



All Weather News
February 2019
<http://www.allweatherwalkers.org/>
Deadline for Mar news: Feb 24



Membership Renewal - by Bob Hall, VP/Membership 360-369-8296
bobhallfamily@aol.com

It's that time of year again. Time to renew your membership to All Weather Walkers (AWW)! Your membership dues are now payable. \$6 for an individual and \$12 for a family should be sent to

Membership, All Weather Walkers
PO Box 241
Vancouver, WA 98666-0241

This year we are asking our members to review their experience and provide feedback on what you liked and where we might improve...

One way to respond is to copy the survey from the newsletter and paste it into an email and send it to Bob Hall, VP/Membership at bobhallfamily@aol.com. Another way to respond is to print the survey out, fill it in with a pen, and mail it to the club's mailing address:

PO Box 241
Vancouver WA 98666-0241

Name:

How many times do you walk per week?

0.

1-3 times.

4-5 times.

6-7 times.

How far do you typically walk per walk?

Less than 5K.

5K.

5K-10K.

More than 10K.

How many Total Year Round Events, Group Walks and Traditional Walks did you complete in 2018?

0.

1-10.

10-50.

More than 50.

How do you learn about upcoming walks. Check all that apply:

Walk Oregon (Wendy Bumgardner email)

Meetup notifications

Joe Titone emails

Pathfinders Booklet

AVA Event Search Menu

Communication from All Weather Walkers

Other club newsletters

Tom Baltes Walk and Talk

Other. Please specify:

What did you enjoy most this year?

What suggestions do you have for a better experience next year?

Are you renewing your membership? [] Yes [] No

Click here to renew: <http://allweatherwalkers.org/Application.htm>

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From: "Tom Baltes" tlbaltes@aol.com, our RD (or above)

1. **Convention Registration.** The registration link is now active at AVA.org. If you're planning to attend please register early to help planners get a good sense of the attendance and provide funds to help meet expenses already being incurred.
2. **Unavailable Events.** Due to the government shutdown, several local events are unavailable, such as the Princess Ilchee and Historic Fort Vancouver walks that start at the Fort Vancouver Visitor Center. If you're planning walks at National Parks, Monuments, etc., please check ahead to ensure the starting points are open. The Anchorage Club reported that the Westmark Hotel suffered damage during the recent earthquake and that the facility will be down for repairs. When I hear more updates I'll pass them along.
3. **Winter Challenge.** Have you started tracking your winter walks? Our two state associations are collaborating again with generous incentives to walk the next three months. With the mild weather this season Louise and I are up to seven events so far; how about you? Step it up Northwest walkers!
4. **Marketing Contract Award.** We have a very exciting opportunity and an urgent need to do something new to promote our sport! A marketing contract proposal of up to \$150,000 by the Publicity Committee with MassMedia of Las Vegas, NV was moved forward by the Board to negotiation by the Executive Director (ED). Contract will be to promote our program with a focused national campaign using perhaps 10 clubs to amplify their events with marketing assistance. We anticipate the tools developed will be shared across AVA right away, but the best chance of

success is to limit the number of clubs our contractor will work with over the next two years to get it done right, then roll out across all clubs.

5. Rebranding State Assns/Clubs. If you have a state association or club with “Volkssport” in the title please consider creating a better marketing name. Some clubs have already followed the national program by creating a dba (doing business as) name, such as my club in Vancouver—Vancouver USA Volkssporters dba Vancouver Walking Club. Doesn’t change who we are, what we do or change our history, but does allow easier introduction to prospective walkers. This allows us to move Volkssporting further back into the conversation when describing our program to new walkers.

