



## A SPECIAL TIME TO VOLKSWALK 10:11 12/13/14

How special? A similar numerical occurrence will not be experienced until two minutes after one a.m. on March 4<sup>th</sup> in 2105. I dare say that only two of the smiling faces in the large group photo will have any chance of being present for the 1.2.3.4.5 volkswalk. Bet you can't guess about whom I am talking.

This photo was taken by Jeanne Miller (in the **Time To Walk!** shirt)...remotely as you can tell. Put the camera on a tripod...punch the 10 second delay button...run like hell...SMILE! Jeanne and husband Steve (way in the back with the dark stand-up hair) are the POCs for the two Fremont YREs, and as such, were instrumental in spearheading this once-in-a-walking-life event (along with the Spauldings and Mel Bohn). Did I miss anyone?

The group crammed together in the corner of the Hy-Vee café in Fremont. The café was **PACKED** with hungry shoppers who wondered what the heck was going on. In fact, I think that guy in the very back in the tan ballcap was just a "man off the street" who wandered into the group accidentally. **NO! NO! I take that back... that's our good friend Dave Johnson,,,the guy with the foot-shaped, comfortable shoes.** You can't see them in this group photo, but take my word on it, he has no shoes. He has feet on his feet. I will point his special shoes out in another photo.

I note here that we did **NOT** get everyone into the group photo. We at least missed the Schlachter party of five...three generations...you will meet Granddad and Grandma Schlachter and their offspring a bit later in this retrospective. I don't know how they slipped away from us. Maybe they were still eating their donuts.

Pat Brinker from Rock Island says the Quad-Cities club (Hawkeye Hikers) had a bragging rights turn out of 69 walkers for their 10.11.12.13.14 walk. Her email pipeline indicated both the GDMVA (Des Moines) and the Tulsa Walking Club each fielded a team of 25 walkers. So it looks like NWFT came in a strong second in the numbers count for the Central Plains.

Final thought about the group photo...the guy who should have been front and center is actually back and corner in the photo. He is hidden behind his wife Sheila. The Man of the Hour, Jim Goeltz, was celebrating his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday on 12/13/14. He's a Wisconsin native, thus the reason for the **green** and **gold** outfit. His **Green Bay Packers** colors give him away. Happy Birthday, Jim.



**JUST COULDN'T WAIT:** Sandy and Bill Spielman from the Lincoln Volkssport Club couldn't wait for the group photo. We met them in the Hy-Vee parking lot as we headed toward the store. They had another commitment and had to walk quickly to get back to Lincoln to their other event. I suspect that Sandy also wanted to be first out on the trail so that she would have first shot at all the loose change that always lies along a volkswalk trail. She is the "money vacuum."

**FIVE FRIENDLY FACES:**

They are registered, have consumed their donuts, and are now awaiting the group photo, so that they can get out on the trail before 10:11 a.m. Shown in the Hy-Vee are Dave Johnson, Larry & Marge Leinen, Carol Johnson, and Sandy Spaulding. Note the **poinsettia** in the foreground...the store was decked out in all of its holiday finery. Note that Dave appears to be shoeless. Actually he is NOT...he is wearing feet on his feet. Dave says that these "feet" are the most comfortable walking wear he has ever found. The big foot prints in mud and snow probably do cause many false claims of an Abominable Snowman on the loose, though.







**MAKING IT OFFICIAL:** Ray and Lynn Richardson are registered by Mel Bohn with Butch Spaulding in the background.

**St. RITA'S PROGENY:** Pictured waiting for the group photo are Rita Eldrige's daughters, Catherine and Jeanne, and husbands Ed and Steve. They were proxying for St. Rita who chose to stay at her residence at New Cassel to attend to other tasks. Word on the street is that Saturday morning is when the weekly poker game is held, and that there were a couple of old dudes that she wanted to "relieve" of their Social Security checks. (Just kidding. Would a saint do such a thing?)





**AND AWAY WE GO!:** (previous page) The 10:11 12/13/14 trekkers pour out of the Hy-Vee to be certain of being well into the volkswalk by 10:11 a.m. From left: Carol & Dave Johnson, Marge & Larry Leinen and Jerry & Karen Dix.



**AND AWAY WE GO, TOO!:** There is Jim...can't hide all day. From left: Jim & Sheila Goeltz, Julie & Tim Brown, Jill Champley, Steve Miller, Karen Dix-Johnson, Jim & Diane Fenlon, and Margalee Thomas and Ella Epp. Marg and Ella are long-time members of the Wellness Wanderers (York). The other nine walkers have the NWFT as their home AVA club.



