



Hello NW Volkssporters!



1. **Summer COVID Challenge.** The challenge is over, so please get your tracking sheets to our email address (tlbates@aol.com) or mail address (829 NW 44th Ave, Camas WA 98607) by 10 November to be considered for the prizes. Good luck to all participants and thanks for participating.
2. **OSB Update.** To make our events more accessible, I'm encouraging all clubs to upload as many year round events to the Online Start Box (OSB) as possible. At the same time we should be preserving our Physical Start Box (PSB) locations to the extent we can. Several clubs have already uploaded all events and many walkers are finding the OSB equally satisfying to use. The more you use it, the more excited you'll be about the flexibility to use either system.
3. **Bylaws and Cert. of Formation.** Clubs have just received an email from the AVA President with the draft revised Bylaws and Certificate of Formation. If you have any specific feedback, please provide it to me not later than 12 December and I'll forward your comments to the Board for consideration. You'll find the letter outlining the approval process attached to this newsletter.
4. **AVA Office Move.** The projected staff move will hopefully occur in the second and fourth weeks of December. The new location is still being worked, but should provide greater access for our members and better visibility to the community. Recommend you monitor Checkpoints and the AVA website for last minute details.
5. **Checkpoint Newsletter.** The electronic version of the AVA monthly newsletter has several links to additional articles and attachments. Please review those links for important information. You can also find the newsletters and attachments at <http://cb.ava.org/checkpoint.php>.
6. **National Officer Candidates.** The window for submitting names for national officer positions has closed, so any more candidates considering a national position will have to make a bid for the office at the convention. Current candidates are Nancy Wittenberg for President, Susan Medlin for Vice President, Cecilia Miner for a second term as Secretary, and I understand a candidate from Texas is running for Treasurer.
7. **Long Beach Event Cancelled.** The Vancouver Walking Club (VUSAV) had hoped to host a multi-day event in February on the Washington coast, but it has been too difficult to coordinate with the community and services to be able to offer a quality event. There are many wonderful year round events up and down the WA and OR coasts, so consider a trip to your favorite coastal community during the winter months for some beach walking and relaxation.
8. **Update Membership Numbers.** Club Presidents: please update your membership numbers with your officer updates in the Legacy system by mid-November. This is one way our national office can estimate total membership and, yes, they do recognize many of us belong to multiple clubs and attempt to factor that in.
9. **Regional Conference and AVA Convention.** Not much news to report, except that we remain hopeful the events can stay on the calendar and be carried out as planned. As with other events, activity will be adjusted based on COVID restrictions in the local areas in May-June 2021.

10. **Phoenix Festival.** Apparently, the clubs on Vancouver Island couldn't get permission for a festival, so they will instead host the *Vancouver Island Spring Walks* to include the long weekend and a series of great pre and post walks. Details to follow, but the event will be April 16-18, 2021.

11. **CVA Convention.** The California convention in Shasta is rescheduled to April 30, May 1 & 2, 2021. The Shasta Sundial Strollers have graciously agreed to host the CVA Convention as they planned in Mt. Shasta City.

12. **WalkFest Vancouver, BC.** Doug Jackson from the Vancouver 'Venturers shared some preliminary plans for their September 9-12, 2021 event. They have the Saturday night Harbour Cruise with meal now booked. Negotiating with the same boat to have "walk central" on board from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm each day. We are making all our plans "assuming the world will be back to some sort of normal." Really hoping this happens in 2021 as we are hoping for a re-do of Yellowknife in 2022 and all efforts will be directed towards that.

13. **Salute to Central OR:** Planning for the September 16-19, 2021, Bend, OR, event is ongoing and looks quite promising. Annette St-Pierre and Ed Hainline have done a lot of work to secure hotel space, plan the activities, and identify trails, so it will be another spectacular event.

14. **New AVA Board Member.** The board voted in October to approve our first At Large Member, Ben McDonald, who is a private businessman interested in helping us explore ways to grow our sport.

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