6. Free Walker Study. As you may know, Sam Korff conducted a year and a half AVA study of “free walkers” and reported his findings at this Board meeting. His recommendation was to put the issue to the membership at the convention for a vote whether to retain or eliminate it, rather than having the Board vote. This issue is and has been for years the most contentious issue in our program. Why? Because free walking is non-existent internationally and about three fourths of our AVA community has none or very limited use of free walking. More to the point, under our current billing procedures, AVA doesn’t receive any revenue from clubs for those who walk for free. Without going through all the details of the study or the issue, I can tell you the Northwest reports approximately 51% of all AVA free walkers, or about 8,000 per year. An informal vote of the Board showed that a motion to eliminate free walking would pass and the consensus is that a vote by the membership would run about the same. However, after some discussion and presentation of other data about how our region contributes financially to the success of AVA, the Board voted to defer the vote and give us some time to work on reducing the extent of free walking, but not totally eliminate it. I believe it is a good recruiting tool to bring new walkers into the program, but we need to understand that from a standpoint of fairness, we need all participants in our sport to help fund the program, not just those who stamp books. The idea that our participation fee is paid for the stamp some walker receive has long been an inaccurate representation of the fee, as most of the overhead expense is not about the stamping. While many non-credit walkers give donations at our walks, that donation money is not routinely shared in support of our national office. One point that was well received by the Board is that our Northwest clubs’ generosity in the Big Give in recent years and toward the 401K challenge partially offsets that lack of shared revenue. What I’d like to do is engage in some dialogue through our state associations about setting goals for reducing free walking and educating all walkers on the need to help fund our national program, as well as our clubs. Even if all free walkers paid or clubs paid for them and we have good participation

in the Big Give, we're still short over \$50k per year in our budget, but every bit helps.

7. 2020 AVA Challenges. Bonnie Johnson, in her final year managing the Special Programs Committee presented three new challenges for approval: Celebrating American Flight, Mayflower 400th Anniversary Walks and Rockin' Around the Clock. All three were approved and are going to be excellent challenges.

8. Achievement Book Processing. Karen Winkle at AVA will accept and process event/distance books for all Volkssporters by mail or you can scan the entire book and email to her at Karen@ava.org. Front of books must be legibly filled out, all pages scanned and indicate if you desire pins/patches/certificates. Still working on procedure for updating your passport books, as that is your most important permanent record. More to follow.

Janet sent out

- a) Walk Talk #18
- b) Corridor to Convention
- c) Centralia Train ride and walk
- d) Walk Talk #19

Jan Breneman reported: Joan Heins passed away Thursday, January 17. She was a long-time volkswalker and member of our club, All Weather Walkers, and Discovery Walks. Her family will be holding a celebration of life for her on March 16, at 11 a.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Vancouver (off Andresen near Highway 14).

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Next Meeting: Feb 12 - ALL ARE WELCOME!

Details and map are now at

<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:

Vancouver Murals, 5/25/19
Ridgefield Birdfest, 10/05/19

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](#)

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Welcome to new members – Candy Freitas

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AWW Meeting 11 Dec 2018

The meeting was called to order by Janet Traweek at 6:35 pm in the Salmon Creek Hospital. The minutes of the 13 Nov meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer's Report: Opening balance \$3,796.07, income \$100.00, expenses \$113.97, and closing balance was \$3,782.10.

Membership Report: No new members reported. No new membership renewals received.

Announcements:

- Cookies. Janet thanked all club members for bringing such a great variety and quantity of cookies for our walk box hosts and club members to sample.
- Biddlewood Walk Box. The Biddlewood walk box will be removed from Fred Meyers at the end of the year and returned to VUSAV due to the Club's decision not to sanction that event for 2019.
- Stevenson Seasonal Event. The Club will take over Stevenson as a seasonal event 1 Apr-31 Oct for 2019.

Old Business

- Club Standing Rules Amended. Janet passed out the committee's proposed update to the Club's Standing Rules. After a brief discussion, all changes to the Club's Standing Rules were unanimously approved.

New Business

- Traveling Guided Walk Stamp. Tom recommended the Club consider a Traveling Guided Walk Stamp for 2019 in order to host walks in flexible locations and take advantage of 2019 gaps in the calendar. Walks would

generally be on rural trails, normally not heavily attended, and wouldn't need a big staff. Potential locations for use would be areas like Frenchman's Bar and the Pinebrook neighborhood. Cost is \$75; breakeven is 3 events. Members were asked to think about other uses and the decision was postponed until next meeting.

- Walk Box Owners. Bob Ellis reminded walk box owners to update their walk boxes for 2019 and close out their data for the quarter and year. Please get your data to Dick Baker at the January meeting, as Bob Ellis is not available.
- Club Secretary Replacement. Nira Lang needs to step down as Secretary due to health issues. Anyone interested please contact Janet.
- AWW Survey. Bob Hall passed out a brief survey to Club members and asked them to return it filled out by next meeting.

