

America's Walking Club and the Northeast Region

Present the

21st AVA Biennial Convention

June 9-16, 2019, Albany, NY







American Volkssport Association, Inc.

Vision 2020

Strategic Plan 2016-2020

STRATEGIC INTENT

PURPOSE

Promote the public health, physical fitness and well-being of Americans.

VISION

Increasingly engage Americans in lifelong walking and other noncompetitive physical fitness activities.

MISSION

Promote and organize noncompetitive physical fitness activities that encourage lifelong fun, fitness and friendship for all ages and abilities.

CORE VALUES

1. Health and Safety

AVA's self-paced, fun, physical fitness activities contribute to participants' health and well-being. Participant safety is a high priority in activity design.

2. Volunteering and Public Service

Volunteers are at the heart of programs and activities to improve your health. In the spirit of national service, we provide opportunities for community engagement.

3. Noncompetitive and Inclusive

We welcome the public to join in events that lead to lifelong fun, fitness and friendship. Everyone is welcome and performs at their own ability level.

4. Adventure and Camaraderie

Every AVA and IVV event is an adventure—scenery, terrain, history—whether in the United States or around the world. Our events and activities provide opportunities to stay connected with friends and make new friendships.

5. Environmental Stewardship

We take only memories and leave only footprints. AVA events increase awareness of the importance of preserving our environment for future generations.

6. Transparency and Accountability

From the Club level through the National level, we are open to all. Our tax-exempt nonprofit organization conducts its business openly and complies with all nonprofit legal requirements.

STRATEGIC GOALS

GOAL 1: Mission Achievement

Promote and organize noncompetitive fitness activities for people of all ages and abilities.

GOAL 2: Financial Sustainability

Ensure long-term sustainability through financial integrity and revenue diversification.

GOAL 3: Operational Efficiency

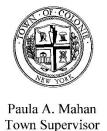
Increase public awareness, operational capacity and efficiency to facilitate engagement and growth.

GOAL 4: Governance and Leadership

Build board governance capacity to facilitate engagement and growth.

AVA: AMERICA'S WALKING CLUB

TOWN OF COLONIE



Office of the Supervisor

Memorial Town Hall P.O. Box 508 Newtonville, New York 12128

June 2019

Welcome American Volkssport Association.

It is a very great pleasure to welcome you to Colonie for your 21st AVA Biennial Convention. We are honored you have chosen to have your convention here, and I send my very best wishes to everyone for a productive and enjoyable event.

I am very happy you're planning a number of walking events in our beautiful Crossings Park, which is situated near the Red Lion Hotel. The 130-acre Crossings features rolling fields, thick stands of trees, walking paths, an orchard, bike trails, and a three-acre pond and is one of the region's most popular recreational spots.

In Colonie, you can also access more than 12 miles of our bike-hike path along the scenic Mohawk River. The bike-hike path is accessible both from our Mohawk River Town Park and our Mohawk Riverside Landing Park on River Road.

I know you come to Colonie from locations all across this great country and am happy you will be able to see a number of beautiful nearby localities. I also hope while you are here you will be able to experience some of what makes Colonie such a vital and interesting place — friendly people, a beautiful locale, important historic sites, and great shopping, dining, and cultural offerings.

Finally, good luck in furthering the goals and ideals of those dedicated to walking!

Sincerely,

Paula A. Mahan

Colonie Town Supervisor

Paula a Mahan

Welcome to the 21st AVA Biennial Convention as we Walk Through History in Albany, NY.



Fun, Fitness, and Friendship are the watch words for AVA: America's Walking Club, and they will be greatly evident here in Albany. The Convention Committee has worked long and hard to make this convention one to remember.

We will have outstanding walks throughout the week. Everyone knows that walking is good for our health, but we also know that AVA makes walking fun. So, be sure to take advantage of all the walks being offered. In addition, you will have opportunities before and after Convention for numerous YREs, like the state capitals and the AT in the northeast states which are conveniently close together.

In addition to walks, we have an ambitious schedule of Workshops that among other things will prepare you to host better events, obtain more effective publicity, grow your club, and learn more about how the National Office supports our clubs.

During these days that we are gathered together, you will have the opportunity to meet the National Officers, the Regional Directors, and members of the National Office Team. Take advantage of this time to ask questions and make suggestions. This is a perfect environment to share ideas on how together we can make AVA stronger.

The public relations firm who we have hired to help us get our message to the public will be at Convention taking pictures, doing videos, and conducting interviews. Don't be shy! If you have a story to tell about your Volksmarching experience, whether it's how your health has improved, how you met lifelong friends, or just how much fun you have with AVA, make a point to tell it to the folks from Mass Media. We need your stories to let the public know who we are and make them really want to participate with us.

