



One of the 'benefits' to being a Regional Director is the ability to go to places and have a walk set up just for you. This past weekend (January 20-22) the National Executive Council met in Rogers, Arkansas for a very long and involved NEC meeting (the agenda was 149 pages long!) where we presented the current status of the convention planning. I took this photo as we were finishing our guided walk, just as the sun was coming up.

20th AVA Biennial Convention

JANUARY 2017

Welcome!

Good day everyone, and welcome to the 20th AVA Biennial Convention Newsletter. I hope everyone had a wonderful and joyous holiday season. I do apologize for the delay, but too many things to do with too little time to document it.

Questions and Answers

I appreciate the questions I have received. I will attempt to answer them here, as many are of general interest.

- Susan asks: When will the convention registration prices and registration be available?
 - Convention Registration will be turned on February 1, 2017. It will be a completely online registration and payment, and will be accessible from the convention web site.
 - If you know someone who wants to pre-register for the convention but does not have a computer or an email address, please let us know at 'info@2017AVAConvention.org'. We will contact them and do the registration for them. They can also contact AVA headquarters at 210-659-2112 and they will put them in contact with us to get them registered. You can also add them to your registration, as we allow multiple registrations at the same time with one payment.
 - Cost of the full convention will be \$295, before Annual and Lifetime Associate Member discounts. There will also be the ability to sign up for specific parts only.

The American Wanderer

There are several articles that will appear in the February/March issue (just out) of The American Wanderer. On the front page, 'Stepping Out of Bounds in Billings', Sherry describes the first event in Billings that goes along the Yellowstone River, onto Norm's Island and into Riverfront Park. Below that, also on the front page (Whoo Hoo – two articles!) Frank walks us through (pun intended) the President's Walk in downtown Billings, past the many breweries for our pleasure. On the center pages we describe the Swords Rimrock Trail happening on Friday morning in Billings. For our proposed events, visit the convention web site under the Events tab. Also inside this issue on Page 17, Lynette Reagan talks about the planning of your trip to the convention, starting at Crazy Horse June 3-4.

The Convention Hotel

The Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center is the headquarters hotel for our convention. The walks in Billings start there, and all the meetings and socials are there as well. The Silent Auction is a way for you to assemble a donation that reflects your club, your region and your interests that someone will enjoy, and the money benefits the AVA and yourself with a tax deduction. The Convention Center area is where all the vendor tables will be placed, all containing useful information – see near the bottom of the convention web site home page for photos. Of course, once you have

decided on your schedule there will be many opportunities to volunteer in all areas. Please see the volunteer tab (thanks to Joe for spotting an incorrect link!)

Planning your Trip to the Convention

Check out Susan Medlin's article on page 14 in TAW. You can use the current capabilities of <http://AVA.org> using the Interactive maps (Events->Interactive Maps) to see those Traditional, Seasonal and Year-Round Events that are on YOUR way to the convention. There are opportunities from every direction.

The Convention Web Site

You will find it at <http://2017AVAConvention.org>. As I make changes to the site, they do not always show up when you check because your browser caches the information to make it quicker to load. If you have not been to the site for a while, please click on the 'Refresh' button at the top of a page to insure you can see the latest content. Of course, I say that because I have made changes to several of the pages recently, and soon there will be an additional tab for the registration.

Stay Tuned

Watch for the monthly newsletters. If something critical comes up, you may see it more often. During the convention itself we will be publishing a daily newsletter with schedules and participation. Connect with the web site to be as current as can be.

See you on the trails.

Sherry Sayers
20th AVA Biennial Convention Committee ChairPerson

Frank Sayers
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NEC Liaison to the Convention

