



Hello NW Volkssporters!

Before heading off to the Crazy Horse event on 1-2 June and then driving onward to the AVA Convention in Albany, NY, I wanted to pass along a few notes. I'll be on the road until 20 June, but will always be available by phone or email.

1. **Super Events.** In the past month, Louise and I joined the Four Plus Foolhardy Folks in Grand Coulee and our Canadian friends at the Phoenix Festival in Victoria, BC. Both were very enjoyable, with remarkably different venues. I would have liked to have seen more participants at the Grand Coulee walks. Hope all our members will venture out more to experience new areas and great walks hosted by our clubs. This was our sixth Phoenix Festival and it was just as beautiful and exciting as the first one we attended.

2. **What are we doing to grow?** Yesterday the Board met for several hours and one topic was our next budget. While much of our energy was dedicated to controlling spending, the Board members agreed that our best efforts must be put toward membership growth and the revenue increase that represents. Your ideas, personal contacts and energy are paramount to our growth. Share your thoughts and leads with me, the national office or any of the Board officers. Keep up the great work through Meetup.com, as we are seeing local membership growth through the contacts we make there.

3. **Fall Magic.** The Lilac City Volkssport Assn has a superb August event in Wallace, ID, featuring several historic walks in the quaint former mining region. You can fill out the weekend with a walk or bike ride on the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes. September is going to be one of the most memorable months in our Northwest Volkssporting history, with a dozen walks, two bikes and a swim event in Bend, OR, brought to you by the Columbia River Volkssport Club. Following the Bend events, we have four days of guided walks in Madras, The Dalles, Yakima and Leavenworth to help move us up to a second weekend of breathtaking walks and events in Winthrop, WA, courtesy of the Evergreen State Volkssport Association and several clubs. I especially want to invite our newer walkers to give one or more of these events a try; you'll really sense the great thrill our program offers exploring a new area.

4. **OSB Transfer.** I've heard the Online Start Box will be migrating from the California State Association to the AVA server soon. We should hear some news on that and much more during the IT presentation at the convention.

5. **ByLaws Update.** In addition to the three measures before the membership at convention, I wanted to relay the news that our national office has a lawyer reviewing our Bylaws to bring us in line with governing Texas laws. AVA is incorporated in Texas and bound by TX laws governing non-profits, which were significantly revised and we must get in conformance. Mostly crossing Ts and dotting Is, but necessary diligence.

6. **Convention updates.** Attendance is now near or over 500, so we'll have a great turnout in Albany. There are still seats available at the Friday banquet and the hosts really want to pack the house.

7. **Traveling Guided Walk (TGW) Extended.** The test period for the TGW program has been extended two more years. Several of our clubs are using the stamps to facilitate hosting more walks in area where attendance may be light, while benefiting from a shorter sanction window and saving a few dollars in the process.

PNW Walk Talk #23 - 22 May 2019

8. **Rails to Trails National Program?** During the May 21 Board meeting the Rocky Mountain Regional Director introduced a proposal to work with the Rails to Trails Conservancy to craft a National Special Program, similar to the Appalachian Trail Program. No details yet and no timetable, but something to look forward to.

9. **2020 Sanctions.** Are your club officers starting to think about your Year Round and Seasonal Events for 2020? It's not too early to start your planning and be ready when the sanction system is opened for renewal.

10. **End of year closeout.** It's hard to believe that at the end of June we close our books on another fiscal year. Treasurers should be gearing up to compile your Annual Financial Reports, getting them signed by your President and Secretary and filed with AVA. Don't forget to forward a copy to me or Dennis. At the same time you'll submit your IRS e-file and forward a copy of the IRS acknowledgement to AVA. Yes, you have until mid November to complete these tasks, but please don't wait. Get it done in July or early August and have it off your to-do list. Questions? See the Club Operations Guide for step-by-step help: http://www.ava.org/Publications/Club_Operations_Guide_Web.pdf

11. **2019-2020 Budget.** Club officers should see a draft budget in the next few days. Your board members are scrubbing it hard with the national office staff to squeeze down the expenses, while looking for opportunities to increase revenues. The board will meet at the convention to continue discussions and hopefully finalize the budget. One wrinkle to be addressed is how to adjust the budget if the membership approves the change in fiscal year for the national office to a calendar year.

Happy Trails!

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