



Hello NW Volkssporters!

1. **World Walking Day.** Sunday, 4 October is World Walking Day and I invite everyone to engage in some form of activity to support this virtual show of unity. Attached to my email is an announcement of the event with everything you need to know.
2. **DVVA Trip.** The Daffodil Valley Volkssport Assn is hosting a road trip to southeastern WA on Oct 8-12. Louise and I hope to join them for a couple days, as I know they are safely walking together and guaranteed to have a lot of fun. I encourage all clubs to find ways to increase group walking for fun and socialization.
3. **Starting Point View.** A new feature of the YRE renewal process is the ability to see what the Starting Point book view will be and also there are prompts to improve your event listings. Take time to concisely describe and sell your events.
4. **OR Challenges Updated.** Dan Webster from the Cedar Milers has worked with the Online Start Box (OSB) monitor to update the list of OR challenges identified in the OSB. Be sure to use the list for your personal walks through the OSB and if you are a walk owner you can identify them in your YRE sanctions.
5. **Online Start Box.** As I scan the list of walks nationally that have been added to the OSB it's clear that some great work has been done. While preserving physical walk boxes (PSBs) should be a primary goal, the OSB adds greater flexibility and appeals to some segments of our walking population. WA is leading the way with the most events uploaded and all our states in the NW region are actively working to upload more. Nearly all our Idaho events are uploaded and many AK and OR events will soon be added. Well done everyone!
 - **Extend Seasonals.** One of the benefits of the OSB is that we no longer have to make the trek to remote sites to retrieve or service walk boxes. Consider extending your seasonal walks in remote areas, especially those hosted as Per Participate Sanction Fee (PPSF). The end of a quarter doesn't necessarily mean those walks are no longer advisable, so perhaps adding or month or two could benefit some walkers.
6. **RD/DRD Nominating Committee.** Sam Korff has accepted the invitation to head a nominating committee for the RD and Deputy RD nominations and election for the 2021-2022 term. Also accepting the invite to serve are Dick Baker, Sharon Moats and Bob Morrison. Reach out to any of these individuals if you are willing to serve as RD or DRD.
7. **Big Give Success.** Thanks to all the individuals and clubs who helped us raise over \$100k this year; more than \$20k above the goal!
8. **Hector Sidelined.** Hector Hernandez, our AVA IT technician, has been away from the office due to a personal health issue and will be out for at least a month. We wish him a speedy recovery and ask for your patience as other staff members step in to handle sanction system issues and stamp production, etc.

9. **National and Regional Awards.** You have a little over a month to submit nominations for individuals and organizations who contributed in many ways these past two years. I need some time to review, prepare, and forward them on to the national awards committee, so get them to me soon. Regional recognition can be done at any time, but it would be best to have recognitions done by the end of the year to be included in the national convention award listing.

10. **Crazy Horse Experience.** Nancy and Buffy Wittenberg, Ed Hainline, Louise and I traveled to South Dakota to support the Crazy Horse walk on 26-27 Sep. Over 4,000 walkers participated in this 35th annual event in the open space of this grand monument in the making. While COVID has limited participation in large events around the country, this event was managed as safely as possible with walkers spaced out over two days and on wide trails. Registration was also handled as safely as possible, with workers masked and wearing gloves, pens sanitized after every use, and widely separated work areas. It's difficult to gauge any health impacts, but the event did convey the idea that with reasonable precautions our events can be hosted with increasing numbers when done in open spaces and walkers staggered across a wide window of time.



National staff members who traveled to support the Crazy Horse walk.



Doing the walk on a wide trail—a little rainy that day.



Walkers up on his arm.

Happy Trails! Tom Baltes, NW Regional Director, 505-298-1256, TLBaltes@aol.com