

# Rambling the Rockies 2003

## AVA Candidate information

The recruitment of AVA National Officers and Regional Directors for AVA Executive Council XIII is now finished and the Nominating Committee is presenting the slate of candidates to the membership in this issue of TAW. Please take time to read each candidate's response to the following five questions:

*What is your vision for the AVA?; Why do you want to serve on the AVA Executive Council?; What are the major challenges facing the AVA and what would you do about them?; What specific professional and volunteer expertise would you bring to the Council?; What have been your most significant Volkssport contributions in the past five years?*

Your opinion is critical in club discussions of candidates and their qualifications and

experience for office. Your opinion will assist in determining the voting instructions for your club delegate as well as any additional questions or clarifications the club might want their delegate to ask the candidates at any local regional election or at the AVA Biennial Convention prior to the election of officers.

Election procedures for the four National Officers – President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer — differ from the election procedures for the 10 Regional Directors. For more details refer to the Bylaws of the American Volkssport Association, Article V – Officers and Article VI – Regional Directors.

*Editor's note: The candidate responses are included as submitted; no editing was done by TAW.*

### AVA Officers Candidates

#### Shirley Lindberg Candidate for President



I am seeking the position of AVA President. After serving as Vice President, I want to continue to share the organizational experience and knowledge I've gained. I bring with me enthusiasm for the whole IVV concept, and I offer time and energy because I appreciate what the organization is all about.

My vision for AVA is for realistic, steady growth. In order to achieve that we must have a foundation of professional business operations, financial stability, and member clubs that work to host quality, fun events.

We are challenged by a lack of name recognition, getting people to turn out for their first event, selling our incentive program, making the events appealing and fun, and building strong clubs to host events. Along with focus on obtaining sponsors, partnerships and name recognition through paid staff, I want to pursue recognition and use of our member's talents and connections. Our strategic plan must continue to be developed and we must set realistic goals for all to embrace. We must meet our goals. Sponsors and partnerships at every level must be pursued. Tools for measuring and marketing our organization must be worked on, and I'll begin with an annual report. We must provide quality resources that our clubs and participants need, such as the web page, TAW, Starting Point, and access to HQ and the Executive Council. AVA needs to bridge the clubs and regions, sharing how business and publicity is accomplished. We need to work with health organizations, continue with our youth program work, and promote the uniqueness of our program.

I have worked for the Washington State Attorney General's Office for 21 years. As a paralegal I've developed my organizational skills. I am familiar with personnel and fiscal issues. Volkssport leadership roles have been as president (1990-1992, 1994-1996, 2000-2002), vice president (1992-1994, 1996-1998, 2002-present), and club representative to the state organization (1990-1996, 1998-2002). For the state association I have served as treasurer (1993-1995), area coordinator (1995-1997), and chair of the audit (1996) and electronic (1998) committees. At the national level I have served as: vice president (2000-present);

member of the Marketing Committee (1995-1997), Fundraising Committee (1999-2001), and Credentials Committee (1993); chair of the Nomination Committee (1998-1999) and Publicity Committee Chair for the 2001 AVA Convention (1999-2001), co-chaired the committee to write our Executive Director job description (2001-2002); and chaired the committee to write a development and performance plan for the Executive Director (2002). I have been a voting delegate at three IVV meetings (1998, 2000, 2002) and I've represented AVA by speaking to the Japanese Walking Association and representatives from 15 other countries (2002).

My recent significant contributions to volkssporting are included in my leadership roles listed above. In addition I would add working with my local community hosting an annual event where I have obtained sponsorships and media coverage (2000 - 2002).

The challenges are many, but if we work hard and work together, we will accomplish great things. Thank you for your support.

#### Ginny Drumm Candidate for Vice President



I want to be the next Vice President of the American Volkssport Association. I look forward to the challenge of serving on the Executive Council with other committed members to lead our organization as it grows and prospers.

My vision for the AVA is that we strengthen our grassroots foundation and grow, slowly but steadily, as each of us infects new participants with our enthusiasm for volkssporting.

