



Hello NW Volkssporters!

Fun Bathroom Reader fact: “One of the first known maps was drawn by the Greek traveler Hecataeus around 510 B.C.” I wonder if he used plotaroute to make his map?

1. **Convention Registration.** The registration system is built and in test mode right now. It should be opened for all registrants soon and I can attest it works great.

2. **Virtual Online Program (VOP).** We’re now wrapped up with the Appalachian Trail and looking forward to the 2021 challenge: **A New Adventure Every Quarter.** Q1 will be **Kindness Around the Globe**, Q2 is **National Parks of America**, Q3 is **Global Cuisine** (yum), and Q4 is **Get Fit on Route 66.** There has been a little delay, but the contract with Walker Tracker is signed and Registration Link will be up shortly. Congratulations and thanks to all our regional participants in this year’s event.

3. **Regional Conference Postponed.** Sadly, our conference committee conceded that it will be too difficult to deliver a quality event this coming May, so we agreed to postpone to June 2022. The upsides are that it will put the conference back on an even numbered year away from the AVA convention and we’ll be able have more social events. Those pre-registered will be contacted individually soon with option for a refund or carry forward. It appears our conference hotel may have to change, as the Inn at the Commons is being looked at for a possible sale and re-purposing, so there’s more work to be done. Details to follow...

4. **Element 3 Health (E3H).** I’m very excited about the promise of our new relationship with E3H and the clients they will bring to walk our routes. E3H serves as a conduit from health insurers around the country to invite their clients to walk with us, attend our social gatherings and work toward better health. Specifics are being worked out, but their clients will sign in on our YREs or Traditional events as “free/E3H” and payment will be top down from E3H through AVA. I can’t offer any idea of how many and exactly when new walkers might show up, but the program is in effect in early January with potentially all our clubs benefitting. Please welcome these new participants and help educate them on our program.

- Most clubs should have seen an invite from Samanta at AVA to a training webinar and I encourage you to become informed. Here’s the info:

Please join us on January 6, 2021 for a training webinar on the Element3 Health platform. Element3 will be emailing participating clubs their log-in credential on January 5, 2021. We encourage all participating clubs to log into your Element3 Health account and review the platform prior to this webinar. During this session you will have the opportunity to ask any questions on how to use the platform or how to make any changes.

When: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. CT

To join this webinar visit: <https://element3health.zoom.us/j/94965362413>

Meeting ID: 949 6536 2413

5. **Bylaws Process.** We're continuing on with a quick approval process in advance of the convention. There were concerns raised on the article regarding procedures for bylaws changes, so the Board agreed to revert to the current process. When ballots are forwarded for your club's vote please consider supporting so we can wrap up the revision. Any new changes can be considered at the convention.

6. **Traveling Guided Walks (TGWs).** I encourage most clubs to consider a TGW stamp for 2021. A pre-requisite is a sanctioned Traditional Event in the calendar first. Then you need to plan the first TGW event as early as possible, as that will determine the stamp number for all TGWs and you can't schedule another event before it. After the first event, which requires the regular 60 days notice, we can schedule subsequent TGWs with shorter notice, if needed. I'm encouraging TGWs, as I believe we'll want to start our year with smaller events and eventually offer larger events once vaccines are widely administered.

7. **Online Startbox.** I want to continue to encourage all clubs to upload most if not all your year round events to the OSB. Even after our walkbox start points become readily available I believe many walkers will begin to embrace online registration. Since July Louise and I have completed over 80 walks through OSB and only a couple at a physical walkbox. It's fast, safe and we like the look of the online insert cards.

Happy Trails!

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