

Footsteps

Fun, Fitness, Friendship

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The Prez Sez...

Let's be honest. We don't walk because we are trying to become Olympic athletes. It's more than getting from here to there.

We walk because **there's something interesting**

around the corner.

Walking is one of the few activities where getting a little lost can actually improve the experience. You might discover a beautiful garden, a labyrinth, a "wild thing" statue, a grain elevator, a great little café—or realize you have been walking in the wrong direction for the last 15 minutes. Either way, you

have a story to tell!

One of the best things about walking is that you notice things. From a car, that old house is just "the old house." On foot, you suddenly notice the fancy gingerbread trim, the unusual mailbox, the flowers, and probably the neighbor who wants to tell you the entire history of the house.

And then there are the dogs.

Apparently, walking is also an excellent way to meet every dog in town. Some bark. Some wag. Some stare at you like they are wondering why you are trespassing on their sidewalk. And every once in a while, you meet the dog who clearly believes he is the official Trailblazer welcoming committee.

Walking with friends makes it even better. Conversations start with, "How far is it?" Then come the important questions: "Is there a restroom?" "Where are we eating?" "Does this route have hills?" "Who picked this hill?" And, eventually... "Are we there yet?"

But perhaps the best part of walking is that **there is no hurry**. We can stop for a picture, admire someone's flowers, read a historical marker, visit a shop, talk to a local resident—or simply stand around trying to figure out where we are.

We aren't just covering miles. We are collecting moments.

A good walk might introduce us to a town we've never visited, a piece of Nebraska history we didn't know, a new friend, or a restaurant we now feel obligated to return to because, after all, **we worked up an appetite wandering around!** Maybe that's why some of our best memories aren't about how far we walked. They're about **where we walked, who we walked with, the menu, and what we discovered along the way.**

So, Trailblazers, the next time you head out for a walk, don't worry about how many steps your watch says you've taken.

Leave the fitness trackers at home if you want. You are getting penny credit. Bring your curiosity instead. Look up. Look around. Take the scenic route. Stop and smell the flowers. Say hello to the dog. Take the picture. And if you accidentally take a wrong turn, just call it **"exploring."**

After all, we're not lost. **We're Wanderfreunde!**

And if the walk happens to end somewhere with pie, ice cream, or a good cup of coffee, well...**that wasn't luck. That was excellent route planning.**

Happy wandering, Trailblazers

~Lori



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





Sandy peaks

September is packed with events. I hope you were able to join us in Table Rock for a real Volksmarch with a beer tent, corn hole, and lots of fun. **Lake**

Manawa is September 12th. This traditional event starts at Shelter #4. Out-of-state park fees are waived for participants. We will walk the park trails. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy after.

Friday, September 18th, we are participating in the **Step Out for Seniors**. Stroll around the lake to support ENOA's nutrition program! Registration is \$5, which includes lunch and access to great information tables (including ours). You can sign up online or register at our September 14th meeting—I will have extra forms available and can mail them in together.

And finally, there is the **Discover Trail Relay** on Thursday, Sept. 24th. Be part of a historic nationwide relay carrying the Declaration of Independence across the U.S. for America's 250th birthday! Participation is free, but you must register online at the [America 250 Relay website](#) for a morning, afternoon, or full-day segment. *Note:* Please also sign up on our club's Sign Up Genius so we can coordinate transportation back to your vehicles. Waiver forms will be available at our September 14th meeting.

I hope you all got the message about the change in start points for the October walk. Due to construction at Lake Cunningham, we are moving the October 10th walk to Millwork Commons. On October 10th, we will start in The Dock at the **Ashton Building, 1229 Millwork Avenue**, in Millwork Commons. Leashed dogs are welcome in the Ashton Building as well as on the trail. We'll head out toward the Baby Bob and Bob Kerrey Bridge to check out the newly opened Treetop Path near the Adventure Tower and the Charles E. Lakin Pier in Iowa. Wrap up your walk with a coffee from Archetype Coffee and stay to connect with fellow walkers!

Saturday, Nov. 7th is our traditional pie walk. We have a new start location and route this year at the **NeighborGood Pantry** (1712 Charles Dr., Papillion). Bring a pie to share, explore the local park trails, and join us back at the pantry for pie and conversation!

Believe it or not, as of September 1st, there are only 125 shopping days until Christmas. That means there will be 102 days until our Christmas Lights walk. Something totally new this year! We are doing a **Holly Jolly Stroll**. And this year, it is Dress Up. Break out your festive wear—whether it's a snowman costume, a Santa outfit, or simple reindeer antlers. Everyone who arrives in holiday gear will receive 3D glasses to view the light displays in a whole new way! If you have never looked at Christmas lights in 3D, you are in for a treat! While we won't have door prizes this year, we will still have plenty of hot chocolate and cookies to warm you up at the finish line.

~Sandy

Walker of the Year Nominations

Now Accepting 2026
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.

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.

