



Hello NW Volkssporters! This first newsletter is a little tardy, but I've been doing a lot of thinking about what might be useful information for you and also scanning the sources of information I receive to select topics that will be news to you. Bear with me as I work to find a balance between timely communications and limiting the notes I stuff in your inboxes. Here are a few thoughts and bits of information for your consideration for Aug:

1. One of the cornerstones of my tenure as your regional director will be a close partnership with the Oregon and Washington state associations, as well as the club leaders from Alaska and Idaho and eventually a new Deputy. In the next couple days your state association presidents and I will have completed a performance expectation worksheet to ensure we're all on the same page working to support your clubs.
2. **My goals** for the next two years are first, to work toward growth in numbers of clubs nationally and membership in all of our clubs. Implementing the Strategic Plan created over a year ago and launching national publicity efforts I believe will be key to any meaningful growth in our sport. Second, I am committed to doing my best to support clubs in the northwest to ensure we remain the premiere Volkssporting region in the country. Third, I will advocate for ways to raise revenues in the near term to help AVA fund the Strategic Plan goals.
3. **Deputy RD:** The Northwest region is one of two regions without a current deputy RD, so I've requested that Dick Baker, Bonnie Tucker and Dar Parrow form a nominating committee to identify potential candidates and conduct a regional vote. If you are interested in serving your region in a greater capacity contact one of these three regional leaders. We need our very best talent working to reinvigorate our sport and there are many strong candidates in our region whom I would be delighted to have helping. Please step forward and help.
4. **2018 Event Sanctioning:** Your suspense for completing YRE/Seasonal sanctioning has been extended to **15 September**, but I'd appreciate your help in getting your sanction requests submitted well ahead of that suspense. We're making good progress, but there are many events yet to be entered.
5. **Per Participant Event Sanction (PPES):** When you submit your event sanction requests be sure to let me know by email if you plan to request PPES. PPES has proven to be a cost effective way for us to offer quality YRE, Seasonal and Traditional events that may not have enough traffic to cover costs. I just need a short justification to include with the request to AVA.
6. **Annual Traditional Event Requirement:** As you know, all clubs are required to host a Traditional event each year (July-June) or pay AVA a \$50 fee. Our region has typically not had a problem with this, but three NW clubs were assessed the fee in this past year. If your club anticipates having a problem hosting an event in the upcoming year please let your state association or myself know so we can help find a workaround.

7. **Sanction Priority:** My intent is to follow the existing protocol of approving sanction requests on a first come, first served basis and honor recurring events as noted on the future events list. If you want to plan an event in an area that is the domain of another club please pre-coordinate with those clubs before submitting a sanction request.

8. **NEC/Board Meeting:** The next meeting of the national team is set for 10-13 August in San Antonio, TX. At this meeting the new RDs and Deputies will receive their orientation training and the new leadership team will be setting their agenda for the next two years. I hope to have lots of good information to share in my next Walk Talk.

9. **NW Regional Conference in 2018:** Dates have been set for 13-15 July in Port Angeles, WA and headquartered at the Eagles Lodge. There are some great walking and biking opportunities in the area and I know Mike Zewe, the local clubs and ESVA will put together an exceptional program. Stay tuned for details.

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