The challenges facing our organization are primarily a result of declining participation. Our financial base has eroded and our source of volunteers at all levels has shrunk. If elected, I will work to increase participation by helping to redefine "volkssporting." This can be done by placing the emphasis on the quality of the event rather than the quantity of events. I see a quality event as one with friendly, informed workers, and clearly marked trails. New participants will see what it is that sets volkssporting apart and will value their experience. As our membership increases we will have more to offer potential sponsors and partners.

Working for thirteen years as an instructor for The Diet Workshop, a weight management organization, I developed public speaking and motivational skills. My customer service skills were honed while working in a bank for five years. During that time I was also an active volunteer, serving on the board of two Parent Teacher Organizations and filling various positions with the Girl Scouts of the USA. In addition to being a troop leader, I was the business manager for a day camp for five years where I utilized my accounting training and added to my organizational skills. I am now retired and have the time and resources to devote to carrying out the business of the organization.

I discovered volkssporting in 1985 and immediately became involved with Queen City Skywalkers (QCS). Volkssporting leadership roles include president of QCS since 1993, president of Ohio Wander Freunde since July, 2002, Area Coordinator for the Ohio Volkssport Association from 1994 through 1997, and Mid-America Regional Director from 1997 until 2001, EC X and EC XI.

I worked in the AVA National Headquarters as the interim executive director for five months in 2002. With this experience, I will bring a unique perspective to the board. I have a working knowledge of our headquarter operations and a good relationship with the staff which will help unite our organization.

Working together, we can make the American Volkssporting Association the premier walking organization. I appreciate your support.

#### Fred Sheets Candidate for Treasurer



I seek your vote for the AVA National Treasurer. I am concerned that our AVA national organization provides continued vitality and excellence in service under our sustained austere resources. Our AVA needs to be fiscally responsible, yet seek increased growth. This balancing act is not a one-person performance, but a team task. I believe that my presence as AVA Treasurer would significantly enhance this undertaking.

Currently employed as a Department of Defense Supervisory Auditor with the Defense Contract Audit Agency since 1988. Certified Public Accountant & Certified Government Financial Manager. Served as Chapter officers in Professional Accounting Organizations.

Master in Accountancy. Retired Reserve Armed Forces - 28 years. Active participant in Volkssporting since 1978. Served as Volkssport club officers in Texas and Florida. First Florida State Volkssport President – two non-consecutive terms. Served as Southeast Region Director, Executive Council X & XI. Served as National Treasurer, Executive Council XII. Experienced in AVA club, state, and national treasurer positions.

TAW Questions:

*What is your vision for the AVA?*

I would like the AVA to be recognized by whenever a national, state or local civic or community based organization thinks about putting on a walk that they would want to first contract the Volkssporting association for advice and assistance.

*Why do you want to serve on the AVA Executive Council?*

The AVA needs national leaders who can articulate the challenges facing our membership and bring it to a national forum for discussion. Humbly, I am one of those leaders.

*What are the major challenges facing the AVA and what would you do about them?*

The AVA is not only experiencing a shrunken participation base, but an ever-diminishing volunteer base. There is nothing that the AVA at the national level can do to fix this, but there is much the local club can do to publish and be more inclusive to attract new members. I am trying to insure that the AVA has the financial resources to continue before the turn-around comes.

*What specific professional and volunteer expertise would you bring to the Council?*

Professionally, my expertise is significant in the financial arena with strong credentials and membership associations. I have been an active Volkssporter volunteer since 1978 and held elected offices since 1984.

*What have been your most significant volkssport contributions in the past 5 years?*

During 2001 through 2002, I bought to the AVA membership the need to financially strengthen the AVA operations by means of a fee increase. This was widely unpopular and I received severe criticism for bringing this to the national forum. I was literally censured by friend and unknown alike. It was a tough position to take and personally exhausting. But all that weight that I shouldered was wiped away when a club member came up to me and said, "Thanks, Fred, for saving the AVA."

see candidates on page 11



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## Candidates *continued*

### Patty Proulx Candidate for Secretary



It has been my privilege to represent the volkssporters of the Northeast Region as their director for the past four years. I would like to continue serving our association as AVA Secretary, putting to use the insight I've gained from 25 years in this sport, as well as my experience as a secretary which includes membership in the New Hampshire Association of Education Office Professionals.