Of course, there is also work that needs to be done. That work will take place at the two sessions of our General Membership Meeting. Here is where the delegates have the opportunity to elect the National Officers for the next 2-year term, approve (or reject) Bylaws changes, and approve the location of the next Biennial Convention which will be held in 2021. We expect electronic voting to allow us to move quicker and get more done in the time we have available.

While I mentioned fun and fitness, let's not forget friendship. During your time here in Albany, you will have a number of social events where you can catch up with old friends and make many new ones. The social interaction and friendships are two of the most important elements of the AVA Nation.

Finally, we will close out the Convention with an awards banquet where we will recognize fellow Volkssporters for their accomplishments, hear a national speaker, and celebrate where we have been and where we are going.

I look forward to seeing you during our time here in Albany, and I hope that you will go back to your club energized and ready to take on the challenge to create a bright future for AVA: America's Walking Club.

David Bonewitz, PhD President, AVA: America's Walking Club

Welcome Volkssporters,

The Northeast Region of the American Volkssport Association is delighted to welcome all volkssporters from around the globe to *Walk Thru History* with us during our 21st Biennial Convention. The Northeast Region is composed of 10 clubs comprising the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, and New York. It is known for the brilliant leaf colors in the Autumn, many picturesque lighthouses along the jagged seashore, tall masted schooners, maple syrup, colonial towns, and the powerhouse cities of Boston and New York.

We will begin our volkswalks in the seaport town of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, an important early ship building center and port city with one of the largest existing collection of federal style houses in the country. Onto Danvers,



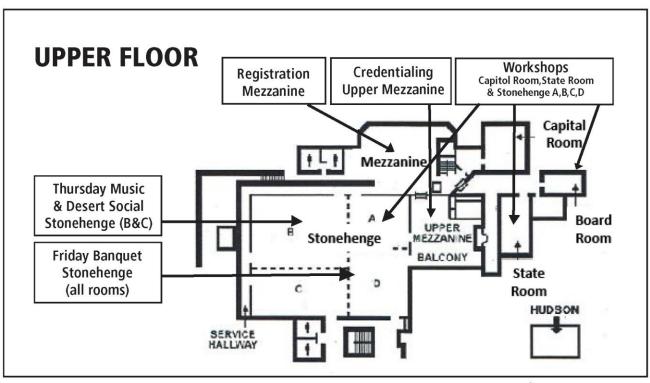
Massachusetts, formerly Salem Village, known for the Witch Trials of 1692/93. We will travel to Springfield, Massachusetts site of the Dr. Seuss, the Basketball Hall of Fame Museums and the beautiful Forest Park. Our first convention walk in the Albany area will be highlighting the beginning of the historic Erie Canal in Cohoes, New York. Our second convention walk will be on the sacred ground of the battlefield in Saratoga National Historical Park known in the history books as the turning point of the Revolution. You will have a choice of three routes for this day's volkswalk and a volksbike ride. Our third final convention walk is the President's Walk in Albany, the capital of New York founded in 1614 as a Dutch trading post and now the state capital of the state. The first post-convention walk will bring you west to Cooperstown, New York, a lovely lakeside town and home of the Baseball Hall of Fame. We will close out the post walks in Buffalo, New York where we find the terminus of the Erie Canal.

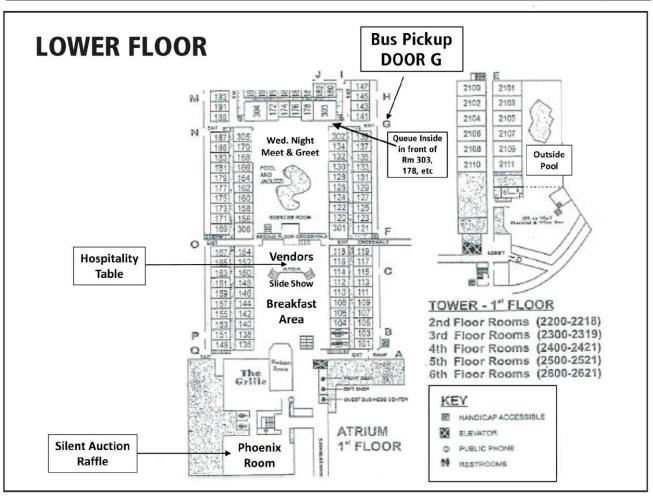
Additionally, there will be a swim all three days of convention in the convention hotel indoor or outdoor pools. Bikers will have two rides available all three convention days from sunup to sundown. A Schenectady bike ride is self-supported and the Battlefield ride has a guided 9am bike ride with rental available **only** on Thursday, June 13. The battlefield ride will also be available all three days from 9am-sundown.

Come and enjoy our interactive evening socials including Wednesday's "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" and Thursday's Fiddle Tunes, Folk Songs and Fancy Footwork a musical interactive evening with a dessert intermission. We will conclude Friday eventing with our Closing Banquet, Crazy Horse Memorial Speaker and the First Walking Hall of Fame Award Presentations. Come out to show your support for your club and national members who have given their time to make our sport of volkssporting viable and fun.

