. These will obviously be non-credit walks without distance requirements that can be done with other groups requesting us to do walks or for other informal walks. Such walks will require a waiver to be signed and a map/directions for insurance

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purposes. More later.

- **Clubs purchasing their own stamps:** This proposal was withdrawn pending further study. The volunteer who used to paint stamp handles black couldn't do it anymore. **Paint your own stamp handles. Mask the rubber and metal end of the stamp, buy a can of black spray paint and do it yourself to avoid damaged stamp handles and resulting fees.**
 - **Walks shorter than 10km:** This violates IVV rules so could not be done. However **there is nothing that prevents part of a walk being in one place with a drive between to the next place to make 10k.** This is a change in our understanding. There is no insurance problem. The drive between is not covered by our liability insurance. People must be told that their own auto insurance would cover that part.
 - **Proposal to walk a 5km trail to be walked twice in lieu of a 10km walk:** This isn't an issue. You can walk a 1k trail 10 times to make a 10k walk (mall walks.) The sentence that was in the policy manual that implied this will be removed.
 - **Trailmaster Certification by other certified Trailmasters:** This was revised to do what we are currently doing: RD's may designate a current Certified Trailmaster to mentor and certify a Trailmaster in their stead.
 - **Allow Free Walkers, but require that the club pay the Participation After Action Fee for them:** This proposal did not pass, but required the President, Dennis Michele to cast the tie breaking vote. Clubs who allowed free walkers would have had to pay the \$1.25 for every walker. This issue will not come up again until the next NEC (in June, 2017)
 - **Raising the Fee for credit walkers to no more than \$4 and the paying participant fee to AVA to \$2:** This did not pass.
 - **Allowing RDs, State Associations and Club Presidents (through RDs) to receive lists of Associate Members in their areas upon receipt of permission from the Associate:** This passed. The AVA will send information to Associates with a request to allow this.
2. **Northwest Regional Conference: Boise, ID Friday – Sunday, September 16 – 18, 2016:** It is getting critical to get your registration in for the conference so we can make sure it will happen. Please go to <http://nwregionalconferenceboise2016.weebly.com/>. Volunteer signups will be available as soon as I can set it up at signupgenius.com.

Hope to see you soon.

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