



Hello NW Volkssporters!

1. Kudos to Interlaken Trailblazers Volkssport Club for hosting a tremendous event in Winthrop this past weekend; their first ever multi-day event! Some spectacular scenery along the well thought out routes by Trailmaster Mike Zewe to thrill the nearly 190 participants. There were many acknowledgements for contributions at the Saturday banquet, to include the Sound Steppers and Pathfinder clubs, Sharon Moats and her sister, and many other individual contributors who were so instrumental to the success. Well done!
2. The 2018 sanctions are done, with over 1900 events in the Starting Point, which is a new high. We have 389 for the NW or 20% of the total, of which 50 are per participant sanction fee (PPSF). Many thanks to all who contributed.
3. Chris Zegelin from the AVA IT Committee has forwarded a sample sheet of the rubber stamps that will be delivered for 2018 and asked that you send me feedback on your events to let him know if the city/event data is correct. Henry advises that rubber stamps should be available to you by mid-Dec affixed to a stamp. More to follow on that and I'll forward the stamp list with this note.
4. At the ESVA meeting in Winthrop the Washington clubs voted unanimously to support a donation of \$1,000 to sponsor the 401K, Invest in Your Health program. Debbie Kruep, project leader expressed her sincere appreciation for the donations from both our state associations and said the contract is in review and details will be out in the next TAW and Checkpoints. RDs will receive information about online registration and billing in November. Any specific questions about the program can be sent to VOP@ava.org, but I'd ask that you check with me first to see if I have the answer.
5. Mark your calendars now for the NW Region Conference on 13-15 July 2018. This will be a fun weekend of fantastic walks, bikes and a swim in the area of Port Angeles WA. ESVA, the very capable Mike Zewe, and the Olympic Peninsula Explorers will have the lead in putting this event together, but there will be many ways to contribute, as it takes all of us to make this a success. Many details to follow, but step up and help when asked and most importantly, plan to participate; this is Volkssporting at its best!
6. The next AVA Board meeting will be 19-21 January in Orlando, FL. If you are looking for a winter getaway I would enjoy having some more northwest walkers sitting in to hear firsthand what your board and AVA staff are doing for you. In June 2018 we'll meet in Albany, NY to get a look at the next convention venue and visit with the hosts.
7. As head of the AVA Training Committee I'm ready to get launched on updating existing materials and meeting new needs. If you have ideas of gaps in our training that need work to improve our program please let me know, so I can get it on the list to work and find committee members to assist.

8. Club presidents: If your club has not completed your vote for the RD deputy please get that done immediately and report your results.

9. At the ESVA meeting I addressed several questions about legalities around exploratory, workers, group and guided walks. To ensure our liability insurance is in place to protect AVA, our clubs and officers, we should always have participants sign a waiver before participating in any of these walks. Furthermore, walk guides should always have a map and/or instructions for the walk they are leading. If we are doing YRE routes on group walks and want to vary the routes significantly (greater than 30% or so) we really should be sanctioning a guided walk with a route map/directions. If attendance is expected to be low we have the PPSF to keep sanction costs low and the new Traveling Guided Walk stamp can provide the flexibility you want within some limits. Call or email if you want to get more details about what was discussed.

10. If your club is able to participate in the REI's #OptOutside program on Black Friday please find a way to do it. We'd like to work on strengthening our relationship with REI and this is a great way to engage with them. To be included send the following information to missy@mcbrideink.com

Name of Event, with City & State:

Start Point Location:

Start Time:

Point of Contact with email address:

Happy Trails!

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