



Hello NW Volkssporters!

1. **New YRE (Seasonal).** In the latest Future Events List there's a new April 1st YRE in Seattle hosted by the Emerald City Wanderers featuring Historic Georgetown. Give it a try and check it out. I'll remove it from the list after this month, but just wanted everyone to be aware of a new Seasonal/Year Round Event.
2. **Events List Update.** The Future Events List has a group of dates on the last page reserved for recurring events. If you're club is no longer reserving those dates please let me know so I can make the dates available again.
3. **Central OR 2021 Event.** The Columbia River Volkssport Club has begun publicizing a Sep 2021 Central OR event, so start saving the date and plan to attend. The event last year was very well done and enjoyed immensely by all who attended.
4. **Dayton/Pomeroy Closure.** The events in Dayton and Pomeroy WA are closed until further notice due to the loss of the starting point. I'll let you know if the walks are reopened soon with a new start point or if they are added to the online walkbox.
5. **Big Give—Walk Long, Walk Strong.** We're in the count down to the fund raiser later this month. Please be generous to show your personal and club support of our program.
6. **Gresham Town & More Walk Open.** After a short closure due to a start point problem, East County Windwalkers are pleased to invite you to enjoy their Gresham walk. Kudos to Marilyn Custis, Jean Jensen, Louise Dix and Ric Catron for working to get this walk back open.
7. **Crater Lake Walk.** Dick Baker has sanctioned a Crater Lake Rim walk on 29 June 2020. This will be a one-day Traditional Event and pre-registration can be done at the Regional Conference on 27-28 June in Medford OR.
8. **TGW Stamp and Special Programs.** Don Reed from Albany OR has done some research and learned that Special Program owners are happy to accept multiple use of the Traveling Guided Walk stamps on different events qualifying for the Special Programs, such as Little Free Library. Just make a little notation to distinguish the different qualifying location. **Thanks Don!**
9. **National Walking Week—Apr 1-7.** I've received inputs from several clubs and groups, such as South Sound area and Portland/Vancouver area with Walking Week events. Lots to do, so be sure to participate in some or all of your local events. If no events are available in your community consider challenging yourself to seven days of walking with friends.
10. **Regional Conference Update.** The Inn at the Commons has 10 rooms left from the two blocks of rooms we reserved, so commit now before they're all reserved or turned back to the hotel. T-shirt design and colors are now displayed on the conference link, so check them out and get in your orders. Here's the link: <http://www.walking4fun.org/nwrc-online-registration.html>. A SignUpGenius volunteer request will be circulated in OR this month and if all slots aren't filled we'll open up for others to volunteer. We greatly appreciate all who are helping to make this conference an easier task.

PNW Walk Talk #30 - 4 March 2020

11. **Element3 Opportunity.** Several clubs have stepped forward to accept the invitation from Element3 to accept referrals for new walkers. There are still opportunities to accept the offer if your club reconsiders. I've not received any information yet on a start date, but will advise when I receive those details.

12. **February EBM.** At the February Electronic Board Meeting (EBM) we reviewed the 2019 data, which continues to show a downward trend, although a slight uptick based on the convention. Our region continues to lead in all categories of performance, including total participants, paying participants and of course free walkers reported. I reported to the Board that our region has already demonstrated a significant reduction in reported free walkers and that we are committed to continue making progress. The report was well received.

13. **Club Closure.** Curt Myron reported Volkssport USA's decision to close the club effective 20 Feb 2020. This also means the Oak Harbor YRE is closed. As Curt mentioned, there are still 21 YREs available within an hour drive. Many thanks for the 10 years of service provided to our walking community.

14. **Awards.** As a reminder, we have several regional level awards available to recognize members who make a significant contribution or outside organizations that support us. If you have someone to recognize please prepare the AVA Form 303 for the awards below and forward to me. If you have questions about past awards received I have the history files for our region. Here's the link:

http://cb.ava.org/Clubs_Only/AVA_Form_303CS_MS_CA_revision_5_2016.pdf

- Commendable Service Award. Individual with significant service to the AVA at the regional, state or club level.
- Meritorious Service Award. Individual with at least five (5) years service to the AVA providing outstanding service and support to volkssporting at the regional, state and club level.
- Certificate of Appreciation Award. Business or organization, which has made significant contributions toward the goals of the AVA on a regional, state or club level.

15. **Noreen Kirk.** Many in the region know of Noreen's contributions to our program in the Portland area. She passed away on 2/27/2020.

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