

## News from N.E.W. #46, July 17, 2016

1. **Northwest Regional Conference: Boise, ID Friday – Sunday, September 16 – 18, 2016:** It is critical that you get your registration in for the conference so we can make arrangements, order patches, get materials, etc. The price for dinner goes up to \$45 after July 31 and the deadline is August 31. Email registration closes August 31. You can still come and do the walks, but conference registration will be limited on site. Please go to <http://nwregionalconferenceboise2016.weebly.com/>.
  2. **Bike Rentals will be available at the conference hotel.** I need to let the hotel know how many we need by August 31. If you want to use a rental bike, you need to let me know – [nwittenberg@gmail.com](mailto:nwittenberg@gmail.com). Bring your own helmet.
  3. **YRE Registration.** Registration for YREs in Boise will be available at the hotel along with the credit stamps. The start point for YREs varies depending on the walk.
  4. **Hotel Rooms:** The conference room rate at the TownPlace Suites by Marriott **expires August 16**. The held rooms are released after that date. There may still be rooms available but at their normal rate.
  5. I still haven't gotten to do Volunteer signups, but that is the next task at [signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com).
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6. **YRE/Seasonal Renewals:** I hope all clubs are getting the renewals done for your Year-rounds and Seasonals. Please don't wait till the last minute. They must be renewed by August 31 or they WILL disappear from the renewal list, and will NOT make the Starting Point for 2017. If you miss the deadline, you will have to reenter the event if you still want it. Some ideas I want to share with you:
    - **Read the July Checkpoint:** There's a lot of helpful information about renewing events and links in this edition. It is AVA's newsletter. If you want your own copy each month, send an email to [Samanta@ava.org](mailto:Samanta@ava.org) requesting it. Find all checkpoints on the AVA website under Administrative/General Admin/Publications. Click on the Checkpoint link to download the issue or any attachments that you want.
    - **Revitalize your event:** How long has it been since you changed the route? Think about how you might change it.
    - **Redo your directions/maps:** Washington state's ESVA has started a program to have volunteers walk YRE/Seasonals with a check list and return comments to the club. Are the directions clear for someone who hasn't walked it before? Are your directions easy to read: in two columns; one direction per paragraph; include required emergency number; oriented with North marked? Are there enough streets named on it so that if you miss a turn, you can tell where you are? Good directions and maps make a walk so much more enjoyable. (Of course, you still need to read them.)
    - **Per Participant Sanction Method:** Do you have a good event, but it's just not getting the participation to pay for the sanction fees? Try the **Per Participant Sanction (PPS)** method. Instead of paying the \$20 sanction fee up front plus \$5/quarter, you are billed \$1 for each participant, credit or free at the end of the quarter when you report to AVA, **instead**. You are still billed the \$1.25 for each credit walker. You sanction or renew the event, then email me with the sanction numbers and names of the events you want to

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use PPS with. I fill out a form and send to Theresa at AVA so she avoids that up front billing. There is one more year left on the PPS trial. If the NEC votes to continue, software changes will be made to permanently accommodate it.

- **Online Start Box (OSB):** The NEC approved the use of the California Volkssport Association's (CVA) Online Start Box for Washington State (and Texas) in order to test the application with more than one state, and handle any variances. I've been asked why this isn't being done for the whole US. The answer is the AVA hasn't finished converting its own database. And CVA's server isn't big enough to handle every state. I have documentation which I can email you.
- **Longer Distance Events:** Do you have a YRE/Seasonal that has a distance of 20K or more? It can have shorter distances as well. If so, at the beginning of the event distance field on the AVA website put 'Distance ' (capital 'D', lower case 'istance', followed by a space.) Examples: 'Distance 5/10/20K' or 'Distance 5K, 10K, 20K'. This allows the new search function to find longer distance YRE/Seasonals. (See the July Checkpoint.)
- **Separated Routes:** In my last newsletter #45 I mentioned that a route doesn't have to be contiguous. You can walk one part, then drive to somewhere else to walk another part. In this region we have been under the impression that this wasn't valid for insurance reasons. If you do this, please put in the sanction and in any brochure "your own vehicle liability insurance covers your drive between portions of this walk" or some such.

**Hope to see you soon.**

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