

News from N.E.W. #49, October 14, 2016

1. **Be in Good Standing before Convention:** To be eligible to vote at the Billings Convention in June, your club must have taken care of these things on time. Please remind whoever in your club is responsible and don't forget:
 - **Annual AVA Financial Report:** The AVA financial report form must be filled out, **signed by both the President and Secretary**, and mailed, emailed or faxed to AVA Headquarters by Tuesday, November 15.
 - **IRS 990 N Form (e-postcard): Due by November 15 to the IRS.** Information about the new IRS requirements has been in previous newsletters and Checkpoints. Don't lose your IRS non-profit status!! You will if you're late.
 - **Copy of the IRS e-postcard filing confirmation:** This is emailed to whoever enters the IRS filing. Forward the email to avahq@ava.org, or print and fax or mail to AVA by 11/15.
 - **Officer updates.** Club officers must be updated in the ESR. If no change, you still must go in and click 'update' anyway. Be sure to update your number of club members.
 - **Outstanding debt, liability and obligations** must be satisfied within 60 days of the due date. These include:
 - i. **All due event stamps returned to headquarters.**
 - ii. **All Participation reports must be up to date and received by headquarters.**
 - iii. **All dues, fees and late fees must be paid within 60 days of the due date.**
2. **National Awards: Please nominate club members for awards.** We now have a **Commendable Service Award in place of the Years of Service Awards**. See the AVA Policy Manual for information about this and other National awards. See under Club Forms the Recognition Awards Nomination Form.
 - Awards I can give out include **Commendable Service Awards, Meritorious Service Awards** and **Certificates of Appreciation**. For these I would just need an email from you nominating the person, name, address, club and why they should get the award. Certificates of Appreciation can be given to businesses or organizations that have helped the club in some way as well as to individuals. I can get these anytime, but need to get any I've given out to the Awards chair by February 1.
 - Awards that require NEC approval are the **Distinguished Service, Hall of Fame, Trailblazer and Ted Ballman Memorial Youth Awards**. I need to have real forms for these hopefully by November 1, but absolutely by November 15 as I need to approve and get them in to the Awards chair by December 1.
3. **Election for the next Northwest Regional Director:** As I mentioned in my last News, the nominations for NW Regional Director and Deputy NW Regional Director for the July 1, 2017- June 30, 2019 term are now open. Each club in the region will be given a ballot. Unless all clubs object, elections will be held by mail-in ballot. Elections must not be held

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before March 7, 2017, 90 days before the AVA convention. Dick Baker will announce all nominees to clubs prior to that time. If you would like to run for NW Regional Director or Deputy NW Regional Director, please send your resume to Dick Baker at dickbkr@q.com before February 1 to give him enough time to notify clubs.

- 4. Events for 2017:** A lot of dates are already taken. Get your club's sanctioned. Please look at the number of multiple event weekends that we have. You will want to make reservations to attend these. They promise to be excellent chances to meet friends, socialize and enjoy great walks. Why not talk with other clubs to see if you can put on a "destination weekend" together? Here's what we have so far. You can find information on various websites:
- **Seabreeze Walking Festival**, President's Day weekend, February 18-20, Ocean Shores, WA
 - **Victoria Phoenix Festival**, April 21-23, Victoria, BC
 - **Rogue Valley Riches Festival**, May 12-14, Shady Cove, OR
 - **AVA Convention, Billings, MT** and pre and post walks, June 4-11
 - **NW Hiking Weekend**, Four + Foolhardy Folks, Skamania County, July 28-30
 - **International Walking Festival**, September 8-11, Blaine/Pt Roberts/BC clubs
 - **Winthrop Walking and Biking Weekend**, September 29 – October 1
- 5. Checkpoint:** Remember, everyone can get their own copy of AVA's newsletter the Checkpoint. It isn't just for club presidents or officers. It's for everyone with an interest in what's going on in Volkssport land. To get your own copy emailed to you each month, send an email to Samanta@ava.org saying you'd like the Checkpoint emailed to you.

Hope to see you soon.

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