My vision for the AVA is that we focus more on the fun we have sharing this fitness activity with friends and family. I love this sport – it's unique. Yes, we have unique challenges, but I believe that a strong foundation of volkssporting volunteers is in place to move us forward. New initiatives already underway, such as testing electronic ESR's and a more attractive and informative webpage are excellent tools to assist in reducing paperwork and promoting quality events. Time and money are not unlimited and we must make effective use of our resources at all levels to avoid volunteer burnout.

In 1978, volkssporting in the US was two years old and the AVA only the dream of a group of dedicated individuals when I put my daughter Jessica in her backpack for a walk. Not our usual walk. A volksmarch. My father was visiting us in Germany and I thought a sightseeing walk in the mountains around Heidelberg would be a change of pace from the usual tourist activities. When I finished that 8km uphill and 2km straight downhill trail I never realized what a fulfilling role volkssporting would play in my life. I did realize two things that hold true even today – 1) the view from the top was worth the climb and 2) this was an activity I wanted to continue.

My involvement in volkssports has challenged me to do things and go places I never dreamed were possible. On the local level this includes membership in clubs across the country, co-founder of Magnolia State Volkssport Club, founder and president of Granite State Trail Walkers, serving as club secretary, event director, trail master, brochure publication, award design, publicity chair, sitting check points, registration, and even cooking eight cases of bratwurst when my husband the Food Chair went TDY unexpectedly.

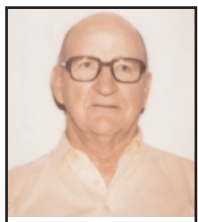
At the national level I served as Southeast Director on EC V, Northeast Director on EC XI, EC XII, member of the AVA Short Range Planning Committee 89-91, the Ad Hoc Friends of Volkssporting Committee 90-91, AVA Liaison to Special Funds Development Committee 99-01, AVA Recognition Awards Chair ECV (to celebrate the AVA's 10th Anniversary in 1989, IVV Honors were presented for the first time in AVA history, the second AVA Hall of Fame was awarded and "Founder's Club" plaques were presented to the 28 still active clubs from the original 35 chartered clubs in 1979), and AVA Recognition Awards Chair ECXI and

ECXII. In addition, I have attended five conventions either as a delegate or participant (85, 89, 91, 97, and 01).

More important than the list of states, number of events, or distance in km I've traveled, are the many friends I've made along the trails and the leadership experience I've gained from working with equally dedicated volkssporters over the years. I've had fun. I want to share that experience with others but I need your support. Thank you.

### AVA Regional Director Candidates

#### John Baird Candidate for Regional Director Rocky Mountain Region



The job description from the AVA states what each Regional Director shall be able to do. Even so, the primary duty of the position is to represent the interests of the Volkssport Clubs in the Region. These interests must always be represented fairly and with absolute integrity. This I will do!

Your Regional Director must encourage and promote the formation of new clubs as well as provide maximum support and encouragement to existing clubs. This must be done in a manner that promotes a spirit of harmony and cooperation between clubs in the Region. This I will do!

As a member of the Executive Council your Regional Director must support the goals of the AVA and volkssporting in general, while not forgetting the needs and concerns of member clubs. This I will do!

Regional Director should strongly support the concept of Volkssporting being healthy and fun, providing enjoyment for event workers and participants alike. For without them we will have nothing. This I will do!

Do I have the experience and skills to accomplish these promises? Yes, I do! Over 1800 events and 28,000 kilometers have been logged since my first German volkssport event in 1972. I have walked in forty-nine states. I'm a member of four volkssporting clubs. I have served as President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary in clubs since 1985.

I have served as your Regional Director during 1993-1995 on ECVII and ECVIII. I have served eight years on the AVA Audit Committee and I'm currently serving on the AVA Bylaws Committee. I'm currently serving as Treasurer of the 2003 AVA Convention Committee.

