



Hello NW Volkssporters!

1. **Convention Registration.** The registration link is now active at AVA.org. If you're planning to attend, please register early to help planners get a good sense of the attendance and provide funds to help meet expenses already being incurred.
2. **Unavailable Events.** Due to the government shutdown, several local events are unavailable, such as the Princess Ilchee and Historic Fort Vancouver walks that start at the Fort Vancouver Visitor Center. If you're planning walks at National Parks, Monuments, etc., please check ahead to ensure the starting points are open. The Anchorage Club reported that the Westmark Hotel suffered damage during the recent earthquake and that the facility will be down for repairs. When I hear more updates, I'll pass them along.
3. **Elections.** The Nominating Committee has only received one candidate each for RD and DRD positions, so the voting should be pretty simple. Please complete the process as quickly as possible when you receive your ballot or call for a club vote.
4. **Virtual Online Program (VOP) 2019.** Congrats on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams from our region in 2018. The 2019 VOP is up and running with a walk across Canada and regional challenge. Hope to see a nice turnout for the Northwest again this year.
5. **Winter Challenge.** Have you started tracking your winter walks? Our two state associations are collaborating again with generous incentives to walk in the next three months. With the mild weather this season, Louise and I are up to seven events so far; how about you? Step it up Northwest walkers!
6. **AVA Officer Candidates.** Kudos to Nancy Wittenberg for stepping up to run again for Vice President and to Chase Davis from Olympia for being a candidate for Treasurer. You can find their biographies linked to the latest AVA Checkpoint newsletter.
7. **Board Meeting in Tucson.** Next weekend the AVA Board will meet in Tucson with a very full agenda. I'll forward a report of the business conducted with my next newsletter.
8. **Adventure Awaits.** Seabreeze (Feb), Texas Trail Roundup (Feb), Seattle Link Walks (Apr), Phoenix Festival (May), AVA Convention (Jun), Central OR Salute (Sep), Winthrop Rendezvous (Sep), and Indonesia International event (Nov) are part of a tremendous offering of walking events for 2019! Strap on your walking shoes and help support Volkssporting across the country and around the world this year.
9. **2018 Wrap Up.** Treasurers and walkbox owners, be sure to complete your changeover of stamps, logs and updated walk directions and get your participation reports submitted to AVA by the end of January. We have 76 of 357 events reported to AVA, which is a good start—thanks!

Happy Trails!

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