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## NERD News – September, 2023

Good day, Club leaders in the Northeast!

As I write this, the sun is shining and Autumn is in the air. Even though we've had some cool mornings, Labor Day weekend has turned out to be quite hot and sunny in Boston.

First, I want to thank Wayne Knapp for his capable leadership and the generosity of his time in getting me up to speed as the DRD over the past two years. I was disappointed that he chose to step down, but I know he will continue to be a help to the Northeast and to AVA.

I also want to thank the large majority of the clubs for submitting their walks to be sanctioned. As you know, the September 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for getting walks in the *Starting Point* book will be here before we know it! Eileen Skinner (NE Deputy Director) from ESCV and I have continued a practice Wayne and I started in 2021, which is to share the task of sanctioning walks. The task is not at all so onerous that one person cannot accomplish it with ease, but it does give the Deputy a chance to become familiar with many of the clubs in the region. I really appreciated this opportunity.

### Board News

As most of you know, John McClellan had to step down from the AVA Board Vice-Chair position. We will all miss his competent leadership in so many past events. Luckily, several capable leaders stepped up to apply for the position. At the August 23<sup>rd</sup> Zoom Board meeting, Carl Cordes was elected to the position. We all wish Carl well in this important position.

A proposal was put forward on which I would **greatly appreciate your input**. We will be discussing it at the October Board meeting in Arlington, VA. I have attached the proposal below. Please share with your clubs and provide your input via email or phone. I have attached the file as a PDF. If you need a hard copy, please let me know.

### The Big Give

Information about our annual opportunity to support the work of AVA is included in the August *Checkpoint* (link below). However, I want to emphasize a message from the Checkpoint: **Your contributions have helped with the purchase of equipment necessary for walks to take place, as well as sustain the program and administrative operation of the organization. Your continued support will help us reach our goal of 90k.**

### Dates to remember:

**ONLINE GIVING STARTS WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER13, 2023**

**ONLINE 24-HOUR MATCH FUNDRAISER STARTS @ 6:00PM ON WEDNESDAYSEPT20TH through THURSDAYSEPT21 @ 6:00PM**

**YOU MAY ALSO MAIL IN YOUR CHECKS TO THE AVA NATIONAL OFFICE NOW through OCTOBER 31ST.**

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### **TAW goes remote!**

I have attached a link to the most recent edition of *TAW* for your information. This will significantly enhance our ability to see what is happening with clubs in our region and around the country. See the *Checkpoint* for more details and FAQs about the remote version of *TAW*

I'm quite sure you all receive the *Checkpoint* and share it with your clubs, but if you don't it's very easy to get on the mailing list. As soon as you log in to my.AVA.org, the first question you are asked is if you wish to receive the *Checkpoint*. If you click on "Yes" you are automatically added to the email list.

### **Membership information**

Finally, Susan Pinneke, North Central Regional Director and Membership Committee member, is asking for club presidents to: "please review and verify the membership count in My.AVA.org by **Monday, September 11**.

They will find that box at the bottom of the "Mng Contacts" tab. Club Home/Profile/Mng Contacts.

It shouldn't take anyone more than a couple of minutes.

Many thanks for your help, it is appreciated!"

Please let me know if you have any questions about this. Let me know if your membership data are accurate and if not, please send the correct numbers to [ne\\_rd@ava.org](mailto:ne_rd@ava.org)

### **Next regional gathering in the planning stages.**

Those of you who were able to attend the Walk 'n Mass weekend last May in Hyannis know how wonderful it is to get together and walk with members of other clubs in the region. What a great time we had! And the Niagara Falls weekend is still a fond memory for me. The next gathering multistate event is being planned for September 6-8, 2024. **Andrew Schmidt** of the Volkssport Club at West Point and **Carol West** of the Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club have teamed up with Wayne Knapp, me and a few others to plan the event. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned as details come out. Luckily, Bea Haite of the Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club has agreed to lend her incredible managerial support in helping us attend to the necessary details.

### **Regional Zoom Meetings?**

Wayne Knapp had a great idea to hold a couple regional remote meetings throughout his term. I thought it was a great idea. And I'm wondering if you also found them helpful. If so, please let me know and I will send out a few dates as a possibility. I thought we could have one sometime after the October Board meeting.

That's all the news right now. Please feel free to email me with any questions or comments and especially let me know if you want to have a remote Northeast meeting. I hope you have many opportunities to enjoy this upcoming Autumn!

Carol Giesecke

## Attachments

**Checkpoint** (copy link and paste in your browser) August, 2023 link:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=d4596a2b5a&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1773699441612416509&th=189d723ea39de5fd&view=att&disp=inline>

**TAW** September, 2023 link:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=d4596a2b5a&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1775436384464863061&th=18a39dfc2954ff55&view=att&disp=inline&realattid=18a39d1f4c7929cb0751>



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