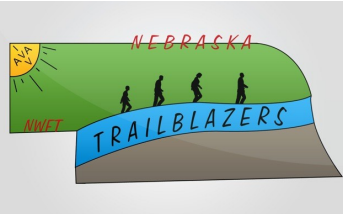


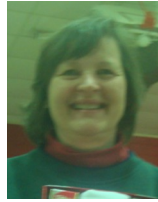
Footsteps



Inside this issue:

<i>The Prez Sez</i>	1
<i>Officer Roster</i>	1
<i>Jim's Notes</i>	2
<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	2
<i>FYI</i>	3
<i>Birthdays & Anniversaries</i>	4
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	4
<i>Meetings & Dues</i>	5

Questions?
Suggestions?
Call!!!!



The Prez Sez

Hi all,

I truly love the spring. The birds, the blue sky, the flowers and the warm breezes all make me drunk on spring. Just ask Butch. I tend to get a little goofy this time of year.

We have a great line up of walks for the rest of the year. In addition to our regular walks, we will be doing monthly "Meet and Eat" walks, group walks or our year rounds or other club's walks to car pool to. I will attach a listing when I send out this newsletter. I hope you can all join us on some of these

Meet and Eat walks as well as our regular events. This is great for us. We have been very behind this year; we have only walked two of our year rounds so far. We will catch up, though. And doing group walks always inspires us to get out there. I love to walk and talk. Add some food and I am in seventh heaven.

As you might have noticed in the Checkpoint, AVA is having it's annual fundraising campaign during the **Big Give** on May 3. This day only, you are invited to go online to TheBigGiveSA.org and make a donation to the American Volkssport

Association. Our donations will be matched up to \$10,000. If you donate \$50 or more, you will become an AVA associate, receiving the official AVA Newspaper, The American Wanderer. AVA is working hard to bring us into the 21st Century, but can only do it with our assistance.

Without a parent organization, our sport would quickly dwindle to nothing. I hope you can help.

Happy Trails,

-Sandy

NWFT Officers

President
Sandy Spaulding
712/322-2797

Secretary
Tricia Abel
402/889-1910

Vice President
Larry Boehm
402/393-5697

Treasurer
Butch Spaulding
712/322-2797



Jim's Notes

Current president Sandy Spaulding was elected to this position in December 2015. At that time she announced that she would be a one-term president. It goes without saying that she is doing a fine job as our leader. She has opened doors and reached out to the public in an effort to gain new members. Great job. We are seeing results from her efforts. Now we are six months in to her term of office. It is time to look around to our members to see who might be a good candidate for our presidency.

Karen Dix-Johnson has taken it upon herself to be a welcome

committee of one. Karen began her duties with our recent Soup Walk. She hung a sign around her neck which says: WELCOME! Questions? Ask me! We have observed her pulling her duty at the Soup Walk and at the most recent walk in Bellevue from Thanksgiving church. Karen is the right person for this job. She is very outgoing and enjoys talking with people. She is also quite good opening doors and greeting people and letting them know they are welcome and where to go to sign up for a walk. To put it simply Karen is doing a great job as our welcoming committee of one. Keep up the good work, Karen!

Many thanks to Kim and Dudley Allen for setting up the April volksmarch. They planned out 5km, 6km and and 10km routes through an area of Bellevue in

which our group has not strolled. The start point from the Thanksgiving Lutheran church was an excellent choice with more than ample parking. Their maps were not necessary as they had done an excellent job of marking each route in a different color. Thanks again to the Allens!

Remember the scheduled event out in Ogallala in late September. In lieu of our breakfast walk it will be 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. You might even get in on the year-round Ogallala volksmarch. That is September 24th, a Saturday.

~Jim

Volunteers!

I've been doing some work for the American Volkssport Association's Strategic Planning Committee (SPC). Two things that we've heard over and over from all parts of the nation: clubs and their members need to be more welcoming at meetings and events; and that clubs need more help putting on meetings and events, so that the same people aren't being worn out and so that meetings and events can continue.

Karen Dix-Johnson has graciously and exuberantly taken on a welcoming role at our events, but you can help, too! A smile, an introduction, an offer to walk with someone—all of those things set a tone and say, "We're glad you're here!" You love to walk – please,

share that love of walking with others!

I noticed at the Soup Walk how so many people stepped up to help put on the event. Unloading and loading cars, setting up tables and chairs, sitting at the raffle table, the start table, the finish table, bringing desserts, making the soup, cleaning up afterwards—wow, what an incredible outpouring of generosity and time!

Every meeting and every event needs that kind of help. Consider giving an hour or two of your time to: work at the start or finish table; work at a checkpoint; help mark the trail the day before; attend a meeting and see what a club officer does.

Have more time available? The club always needs people to adopt a walk; we're trying to set a calendar for 2017 and that only happens when walks get adopted. Consider running for a club officer for 2017.

We have walks already adopted and confirmed in May, September, October, November and December that need your help. Please let Sandy Spaulding (spldngs@aol.com) or me (jeanneno@gmail.com) know how you can help for an hour or two for any of those walks OR if you have a great idea for a walk in 2017. Thank you—see you on the trail!