I am a retired Army Officer, having served in command, financial and logistical positions. Since retirement, I have completed a Bachelors Degree in Computer Science.

I have genuine concern for keeping clubs informed about the goals, accomplish-

ments, and yes, the problems experienced within our AVA. On the National level, I will work to improve how we do things for both the National Headquarters and clubs. If you elect me as your Regional Director, I will keep you informed! Thank you for your support.

#### Carolyn Lai Candidate for Regional Director Rocky Mountain Region



My name is Carolyn Lai and I am running for Regional Director for the Rocky Mountain region. I envision the AVA to continue as a viable vehicle for international friendship, exercise and basic well-being for everyone. Why am I running for regional director? I enjoy the camaraderie and the exercise. Volkssporting should not be a temporary trend. It provides us with new places to explore and an equally important reason is the development of long lasting friendships.

The challenge facing the AVA is the same as it is for individual clubs. We struggle to maintain and to increase membership. How do we strive to continue to produce excitement about our program? Perhaps this was the reason why I started the bus trips so we can support each other.

I have been a volkssporter since August, 1989. I was invited to participate in a guided night walk event in downtown San Jose, CA. When I saw the long lines of walkers waiting to register for the walk, I was impressed. Without any knowledge of the AVA and its program, I said to the president of the South Bay Striders, "Whatever the cost, I'm in." This was the excitement that motivated me to join.

I moved to Magna, Utah in October, 1990 and joined the Footloose Volkssport Club in January, 1991. I volunteered to be treasurer for the next four years and then became president and remain so to this day.

A couple of accomplishments worth noting were the bus trips and the Japanese walk across the U.S. in 2001. In October 1996 I planned a bus trip to help the Castle Country club (4th club in Utah) by supporting the YREs set up in Cedar City and St. George. Since then we have had a bus trip every year. So far we have walked in Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Nevada, Arizona and California. A core group of members participate every year as well as visitors from other states.

2001 was challenging year because I volunteered the club to help the Japanese walk across Utah. We worked hard and had fun putting it together. The Japanese were impressed with the detailed directions and maps I outlined for their 4 day walk from Wyoming to Salt Lake City. One of the girls said. "This is the first time we are walking trails to the state capitol."

My professional background included accounting, real estate, retail sales, and a short stint with the 2002 Winter Olympics. In education I have a bachelor degree in management and accounting. In 1997 I was the president of the Magna Chamber of Commerce (also a volunteer group). Major accomplishments included increasing membership and income by 20%. I attribute my organizational ability and attention to details to the NYC public school education and my business background.

#### Joan Lampart Candidate for Regional Director Atlantic Region



My name is Joan Lampart, current Atlantic Region Director, seeking re-election to a second term.

I have served the AVA over the past two years on the Executive Council as Special Events Chair (soliciting new programs to encourage walkers); Outyears Convention Committee Chair (attempting to find a site for the AVA 2007 Biennial Convention); and as a very active member of the AVA 2005 Convention Committee (Chair of Social Events and Chair of Sponsors and Exhibitors, as well as liaison to the Convention site).

Currently I am working with the National Park Service to renew a partnership that would benefit both the AVA and the National Park Service.

In the Atlantic Region, I have made strides to bridge communication by instituting a group email list to inform the Region of happenings both nationally and regionally. It is also a tool for individuals to share with others in the Region. I attempt to participate in as many events as possible throughout the Region, offering my assistance whenever possible.

I instituted a Biennial Atlantic Region Walking Conference in 2002. The conference is a three day event with walks, workshops, general sessions and social gatherings. The second Atlantic Region Walking Conference is scheduled for March 2004 in Gettysburg, PA.

Locally, I am a member of the Liberty Bell Wanderers and an active member of the Board. I am also the Editor of the club's monthly newsletter.

I have been involved in volkssporting since January 1991 and hold memberships in several local clubs.

I am currently retired from the business world, having worked for a major pharmaceutical manufacturer for 18.5 years.

My objective as Regional Director would be to further bridge communication gaps between State, Region and AVA HQ and continue to find programs that will bring more walkers to our sport.