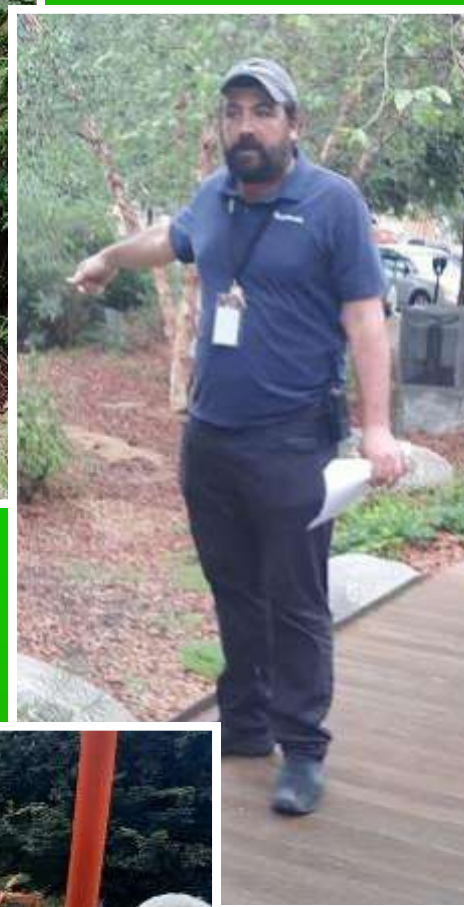
Seward Walk



Seward Walk



Art Walk



Art Walk



Art Walk





Mark your calendars: Upcoming Events!!

September

- 4 Smithfield Lake Walk, Smithfield, MO Clay-Platte Trackers of Kansas City
- 5 Rock School Celebration, Table Rock, NE Nebraska Trailblazers
- 12 Lake Manawa State Park Walk, Council Bluffs, IA Nebraska Trailblazers
- 12 Homestake Trail 150th Anniversary, Lead, SD Black Hills Volkssport Assn
- 17 St Joseph Historic Walk, St Joseph, MO Clay-Platte Trackers of Kansas City
- 19 Empire Mine AVA 50, Rapid City, SD Black Hills Volkssport Assn
- 22 KC Streetcar, Kansas City, MO Clay-Platte Trackers
- 26 Horicon Marsh Walk, Horicon Marsh, WI Madison Area Volkssport Assn
- 27 14th Fall Crazy Horse Walk, Crazy Horse, SD Black Hills Volkssport Assn

October

- 3 Palisades State Park Walk, Palisades State Park, SD Prairie Wanderers Volkssport Club
- 3 Wisconsin Dells Walk, Wisconsin Dells, WI Madison Area Volkssport Assn
- 10 Riverfront Stroll with the Nebraska Trailblazers, Omaha, NE Nebraska Trailblazers
- 10 BHVA Fall Walk, Rapid City, SD Black Hills Volkssport Assn
- 17 Cottleville Walk, Cottleville, MO Gateway Milers
- 17 Piedmont Town Walk, Piedmont, SD Black Hills Volkssport Assn
- 29 Halloween Klicks on Route 66, Riverton, KS Sunflower Sod Stompers

November

- 5 Watkins' Mill State Park Walk, Lawson MO Clay-Platte Trackers
- 7 Annual Pie Walk, Papillion, NE Nebraska Trailblazers
- 21 Veterans Walk, Madison, WI Madison Area Volkssport Assn

December

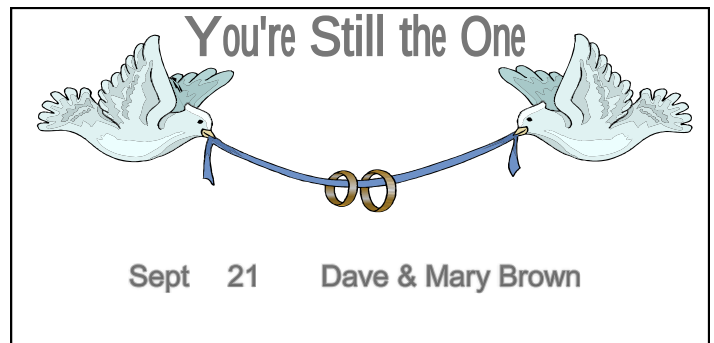
- 5 Holiday Walk, Spearfish, SD Black Hills Volkssport Assn
- 12 Holiday Lights Walk, Omaha, NE Nebraska Trailblazers

Penny Challenge



The penny jar is filling up! Remember: for each event you walk this summer during any NWFT route, you get a credit of 50 pennies plus any donation of pennies you want to add. If you are not up to walking, you can still donate as many pennies as you want. If you attend the September club meeting, you get a credit of 50 pennies. There will be prizes for the top 30 donators, given out at the

October meeting. The total amount will be donated to AVA's "The Big Give." Challenge ends September 21st.



Happy Birthday to You!!!!

Sept

- 11 Diane Fenlon
- 13 Steve Miller
- 16 Anna Nelson
- 18 Denene Turner
- 26 Jim Fenlon
- 26 Teresa Merrick
- 30 Robin Higley



Oct

- 3 Judy Pierson
- 4 Denise Prpic
- 13 Tom Phillips
- 14 Barbara Shirk
- 18 Frank Mango
- 21 Jasmine Cashin
- 26 Butch Spaulding

NWFT Officers

President
Lori Sue Anderson

Secretary
Dave Brown



Vice President
Joyce Sobczyk

Treasurer
Jill Champley

Speakers

Sept	14	Ditmars Orchard
Oct	5	Natural Grocers
Nov	7	Gardens on Glen Tom O'Brien
Dec	7	BingoCise Amber Raes



Meeting News

Our next meetings will be September 14, October 5 and November 2 and December 7 at Maple Ridge Retirement Community, 3525 N.167 Circle, Omaha, at 7 p.m. 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 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.

Club Dues

Dues are \$10 for a single membership and \$15 for a family membership. Anyone who joins later in 2026 will have their membership pro-rated so that it expires 12/31/26.

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