

Footsteps

Fun, Fitness, Friendship

Volume XIX Number 2

March/April 2018



The Prez Sez...

If you like good news you have come to the right place!

On March 3, we had our first “Traditional Event” of the year—the Winter-B-Gone Soup Walk. It was a nice day and it was great to see 90 walkers participate. We had multiple soup and drink options, and a host of homemade sweets. Our raffle was a great success, selling the most tickets ever for this event. If you saw the prizes I think you can understand the ticket sales. Walkers donated 185 cans of soup and some other items for local charity. If we use the AVA motto of “Fun, Fitness, and Friendship” as a measure then I would say it was a great achievement in all areas. Special thanks to Karen Dix-Johnson for taking the lead on this event. As Karen said, “it takes a village” and indeed it does. Thanks to everyone for your contributions. It was a great day for many including myself!

We are off to a great start to the year and we have many more things planned to look forward to so get your calendar out! April 7 is the Pete Dowling “Spyngo” Walk. A game of Spyngo (a cross between I-Spy and Bingo) will be part of the walk. I don’t know exactly what this game is, but I am looking forward to finding out! The event will be a memorial to an important contributor to our club history—Pete Dowling. We will do some special things to remember Pete and plan to share the day with his wife Claudia as well as their son.

On April 21, we are having the Stone Arch Trail “Meet & Eat” walk in Shelby, Iowa. This is a nice and interesting trail, especially if you like nature, with relatively little auto traffic to deal with. Afterwards we will eat at the start/finish location—the Corn Crib Restaurant. The Corn Crib folks have been great supporters of the club over the years and they serve great food.

The Bird Seeds to Trails walk is on May 12. The starting point will be the Wild Bird Habitat Store in Omaha. This will be a good time to take in a newer part of the city, walk through a couple parks and enjoy walking on a community trail. This walk will be an especially nice opportunity for bird enthusiasts and those interested in the natural environment. The prewalk for this event will be April 28 at 2:00 p.m.

Many good things came out of the annual dinner in January. The arrangements were nicely done thanks to the work of several volunteers. Julie Brown was selected by club members to receive the coveted Walker of the Year Award. Last year’s Walker of the Year, Ann Drebot, presented Julie with the trophy.

We also unveiled an unprecedented amount of national level (American Volkssport Association) awards at the annual dinner for the extraordinary contributions members made towards the successes of 2017. The Meritorious Service Award is given to an “Individual with at least five years of service to the AVA providing outstanding service and support to volkssporting at the regional, state and club level.” Recipients of the AVA Meritorious Service Award are Butch Spaulding, Sandy Spaulding, Jim McGahan, Martha McGahan, Jeanne Miller and Julie Brown. The Commendable Service Award is given to an “Individual with significant service to the AVA at the regional, state or club level.” Recipients of the AVA Commendable Service Award are Sheila Goeltz, Jill Champley, Karen Dix-Johnson and Diane Fenlon. A big thank you to Lee Frantz whose own extraordinary contribution resulted in the development of such beautiful awards and their subsequent approval.

The annual dinner also marked a major milestone for our club – the approval of a much-needed rewrite of the NWFT bylaws. Seeing such a document through to approval is no easy task. Fortunately, we had Jim Fenlon leading the effort with the help of some friends. Much thanks to Jim, et al. for a job well done!

Our club has received some nice press in the current issue of *The American Wanderer*. The AVA President’s Message highlights our December Lights Walk (which drew nearly 700 walkers) and communicates what he thought were our keys to success. Ultimately, he gave kudos to the NWFT and specifically recognized Jeanne Miller for showing how to draw a big crowd.

Finally, please consider making a donation to the AVA’s annual fundraising campaign during the Big Give on March 22. Additional information can be found at <https://www.thebiggivesa.org/organizations/american-volkssport-association-inc>.

~Bryan



Sandy speaks

Walking season has started!!! After a long harsh winter, a little bit of spring sprung out just in time for our annual soup walk, appropriately named Winter-B-Gone. It was great to see so many walkers on the trail and enjoying soup after. 90 walkers, many seasoned and many new, enjoyed the warm, breezy day. There were some great raffle items available and they were won by some very happy participants. There will be one happy grandchild when Stan Fraas presents that brand new bicycle!

Our April walk is in the planning stages. Claudia is happy that we are coming to her town and hosting this memorial walk for Pete. There will be treats to be had, a game to be played and, hopefully, some more nice spring weather.

And don't forget our Meet and Eat on April 21. We will be heading to Shelby, Iowa, to do the year round walk followed by lunch at the Corn Crib. We will meet at the Corn Crib at 9:15

and start walking at 9:30. Those walking the 10K will start first, followed by the 5K walkers. If you want to carpool and haven't signed up yet, let me know.

See you on the trail!