*see candidates on page 12*



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## Candidates

*continued*

### Edward J. Tod

**Candidate for Regional Director  
South Central Region**



Some background information: I'm an Electrical engineering graduate of Washington University in St. Louis and recently retired after 38 years from the Boeing Co.

and McDonnell Douglas which merged with Boeing. During this time I served as Chief Engineer on the Navy's F/A-18 Super Hornet program and later became the General Manager of the Electronic Systems Engineering Division.

I've been married to my wife Carol for 42 years and we have three children and four grandchildren.

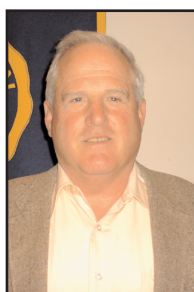
Carol and I have been avid volkss-marchers for twenty years. We have participated in over 900 events and have accumulated over 9000 kilometers. We finished the 50 state program and are in the process of walking the 51 capitals with 8 to go. Three of our grandchildren are also AVA members and frequently accompany us.

I am currently the Vice President of the Missouri Milers Volkswalk club and have been an officer of this club for many years in various capacities. Carol and I have attended 5 AVA conventions and are active volunteers at many events.

If elected to this office I would like to work with the clubs on ways to increase attendance at club events. During the time of been walking I've seen a marked decrease in the average attendance and in many cases our grandkids have been the only young people at many of the events. I hope we can find ways to get new people interested in this sport.

### Dennis Michele

**Candidate for Regional Director  
Southeast Region**



My name is Dennis Michele. I am a retired Navy Commander. My education includes a Masters Degree in Financial Management. My wife and I live in Fairview, NC and

are active members of the Asheville Amblers, Rowan Roamers and Winston Wanderers. We have been avid volkssporters since 1996. My IVV Credit balance exceeds 6000KM and over 500 events.

I feel strongly that all clubs — large and small — need a greater voice and solid representation at EC meetings and to be fully supported by their RD. Support of the clubs and their endeavors to hold quality events should be the primary purpose of the EC and AVA HQ. Without strong clubs, we do not have a strong AVA. I also feel strongly that we need to

return to the tenets of our sport — fun, fitness and fellowship — while meshing them with the new environment (higher gas prices, multiple demands on time, competing sports, aging general population, etc.) that we now face.

I have followed these ideals in my first term as Southeast Region Director and will continue to do so for a second term. I will continue to question all proposals, using the yardstick of effect on and benefit to clubs in deciding whether or not to support them. I will continue to be the eyes, ears and mouth for the clubs in the Southeast.

We all know that declining participation and the continual reduction in the number of clubs are the major problems facing our sport. I will continue to seek and support ideas which prompt club growth and strength so that strong clubs can meet these challenges.

To accomplish this, I will draw upon my over 20 years of experience working with volunteers in the Boy Scouts program. I held positions as Cub Master, member and Chairman of Pack and Troop Committees, PAVAB District Roundtable Commissioner and chairman of various committees at the District and Council levels. I was recognized for my achievements by being awarded the District Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver Award - highest awards that can be bestowed at District and Council levels respectively. I will also draw on my active experience in volkssporting for the last seven years, holding offices as President of the Asheville Amblers — four years; President of the Tarheel State Walkers Volkssport Association — three years and Southeast Region Director — two years.

As a result of my services in volkssporting, my club grew from 12 members to over 200; the average attendance at our regular events increased from around 40 to 120 — year round events enjoyed a similar increase; I initiated 2 new YREs and major modifications to six others; I played a major role in every Ambler regular event for the past 7 years; I recommended a change to the National Heritage program (10 More Program) which resulted in more walks being able to qualify for the program and more clubs to benefit from the program; my state has enjoyed greater cooperation among clubs and steady growth in club membership and attendance at events; as SERD, I have fostered a sense of regional pride by establishing a regional website and regional walk list; I have established rapport with several major organizations in Alabama to foster the growth of volkssporting in that state. Finally, as chair of the AVA Standards and Evaluations Committee, I have proposed several changes which resulted in making the Procedures and Policy Manual a more useful tool for the clubs.

