

Footsteps

Fun, Fitness, Friendship

Volume XXVI Number 5

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The Prez Sez...

Hello Trailblazer Members,

I think it's time for a little refresher course for ourselves and also for our new friends just joining to tell you just what you got yourself into. Here's a short history on our national organization and next time I plan to dive into more on our club level with the many abbreviations we use (SO MANY). So here it goes and I hope you learn something new. No test!

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This "Footsteps" newsletter is our club's bimonthly info for our members. Share it with friends and invite them along.

Our official club name is the "Nebraska Wander Freunde Trailblazers". Wander Freunde translated means "hiking friends". Our Trailblazers club is #0016, in other words, we are the 16th club registered in the American Volkssport Association (AVA) out of about 200 active clubs nationwide. So we have been around for a long time, 46 years. Volkssporting started in Germany and simply defined, is a personal fitness sports and recreation program offering noncompetitive walks, hikes, bike rides, swims, and in some regions cross-country skiing WHAT?. Walking - also called volksmarching - is the most popular.

There are 2 clubs in Nebraska and many more in almost every state. The AVA oversees America's clubs. The (IVV-AO) Americas and Oceania is our official representative at the continental level. While the (IVV) Internationaler Volkssportverband (International Federation of Popular Sports) a German-based sports federation originating from volksmarching or fitness walking, oversees the continents. (I took Spanish in high school not German). All of our events are sanctioned by the AVA and by registering for these events participants accept the guidelines for AVA-sanctioned events and agree to observe the principles of good sportsmanship. Approximately 2500 events are sanctioned yearly nationwide.

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So, as all of you are club members, some of us are also AVA members which is another membership level which gives you discounts on AVA stuff. That membership per person is \$25.00 annually. I love the discounted price of the biennial national convention cuz I get to travel to new places. The AVA has online webinars monthly via ZOOM to offer AVA members updates, answer questions and listen to member concerns from other states.

The Big Give (AVA's annual fundraiser) helps the AVA function with our donations. During Sept 17-18 for a 24 hour period, donations will be matched up to \$100.00. Our board voted to send a check for \$100.00. This helps the AVA provide insurance for all clubs' events, maintain the website, work on innovative technology, pay for the national headquarters team in TX and so much more.

The "Checkpoint", a monthly newsletter and the TAW (The American Wanderer), a quarterly publication, are sent to members from the AVA with new news. Occasionally, our club members will be recognized with their names listed in these as completing walking milestones. If you prefer not to have your name publicized, please let me know that, but not the reason why.



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



The Prez Sez Cont...

The Year 2026 will be a monumental year: 50th anniversary of the AVA, 250th anniversary of the United States (Semiquincentennial) and the 40th anniversary of Rails to Trails. The AVA Nation wants to celebrate every month next year with many local clubs planning to designate events for this occasion. Including our club event in April. The first ever event was in Fredericksburg, TX in 1976.

So let's keep it going.....

~Lori

Walker of the Year

Now Accepting 2025 Walker of the Year Nominations



Our club is blessed with so many great volunteers! They organize and put on meetings with speakers and treats. They scout out walks, map them and work for hours on walk days to greet, register and walk with new and old friends. They take pictures and keep those memories alive for the future. Our club recognizes one of these people every year as the "Walker

of the Year." Can you think of someone deserving of recognition, either as a volunteer or as someone who exemplifies the spirit of fun, friendship and fitness? Please send your nominations to Julie at sienna518@gmail.com

Nominees will be listed in the November/December newsletter and voted on in late November/early December. The person with the most votes (all of them are winners!) will receive the traveling trophy at the January annual meeting.



Sandy speaks

I am so excited. Walking season is upon us. I love these cooler days. And I am finally recovering and beginning to be able to put my foot to the pavement again. Hoping I can at least walk 5K by the time Tater Tours get here in just a couple of weeks. The winery walk sounds like such a fun time. And October will bring us to South Omaha. The renovations on the El Museo Latina are almost complete. We may get to help them celebrate their grand reopening. We have finalized the trail and, if you like history, the directions are chock full of great stories.