~Sandy



Treat List

- April Ann Drebot,
Jerry & Betty Golmanavich
- May Karen Dix
Julie Brown
- June Mary & Dave Brown
- Sept Open
- Oct Open
- Nov Donna Campbell
- Dec Tricia Abel



For the latest on events and news visit our website:
<http://www.netrailblazers.club/>

or like us on Facebook





Jim Reviews the Shelby Soup Cook-Off

Seven club members loaded up in Butch's auto on an overcast 10-degree afternoon and headed for Shelby. Enroute the interstate was clear and dry after two inches of dry snow fell the night before. We enjoyed a view of the corn fields along the way—perfect rows of corn stubble poking themselves above the snow. A pretty sight.

We arrived at the Shelby gym at quarter to five and registered, paid our money, bought raffle tickets, filled them in and pushed two tables together. A reporter from the Harlan newspaper was there and spoke to our group and took our picture. We seven were joined by four other club members which made a total of 11 attending. Then we began our attack on the soup.

Eleven vendors were lined up along the walls, some in costume, dispensing their hot products. This year's event was sponsored by the Shelby volunteer fire department and they were in their combat gear, dispensing fiery chili. It was a bit spicy. Off in the corner was a Trailblazer group in green shirts and their stand featured a trailblazer potato soup. Later on, our group went over to their table and we joined them for a photo opportunity.

Two of our members' raffle tickets were called during the evening: Butch and the writer of this article.

Over the course of the evening we enjoyed soups with names like Road Kill, Tomato Chili, Chicken Curry, and Mulligan. Also on the menu were Hot Potato, Italian Chicken, Double R, and Piggy Slop. Most were good, some were better.

Various homemade pies were auctioned off during the evening, which brought in monetary values between \$45 and \$100. Proceeds were split between the fire department and the Stone Arch Trail. Our new club president, Bryan, purchased one of the pies and we all shared in tasting.

The evening ended when the awards were announced for best soup, best dressed, most original and the grand prize winner of a big TV.

With only 11 members on hand we devoured only 100 bowls of soup.

~Jim

Meet & EAT		2018
Mar		No M&E
Apr	21	Shelby YRE, Meet (and eat) at the Corn Crib in Shelby IA 9:15 a.m.
May		No M&E
June	23	Giving Walk Gallup parking lot 8:00 a.m.
July		Seward NE Date & Time TBA
Aug		No M&E
Sept	22	Apple Jack Festival Nebraska City NE Time TBA
Oct		Lincoln Cemetery Walk Time & meeting place TBA
Nov	23	Opt Outside Black Friday walk instead of shop Time & meeting place TBA