Based on the above, I feel I am thoroughly qualified to continue as SE RD.

### Leonard Wojtysiak

**Candidate for Regional Director  
Mid America Region**



*What is your vision for the AVA?*

To be a well run and efficient organization.

*Why do you want to serve on the AVA Executive Council?*

To be an active member of the Mid-America Region and the AVA.

*What are the major challenges facing the AVA and what would you do about them?*

The growth of our organization is number one. I feel that we need to market to our "audience" which is Americans not Germans. So we need to drop German words etc. and use words that Americans can relate to. Being proud of our heritage is one thing but marketing is a completely different game!

Automating our organization is number two. We have done some good work and made some really bad moves in trying to get computerized. I want to stop the "bleeding" before it gets any worse and start working from the ground up in a logical, systematic program to correct the current system.

The third thing is to put fun back into walking. I have seen examples of this at different walks and it is surprising to see the difference it makes to me and other walkers. We need to have more of these "fun" walks.

*What specific professional and volunteer expertise would you bring to the Council?*

I have a four-year Accounting degree, a four-year Business Administration degree, a four-year Computer Science and Masters in Computer Science. I have worked ten years in seismic research, ten years in logistics, and twelve years in the computer field as a Project Manager installing hardware & software plus training users to complete the total implementation package. I'm currently President of the Illinois Trekkers and Secretary of the Illinois State Association.

*What have been your most significant volkssport contributions in the past 5 years?*

Doing volunteer work at local, state, regional, and headquarters level.

### Leslie Penton

**Candidate for Regional Director  
Northeast Region**



My name is Leslie Penton and I am seeking the position of Northeast Regional Director for the American Volkssport Association (AVA).

I like to walk. I enjoy the socializing and camaraderie that volkssporting presents. During the last 23 years, I've met many wonderful friends. I have walked in most of the states and seen so many new areas

— which is something I would not have done without volkssporting.

I have also seen participation increase and then decline. I have seen the financial situation deteriorate — due to unforeseen circumstances — not mismanagement. I believe that participation and finances are the major challenges for the AVA. It is my desire to see participation in volkssport events rebound and the AVA to be financially solvent, responsive to member clubs and nationally recognized both inside and outside the walking community. I want to serve as Northeastern Regional Director to assist in achieving this goal.

I do not know what can be done to achieve the goal. I'm not sure anyone knows. I am willing to take ideas from the region to the EC and vice versa. I am willing to review ideas and offer my thoughts. I am willing to work within my region and with the EC to better understand the issues and resolutions.

I believe the major challenge for the AVA is increased participation for the long term. Increased participation would bring in additional revenue. Increased revenue will help the financial hurdles and move toward national recognition inside and outside of the walking community. I also believe that funding is a major challenge. Grants or additional corporate sponsorship could help fill the gap when sanction and participation fees are not enough.

I would bring 23 years of firsthand volkssport knowledge and experience to the AVA EC. This includes holding club offices and presidencies (1986 in Oklahoma City & 1994/1995 in Largo, FL), living and walking in 5 regions (Southwest, South Central, Southeast, Mid-Atlantic and Northeast). I have been a delegate to the 1985, 1987, 1989, 1995, 1997, 1999 & 2001 AVA Conventions. I have served on the Strategic Planning Committee (1999 to present) under Fred Sheets. I have assisted in the AVA Convention Credentialing in 1995, 1997, 1999 & 2001. I have participated in almost 800 events and I have worked too many events to count. I also bring 30 years of general business work experience to include customer service, training, project management and technical support. I hold a BA in Business Management, a Masters in Business Administration.

I feel my most significant volkssport contribution in the past five years has been the maintenance of the websites for Connecticut Valley Volkssport Association, Volkssport Club of West Point, Prairie Dog Plodders (site removed) and Holy Family Walkers (site removed). These sites have all received AVA Awards for content. As more people use the internet, it is vital to have information about the AVA available to internet users.

I look forward to serving the Northeast Region during the next AVA Executive Council.

