



# 20th AVA Biennial Convention

JUNE 2016

## Welcome!

Good day everyone, and welcome to the very first edition of the 20<sup>th</sup> AVA Biennial Convention Newsletter. We will make every attempt to publish one each month up until the convention itself during the first week of June next year. Sheesh! That Soon! Get Ready – here we come!

## Questions and Answers

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

- Dave asks: I can't wait for the convention. How can I view the video that was shown during the presentation made in Portland?
  - Actually, it was Salem. I have placed the video on the convention web site, <http://2017avaconvention.org/downloads.html> where you can either view it or download it and view it. There are several different formats.
- Carol says: Suggest lodging information on the website, especially interested in any RV lodging.
  - Of course, the first option is to stay at the convention hotel, the Billings Hotel and Convention Center. You can make your reservations now using code AVA617. In the Billings area there are several other hotel chains and at least three RV parks. We are working on negotiating a discount, but I do not yet have finalized information for that.
- From Brian: For pre- and post-convention walks, is the expectation that we will find and secure our own lodgings, or will AVA suggest locations with special rates as it's doing for the Convention? I ask because if we're on our own, I want to get a head start in securing lodging through providers such as Airbnb.
  - The expectation is you will find and secure your own lodging. We are working with several different hotels and RV parks in Buffalo, Red Lodge and Cody (as well as Billings in case you miss out on the convention hotel) for favorable discounts, and will make those known as soon as they are finalized.
- Cindy asks: Do you have a pdf brochure yet?
  - Nope. I expect it will be available before the online registration becomes active. We still have some work to do to finalize all of the details.
- Carol wants to know: How far are the walks during the convention in terms of mileage or driving time? Will shuttle bus service to these walks be available for a fee?
  - There will not be transportation provided for the pre- and post-convention events. If you start from Crazy Horse (NOT a convention walk), it is 150 miles to Buffalo, Wyoming for the first pre-convention walk on Monday June 5. Then it is 105 miles to Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, and that is about 60 miles from Billings. All of the events in Billings start at the hotel. If transportation is necessary it will be

included in the cost of the event. The first post-convention event is in Red Lodge, Montana, 60 miles. Then on Sunday Cody, Wyoming is about 60 miles further on.

If you have any questions, please email them to [info@2017AVAConvention.org](mailto:info@2017AVAConvention.org) and we will answer them as soon as we can.

## NEC Meeting Convention Report

The AVA's National Executive Council will be meeting in Fredericksburg, Texas June 10-12 during the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration by Volkssportverein Friedrichsburg (AVA-0001). Here is the convention committee report for that meeting.

- Accomplishments: Reservations are open for the convention hotel. Use code AVA617. Billingshotel.net; Pre- and post-convention walks scoped out except LBHNM; Convention walks scoped out except for the Rims; Basic business schedule laid out, including longer workshops; Probable multiple keynote speakers.
- Activities: Normal convention work to prepare the above; Presented the PowerPoint at the Canadian Convention; research continues on awards, signage and volunteer sign-up.

## The American Wanderer

Also attached are the two articles that appeared in the June/July issue of The American Wanderer. On the front page, 'Stepping Out of Bounds', Lynette gives an overview of the convention events, and inside on page 4 Sherry gives an overview of Billings.

## The Convention Web Site

Those of you that maintain your club's web sites know how time consuming it can be. I will admit I am a bit behind, but will be working on updating while traveling to the NEC meeting in Texas.

Near the bottom of the home page is the link to the downloads (see question above) as well as a couple of interesting videos. We are still designing the actual convention logo, and it will be made known as soon as we know.

The newsletter tab will have this newsletter posted. As well, there is a 3-minute video capturing some of our volkssporting adventures. This could be shared with non-volkssporters to introduce them to us. Please feel free. Appearing on the lower left side are some foot prints. Clicking on these will take you back to the top of the page.

Our volunteer page is still under construction. This convention will be run entirely by volunteers. We are still coming up with the lists for what positions need to be filled. We need some long-term volunteers that will chair the different areas, as well as hundreds and hundreds of individuals for short periods of time during the convention to make everything run well. I hope to have the sign-up site ready Real Soon Now, with this page having the links to it all.

Under the walks tab is information about the events being held. I think I will change that tab to Events, because we have not only walks, but a swim and bike event planned. Hmm.

The Business tab shows the preliminary schedule of the workshops and general sessions for the two and one-half day convention proper. Each item will be fleshed out as more details are confirmed.

The Contact tab will send us an email. We will take care of it just as soon as we can.

## 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  
20<sup>th</sup> AVA Biennial Convention Committee ChairPerson

Frank Sayers  
Rocky Mountain Regional Director  
NEC Liaison to the Convention