Regional Director Notes

- AVA Coupons. The motion to delete the requirement to mail in AVA coupons after events is being considered, but AVA uses these coupons for more than financial accounting. AVA and clubs should use the coupon data to follow up with new walkers, if not, we may all be missing a valuable outreach opportunity. After collecting the data, clubs can scan and email the coupons to AVA instead of mailing them.
- AVA Convention Registration. Registration for the Jun 2019 AVA Convention in Albany NY will soon be going live. It should be a great convention with a lot of fantastic training and events.
- Club Standing. AVA is vetting all clubs to ensure they are in good standing for Convention voting. AWW needs to determine who their representative will be for the Convention.
- GroupWorks. GroupWorks is a communication platform funded by United Health and available to health-related nonprofit organizations. All AVA club officers were asked to join GroupWorks and explore its potential to see if it's something AVA should adopt. Please give it a good look.
- Clark County Biking and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Tom has been selected to join the Clark County Biking and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and will act as an advocate for walkers. In this position, he'll have more access to officials in the city, county, community and WADOT. Jan asked him to inquire whether the Wayfaring effort was still being considered.

Meeting Snacks: Provided by Club Members.

Next Meeting: Tues, 8 Jan 2019 at 6:30 Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital Cafeteria.

Next Meeting Snacks: Tom and Louise Baltes

The meeting was adjourned.

Louise Baltes, Acting Secretary

AWW Meeting 8 Jan 2019

The meeting was called to order by Janet Traweek at 6:35 pm in the Salmon Creek Hospital. The minutes of the 11 Dec meeting were approved as published. Treasurer's Report: Opening balance \$3,782.10, income \$103.50, expenses \$144.50, and closing balance was \$3,741.10.

Membership Report: Membership renewals are almost half complete. In attendance was a new member, Candice (Candy) Freitas.

Announcements:

- Winter Walking Challenge. The ESVA/OTSVVA Winter Walking Challenge is in full swing so you can start counting your walks toward the \$100, \$75, and \$50 gift card prizes. Contest rules and logs for tracking your events can be found on the ESVA website: www.esva.online/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/2019-Winter-Walk-Contest-Challenge-29-Oct-18.pdf
- Walking Canada. AVA's 2019 virtual online walking program is a walk across Canada. Cost is \$22.00 to enter the challenge. For more information see the AVA website: www.ava.org/Walking_Canada.php

Old Business

- Traveling Guided Walk Stamp. The decision to purchase a traveling guided walk stamp was tabled as the club felt it may not host enough walks to pay for the stamp. Tom recommended doing a guided walk in late Oct/early Nov in the Camas area which would go past a little free library, one of AVA's newest challenges. Tom and Janet will work together on the sanctioning process.
- Club Secretary Replacement. Anyone interested in the Club Secretary position please contact Janet Traweek.
- AWW Membership Survey. Bob Hall received interesting feedback on the brief survey he passed out to club officers and select members. To gain further insight from all club members, Bob will contact Joe Titone to get his survey attached to the Club Newsletter. If members have not taken this survey, please do so and return it to Bob.

New Business

- Guided Walk Opportunities. There is still a lot of openings in the Aug through Dec walking schedule. If you have an area you'd like to walk through, please let us hear your ideas.
- AWW Representative to AVA Convention. Bob Hall was appointed as the official AWW representative for the Albany NY AVA Convention in Jun.
- Silent Auction Ideas. AWW would like to have a silent auction item for the AVA Convention. Please let Janet know your recommendations.

- Regional Director/Deputy Regional Director. The club voted to support Tom Baltes as Regional Director and Dennis Standridge as Deputy Regional Director in a provisional vote.

Regional Director Notes

- Guided Walks Between CRVC/ESVA Sep Events. Need to plan a series of walks to coincide with the 3-4 travel days between the CRVC's Salute to Central Oregon in Bend, OR on 12-15 Sep and ESVA's 20-22 Sep Roundup in Winthrop, WA events. Tom will discuss with WA and OR key players.

- NEC Board Meeting in Tucson 11-13 Jan. Tom will share his director's notes following the NEC meeting. A full agenda is planned, from awarding contracts, revising policy, and fine-tuning the upcoming AVA Convention details. Meeting Snacks: Provided by Tom and Louise Baltes.

Next Meeting: Tues, 12 Feb 2019 at 6:30 Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital Cafeteria.

Next Meeting Snacks: Dick and Barbara Baker

The meeting was adjourned.

Louise Baltes, Acting Secretary

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