Jeanne Miller

(Rita's daughter)
"The Committee"

FYI

The Big Give

May 3—One big day of giving. Donate to thebiggivesa.org/ to the AVA. If you donate \$50 you will become an associate member of AVA, receiving the *American Wanderer* for the next year and supporting our organization, ensuring that we will be able to do walks throughout the country for years to come. Support our great organization so that we can continue to have great walks across the AVA. There is a \$10,000 matching fund. Checks will be accepted until May 31st to count for the campaign. This was very successful last year and put the AVA in the black for the first time in 5 years. This is what is needed to upgrade our organization and bring it into the modern world. It will also help prevent an increase in our walking fees. Check out the club's Big Give video: https://youtu.be/ZPLHEwp_7bA

Johnston Iowa Kite Festival

May 7—A group walk at the GDMVA's regular event (Meet and Eat). Carpools will meet in the Omaha/Council Bluffs area around 7:30 a.m. and meet in Johnston, IA around 10 a.m. Food vendors are available at the kite festival.

Pre-walk Trailblazers Nature Walk

May 10 at 4 p.m. Please arrive about 15 minutes early so we can start promptly at 4 p.m. Meet at Prairie Queen Recreation Area, Picnic Shelter near 132nd and Lincoln Road in Sarpy County, NE (just west of Werner ball park).

Trailblazers Nature Walk

May 14 Start time 8-11 a.m. **World Walking Day**-All walkers will receive a World Walking Day Certificate. This walk is a great walk for strollers and dogs and is handicapped accessible. Prairie Queen Recreation Area, Picnic Shelter near 132nd and Lincoln Road in Sarpy County, NE (just west of Werner ball park). If you would like to walk as a group, meet at the start at 9:00 a.m.

National Trails Day @ Chalco Hills

June 4 Registration from 8:30—10:00 a.m. If you would like to walk in a group, meet at the start at 9:30.

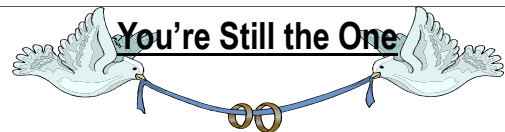


Mark your calendars: Upcoming Events

May	7	Kite Walk, Johnston	GDMVA
	7	Nerstrand MN.....	NSTT
	7	Hill City SD	BHVA
	14	Nature Walk, Papillion	NWFT
	14	Falcon Heights MN	TCV
	14	Kansas City, Monuments Walk.....	C-PT
	21	Art-a-Whirl, Minneapolis	LCW
	21	Ardmore SD	BHVA
	21	Hot Springs SD, Angostura Shoreline Trail	BHVA
	28	St Louis Memorial Weekend Wal.....	SL-SVC
June	4	National Trails Day, Chalco Hills	NWFT
	4,5	Crazy Horse Memorial	BHVA
	5	Paws & Effect, Urbandale	GDMVA
	10	Summertime Celebration, Summerfield.....	SSS
	11	Summertime Celebration, Marysville.....	SSS
	11	Summertime Celebration, Seneca.....	SSS
	12	Summertime Celebration, Hiawatha	SSS
	12	Summertime Celebration, Troy.....	SSS
	12	Whitewood SD	BHVAA
	18	Minnestriska MN Gale Woods Farm	TCV
July	9	Frontenac MN	NTT
	9	Rapid City SD, City Gardens	BHVA
	10	Silver City SD.....	BHVA
	16	Nemo SD	BHVA
	16	Iowa Games, Ames	GDMVA
	16	Ramsey MN, Sunfish Lake	TCV
	30	Princeton MN, Prairie Walk.....	CMV

Event Awards for Club Members

	<u>Events</u>	<u>Distance</u>
Debra Gaskins	50 thru 350	
Susan Pinneke	475	
Karen Dix	575	6,500
Lee Frantz		1,500



May	20	Carol & David Johnson
June	2	Anna & Larry Boehm
	3	Sharon & Dale Nielsen
	4	Diane & Robert Glenn
	9	Cathy & Jim Ochsner
	16	Karen & Jerry Dix
	25	Diane & Jim Fenlon

Happy Birthday to You!!!!

- May**
- 3 Steven Dowling
 - 4 Dave Johnson
 - 9 Martha McGahan
 - Dannie Peters
 - 10 Ann Drebot
 - 14 Ted Cieslak
 - 18 Norma Wessel
 - Julie Brown
 - 30 Tricia Abel



- June**
- 6 Pete Dowling
 - 14 Sandy Spielman
 - 20 Lina Cashin
 - 30 Joe Houfek

A Publication of the Nebraska Trailblazers

Meeting News

The next club meetings will be 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

January/February 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:

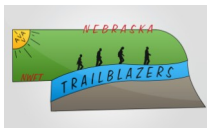
NWFT
PO Box 8147
Omaha NE 68108

Newsletter Info

To place info/articles/photos in the next newsletter, simply email: spldngs@aol.com

Or snail-mail by June 15 to:

NWFT
PO Box 8147
Omaha NE 68108



Nebraska Trailblazers
PO Box 8147
Omaha NE 68108