

Footsteps

Fun, Fitness, Friendship

Volume XXIII Number 4

July/August 2022



The Prez Sez...

As I write this latest edition of my article, I find it hard to believe that we are already half-way through the

year and deep into the Summer months. With the heart of summer upon us, just a few reminders on our upcoming walk events.

To begin with, we have our unique event taking place at Junto Wine Hiking Trail, on Saturday July 30th, with the start table opening at 10am. Junto Wine Hiking Trail is located at 1356 182nd in Seward, NE. This group guided walk is a 5k or 10k, and the fee for walking is \$3. The club will be providing sandwiches for participants afterwards, so please let us know by no later than July 25th whether or not you will be attending. Please bring a lawn chair for the sandwich lunch provided after the walk.

Please use the link below to pre-register for this event;

<https://forms.gle/KmgPBJZbMKeyNUVp9>

Also coming up on Tuesday August 30th, is our Memorial Park Group Walk. We will be meeting at the Memorial Park Rose Garden at 5pm. Enter on Storz Drive from N. 56th & Underwood Ave. Registration will take place at the walk, and your \$3 fee can be paid at that time.

And in closing, I would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped make our Gene Leahy Mall Walking

Tour on July 4th a success. With 82 walkers in attendance, it shows you what a strong following our club has!

Hope to see you all at an event sometime in the future.

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy
and Happy Walking,
~Steve

Inside this issue:

The Prez Sez	1
Sandy Speaks	2
Photos	3
Upcoming Events	9
Birthdays & Anniversaries	9
Officer Roster	10
Meetings & Dues	10



For the latest on events and news visit our website:

[nebraskatrailblazers.com/](https://www.nebraskatrailblazers.com/)



or like us on Facebook

New Club Meeting Address

Beginning with the September 12 meeting, the Trailblazers will be gathering in the clubhouse at Maple Ridge Retirement Community, 3525 N. 167th Circle, Omaha. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. with a speaker, business meeting followed by treats. See you there!

New Club Website Address

Our club's website has changed to <https://www.nebraskatrailblazers.com/> but you can just type in [nebraskatrailblazers.com](https://www.nebraskatrailblazers.com/). This new address is more secure and has some new capabilities that we're still exploring. If you have bookmarked the club website on your phone, tablet or computer, be sure to change the bookmark to [nebraskatrailblazers.com](https://www.nebraskatrailblazers.com/).



Sandy peaks

What makes a successful walk?

For us, it is usually numbers. "We had 100 walkers!" Well, we haven't had great numbers of walkers this year, but we have had great, successful walks. And that is all because of our club members. Great ideas have come from our communications committee, our coordinating committee and club members. Those great ideas were executed by our great volunteers.

Our July 4 walk was a great example. After going viral on the eye catching Facebook post, we all got in gear and prepared for an unprecedented turnout. Well, our faithful Facebook folks failed us whether they were scared off by the weather, worried about the crowds or took time to preview the park earlier in the weekend. But it was successful in that we learned to work with other entities (The RiverFront, AVA and AARP), we were able to prepare for those large numbers and we have the club members willing to step up and volunteer for these events. 25 volunteers were there to wipe down wet tables, get the waiver signed, hand out maps, direct walkers, etc. That is **20%** of our local club members! Bill, from The RiverFront, complimented us on our shirts. He could see them from almost anywhere in the park. And I was tickled to see all of the Meetup members waiting patiently at the start for the "group" walk. They knew the drill from previous walks. I had fun walking with them and we got a couple of very nice compliments on the Meetup page afterwards. Yes, it was a very successful walk!

We do have a "few" extra fans, so if you are attending an event that might be warm, let us know and we would be happy to share.

And let's not forget all of the other great walks we have had over the last two months. We had great weather for our Auburn and Humboldt walks. The Chamber of Commerce met us at the Auburn start and we found ourselves the star of their Facebook post. We supported the local museum and the Cancer Garden in Humboldt. The art studio in Humboldt was an outstanding stop. Both walks were lovely.

Chadron did a great job of putting on their first Volksmarch. On a chilly morning, they had 49 walkers enjoy the great trails at Chadron State College. Their walk brought walkers from Iowa, Colorado and Missouri.

Grand Island was a memorial walk for Joyce McNair and Glenda Tucker, two sisters that were very active volksmarchers in Grand Island. This walk was hosted by their family members. Jim and Martha McGahan shared some stories from those past walks. Joyce's daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren all enjoyed some family time. There was rain all around the area, but Joyce and Glenda kept a high pressure area over Grand Island. The weather was perfect.

Club Meeting Survey

The results are in. Drum roll, please. We learned a lot from this survey. We learned that most of you want scheduled monthly meetings. You especially want the programs and the social time. Most wanted less business and more social. We also learned how much our members appreciate email notifications, the newsletter, Trail Mail and the website. These were the preferred methods of communication for almost all members. So watch for some changes to our meetings come September.

One proposed change which you might have noticed in a recent email message is a possible new location for our meetings. We do not see any possibility of moving back to the basement at Morningside in the near future. Maple Ridge Retirement Community has several spaces that they would share with us at no charge. We would be able to serve refreshments and coffee again.

