



Hello NW Volkssporters and Happy New Year!

1. **Thanks Dennis.** A big thanks to Dennis Standridge for filling in the last two months for the Electronic Board Meetings while I was traveling. There have been some great discussions and the Board minutes are published within 30-40 days and are available on the AVA site: <http://cb.ava.org/necminutes.php>.
2. **One Page Reporting.** The IT Committee has released a new one page quarterly reporting template for year round events. You can find a new tab in the club window that will lead you to the new template. Upsides are that you'll now see all your events in one window to speed up the process and I believe you can print an invoice when finished.
3. **Olympiad 2023 Bid.** Our Board President is moving forward with a proposal to host the 2023 IVV Olympiad. Korea was selected for 2021. If selected, the US hosted Olympiad will be paired with the International Marching League events in Alexandria VA or San Antonio TX.
4. **Group Works.** Please give Group Works another try as a supplemental communication method for your club and events. Several clubs have begun using GW and are finding it useful. Pat Jewett from Portland has been writing extensively on walking subjects and I find her articles published in GW to be informative and entertaining.
5. **Leads on New Clubs.** The AVA Club Development and Support Committee is asking for information on any leads we have for starting new clubs. One of the best ways for us to get a club started is to find past members in communities where we used to have a club. If you have any connections to walkers in unserved communities please let me know so we can reach out.
6. **Fur Rondy.** If you've not attended the Fur Rondy in Anchorage AK you've missed out on some great winter fun with dog sled races, a carnival, ice sculpting and much more. The Anchorage Volkssport Club has a Traditional Event on 29 February and there are several year round events also available in the area.
7. **Online Challenge.** The 2019 Walk Across Canada was a great success and a lot of fun. One of our local walkers, Joe Kelly from Tualatin OR, finished first with a whopping total of 10,858,026 steps, just 6,500 more steps than the second place finisher. The 2020 challenge is available for registration on the AVA website and includes the Appalachian Trail and Walk the USA Step by Step. The price is very reasonable and I've found it very inspirational to track my results, while watching our many national and international friends advance along the routes.
8. **Fiscal Year Change.** After some reflection, my club in Vancouver has decided to change our fiscal year reporting to match AVA's. If your club has been on the fence you might also reconsider. The process is simple and it will be beneficial to be reporting on the same schedule as our annual sanctions.
9. **Refresh walk boxes.** A topic best offered in December, but it's worth commenting that from time to time we need to refresh our walk boxes to ensure they are clean, serviceable and fully stocked. As your walk box owners visit them in the next quarter assess them and if needed, replace with a new file box or folder.
10. **Winter Challenge.** Do you have your tracking sheets ready and a walk or two under your belt? Our state associations offer a nice incentive with prize money of \$100, \$75 and \$50 that we can all qualify to win. I encourage all our Northwest walkers to get in on the challenge and have some fun in the process.

PNW Walk Talk #28 - 2 January 2020

11. **More Traditional Events.** As AVA's most active region, I take pride in noting that throughout much of the region we have a robust schedule of weekly group walks and many weekend events. Club leaders, you're doing a great job! Our Future Events List is beginning to fill in for 2020, but there's still more room for you to add another Traditional Event or Guided Walk.

12. **Regional Conference Update.** Planning is progressing nicely and registrations are steadily coming in. We now have online registration available on the Columbia River Volkssport Club website: <http://www.walking4fun.org/>, thus giving you two options for registration (mail or online). As we refine the plan we'll continue to update the information at this site, so check it from time to time and get your registrations in early to help us better prepare to make this a memorable event.

13. **AVA's Evolving Webpage.** For those who visit the AVA website often you'll have noticed the continued evolution to a whole new look with greater functionality. If you haven't visited lately check in and let me know your impressions. The event listing views are new, while there's a tab to get back to the old format if you're more comfortable with that look.

Happy Trails! Tom Baltes, NW Regional Director, 505-298-1256, TLBaltes@aol.com