



**All Weather News**  
**July 2017**  
<http://www.allweatherwalkers.org/>  
**Deadline for Aug news: Jul 24**



From: "Nancy Wittenberg" [newittenberg@gmail.com](mailto:newittenberg@gmail.com), our RD (or above)

1. The NEC meeting on Tuesday, June 6 was short. Frank Sayers reported that we do not know if the new program will be ready July 1 to renew YREs. If it is not, the old program will be used. The next Checkpoint will have current information. The NEC approved the budget for the next fiscal year. More information in the convention Treasurer's report. We also approved the Program committee's continued work on a new National program. More information at the August NEC.

The following was on the Walklist. It's a good synopsis of the convention, so I've included it. For those who couldn't make the convention in Billings, MT these past few days here's a recap of significant activities.

#### Pre-convention walks:

Around 500 participated in Monday's walk in Buffalo, WY. Hot temperatures produced faster runoff of snow in the mountains causing Clear Creek to overflow its banks in several locations, some of which were where the laid out trail went. With some quick rerouting the convention team adjusted. It was a pretty walk out and back along the creek with its rushing water.

Around 400 participated in Tuesday's walk in Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument in SE Montana. Participants overwhelmed the park for the route down the ravine leading up to the last stand hill and along the ridge the cavalry tried to hold in vain. Another sunny, hot day with comfortable morning temperatures.

#### Convention

Day 1. After a morning walk along the Yellowstone River south of Billings (high water again forced the committee to reroute us), the business began. 202 delegates and proxies out of 245 total were credentialed. In spite of rumors, there were no officer nominations from the floor so Nancy Wittenberg for Vice President and Sam Korff for Secretary were elected by acclamation. Candidates for Treasurer (Bob Morrison and Candy Purcell) and President (David Bonewitz and

Bob Wright) gave short speeches; the meet-the-candidates forum was moved to Thursday.

Bylaws amendments were decided along the lines of the NEC's recommendations, with little discussion on any of them. The proposed amendment to change the name of the NEC to a Board of Directors effective July 2019 passed by over 70%; proposed amendments to list considerations for candidates seeking office, separating regional duties from those of directors, and adjusting standing committees were soundly defeated.

In other business the necrology through June 3 was read--125 names.

The Meet-and-Greet social was held outdoors in the Red Lion Hotel courtyard. There was recorded German music and dance lessons (you'll understand why soon).

Day 2 began with workshop sessions. After a make-your-own deli sub sandwich lunch, about 35 volkspporters attended the Meet the Candidates forum and asked great questions, mostly to the candidates for president.

By the business session, credentialed individuals increased to 207.

The Treasurer reported on the AVA's financial situation. Despite a record Big Give (over \$68,000 last month), the AVA likely will run a \$70,000 deficit, with a \$110,000 deficit projected for next fiscal year largely as a result of steadily declining sanctioning and participation fees. (This would draw down AVA reserves by about 20%; at this rate) the Treasurer projects the AVA will deplete its reserves in 7-8 years.

President Dennis Michele introduced the core convention committee's 6 members and announced the results of voting on an AVA mascot--more than 75% voted for none of the 6 choices.

Publicity committee chair Andy Bacon announced publicity awards in newsletter, traditional and year-round event brochures, photography (no subcategories this year), logo, and website categories. Multiple winners include Walk 'n' Mass (3), Upstate Pathfinders in SC, and the Nebraska Wanderfreunde Trailblazers (2).

President Michele presented Hall of Fame awards to 3: Phyllis Olsen (IA), Donna Seline (MN), and Annette Tollett (VA).

Awards committee chair Linda Neu presented

- 5 Distinguished Achievement awards: Helen Bateman (TX), Maryann Brown (OR), Deborah Carter (TX), Joanne Forinash (TX), and Ed Hainline (OR)
- Trailblazer award: Washington state's Daffodil Valley Volkssport Association
- Ted Ballman youth award: Deb Kruep (IL)

Kevin Kooistra, of Billings's Western Heritage Center, gave a lengthy, informative presentation on Billings' history.

Finally, President Michele presented president's awards to Chris Zegelin (CA) and Dolores Grenier (VA).

The evening walk wound its way through downtown Billings and passed a number of local brew pubs (yes, a number of walkers stopped in one or more of these establishments). Temperatures were down to the low 90's by then.

### Day 3

The morning's walk was on the bluff above the Yellowstone River on the north side of Billings. (FYI, the convention committee had not published participation numbers for the 3 Billings walks as of publication.) After a box lunch it was time to conclude business.

By meeting time, credentialed individuals had increased to 214 out of 245.

First, President Michele recognized the current NEC. Then convention committee chair Sherry Sayers introduced Russ Palmer who spoke about the Montana Warrior Run; afterward the convention presented the run's local sponsor, the American Legion post, a check for \$500 for its work helping veterans in the community.

Albany, NY gave a detailed presentation for its bid for the 2019 convention, June 1-9. The theme is "Walk Thru History." Sal (of "Fifteen Miles on the Erie Canal" song fame) will be the mascot. All 9 clubs (2 of which are very large) are participating in the planning. The Radisson will be host hotel (tentatively \$117/single, \$132 double, including breakfast; 312 rooms are blocked) and there are plenty of eateries with varied cuisine in walking distance. Walks are planned for Portsmouth, NH, Danvers, MA, and Deerfield, MA before the convention, Saratoga, Waterford, and Albany, NY during, and Cooperstown and Hyde Park, NY post.

Finally, President Michele announced results for the election of the remaining 2 officers. For Treasurer, Bob Morrison received 104 votes to Candy Purcell's 102. For President, David Bonewitz received 186 to Bob Wright's 17.

