



Hello NW Volkssporters!

- 1. Policy Manual.** An update should be released this month to publish policy for AVA Community Events (ACE), address other changes and clean up some administrative details. Once the update is final I'll forward a summary of changes to help in your review.
- 2. New Stamp Handles for 2019.** The national office will issue another set of handles with the stamps for 2019 so walk owners can pre-assemble the stamps and more quickly complete the walkbox change out. This will be a one-time extra supply of handles, providing a spare set for subsequent years.
- 3. Regional Director and Deputy Election.** Per AVA Bylaws, a nominating committee is being formed this month to manage the nomination and election for the RD and Deputy RD for the next two year cycle. Let your club members know about these opportunities to serve and I encourage clubs to be prepared to respond quickly when it's time to vote.
- 4. 2019 Sanctions.** Thanks to everyone who helped our region submit 415 year round and seasonal events. Final details should be done for the Starting Point book, but you can always update the sanctions in the online listing as details change, such as walkbox location, trail changes, challenges that apply, etc. You still have a little time as well to tailor the two line stamp information.
- 5. Officer Updates.** Most updates are complete; however, the AVA database shows clubs 0133, 0318, 0474, 0530, 0534, 0552, 0565, 0759, 0766, 0779 and 0886 are still needing to update officer listings in the AVA online system. This information is vital for communication between AVA staff and national officers with your club leaders, so please complete your updates.
- 6. Annual Financial Reports.** The AVA database shows a number of clubs and state associations as still open for completing financial updates to AVA and submitting e-postcards. Please review your club's filings to ensure they're complete and check with Marian at AVA to confirm she has received your reports. As Dennis Standridge mentioned, he's collecting annual reports for me and has a number of clubs yet to forward the reports to him. Please do that soonest so he can complete that summary.
- 7. Crazy Horse Walk.** Louise and I had a great opportunity to join AVA Executive Director, Henry Rosales and Finance Director, Erin Grosso at the fall walk to promote our sport with some quick words to the 2276 walkers on who and what we are, along with a handout with some basic information (copy of the legal-sized document attached for your review). It was our second time to a Crazy Horse walk and a chance to visit with two of the founder's children who are the CEO for the foundation and chief sculptor. The partnership with the Black Hills Club spans more than 30 years of hosted walks and the relationship remains very strong. Partnerships, such as this one, have the greatest potential for advancing our sport and we need to continue to work in our region to find similar alliances that can strengthen our events and club membership.

Happy Trails!

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