Then we have the walking tour of Fairview Cemetery. There is so much history in that cemetery! Hopefully, we will see the Civil War Monument as well as the Black Angel. One of my favorite memories of walking there was accidentally finding the grave of my grandmother's brother. He died before I was born, so I never knew him. I didn't realize he was buried there as all of the rest of the family is buried by Missouri Valley.

That will be followed by the historical walk in Bellevue. Do remember that the start point was changed. It is now at the Lighthouse Café at 119 W. Mission Ave. in Bellevue. There is street parking as well as parking to the east by the post office. And we will finish off the year with our traditional lights walk. Once again, we owe a great thank you to KANEKO and The RiverFront for sponsoring the walk, making it a free event for all. We will be celebrating the life of long-time club officer, Larry Boehm, at that walk. He was instrumental in acquiring KANEKO's support of our walk and set up many of our trails over the years.

And then, there is 2026. The Committee is working on a schedule of events for the year. We will be celebrating AVA's 50th Anniversary as well as our country's 250th. We will be doing an AVA signature event in April, so looking to have a great event weekend. If you have any ideas for walks for any of the year, let any of the committee members know and we will check it out. If you would be interested in joining the committee and helping to plan events, let me know. You would be more than welcome. We meet about once a month either in person or by ZOOM.

Happy Trails!

~Sandy

Mahoney Melodrama



An Evening at the Surfside Club Featuring Taxi Driver





Mark your calendars: Upcoming Events!!

Sept

- 6 Slattery Vintage Estates Vineyard, Slattery Vintage Estates NE Nebraska Trailblazers
- 6 Hill City Quilt Show Walk, Hill City SD Black Hills Volkssport Assn
- 13 Mission City Walk, Mission SD Black Hills Volkssport Assn
- 14 White River City Walk, White River SD Black Hills Volkssport Assn
- 20 Yanney Park, Kearney NE Nebraska Trailblazers
- 20 Cottleville MO Walk Gateway Milers
- 20 River & Town Walk, Hot Springs SD Black Hills Volkssport Assn
- 21 Wild West Frontier, Hays KS Sunflower Sod Stompers
- 27 Flandrau State Park, New Ulm MN NorthStar Trail Travelers
- 28 Minneopa State Park, Mankato MN NorthStar Trail Travelers
- 28 Fall Crazy Horse Walk, Crazy Horse SD Black Hills Volkssport Assn

Oct

- 11 The Magic City, South Omaha, NE Nebraska Trailblazers
- 25 Arma, KS Dogwood Trailblazers
- 25 Morning Event, Girard, KS Dogwood Trailblazers
- 26 Bellefontaine Cemetery Walk, Bellefontaine Cemetery, St. Louis, MO Saint Louis Walkers
- 30 4 Days: Hoofin' it on Halloween, Andover, Arkansas City, Goddard,
Wellington, Wichita, Winfield, KS Sunflower Sod Stompers

Nov

- 1 Pie Walk, Washington Park, Bellevue Nez Nebraska Trailblazers
- 8 Shrewsbury Walk, Shrewsbury, MO Gateway Milers
- 28 Opt Out Friday Walk, New Town, MO Saint Lewis Walkers

NWFT Officers

President
Lori Sue Anderson

Secretary
Dave Brown



Vice President
Joyce Sobczyk

Treasurer
Jill Champley

Meeting Speakers

September 8	Nebraska Forest Service "The Language of Trees" Graham Herbst
October 6	Audubon Society of Omaha Bill Bossman
November	Food Bank of the Heartland Sarah
December	TBA



Meeting News

Our next meetings will be Sept 8 and October 6 at Maple Ridge Retirement Community, 3525 N.167 Circle, Omaha, at 7pm. There will be a short program and a short business meeting followed by refreshments. 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, April, 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.

Club Dues

Dues are \$10 for a single membership and \$15 for a family membership. Anyone who joins later in 2025 will have their membership pro-rated so that it expires 12/31/25

Please send to: NWFT
PO Box 8147
Omaha NE 68108

Send in Your Newsletter Info

To place info/articles/photos in the next newsletter: NWFT, PO Box 8147, Omaha NE 68108