*see candidates on page 13*



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## Candidates

*continued*

### Bonnie Johnson

**Candidate for Regional Director  
North Central Region**



My first volkssmarch was in April 1986 at the Springbrook Nature Center in Fridley, MN. Little did I know it would become my major hobby, exercise and a time of fun and challenge with a chance to see our country by foot. Now with 1200 events and 1200 kilometers in addition to some biking kilometers, I still look forward to getting out each week to participate in a walk or biking event.

My current employment is with Hennepin County as a Child Support Officer. I telecommute and work at home every other day. With less travel time during the week, it allows me more time to work on the AVA and club projects. I also do a variety of church and community volunteer functions.

In the past, I have served as secretary for 3 years and president for 4 years of the Twin Cities Volkssport Club. I have participated in many club activities from the ground up, putting on two to four events each year as well as serving as a point of contact for four YRE/Seasonal walks and a bike. Beginning in April of this year, I will be leading a group walk each Thursday to promote the area year round/seasonal walks and bikes. This will also serve as a market for new walkers, fellowship of walking with someone each week and gainful attendance for the yre/seasonals.

I have been the North Central Regional Director since July 2001 and will be up for re-election this year. Each Regional Director (one from each of the 10 regions), is put on a committee which best suits their background, experience and skills. I have been working on the Fundraising Committee. Our committee is the one promoting the pups, eagles and bears for the AVA with the hope that everyone is buying these cute little keepsakes. I also work at keeping in contact with each of the 38 clubs in the North Central region to represent and bring their concerns to the Executive Council board and meetings. Contact with the clubs is either by visitation, letter, email or phone and I maintain an open door to any and all for information and questions.

If I am re-elected as the North Central Regional Director, I will do my best to represent each club in this region and fulfill my obligation as a member of the AVA Executive Council. I will put the clubs best interests forward. My goal is to work with the clubs to motivate growth in walk participation and get new walkers involved so they feel a part of the organization. This in turn will help the clubs as well as the AVA. Thanks for allowing me to serve you for the past 2 years.

### Curt Myron

**Candidate for Regional Director  
Northwest Region**



I began volkssporting in July 1986. I've logged over 430 events and 4,500 kilometers; walked in 39 of the 50 states, and in eight countries. I am an AVA member, and have attended many international volkssporting events including the IVV Olympiad and national conventions of both US and Canada. I've held most club offices and served on State and national committees.

I'm a retired federal manager with over 30 years experience in leadership and management. I have several thousand hours experience using communication skills as a trainer and facilitator, and have many years experience as member and Chair of Executive Boards. I have two college degrees; a Bachelor's in Business Administration and a Master's with a major in Information Systems Technology.

My wife, Martha, and I live on Washington's Whidbey Island and enjoy designing trails, organizing events and sharing the 'fun' of volkssporting. We combine volkswalks with every vacation. I am a member of the NW Tulip Trekkers Volkssport Club and the Bavarian Volkssport Association, both in Washington State.

I can help AVA and the Northwest Region meet the financial and organizational challenges we face. A Regional Director must represent clubs to AVA and represent AVA to member clubs. I will be active, visible and always willing to listen. Communication between AVA and member clubs must improve. State organizations also have an obligation to promote our sport and relations between them and the RD must be smooth and efficient.

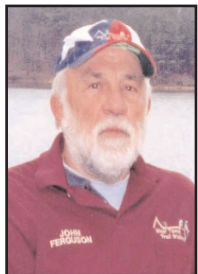
Although much has been done, we must all do more to promote our sport if we hope to reverse the trends of decreasing numbers and increasing costs. We've heard for years that the numbers of walkers are declining, without much in the way of supporting facts getting to members. AVA does much for our sport, but too often the only information that reaches the individual walker is the latest change in rules. I'm sure there are success stories out there, but more needs to be done to share the news with clubs and members. For instance, my own club, the NW Tulip Trekkers has tripled its membership in the past three years (24 to 74) and nearly 50% of the members are in their first three years of our sport.

I believe in AVA's goals - fun, fitness and fellowship. The most important of these is fun because if the fun disappears, then the fellowship follows and club participation becomes work. But just like work, fun requires effort from us and we must pay attention to details to make club activities enjoyable.

