



Hello NW Volkssporters!

1. With this newsletter I've attached a document prepared by the Southeast Regional Director, John McClellan and AVA Secretary, Sam Korff. The document is titled: "Benefits of Participation in AVA Programs, Clubs & Associate Membership". It's a good tool to help recruit new members and respond to members who may be unaware of the benefits of our program. Please share this with your membership and use it in your new member orientations.

2. Bob Morrison, AVA Treasurer, hosted this month's Board Electronic Meeting and the topic was *Earmarking Reserve Funds*. Here's Bob's summary:

AVA has just over \$800,000 in reserve funds that are not identified for any special purpose. The AVA Executive Committee is considering the possibility of earmarking some portion of these funds for specific uses that provide guidance to staff and document that the reserves are more than simply idle monies accumulated without plans for their eventual use. Proposed subcategories of reserve funds currently under discussion include: \$50,000 startup funds to support international events in the U.S. such as the proposed 2021 Olympiad or an IML event (repayable from registration proceeds); \$75,000 startup funds for biennial AVA conventions (repayable from registration proceeds); \$200,000 for strategic initiative project funding; \$200,000 for major information technology improvement projects. The matter is scheduled for discussion at the January, 2018 NEC meeting in Orlando, FL.

Erin Grosso, AVA Finance Manager, also discussed the belt tightening steps the HQ staff is taking and hopefully will be providing more feedback through the TAW and Checkpoints highlighting their efforts to be good stewards of your financial contributions.

3. I would like to ask all club and state association leaders to help me and the national office in 2018 by being more prompt with your Annual Financial Reports, e-postcard filing and by keeping your officer status up-to-date. Any time you have an officer position change you should enter the data in the ESR system and submit an update at least annually when you complete your elections. Financial Reports and e-postcards are due by mid-November, but I would ask you to try to complete those by mid-August. You can report any time after July 1st and it would be a great help to have the reports in as promptly as possible so Samanta at AVA and I can close out our monitoring.

4. Treasurers: if you haven't sent me a copy of your Annual Financial Report I'd like to get a copy. I don't need your e-postcard, just the two page report you sent to AVA.

5. Many of you know our wonderfully dedicated Volkssporter, Sally Ross who serves as President of the Eugene Springfield Mossbacks and the Yachats Coastal Gems. Sally recently had surgery and I understand is slowly recovering in a rehab center. Keep her in your prayers.

6. Several clubs have invited me to their special events and club meetings. I really appreciate those invites and will do my best to be there. For example, Louise and I will join the Anchorage AK club for a Traditional event in February during the Fur Rendezvous. Care to join us? ☺

7. We have some great holiday season events coming up and this is a great time to thank your walkbox and event hosts. I know many clubs provide baskets of cookies or other thank you expressions. If you would like a Certificate of Appreciation I can produce them on fairly short notice, but need some verbiage and as much lead time as possible.

8. The Mossback club has a new email: mossbackclub@gmail.com, so please update your addresses to ensure you effectively communicate with them.

9. Thanks for entrusting me with the opportunity to serve as your RD and for the great start we've had in 2017. I'm truly amazed at the dedication you demonstrate as volunteers, the great events you host and I'm looking forward to an awesome 2018. I'm very excited to have Dennis Standridge as Deputy RD and we'll be sitting down at the New Year's events in the Portland/Vancouver area to continue his orientation to the RD role. Best wishes to you, your clubs and families at Christmas and in the New Year!

Happy Trails!

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