This evening there will be a "bash." Christine Handy, cancer survivor and author of Walk Beside Me, will be featured speaker, followed by music for dancing.

Post convention walks continue in Red Lodge, MT, and Cody, WY this weekend.

Sorry you couldn't be there to enjoy it all. Bob Wright



President's Corner: Janet Traweek

1. Hello everyone! I have only been in the club a little over one year, but I have known about volkspport for years. My first walk was in Texas about 30 years ago--I grew up near Fredericksburg and my older sister took our family on a few walks in the area. I didn't walk for credit back then. A couple of years ago I remembered volkswalking and wondered if there were any walks up here, so I looked up the AVA website. Our first walk (as a family) was the Heartbreaker 2 years ago. I love to see new places, and as a parent of 2 active children I know I'd like to stay healthy. The variety of walks available here, getting to know my local community better, and having fun with other walkers are great motivators for me to get out and walk, so I am glad I've found this group.

I have just met Bob Ellis, so I don't know much to say about him, but I'd like to thank him for supporting the club by volunteering to take over the treasurer position.

A short introduction from Ethan: Hi! My name is Ethan. I'm 13 years old and I am happy to help out as Vice President. I like to run, mountain bike, snowboard and fly quadcopters.

2. 20<sup>th</sup> AVA Biennial Convention 7-9 June 2017 After Action Recap - By Louise Baltes

Day 1 at Convention – Election of AVA officers – Candidates all spoke. There were no new nominations from the floor. Nancy Wittenberg was elected by acclamation as Vice President as there were no other candidates. Sam Korff was elected Secretary in the same manner.

President and Treasurer voting was scheduled for Friday as there were two candidates for each office: David Bonewitz and Bob Wright for President, and Bob Morrison and Candice Purcell for Treasurer.

By-laws changes were discussed and voted on. The first one changing the title of the NEC to Board of Directors was passed by a wide majority. The other 3 motions were rejected and sent back to the by-laws committee for more work.

The necrology read at the end of the session contained 127 names. All lamented that so many of our walking friends have passed.

Day 2 at the Convention – Treasurer’s report and budget for next year were presented. AVA has \$829K in cash reserve, with a spend rate of over \$100K per year. Unless changes occur to the way we’re doing business, AVA will be out of business in appx 7 years. Henry Rosales has applied for 18 grants and is hoping for help by the newly elected treasurer. Several recommendations were presented, including increasing rates and charging all “free-walkers” a nominal fee to cover the \$1.25 AVA charges clubs for “non-credit walkers”. More discussion is needed.

Rejection of the mascot choices submitted with the majority of the members voting to not have a mascot as it does not conform with our core values and goals.

AVA National Awards. Ed Hainline and Maryann Brown from the NW Region were among those recognized for Distinguished Achievement Awards.

Nancy Wittenberg lamented that several award submissions may have been omitted from the official listing. Recognized for Meritorious Service from the Northwest Region included Dick and Barbara Baker, Ed Hainline, Burt and Romana Paynter, Jean Ohl, and Heidi Schurr. Recognized for 15 years of service were Tom and Louise Baltes, Regina Blake, Joe and Karen Kelly, and Carolyn Koonce. Recognized for commendable service were Carolyn Affolter, Doug Davis, Cheryl Gibbens, James Ohl, Marjorie Varner, and Jill McLean. Congratulations to all!!!!!!

Day 3 at the Convention – Dave Bonewitz was elected AVA President by a wide margin with Bob Morrison beating Candice Purcell by only 2 votes (104 to 102 votes).

Albany NY was selected for the AVA Convention for 2019. Pack your bags as this convention should be exciting for all walkers and history buffs. Pre-convention walks in Portsmouth NY, Danvers MA (Salem village witch trials), and Deerfield MA. Convention walks will be in Saratoga NP, Waterford, and Albany NY. Post-convention will be in Cooperstown (home of author of Deer Slayer and Last of the Mohicans), High Park (FDR's home), and Pohipsy NY. Plus many more YREs and seasonal available to choose from.

3. Daryl Martin Pulley July 4, 1945 ~ June 2, 2017 (age 71)



From Joe: Daryl was the first president of AWW, and served in other positions including Regional Director. He will be missed.

From Jan: A lawyer, affable, great father, and champion volkssporter, I continue to thank him often (in my mind) for all he taught me in my early days as I chair the many volkssport events in recent years. He not only influenced AWW, but most other walking clubs in the region.

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Next Meeting: July 11 - ALL ARE WELCOME! Details and map are now [at http://www.allweatherwalkers.org/static.htm](http://www.allweatherwalkers.org/static.htm) Sections that rarely change are also at this link: list of officers/valued associates, and Weekend Walking description.

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## Club Events/Weekend/Wednesday Walk Calendar:

North Bonneville - July 8, 2017

Washougal – Aug 26

Grass Valley – Oct 7

Group Walks: Wednesday Walks – 10:00 am

<http://www.vancouverusavolkssporters.org/Wed/wed.htm>

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Achievements: [please contact the editor with event and distance milestones](#)

Awards from the AVA Convention:

Meritorious Service: Barbara Baker, Dick Baker, Burt Paynter, Romana Paynter,  
and Jean Ohl

Certificate of Service 15 years: Louise Baltes, Tom Baltes

Commendable Service: Cheryl Gibbens, James Ohl, Jill McLean

Trailmaster Certification: Tom Baltes

Other:

Janet Traweek - 50 events

Ethan Nenadic - 30 events

Julia Nenadic - 30 events

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Welcome to new members – none reported

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Jan Breneman's Corner: next month

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