



Hello NW Volkssporters!

1. Last month I reported that **Sally Ross** from the Mossbacks and Coastal Gems was undergoing rehab following a serious medical issue. Here's her update: "Dear VW Friends, Thank you so much for all your expressions of support and concern during my recent medical crisis. After three weeks of confinement, I'm finally home. *What a relief!* I'm up to walking six blocks at a time. Hope to be on the trails soon! Love, Sally". Since receiving her note I've heard that Sally is back to walking longer distances. What great news and testament to the benefits of living a healthy Volkssporting life!
2. Once again I would like to ask all **Treasurers** to forward a copy of your Annual Financial Report. Scan and email or send by snail mail. I've only received 7 of 38 reports, so I need your clubs to help with this request right away. I've asked Dennis Standridge to manage this data gathering, so you can send the info to me or to Dennis at [dstand@centurylink.net](mailto:dstand@centurylink.net) or [nw\\_drd@ava.org](mailto:nw_drd@ava.org). Please get this done by the end of January so we can wrap up our data gathering.
3. **The 401K program** is up and running. If you haven't joined yet there's plenty time to get involved, but the earlier you get started the more fun you'll have with it. From my first view of the site it looks like we'll have lots of good competition and a variety of data to work with for personal use and competitive purposes.
4. **The National Park Service has set four fee-free days in 2018.** The dates are Jan 15, Martin Luther King Jr. Day; Apr 21, first day of National Park Week; Sep 22, National Public Lands Day; and Nov 11, Veterans Day. These are all great opportunities to visit your parks where many seasonal and traditional events are hosted.
5. **Status of old stamps:** Henry Rosales clarified the HQ expectation with this note—"Clubs are not required to return the old stamp handles or slugs to the AVA office. The reason being is simply not to place any extra financial strain on clubs who may not have the funds to return them. That being said if clubs want to recycle (return) the old stamp handles and slugs it is encouraged and appreciated. They can throw them all in a package and send them to the AVA, just don't ask for any refunds or credits please! We will store them and figure out what to do with them at a later time."
6. **New Stamps:** The new stamps are now in effect and from initial experience I believe we're going to be very happy with them. One recommendation to walkbox owners is to have gel stamp pads versus the older ink pads. Also, you might want to practice on a separate piece of paper before stamping your books to determine the best technique to get a clean imprint.
7. **Mid-Valley and Coastal Challenge.** If you are looking for another fun challenge to go along with the 401K, Centurion and northwest winter challenge, the folks in central Oregon have their annual challenge. You can find out more at the Albany Fitwalker website. [http://www.albanyfitwalkers.org/uploads/5/5/2/4/5524194/afw\\_challenges\\_2018.pdf](http://www.albanyfitwalkers.org/uploads/5/5/2/4/5524194/afw_challenges_2018.pdf)
8. **Regional Conference.** I've attached a scan of the publicity flyer for the 13-15 July conference in Port Angeles. Because that is a busy season in that area we encourage everyone to book your hotel, B&B or rental home as soon as possible. Continue to monitor developing details through the ESVA.online website, as well as my newsletters.

9. The next NEC meeting will be 19-21 January and it looks like we have a very full agenda. One of the bright spots will be the clean audit report that we've received and financial report. I hope to have lots of details for you next month, including updates on our IT committee work, program committee activity, training focus and much more. I can say that the IT committee has been very busy with the roll-out of the new stamps, launch of the 401K challenge, and new accounting software piled on the daily challenges of managing the aging sanction system and website.

10. **Big Give 2018.** You may be aware that the Big Give is occurring earlier this year, which is out of AVA's control. Your national leaders are stepping up their donations and we encourage clubs and all our individual members to continue the strong support that has helped close the gap between our budget and annual revenues. Reach out to your family and friends as well to solicit their support.

Happy Trails!

Tom Baltes  
NW Regional Director  
505-298-1256  
[TLBaltes@aol.com](mailto:TLBaltes@aol.com)