



Hello NW Volkssporters!

**See you at the Whidbey Walking Festival, 7-9 Sep. Check [ESVA.online](http://ESVA.online) to link to all the current info.**

1. **YRE Sanction Suspense.** Clubs have until 15 Sept to complete sanctions and my suspense is 30 Sept to complete my review. We're close to done...many thanks! Keep reviewing your sanctions to ensure they are concise, accurate and inviting. Personalize those event stamps as well for all events, not just YREs.

2. **Silent Auction Request:** The chair of the June 2019 Silent Auction Committee is asking all clubs to consider a silent auction gift donation. This is a great fundraiser for AVA, as well as a fun, rewarding activity. The gifts need not be very spendy, but something of a local flavor works best. There are many NW attendees driving to the convention who might be able to deliver the donations for your club.

3. **Use PayPal?:** One NW club asked if they could use PayPal services for walker payments and the AVA answer is yes. There are some pros and cons, but generally a benefit to clubs and walkers. AVA national office has moved to EVO (a less costly service), which allows money to be deposited to the actual bank account.

4. **WA Walk Reviews:** Joe Blazek asked for a public service announcement to encourage all walkers of WA events to send in reviews of recent walks. Be sure to check through the state web site to see if a walk you did has already been reviewed and if not, you can do the review online at [ESVA.online](http://ESVA.online).

5. **YRE/Traditional Event Postings:** The description you post for year round and traditional events is an invite for walkers to attend, as well as directions on how to get there. Make sure your online write-ups are descriptive and engaging. Equally important, make sure you firm up details online for traditional events well in advance of the event.

6. **Virtual Online Program (VOP) Status:** Our 401K VOP has met and exceeded expectations for previewing the fun and functionality of an online component to our program. Congratulations to several of our NW walkers who are leading the pack. Starting in September we'll have a Team Challenge as part of the 401K program to add a new dimension. For 2019 our board has authorized another demonstration of the VOP concept, with details still to be sorted out.

7. **Start Point Adjustment:** Vancouver's Whipple Creek Walk is changing its start location. The current Starting Point (Starbucks) will close in October. The new Starting Point will be in the same building, but will move to the Customer Service Desk in Fred Meyers starting on 1 October.

8. **Missing Walk box in Seattle:** The 7/11 host for two walks in Seattle—Alki Beach/Delridge—inadvertently got rid of the walkbox. FS Family Wanderers are working to reinstate the walkbox. This is not a first or last time a walkbox will be lost. What lessons should we draw? Try to stay in closer touch with your walkbox owners and educate newer employees about what it is. Look into the online start box option for difficult to support locations. Investigate stable, more secure start points, as conditions do change over time.

9. **Port Angeles Travel Article:** Liz Rose, a Vancouver Volkssporter and gifted writer was hired to write an article for the Port Angeles area at the same time as our Regional Conference. Enjoy this link, share it

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with your friends and seek out more of Liz's articles, which often focus on walking and traveling in our area. <https://www.wanderwithwonder.com/2018/08/14/wandering-port-angeles-on-washingtons-olympic-peninsula/>

10. **Crazy Horse Walk:** Another opportunity is coming up to do a Volkswalk at Crazy Horse Monument on Sunday, 30 September. Louise and I will dash out there to help promote America's Walking Club to the thousands of guests who are just there as tourists doing a "Volkswagen" walk. If your schedule allows, put this exciting event on your calendar.

11. **New AVA Committee Chairs:** Tom Jackson, a former RD, was approved to serve as Nominating Committee Chair for the convention. Jerry Wilson, North Central RD, was approved to head the 2021 Biennial Convention, in a procedural change to make convention organization a national board responsibility.

12. **AVA Accounting Year:** At the August electronic meeting the board unanimously recommended approval of the move to a calendar basis. To be brought up for approval at the convention, June 2019.

Happy Trails!

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