Shelby Soup Cook-Off



Bryan's auction pie



Diane & Jim fill out raffle tickets



100 Empty bowls



Walking Trailblazers & Cooking Trailblazers

Skywalk

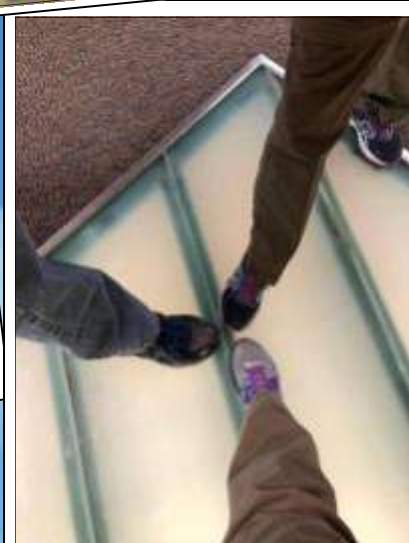
Des Moines



Lee & Donna check in with Deb



Jill, Butch & Karen pose by a mural



Glass floor panel on Skywalk



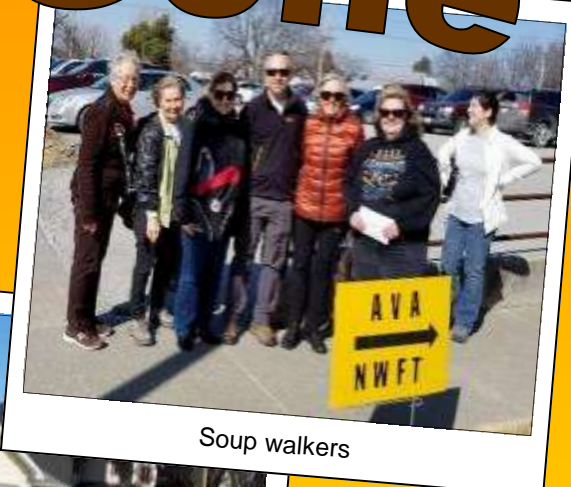
Lunch after the walk

Winter-B-Gone

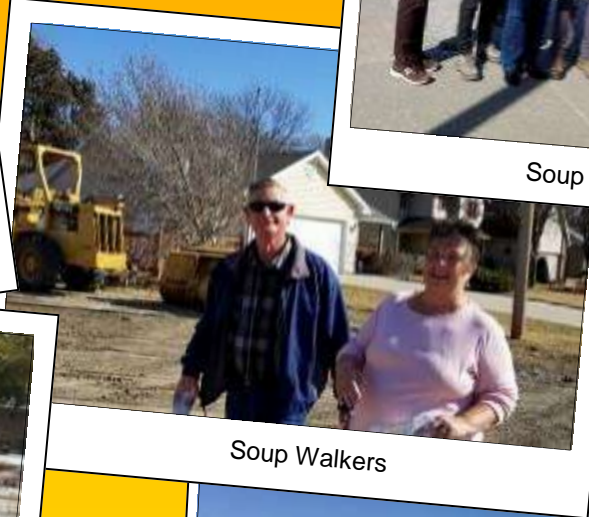
Soup Walk



Start Table



Soup walkers



Soup Walkers



Soup Walkers



Soup Walkers



Gnome House along route



Soup Walkers

Winter-B-Gone

Soup Walk



Lots o' soup...



...and lots o' raffle prizes



Leaving with prizes!



2nd childhood for Stan Fraas?
No, big prize winner!!



Mark your calendars: Upcoming Events!!

March

- 17 St Patrick's Day Walk, Lincoln NELincoln Volkssport Club
- 17 St. Patrick's Day Walk, Urbandale IA.....Greater Des Moines Volkssport

April

- 7 Spyngo/Pete Dowling Memorial Walk, Gretna NE Nebraska Trailblazers
- 14 Nature Trail, Cape Girardeau MO Gateway Milers
- 21 Walk, Neosho MO Dogwood Trailblazers
- 22 3 States/3 Walks Spring Fling, IndependenceSunflower Sod Stompers
- 28 Jane Kempf Memorial Walk, Mound MN..... Twin Cities Volkssport

May

- 5 Waterville Walk, Waterville MN NorthStar Trail Travelers
- 12 Bird Seeds to Trails Walk, Omaha NE Nebraska Trailblazers
- 12 White Bear Lake Walk, White Bear Lake MN..... Twin Cities Volkssport
- 19 Brenton Arboretum Walk, Dallas Center IA.....Greater Des Moines Volkssport
- 19 Art-a-Whirl Walk, Minneapolis MN Lake Country Wanderers
- 19 Maplewood Historic, Maplewood MO..... Gateway Milers
- 19 Wildlife Walk, Bruce SDPrairie Wanders Volkssport Club
- 19 Terra Sancta Volksmarch, Rapid City SD Black Hills Volkssport

June

- 2 National Trails Day, Omaha..... Nebraska Trailblazers
- 2 Crazy Horse Memorial Spring Volksmarch Black Hills Volkssport
- 8-10 Kansas Walks: Clay Center, Alma, Wamego, Holton, Valley FallsSunflower Sod Stompers
- 9 Homestake Trail, Lead SD..... Black Hills Volkssport
- 23 Rondo Underground Railroad Walk, St Paul MN Twin Cities Volkssport

Event Awards for Club Members

	<u>Events</u>
Becky Holford	30
Dee Willemsen	400



You're Still the One

Mar 15 Ray & Lynn Richardson
24 Dudley Allen & Kim Moss-Allen

Apr 4 Jerry & Betty Golmanavich
17 Lori Sue Anderson

Happy Birthday to You!!!!

March

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 3 Bob Stotler | 22 Phyllis Olson |
| 4 Kurt Goeltz | 23 Diane Glenn |
| 11 Sheila Goeltz | 27 Nora Ruhe |
| 19 Joyce Sobczyk | 30 Nancy Lane |



April

- 1 Karen Dix
- 16 Susan Pinneke
- 20 Carol Fraas
- 28 Stephanie Elrod
- 29 Sandy Spaulding



Donate online March 15-22, 2018: thebiggivesa.org
If you prefer to donate by check, please send to AVA office by April 30, 2018.

This year you can earmark your Big Give contribution to be applied towards the work of any of the AVA committees listed below. If you will be sending a check by mail note in the memo line the name of the committee you would like to earmark your contribution for. If you are making an online contribution on the Big Give website write in the name of the committee in the comment section of the donation page.

- **Publicity**—to develop a national publicity campaign & purchase marketing materials for the AVA & clubs
- **Club Development**—to support struggling clubs and help develop new clubs
- **Programs**—to develop new programs
- **Membership**—to develop new membership benefits & services
- **National Programs**—to develop new national programs & events
- **Information & Technology**—to support upgrades and advancements of AVA systems like convention

NTB Officers

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Meeting News

The next club meetings will be April 2, May 7 and June 4, 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 and 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, please send by April 15:



email: sienna518@gmail.com



snail-mail to: NWFT
PO Box 8147
Omaha NE 68108