



Hello NW Volkssporters!

1. **Bylaws Passed.** In case you missed it, the bylaws update was approved, albeit with a somewhat disappointing participation of just over 50% of AVA's clubs.
2. **Event Sanctions.** There haven't been many new sanctions in recent months, yet we need to reignite the Volkssporting engine in our communities. In many areas we are cleared to start inviting new walkers to join us through meetup.com and other promotional methods. A number of clubs have successfully demonstrated that we can host Traditional Events safely, so consider planning an event for later this year to get us going again. It's also not too early to lock in your dates for 2022!
3. **Tips on OSB.** When you complete an event through the online start box (OSB) you need to close out through the "Finish Table" tab to receive your credits and also credit the club for their share of the revenue. Be sure to add all your AVA special programs and state challenges under the "My Books" tab before closing out at the "Finish Table." To avoid printing a bunch of single event insert cards you should wait to download your insert cards in the "My Insert Cards" tab until there are eight events in a box for each category—IVV Distance, I VV Events, etc. I select the "Download PDF" button, but you can also select "Download picture" button to download your cards. For convenience, save your downloads in a folder on your computer, but the inserts cards remain on file in your my.ava.org account for future retrieval if needed.
4. **Regional Losses.** Over the past two years we've lost several titans of our walking program; members who have been prolific walkers, generous of their time as volunteers and business owners who supported us. Recently, Jerry Williams from the Evergreen Wanderers passed away leaving big shoes to fill in a club that has the distinction of being our oldest northwest club. My challenge to all our members is to follow the example of our titans and help in small or large ways to keep our clubs active, innovative and fun.
5. **Monthly AVA Meetings.** Tim Miner, chairman of the programs committee, has been hosting monthly discussions on timely topics. Keep an eye on the Checkpoint newsletter for the registration procedures and check in to hear the presentations.
6. **Costco Article.** The May Costco Connections magazine has a nice article titled Nature's Nurture extolling the benefits of walking and hiking outdoors. On page 39 of the article they suggest people join a Volkssport club (AVA.org) for inspiration. I'm attaching the article to this newsletter for your review and possible use in promoting your club and events.
7. **Call to Convention.** The Madison area now allows up to 350 for indoor gatherings with food and 500 for meetings where social distancing can be maintained. We anticipate our attendance numbers will fall within that criteria for the meetings and banquet, so things are shaping up. Your support is essential for our success with the walks, business meetings and social events. I encourage everyone to attend who is able to travel and please ensure your clubs are represented for business purposes.
 - The NW region will have a table for promotional materials at the convention and if demand is high enough we'll get a second table. Please work through your state associations to develop promotional materials for the great events your clubs host.
8. **Bloomsday 45.** The Spokane virtual Bloomsday event is available 30 April to May 9. Check out all the details on the event website at <https://www.bloomsdayrun.org/> and for the sanctioned AVA event at https://clubs.ava.org/gen3/data/event_details.asp?eventid=118818. The club has a physical startbox and also will work with you to do the event virtually on another AVA sanctioned trail.

Happy Trails!

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