

News from N.E.W. #53, April 28, 2017

- 1. The Big Give – AVA’s annual fundraiser May 4th:** If you haven’t seen the special Checkpoint that was sent to clubs about the Big Give, please let me know and I’ll send you one. There’s a good explanation of why a person should give to the Big Give, including what funds are used for and what reserves we have. Our goal is to raise \$60,000. We have \$20,000 so far today. If we reach our goal we will not have to dip too far into our reserves for operating expenses. Instead those reserves can be used for making the changes we need to grow the AVA. It doesn’t happen overnight. We have committees working on program, membership, fund development, publicity and IT. It will be up to the National Executive Council in June to approve a budget that will earmark reserve funds for projects.
- 2. How do you give to the Big Give for AVA?** Click on the “Donate” link on the www.ava.org webpage from now through May 4. Or key in <https://www.thebiggivesa.org/organizations/american-volkssport-association-inc> . If you prefer to send a check, send it to AVA anytime until May 31 and put “Big Give” in the memo line. Clubs can donate either by check or online with their club credit/debit card. Please consider a gift to the AVA.

We have a chance to earn extra prizes from the Big Give. Last year AVA won \$1000 for the 12 midnight to 1am Central Time hour for having the most individual unduplicated donors during that time. This year we would like to duplicate that. For Pacific that’s Wednesday, May 3, 10pm to 11pm, Mountain time 11pm to midnight, Alaska 9pm to 10pm. In addition we have chosen an additional time slot to shoot for on Thursday, May 4: Pacific 2pm to 3pm, Mountain 3pm to 4pm, Alaska 1pm to 2pm.

- 3. Has someone, past or present, in your club passed away?** During the first session of the AVA convention, the names of all those who have passed away are read aloud. This is the Necrology List. If you haven’t already, please email the names of such club members to karen@ava.org. They may have been members of your club years ago, and no longer walk, but they should be remembered at convention.
- 4. Please send either a delegate or proxy to the AVA Billings Convention:** Again, if you are not sending a club member as a delegate, PLEASE send a proxy. Please don’t ignore this!! A proxy must be a delegate from another club. A proxy can not be someone who is running for national office or RD. A proxy will vote as you instruct them to. **If you don’t know someone from another club that can be your proxy, please let me know right away. I’ll find one for you.** Your club has received a “**Call to Convention**” from Sam Korff, AVA Secretary. Please read the memo. Deadline to send all copies in is May 8. If that is missed, the delegate, alternate or proxy must take them all to credentialing at the convention. If you have lost your 3 part form, please let me know and I will have one sent to you.
- 5. New YRE – Madras, OR:** I mentioned that Columbia River Volkssport Association has sanctioned Madras as a new seasonal YRE for this year from June 1 to Dec 31. The walk will **NOT** start at St. Charles Hospital. Annette St-Pierre is the POC and is trying to find a good spot. Look it up on www.ava.org if you are coming to central Oregon.

See you on the trail or at Billings.

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