**THE MNTS CONTINGENT:**

Though the Mid-Nebraska Trail Seeker club is no more, there are still avid walkers from that club as is shown by this photo. On the right are Jim & Martha McGahan. Behind them are Joe & Bonnie Watkins.

And...the rest are the Schlachter parents/grandparents...Bill & Gloria...with daughter Jill and her two daughters Alexa (left) and Isabel. Martha (English) and I (chemistry) had the distinct pleasure of working with Jill when she was a student at Grand Island Northwest High School.

I, being 70 years old, and not as spry as Jeanne Miller, took this photo sans me. Then Joe took another photo and I Photoshopped me back into this photo from Joe's shot. You see now why photos no longer should be used as legal evidence?



**ANYONE WANT TO BUY A FRESH DONUT?:** One of the more pleasurable tasks upon becoming president is taking care of the left-over pastries. Mel was not getting takers on his offer of another donut. I suspect that that evening the donuts were sitting on his kitchen table begging to be eaten. Better his table than mine. They would NOT have lived very long on my table.



**LET THE WALKING BEGIN:** We made it! It is shortly BEFORE 10 a.m. Everyone is out and about. Shown at the beginning of the 10 km trail on 23 Steet (Highway 30...the Lincoln Highway) are (from left) Rachel & Mary Wise, Butch Spaulding, Sharon Nielsen, Sandy Spaulding, Mel Bohn, Martha McGahan, Joe & Bonnie Watkins. It was cloudy, but other than that, it was a nearly perfect December walking day. Note that some are in shirt sleeves and others are comfortable with their coats flying open...no Alberta Clipper that day!





**WHEN VOLKSWALK TRAILS COLLIDE!:** The Watkins, Martha, and Mel stop for a moment to figure what to do next, only to run into Jim & Diane Fenlon who wonder which group has screwed up, since we are on a collision course. Not to worry...some are doing the 10 km trail and some are doing the 5 km trail. It appears from that little shopping bag as if Diane took a break from volkswalking to buy Jim something for Christmas. Same story...second verse (Photo 3). Mel and Sandy pass by Julie, Tim, and Sheila taking a break at the Fremont Post Office...ZIP Code 68025. The threesome were awaiting Jim Goeltz, who took advantage of a trip by the post office to conduct postal business.



**NOW WE HAVE ALL OUR DUCKS IN A ROW:** As is fitting...President Mel is leading the volks folks toward downtown Fremont and a successful completion of the 10:11 12/13/14 volkswalk.





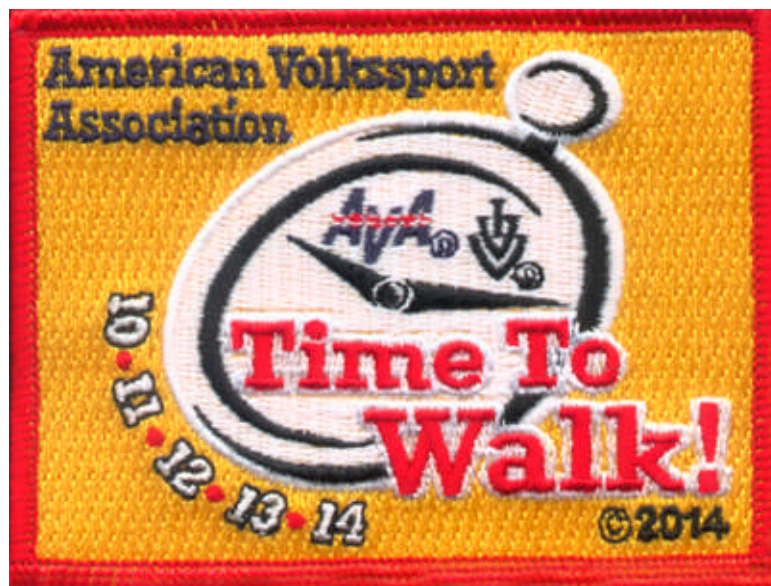
**WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS:** It is fitting that the last photo I shot was one of Lynn & Ray Richardson with the backdrop of holiday-draped downtown Fremont. We are going to use Lynn & Ray as proxies for the rest of us to wish you and yours:

**Happy Hanukkah**

**Happy Festivus**

**Merry Christmas**

**Happy New Year**



**See you on the volkswalk trail early in 2015!**