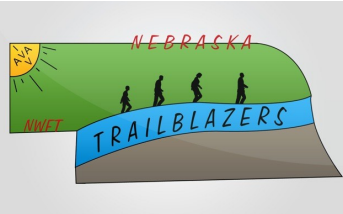
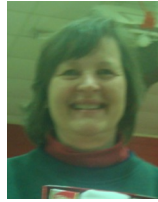


Footsteps



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The Prez Sez

Welcome to the New Year! I hope it is another year of great

walks and great weather. It's cold out there--a great time to check out the Westroads Mall walk. We have had to make a slight change to the directions as they closed the food court on Valentine's Day. The few food vendors left will be moving upstairs sometime in March with two of them located by the children's play area. The new food hall, "Flagship Commons," is very unique with interesting food choices. Think sushi and salads.

We want to give a great big congratulations to this year's Walkers of the Year. This well-deserved honor goes to Jim and Martha McGahan. They have had a big impact on volksmarching across the US as well as in our own state.

Our first three regular events are all planned with start points at three new locations. As always, we will be looking for volunteers to help with the soup walk. We need kitchen help as well as the usual greeter, checkpoint and finish table. Remember to bring soup and, if you would like, some dessert treats to share.

The April walk will be staffed mostly by Boy Scouts. In May, the start, checkpoint and finish will all be at the same place. Pete and Claudia have offered to make brats for that walk if they have no health problems between then and now. We have a lot of newcomers to our walks and always want volunteers to walk with them. It is fun for us as well as for them and a great way to get to know one another. So let me know if you would like to be a greeter (friendly face at the start) or a walking

buddy or volunteer in another capacity.

On a personal note, Butch and I have our travels for the spring planned. We will be taking more, shorter trips this year. We leave Valentine's Day for Arizona to visit my Dad, do a few walks, and Butch hopes to play golf with the cousins. In March, we head to Florida with our grandson to do Disney--no walks this trip! In April, we head south to finish a few of our remaining states for the third time around and do a little stint of babysitting in South Carolina. Meeting our son in Charleston where he will be attending a wedding. No fun going to a Bachelor's Party with a 5 year old in tow. In May, it is off to Canada to their National CVA convention. We may need to stay home and rest in June.

Happy Trails,

-Sandy

NWTB Officers

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Sandy Spaulding
712/322-2797

Vice President
Larry Boehm
402/393-5697

Secretary
Tricia Abel
402/889-1910

Treasurer
Butch Spaulding
712/322-2797

Questions?
Suggestions?
Call!!!!



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Jim's Notes

Congratulations to our latest Walker of the Year winners, Martha and Jim McGahan. They even made the long haul from Grand Island to attend our annual feed. And in the latest American Wanderer their names popped up as completing 2000 volksmarches. We selected the right people for WOY.

Also special recognition to Joe Hufek for his 1900 volksmarches. Joe makes all our regular marches to include our year-rounds. He and Wilma may have slowed down a step or two but they continue to pound the pavement. Lee and Donna were also mentioned in the TAW for their 200th volksmarch.

The Shelby soup cook-off was excellent. I thought the Apple Pie Soup

and Road Kill were the best. From our club we had 20 members present plus one guest. We filled and emptied over 220 bowls of soup. Several of our people won prizes but Mel Bohn won the big prize of the evening: a 30-inch flat screen TV. This cook-off is sponsored by the Shelby Friends of the Stone Arch Trail and several of them came over to our table to thank us for supporting them over the years. That organization was also responsible for renovating the Agri-Symbol Sculpture (corn stalk) with new flower beds. The project for this year is re-painting of the caboose which is a checkpoint for our volksmarch. Present from our group was Betty & Jerry and a friend, Karen & Jerry Dix, Rita, Lee, Donna, Butch & Sandy, Bill, Ann, Diane & Jim, Sheila & Jim, Mel, the other Karen, Kathy, Heidi and Brian. We were a hungry group.

At our February meeting, we talked about going to Ogallala in September for their Indian Summer Rendezvous. This also includes a breakfast, a quilt show, car and bike show, farmer's market, art show and food. We

discussed about taking a 12-passenger van, staying overnight one or two nights, and participating in the Indian Summer walk and maybe doing one of our year-rounds. Its either the van or going out in private autos. Whatever, it sounds like fun.

Long-range planning for the Trailblazers would be the total eclipse of the sun in Aurora, Nebraska in August of 2017. The eclipse would be seen in a narrow band which cuts across Aurora, about 40 miles west of Lincoln. Aurora in August would either be hot, humid and sunny or a thunder storm.

I note that the AVA now has 33 sanctioned special events. They want to trim this down to 12 which, according to the latest AVA Checkpoint, would be done by attrition.

~Jim

Annual Dinner—2016



Congrats to Jim & Martha McGahan,
Walkers of the Year!!





Shelby Soup Cook-Off 2015



A hungry group, for sure!!



Winners!!



Ann won pretty jewelry



Lucky Mel!!!



Karen's a winner!

