



Hello NW Volkssporters!

1. Welcome to Dennis Standridge from Spokane's Lilac City Volkssport Assn as our new Deputy Regional Director. His primary role is to serve as my backup when I'm not available, but he'll have other duties as well, once we sort that out. His contact information is: dstand@centurylink.net, 509-465-9478 (h), 509-220-9739 (c), 10324 N. Bonnie Ct, Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026.

2. National Executive Council (NEC) Meeting Updates

The next NEC meeting will be held January 19 - 21, 2017 at La Quinta Inn & Suites, 7160 North Frontage Road, Orlando, Florida 32812. (407) 240-5000

Call to Clubs for Agenda Items

November 20, 2017 (60 days prior to meeting)

Agenda items from Clubs, NEC Officers and Regional Directors are due to the AVA President, please email to president@ava.org and copy henry@ava.org

3. You should have seen the new stamp design, but here's a sample. The little piece on the end will be used to sort by club, then is removed. You'll receive your club's stamps in early to mid

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4. Louise and I enjoyed a fun outing with the Daffodil Valley Volkssport Assn. to Spokane in October and we really enjoyed the camaraderie and the hospitality of the Lilac City Volkssporters. This outing reminded me of two important points. First, collaboration between clubs is a great way for us to amplify the enjoyment of our sport. Second, getting new and long term walkers on road trips can be a very successful way of growing enthusiasm for our sport. Look at your clubs and see if a collaborative road trip shouldn't be a part of your annual plan.

5. Gaps in calendar: The back end of this year and looking into next year we have a lot of gaps in our Traditional Event calendar. Many of our clubs host weekly group walks and use MeetUp.com, but our best recruiting tool is still Traditional Events. Let's commit to filling in more weekends with events and consider sanctioning some Guided Walks, which require a bit less staffing and logistics, but are still Traditional Events.

6. The NW Regional Conference in Port Angeles, WA, for 13-15 July 2018 is beginning to shape up with five Walks, a Bike and perhaps a Swim. Additionally, there are some great Year Round Events in the beautiful north coast of the Olympic Peninsula, so mark your calendar and start planning for a great rendezvous. We'll have a couple training sessions for the new sanction process. Are there other needs, such as plot-a-route for mapmaking or website/social media use? Let me or ESVA President, Sharon Moats know.

7. As you know, AVA experienced some downtime of the sanction and reporting system. It's back up and you have until 10 November to get your quarterly reports in.

8. Big Give 2018: The fundraiser for 2018 is moved up by the city of San Antonio to March, so start discussing with your clubs now about donations. Why should we continue to give? Good question and I would tell you that our walking revenues are significantly down due to a variety of

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natural disasters this year on top of declining credit walkers. We have a lot of work to do to build a stronger program and current donations are targeted toward database development, website improvements and the new stamps. These components are woefully inadequate and need our support. There are many more needs tied to our strategic plan implementation and I can assure you our national board is working it hard, while tightening our own belts with fewer travel costs and improved use of electronic meetings. Personally, Louise and I will be donating most of my RD travel expenses in addition to making a cash donation to the Big Give. Individual donations are tax deductible, so encourage your members to consider a small personal donation in addition to a club donation.

9. Club Operations Guide: The AVA Training Committee developed a club guide that is now available on the AVA website. It is under Clubs - Clubs Only – ESR Help for Clubs:
http://www.ava.org/Clubs_Only/Club_Operations_Guide_Web.pdf

Happy Trails!

Tom Baltes
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