



PNW Walk Talk #45 - 7 July 2021



Hello NW Volkssporters!

1. **Daffodil Remembrance Walk:** On Saturday, 31 July, the Daffodil Valley Volkssport Assn will host a “Walk the Trails at Tehaleh” event in memory of Roy Bauska, Carlyn Matson and Pat Patterson. For details check the sanction at: https://clubs.ava.org/gen3/data/event_details.asp?eventid=116420
2. **Northwest Hiking Weekend:** This weekend, 9-11 July, you need to be in Cle Elum, WA, walking with the Four Plus Foolhardy Folks. They have a great lineup of walks! Check it out online with the AVA event search or grab your latest Pathfinder for the directions and head for the hills!
3. **Salute to Central OR:** Most of you know the event is 16-19 Sep 21 in Bend, OR. For details check <http://www.walking4fun.org/central-oregon-2021.html> . Headquarters and lodging will be at the Country Inn and Suites, 62065 SE 27th St, Bend. For reservations call 541-617-9696, Mon – Fri and mention “America’s Walking Club” for the group reservation rates.
4. **New Board Member:** The Board recently approved the selection of Dr Kathleen Connell as an At Large Board Member. She brings incredible public and private experience to our board and I have great expectations she will be a catalyst we greatly need to move us forward.
5. **Convention Feedback:** Your club representatives should be providing detailed reports (hint: Dorothy Steedle of VUSAV put out a great report for my club and I’m sure she’d share with your reps to modify for your club – dsteedle@aol.com), so I’ll just touch a couple highpoints.
 - **Award Winners:** Congratulations to Sharon Moats and Barbara Baker for their well-deserved Distinguished Achievement Awards! Also, way to go Olympic Peninsula Explorers on the hard work that led to your recognition with the Trailblazer Award!
 - **New Leaders:** Many thanks to those who are stepping up to lead AVA and our region. National officers are Nancy Wittenberg, Chairperson; Susan Medlin, Vice-Chair; Cecelia Miner, Secretary (2nd term); and Ed McCabe as Treasurer. Our Regional Director is now Sharon Moats and Deputy is Ed Hainline.
 - **Business Meetings:** Not much to be done, as the one motion before the assembly to change service length for officers was withdrawn. The IVV President addressed the group briefly from Italy via Zoom and wished us well as we prepare to host the IVV Olympiad, Feb 2023, in San Antonio. The necrology of 166 names was read acknowledging the loss of so many of our members during the last two years.
 - **Workshops.** Element 3 Health/GroupWorks were represented by Kevin Holzclaw and Spencer Morgan. They acknowledge that progress is slow, but they are fully committed to helping us grow membership. Ian Thomas of America Walks gave provocative presentations on their advocacy for walkable communities and how we can collaborate.
 - **Social Events.** The reason for convention is to conduct business, but most of us know it’s really about the walks and social events. As the first convention in Madison post COVID, the city’s mayor was excited to have us and the hotel and convention facilities did a great job keeping us safe while delivering first class events. As expected, the walks were excellent! Kudos to the Dairyland Walkers and many AVA contributors for pulling it off!
6. **Convention 2023.** The next convention will be held in February 2023 in conjunction with the IVV Olympiad. A hybrid approach will be developed to conduct mandatory business in San Antonio, with a virtual component in June to satisfy other business needs, such as officer election. Stay tuned for details.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve you for the past 4 years. My post-RD focus will be on club support, including Online Start Box uploading for any club that needs help and working on the June 2022 NW Regional Conference in Ashland/Medford OR area. See you at a future walk.

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