

The Pacer Pulse

The Official Publication of the Penn Dutch Pacers Volksmarching Club

Spring 2020

A Word from the President

Greetings Penn Dutch Pacers members and friends,

The year 2020 is starting out to be a difficult one for our club, with the departure of our previous president, Jane, for bigger opportunities out west, and no one in an obvious position to fill her capable shoes. So here I am, ready or not, to try to keep the ship on course and not sail into a big rock.

Our "big rock" is our worsening financial situation, brought about in large part by fewer and fewer walkers participating in our events, year after year. The club is not bringing in enough money from our walks and membership dues to pay our expenses, the biggest of which is the rental fee on a storage unit.

The storage unit is used to keep all the supplies that our trailmaster, David, needs in order to set up for each traditional event. David does not have the room to keep these supplies at his house, nor should he have to. The supplies include tables, chairs, signs, start point and check point needs in various bins, water coolers, etc. The rented storage unit works out well because David can access it whenever he needs to, on his schedule, and pull his vehicle right up to the unit for easy loading. We are trying to come up with other options for storage, but none of them would give us the convenience we have now. If there is any possible way to keep the use of the rented storage unit, that would be our preference. However, it comes at a steep price, currently \$57 a month, for a total of \$684 per year.

Now comes the plea for help: Please consider helping Penn Dutch Pacers to stay afloat and continue to provide quality walks in Lancaster county in one of the following ways:

- 1. Participate in our traditional events.** Bring a friend and introduce them to volksmarching. See the list of our upcoming walks in this newsletter.
- 2. Participate in our year-round events (YREs).** If every one of our 71 members could commit to walking one of our 2020 YREs in each quarter of the year (we have YREs in Ephrata, Mount Joy, Lititz, and Lancaster), I calculate that would bring in an additional \$468 to our club, after deducting the portion of each \$3 fee we must pay to AVA. We also have a new bike YRE this year, which begins at the same start point as the Lititz YRE walk.
- 3. Make a donation to help with the storage unit fees.** Perhaps you could "sponsor" a month of rental (\$57) or a portion thereof. We already have one member who has agreed to sponsor the month of March. If you would be able to make a donation, please mail it to Penn Dutch Pacers, PO Box 7445, Lancaster, PA, 17604-7445 and note that your check is intended as a donation to the club. Or you can make a contribution in the "Donations" bucket at our traditional events.
- 4. Suggest a place where we could get convenient storage for our event supplies** that would cost us less than the \$57 per month we pay currently. (Free would be great!) Do you have space in a garage or shed that we might use for this purpose? You may contact our trailmaster, David, at dmtmbarber@comcast.net with any leads on storage locations.
- 5. Renew your membership with Penn Dutch Pacers,** if you have been advised it is expiring. There were 19 people whose membership expired in 2019 who did not renew. Membership dues help us to run the club. You may contact our membership chair, Monica, at dmtmbarber@comcast.net with any questions about membership.
- 6. Come to one of our monthly meetings,** meet the people who make Penn Dutch Pacers events happen, and consider getting involved. We need volunteers in order to hold events and generate income.

To all of you who take the time to volunteer at our events, those who have already placed a few dollars in our donations bucket from time to time, and anyone else who helps the club in countless ways, a big THANK YOU. Please see our website, www.avaclubs.org/pdp for information on upcoming events and monthly meetings.

See you on the trail,

Virginia Hunsberger



Let's Go for a Group Walk!

What: Group walk of the Ephrata YRE, 10K and 5K walks

When: Saturday, April 4, meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Where: Hampton Inn & Suites, 300 E. Main St., Ephrata

Why: To commemorate AVA's National Walking Week

Come and celebrate Spring with other Penn Dutch Pacers as we explore Ephrata.

And Rivertowns Is Coming Up!

Friday, April 24 - Sunday, April 26, 2020

8:00 AM—1:00 PM

**Sponsored by the Penn Dutch Pacers, Susquehanna Rovers,
and York White Rose Wanderers**

- **Start Point:** Columbia Crossing River Trails Center, 41 Walnut St., Columbia, PA 17512
- **Routes:** There will be three routes: in Columbia, Marietta, and Wrightsville. The Columbia Walk, sponsored by the Penn Dutch Pacers, will feature the Civil War and Underground Railway history of Columbia as well as the Northwest Lancaster County River Trial. Some historic sites included in the route are Wright's Ferry Mansion, Mt. Bethel Cemetery, and the Turkey Hill Experience, as well as Zion Hill Cemetery – the burial site of many black soldiers who fought in the Civil War (some of these soldiers are from the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, portrayed in the 1989 film "Glory").

Pacers By the YRE Numbers

2019	1st Quarter			2nd Quarter			3rd Quarter			4th Quarter			TOTAL
	Paid	Free	Total	Paid	Free	Total	Paid	Free	Total	Paid	Free	Total	
EPHRATA	4	0	4	7	0	7	10	0	10	2	0	2	23
BIRD-IN-HAND—Walk	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	0	3	1	0	1	4	0	4	8
BIRD-IN-HAND—Bike	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	0	1	3	0	3	4	0	4	12
LANCASTER—Cty. Park	3	0	3	2	0	2	3	0	3	4	0	4	12
LANCASTER—Th.Stevens	5	0	5	4	0	4	5	0	5	9	0	9	23
LITITZ	9	0	9	19	0	19	17	0	17	3	1	4	49
MOUNT JOY—6 Parks	3	0	3	11	2	13	8	0	8	4	1	5	29
STRASBURG	4	0	4	10	1	11	2	0	2	10	0	10	27
2019 stats	28	0	28	57	3	60	46	0	46	36	2	38	172

YRE Comparative Statistics Report

	1st Quarter			2nd Quarter			3rd Quarter			4th Quarter			TOTAL
	Paid	Free	Subtotal	Paid	Free	Subtotal	Paid	Free	Subtotal	Paid	Free	Subtotal	
2018 stats	42	0	42	73	0	73	64	0	64	51	0	51	230
2017 stats	118	8	126	123	2	125	127	7	134	55	11	66	451
2016 stats	62	0	62	64	1	65	83	0	83	128	7	135	345
2015 stats	56	2	58	155	10	165	100	5	105	80	7	87	415
2014 stats	128	3	131	117	4	121	118	9	127	86	13	99	478
2013 stats	111	7	118	179	9	188	141	5	146	111	10	121	573
2012 stats	197	17	214	124	13	137	176	6	182	123	7	130	663

What's a Guided Walk? - A Brief Explanation

The following information is drawn from a recent email by Mike Green, AVA Atlantic Region Director

Guided Walks (GW) are just traditional one-day events where the club specifies a limited start time window for event registration, then the club provides guides for the group doing the walk on the day of the event. Like any other TE, a GW must be sanctioned 90 days in advance and the sanction fee is \$30.

Traveling Guided Walks (TGW) are a special kind of Guided walk. Before a club is permitted to sanction a TGW, it must sanction at least one TE first (and have it approved by the RD). The event date of the TE can any time in during the year but the RD approval of this event is required before the RD can approve a TGW walk.

When a club sanctions its first TGW, the sanctioning fee is \$75. When a club sanctions its second and TGW, there is no sanctioning fee. So if a club is planning on doing at least one TE and a lot TGWs, then the club can save sanctioning costs. One other thing, the club will be sent a single stamp for only the first TGW event and this should be used for any following TGWs in that year. All TGW's must be sanctioned and approved, but after the first TGW, later TGWs can submitted for approval after the normal 90 day limit since AVA HQ will be not be sending a stamp for these events.