Other changes are in the meeting format. We will attempt to send the minutes from the previous meeting as well as the previous board meeting by email prior to the club meeting. This would eliminate the time taken to read the minutes and give members a chance to look over both the board minutes and club minutes prior to the meeting. We may try having a very short business meeting (15 minutes) at the beginning of the meeting, then the speaker and then social time. That way, if there are questions for the speaker, it will not delay the beginning of the meeting and will address the issue of less formal meetings as well as help our club officers get out the door earlier. Those working folks sometimes leave for work early in the morning and come straight to the meeting from work. This makes for a very long day for them. Our members are always willing to help put chairs away, etc., but the officers still feel they need to stay till the end to lock up (which would be eliminated if we move to Maple Ridge).

~Sandy



July 4th at the Gene Leahy Mall



Getting ready



Volunteers all ready



Dog Park



East Lawn



A little history remains



Slides



July 4th at the Gene Leahy Mall



The Cascades



Butterflies fly across mural



Group walk at the Cascades



Volunteers with their Riverfront Shirts



Group Walk



Advertising the Olympiad

Grand Island



Joyce's daughters Jamie & Jacquie with pictures of Joyce & Glenda



Special Grand Island Walk



Jim & Martha at the checkpoint



Bethany Bob from Kansas signs in



Start Point



The Stroller Brigade ready to roll! Joyce's kids & grandkids

Auburn



Post Office Mural



Little Free Libraries



Butch & Dave setting up the feather flag

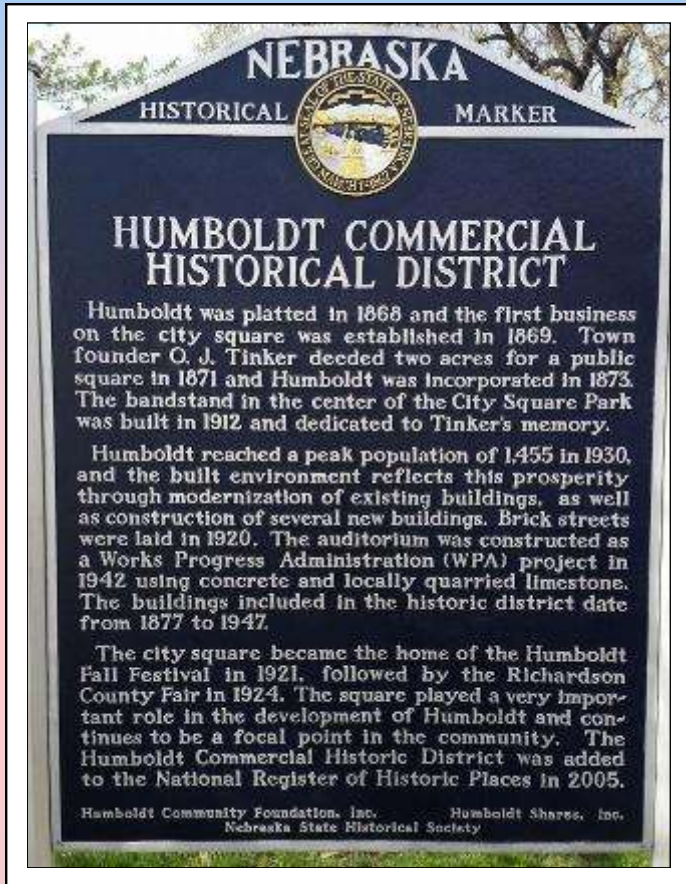


Walking around the pond



The rustic look

Humboldt



Humboldt Lake Park



Mural



Cancer Memorial Garden



Walk Finish

Chadron



Gary & Ruth Danford



Butch & Sandy



Kerri & Daughter





Mark your calendars: Upcoming Events!!

July

- 24 Woodbury Thrives Family Volksmarch, Woodbury MN Twin Cities Volkssport
- 30 Junto Wine Hiking Trail, Seward NENebraska Trailblazers

August

- 13 La Salle Lake SRA Walk, Solway MN NorthStar Trail Travelers
- 13 Ste. Genevieve Jour De Fete Walk, Ste. Genevieve MO..... Gateway Milers
- 14 Lake Bemidje State Park Walk, Bemidje MN NorthStar Trail Travelers
- 20 St. Louis City Foundry, St. Louis MO St. Louis Walkers
- 30 Memorial Park Rose Garden 5k Group Walk, OmahaNebraska Trailblazers

September

- 3 Outlaw Ranch Black Hills Volkssport Assn
- 10 Flanagan Lake, OmahaNebraska Trailblazers
- 10 Battle Creek Walk, Maplewood MN Twin Cities Volkssport
- 10 30th Anniversary Walk, Newtonia MODogwood Trailblazers
- 17 Jay Cooke State Park Walk, Carlton MN..... NorthStar Trail Travelers
- 18 Savana Portage State Park Walk, McGregor MN NorthStar Trail Travelers
- 24 Downtown Breweries, Des Moines Greater Des Moines Volkssport Assn



NWFT Officers

President
Steve Burkland

Secretary
Dave Brown



Vice President
Lori Sue Anderson

Treasurer
Jill Champley

Speakers

Sept 12 NE Office on Aging
Oct 3 TBA
Nov 7 Joslyn Castle
Dec TBA



Meeting News

Our next meetings will be September 12, October 3, November 7 and December 5 at Maple Ridge Retirement Community, 3525 N 167th Cir., Omaha, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the clubhouse with 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.

Club Dues

Club dues are \$10 for a single membership and \$15 for a family membership, prorated for the year (see membership form on our website).

Please send renewals 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