



Hello NW Volkssporters!

Breaking News:

RD/DRD Candidates Sought. Contact Sam Korff, Dick Baker (OR), Sharon Moats (WA), or Bob Morrison (WA) if you are willing to serve. As of late last week we don't have an RD candidate and I'm termed out at the end of June, so volunteers are needed.

ESVA Secretary Sought. A great loss for our region--the Spauldings are moving to Florida to be near grandchildren, so a replacement for Holly will be needed soon. Contact Joe Blazek.

- 1. Canadian Event Changes.** Please note our friends in Vancouver, BC, after much consideration, have moved their planned multi-day event in Sep 2021 to 2022. Also, as much as we'd all love to walk in Victoria BC in April, we'll have to wait and see how that goes. Best wishes to all our walking friends across the border as we work our way out of this pandemic.
- 2. Club News:** The Turnaround Trekkers are in the final stages of closure, but good news is most of their events have been absorbed by CRVC. Several coastal events weren't renewed for 2021; however, the Fort Stevens walk has been sanctioned as a Seasonal event and two others are under consideration.
- 3. Legacy System Status.** Recently, you've been asked to create accounts in my.ava.org to manage your club accounts, as the Legacy system direct access is being disabled. There has been some confusion about this and I want to offer some clarification. The Legacy system isn't going away for now, only the ability to login directly. Eventually, more and more features of the Legacy system will be absorbed into my.ava.org. For now, the direct login is being dropped as a security measure and clubs will access the Legacy system via club management access in my.ava.org. With club management access through my.ava.org your officers can do all the things you've done in the past, such as sanction events, complete quarterly reports, update club officers lists, etc. I don't have any timeline for additional changes but hope the able team of volunteers from the IT Committee will have more to share on that in the near future.
- 4. Regional Conference Update.** As you know, our conference has moved from May 2021 to 16-19 June 2022. We recently learned our host hotel, The Inn at the Commons in Medford, has been sold to be converted into low-cost housing. So, we've negotiated with their sister facility, the Ashland Hills Hotel and Suites, to serve as our conference headquarters. Our planning team is working diligently to update everything from event brochures, to walk directions and social event plans. Those with reservations at the Inn at the Commons can assume their reservations were cancelled, but you will need to register with the Ashland Hills Hotel at 541-482-8310. The same pricing structure is being honored, even though this is a better facility in a higher cost area.

Our event plan has changed slightly in that we'll convert the walks to Seasonal events through the online start box, starting a few days before the conference. That way, early attendees can register online and gain access to the directions for walks they want to do on their way to the conference. We'll still maintain a complete start/finish table setup for those preferring to have us stamp their books and provide the walk directions. The events will be carried online to the end of September for those walkers who are unable to attend so they can still enjoy these great walks. An added benefit is that walkers can add events at any time during the conference without having to visit the start table.

5. **Bylaws Process.** You have seen information regarding the vote on Bylaws in March. I expect the details to be provided early in February and will forward any information when I hear it. This is a chance for each club to have a voice instead of submitting proxies, so plan to have a representative participate in the vote.

6. **Element 3 Health (E3H).** Several of our clubs have already been notified via email that E3H walkers would be doing their events. This has been an early learning opportunity for us. The guidelines of the program don't require us to do anything, but several clubs have already learned that it can be extremely helpful to reach out to these walkers to provide information and offer to walk with them. If we want this initiative to succeed it behooves us to get more engaged. Some steps we can take at this point include having a club point of contact identified to E3H (contact Samanta at AVA) and get into their web interface to enhance the information they provide about our walks. We can also enter information on our group walks, club meetings and social events for E3H clients to participate in, as our clubs will be compensated for E3H client attendance at any of our functions.

7. **Headquarters News.** The national office is about 90 percent complete with the move to their new space. There have been some unexpected delays in utility support, but the staff has worked diligently to overcome those hurdles. At some point the national office will hold a press conference and host an open house with a walk to introduce us to their new home.

8. **2020 walker data.** Thank you Northwest walkers and clubs for your 2020 efforts to keep walking under extraordinary conditions! Below is some preliminary data to show how we did. The NW region contributed 23.6% of AVA's total walkers in 2020, consistent with past performance. Of note, our free walker numbers are down to 12%, which is in line with what I hoped we could achieve and maintain. You can see we did very well in keeping up on year round event (YRE) walking, but our traditional event (TE) numbers were way down, as you'd expect. Our goal for 2021 should be to increase our participation, especially in TEs in the second half of the year.

Year	TE	YRE	Total	Free Tot	% Free
2020	2398	19406	21804	2556	12%
2019	9460	22278	31738	7664	24%

9. **Virtual Online Program.** We're off to a great start on the VOP for 2021. It's never too late to join in the fun. For AVA to offer the program it takes roughly 350 participants to cover the cost. Consider inviting family and friends to join in, as it doesn't require AVA membership to participate.

10. **Event Web Link.** Several clubs have expressed concern about being able to get the link to events through my.ava.org so they could copy/paste in newsletter and emails. From the event search window of my.ava.org there is a "Legacy Event Search" button that allows you to quickly reach back to the legacy system to get the active link or you can open the event in my.ava.org and click back to the legacy view to get the hot link.

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Here's the view when you open an event after searching through my.ava.org:



After clicking on “View legacy listing” you copy the link in the browser window: http://clubs.ava.org/gen3/data/event_details.asp?eventid=117607 and can then click “View my.ava.org Listing” in the upper right side of the screen to return to my.ava.org.

11. January Board Notes. I encourage everyone to read our board minutes as posted online at <http://cb.ava.org/necminutes.php> to fully understand the board discussions and decisions. In particular, the December minutes have a good rundown on the E3H program outline.

Here are a couple quick notes from our January meeting:

- US to host the IVV Olympiad in Feb 2023 in San Antonio TX, prior to the IML event
- We voted to hold a general membership meeting in accord with our Bylaws in San Antonio and have an online meeting for officer elections and other business in June in lieu of an AVA convention
- In April this year we'll continue working toward a National Walking Week event, with the Programs Committee taking the lead
- A TAW contract extension was completed and approved by the board
- The convention committee reported that they haven't been able to work with the staff at the convention venue due to COVID restrictions. There is concern about the viability of our convention for June, but we're still moving forward with the hopes it will be feasible, safe and well attended.

Happy Trails!

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