



Hello NW Volkssporters!

1. Board Agenda Items: Samanta recently sent a reminder message that agenda topics are coming due for the June NEC (Board) meeting. Let me know what you want to have on the agenda by 9 April and please submit your request on the AVA agenda item form found in the Club Forms area of the AVA website. I have a few days of grace after the 9th, but try to get them to me by the suspense.
2. Quarterly reports. Be sure to get your first quarter results reported to AVA on all your YREs/Seasonals by the end of the month. Oversights happen, but with a little attention we can have 100% of our reports in on time. On the horizon there are some software changes in the works that should really help us eliminate the overdue reports.
3. Hopefully you've noticed that the AVA website has settled down a good bit. Thanks to Mike Green, Atlantic Region RD, who is volunteering his incredible talents to cleanup and help modernize our software supporting the website. Likewise, Chris Zegelin has been working on some enhancements for the system. As I get more definition on timelines and extent of those changes I'll pass it along.
4. Have you registered for the Regional Conference yet? If not, please get your reservation in soon to help the ESVA team identify the support needs and finalize plans for the Saturday evening dinner. We have a great venue at the Eagles Lodge, a superb caterer, and some amazing walk, bike and swim events lined up. Register at ESVA.online or download the paper registration form at that site.
5. Monthly board discussions. Our Board is holding monthly meetings and the minutes are posted on the AVA website under Admin-General Admin-NEC Minutes. I encourage all members to check out our discussions and keep up to date on the evolving plans. This month we had a second meeting to continue discussion on membership committee topics with a focus on Access to benefits and programs, A Voice in the future and Communications that foster Community.
6. Slowly but surely our weather is improving, so it's time to lace up those lighter hiking shoes and get outdoors for more walking. Start thinking about sunscreen, carrying more water on your hikes and layered clothing. There are some great events lined up this year all across our region, but they are only successful when we all get out and participate.
7. One club officer asked me if any clubs have sister clubs in other countries. I'm not aware of any, but would appreciate hearing from anyone aware of such arrangements.
8. In my role as Chair of the AVA Training Committee I'm working with the next convention committee to develop the workshop plan. What would you like to see offered at the convention? Your ideas can greatly shape the types and format of what will be offered.

Happy Trails!

Tom Baltes
NW Regional Director

505-298-1256
TLBaltes@aol.com