



Hello NW Volkssporters!

1. Recent Losses. Anton "Bill" Cable (May 2) and Robert Forcier (May 8)
2. Big Give Results. As of today your donations have helped raise \$72,711, surpassing our goal! Thanks to the 104 clubs and more than 392 individual donors who made this possible!
3. Quarterly Reports. As many clubs noticed, there was a glitch in the ESR system in providing feedback to club presidents on the YRE and Seasonal reports. Marian followed up to each club to acknowledge the report completions and our software guru, Mike Green, provided a spreadsheet to RDs at the end of April with information on which YREs still needed to be submitted. I'm pleased to report that we only had three clubs with outstanding reports on the last day and I was able to alert them in time to complete their actions. Treasurers, as a matter of practice I encourage you to copy the summary information that pops up when you first submit your event report and paste it on a word document. That will serve as proof that you submitted your report in case the reports get dropped in the system.
4. Monthly Board Discussions. This month our board discussion will involve a topic led by our Treasurer on how to lower the operations deficit and a second discussion led by the Atlantic Region RD on policy standards for event directions. This second discussion is part of a larger issue about our need to update our policy and guidance publications. Beyond that our president has been working to create a better tracking method for the motions approved at conventions and board meetings that require action, such as updating publications.
5. Annual Financial Reports (AFR) & e-filing. We're only two months from the end of our fiscal year! I have two requests for club Presidents and Treasurers. First, start preparing now so that you can submit both reports as soon as you complete your next quarterly reporting. While our policy allows AFRs and e-file reporting between 1 Jul and 15 Nov, I hope that everyone can get it done much quicker, as it enables the AVA staff and me to turn our attention to other important issues sooner. Second, send me a copy of your 2-page AFR when you send it on to AVA.
6. AVA change of Fiscal Year. The board concluded that a change in AVA fiscal year requires a vote at the next convention, so any shift won't occur until end of 2019.
7. Many thanks to the Four Plus Foolhardy Folks for putting on an exceptional event at Othello. I'm now looking forward to a great 2-day outing in Madras OR for a couple new walks there put on by CRVC. As discussed at the ESVA meeting this past weekend, multi-day events, sometimes hosted by multiple clubs, is a great way for us to create some enjoyable and visible events for our membership. What plans does your club have?
8. Regional Conference Promotion. If you haven't already talked up the July Regional Conference to your club please get the word out so we can get a good sense of the participation level. If you have access to other forums, such as MeetUp in your area please extend an invite there as well for non-Volkssporters to come try out our event. Details can be found at www.ESVA.online.
9. Regional Conference Training: At the conference we plan to offer training on the use of Plotaroute and Signup Genius, present a certification course for Trailmaster candidates, and invite our AVA board officers to host a Q&A session. Trailmaster candidates should bring along a copy of walk directions they have prepared for an event.

10. Sanctions for 2019. It's not too early to start your clubs' planning for the YREs and Seasonals you plan to sanction for 2019. Likewise, you can enter your Traditional events at any time to lock in your dates. I'm looking forward to a smooth sanctioning process this year and look forward to working with you to make sure we get our work done promptly.

Happy Trails!

Tom Baltes
NW Regional Director
505-298-1256
TLBaltes@aol.com