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FYI

Club Shirts

There has been an increased interest in ordering club shirts. To place an order there needs to be at least 12 ordered - this is total shirts (T-Shirts, Long Sleeve T-Shirts, or Sweatshirts). If you are interested in ordering a shirt please let me know - shirt style (T-Shirts, Long Sleeve T-Shirts, or Sweatshirts), size and color (most colors are available). A reminder that the design is **White**. Since it has been a while since the last order, costs may have gone up. **Please email me with your order by February 20.**

From the last order the cost were:

T-Shirts:	Small, Medium, Large & Extra Large	\$11
	Double/Triple Extra Large	\$13
Long Sleeve T-Shirts:	Small, Medium, Large & Extra Large	\$15
	Double/Triple Extra Large	\$17
Sweatshirts:	Small, Medium, Large & Extra Large	\$20
	Double/Triple Extra Large	\$22

September 2016 Walk

At our February meeting, it was voted that we not have a local regular event (breakfast or winery walk) in September this year. Instead, the Oschners (our point of contacts for the year round in Ogallala) are hosting an event there during Ogallala's Indian Summer Rendezvous. Highlights of this event will be a breakfast, quilt show, car and bike show, farmer's market, art exhibit and lots of food. The event will be on Saturday, Sept. 24.

"For a brief, exciting decade in the history of the west, the tiny town of Ogallala was the Mecca for the trail herds of longhorn cattle, "choused" out of the Texas brush country and pointed north on the long drives. And by the time the glory days of the cattle drives had passed, Ogallala had more than earned her reputation as Nebraska's "Cowboy Capital" and the "Gomorrhah of the Plains."

The walk will include at least twelve AVA Special Programs and includes Front Street, Mansion on the Hill, the Petrified Wood Gallery, and a climb to the top of Boot Hill if you are "up" for it. You can also take time to enjoy Rendezvous activities such as the Quilt Show, Car Show, and some of the free entertainment happening under the roof of the Rendezvous Square Pavilion. There are also many choices for food and beverage as well.

There are several choices for getting to this event. You can drive yourself and spend time, maybe even doing the year rounds at Ogallala, Sidney and North Platte. You can car pool. There are options for carpooling for one night or two nights. If we have enough interest, we can rent a 12 passenger van for about \$300 and split the cost. Butch and I will need to do the two night option as Butch will need to stay at the start/finish throughout the event, but would be delighted if anyone would want to ride along.

Right now, hotels are still pretty reasonable and have room for us. Prices are \$80-\$100 per night. If you wait to make reservations, the price may go up and number of rooms available may go down.

Jim and Cathy have wanted to do an event out there for some time and are very excited to be hosting us. We appreciate them being the POC for the year round and are happy to have this opportunity to do something a little different.

Westroads Group Walk

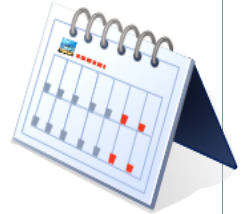
Saturday, February 20. Meet near the children's play area between J C Penney and Dick's Sporting Goods at 7:45 so we can start walking at 8 a.m. We will have the walk box there for registration.

Remember, if a trail takes you into the street, walk on the left and FACE TRAFFIC.

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Winter Weather

Just a reminder...if Omaha schools are closed or let out early due to bad weather on a club meeting day, the meeting is also canceled.



Mark your calendars: Upcoming Events

Feb	20	Group Walk, Westroads Mall	NWFT
	21	Lawrence Walk.....	SSS
Mar	5	Soup Walk, Omaha	NWFT
	12	Lincoln St. Patrick's Day Walk	LVC
	19	St Patrick's Day Walk.....	DGMVA
	30	Warsaw MO	PSVC
Apr	2	Bellevue Walk	NWFT
	6	Cross Plains WI.....	MAVA
May	7	Kite Walk, Johnston	GDMVA
	7	Nerstrand MN.....	NSTT
	7	Hill City SD	BHVA
	14	Papillion Walk.....	NWFT
	14	Falcon Heights MN.....	TCV

Event Awards for Club Members

	<u>Events</u>	<u>Distance</u>
Donna Campbell	200	
Lee Franz	200	
Joe Houfek	1,900	
Jim McGahan	2,000	
Martha McGahan	2,000	



Mar 15 Ray & Lynn Richardson

Apr 4 Jerry & Betty Golmanavich

Happy Birthday to You!!!!

March

- 3 Bob Stottler
- 4 Kurt Goeltz
- 11 Sheila Goeltz
- 13 Marnita Jondle
- 19 Hannah Baker
- 22 Phyllis Olson
- 23 Diane Glenn



April

- 1 Karen Dix
- 1 Maureen Smithberg
- 10 Debra Baker
- 16 Susan Pinneke
- 20 Carol Fraas
- 28 Jeanie Wagner
- 29 Sandy Spaulding
- 30 Sharon Hofstad

Meeting News

The next club meetings will be March 7, April 4, May 2 and June 6, 2016, at Morning Star Lutheran Church, located at 331 S 85th Street in Omaha. The meetings start at 7:00 p.m. We try to have a short program before the business meeting. Just a reminder that the club meetings are the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. with some exceptions: no meetings in January, July or August, and it is the 2nd Monday in September. Don't forget that at each meeting, we have a drawing for a \$10 door prize. Contrary to popular belief, you don't have to be a club member to win this.

Membership Dues

November/December dues are now past due (check your mailing label—email message will be sent out as a reminder). Renewal is \$10 for a single membership and \$15 for a family membership. Please send renewals to:

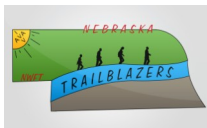
NWFT
PO Box 8147
Omaha NE 68108

Newsletter Info

To place info/articles/photos in the next newsletter, simply email: nwftprezmel@cox.net

Or snail-mail by April 15 to:

NWFT
PO Box 8147
Omaha NE 68108



Nebraska Trailblazers
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