We must forge new alliances and create new opportunities to enhance our sport. We must take advantage of technology to spread the message of volkssports to those who are unaware. We must create new clubs and give meaningful assistance to troubled clubs. We have the ability and talent to make our sport grow. I've learned what it takes to turn a club around and would like to apply my skills to our region to increase both the fun and membership in volkssports.

### John Ferguson

**Candidate for Regional Director  
Southwest Region**



The future of Volkssporting rests upon our ability to recruit and retain NEW members - "our customers".

The AVA and its member clubs must advertise and promote itself to new customers as does any successful business. We should use every method at our disposal to attract these new customers. We have not fully explored the methods available.

Everything we are doing in Volkssporting, from club through the AVA, must be put on the table for evaluation, change or elimination. We need to review everything from the terms we use all the way through the forms and procedures we follow. We want to make the public aware of who we are and give them reasons to want to participate. To be successful, everything must be placed under this microscope.

Our events should be advertised by methods that have not been used before. Our advertising tools, especially our brochures, need updating and made more appealing. Let's take advantage of the information era. Let's join with like minded organizations to sponsor walking and family activities.

All our participants, either paying or free, need to be treated as customers. The AVA is in competition for the time and efforts of our customers. These customers can— and do— leave, going to other providers. Our events should first, and foremost, be promoted as interesting and fun. Consequently, our events must be interesting and fun.

These are concepts that I have learned in my seven years as an officer with the West Texas Trail Walkers and my five years as an officer with the Dallas Trekkers Walking Club.

Over my 30 years as the president of a consulting engineering business in north Texas, I have learned that either you produce a good product or the customer will leave. The same principles apply to Volkssporting. In this, Volkssporting is nothing unique, it is like any business. Or if Volkssporting wishes to be considered unique, we all must sell this uniqueness to these new customers.

One goal for this region is to make all the actions of each club from sanctioning

an event, processing a brochure, holding an event, through finishing the AVA paperwork, as easy as possible. The AVA organization also needs to revise its actions to accomplish this goal.

We all must seek new ways to communicate with our potential customers. Every club in the southwest region is encouraged to suggest and share methods and be an active participant for achieving this goal.

Advertising for new customers is listed as a responsibility of the Regional Director. Your regional director should be the leader for this region, coordinating all clubs to accomplish our common goal— selling Volkssporting to new customers.

### Herman Husbands

**Candidate for Regional Director  
Pacific Region**



My volkssporting career began at Ramstein, Germany in September 1978. I joined the base club, the Ramstein Roadrunners, and participated in more than 1,500 events in 15 different European countries. I was elected President of the Ramstein Roadrunners for the period 1981-83, during which we held two events which averaged more than 15,000 participants, on each occasion, over the two-day event. On March 13, 1983, the DVV conferred the Bronze medal in recognition of my contribution to volkssporting in Germany.

From 1983 to 1986, I assisted the Great Britain Federation to become affiliated with the IVV, with final recognition being achieved in 1985. During this time, I was the Global Contact for the U.S. Air Force in Great Britain, assisting eight bases in presenting Global events for 1984-85.

I returned to the U.S. in 1986, retiring in the San Diego area. Volkssporting continued on a limited basis due to the few clubs that existed in Southern California. As clubs began to grow, I formed the South Bay Roadrunners in Chula Vista on March 13, 1995, and the club has been in continuous existence ever since.

I am a Lifetime member of the Ramstein Roadrunners, and a member of the Low Desert Roadrunners, Laguna Turf & Surf Walkers, and the Vaca Valley Volks. I have served the AVA as the Pacific Regional Director since July 1, 2001, and as the Chairman of the Marketing and Publicity Committee on the Executive Council.

Currently, I am networking with the Arthritis Foundation in an effort to determine if there is a long-term arrangement we can establish for the mutual benefit of our organizations and the promotion of walking as a therapy for those with arthritis.

I believe in the purpose of our organization and its future. I currently have more than 1,700 events and 30,000 kilometers.