We look forward to seeing you in Albany and know you will enjoy the educational, historical and architectural charms our region has to offer. We are very excited to be your hosts in 2019.

Lea Darling and Teresa Kennedy Convention Co-Chairs





Schedule of Events

| | SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2019 | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 9:00 am - 12:00 pm | Start Portsmouth, NH Walk | Little Harbour School 50 Clough Drive |
| 3:00 pm | Close Portsmouth Walk | Little Harbour School |

| MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2019 | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---|
| | | Endicott Park Visitor Center 57 Forest St. |
| 3:00 pm | Close Danvers Walk | Endicott Park Visitor Center |

| TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2019 | | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|--|
| 9:00 am - 12:00 pm | Start Springfield Walk For 57 F | | |
| 3:00 pm | Close Springfield Walk | Forest Park | |
| | Drive to Red Lion Hotel, Albany, NY | | |
| 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm | Convention Registration & Pick Up | Mezzanine | |
| 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm | Credentialing Open | Upper Mezzanine | |
| 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm | Silent Auction Open for Drop Off Items | Phoenix Room | |
| 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm | AVA/Convention Merchandise, Regions/States/Clubs, Stamping, Exhibits, Sponsors and Vendor Tables Open | Middle Courtyard | |
| 5:00 pm - 9:30 pm | Silent Auction Open for BROWSING | Phoenix Room | |
| 5:00 pm - 9:30 pm | AVA Publicity Contest Entries on Display | Middle Courtyard | |
| 4 pm | Hotel Registration Opens | Registration Desk | |
| 5:00 pm - 9:30 pm | DINNER ON YOUR OWN | | |
| 6:00 pm - 6:30 pm | Sign in Table Open at Stamping Table & Start Point | Middle Courtyard Colonie Crossing Park | |
| | PLEASE JOIN US For a FUN ESCV Seasonal Guided 5k AVA/Community Walk | | |
| NOT A CONVENTION WALK | See Service Dogs and their owners from Operation at Ease (Convention Not-for-Profit Donation Awardee) Start/Return from the Red Lion Hotel Colonie Crossings Park Walk | Make a donation to Operation at Ease and receive a ticket for a free ice cream. | |
| 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm | Let's All Get Together for an Ice Cream Social | South Pavilion Crossing Park | |
| 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm | NEC/BOARD Meeting All members invited; see and hear your elected officers at work for our Volkssport Nation. | Stonehenge D | |

| WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019 | | |
|--|--|-----------------|
| Today is WEAR YOUR CLUB'S T SHIRTS | | |
| 6:00 am - 9:00 am CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST Front Courtyal | | Front Courtyard |
| 7:00 am - 12:00 pm Convention Registration & Pick Up Mezzanine | | Mezzanine |

| | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019 | |
|---------------------|--|---|
| 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm | | |
| 7:00 am – 11:30 am | Credentialing Open | Upper Mezzanine |
| ALL DAY | AVA Publicity Contest Entries On Display | Middle Courtyard |
| 7:30 am - 9:00 am | Buses depart for Erie Canal Walk | Exit G, back of Pool in Courtya |
| 7:30 am - 9:00 pm | Silent Auction Open for Drop Off Items & Bidding | Phoenix Room |
| 8:00 am - 12:00 pm | Start Cohoes Walk | Cohoes Senior Center 10 Cayuga Plaza |
| 10:00 am - 8:00 pm | Volkswim Volksbike | Indoor & Outdoor Pools Saratoga Battlefield/Schenecta |
| 12:00 pm | Preordered Box Lunch Pickup/Lunch on Own | Front Courtyard |
| 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm | AVA/Convention Merchandise, Regions/States/Clubs, Stamping, Exhibits, Sponsors and Vendor Tables Open | Middle Courtyard |
| 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm | Workshop: Marketing & Publicity Update | Henry Rosales, AVA Exec. Dir., Publicity Committee Stonehenge B & C |
| 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm | Workshop: How to Grow and Sustain Your Club | Barb Nuss Capital Room |
| 12:30 pm - 1:15 pm | Workshop: MeetUp Basics | Kathy Bundy Stonehenge A |
| 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm | Workshop: Erie Canal History | Brad Utter Stonehenge B & C |
| 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm | Workshop: America Walks-Walk Audit Reports | Kate Kraft, PhD, Exec. Dir. & Heidi Simon, Dep. Dir. State Room |
| 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm | Workshop: All Things IT | Chris Zegelin, IT Chair Stonehenge A |
| 2:00 pm | LAST BUS for Red Lion Hotel | Matton Canal Boat Yard |
| 2:15 pm - 3:15 pm | Workshop: Nuts and Bolts of Clubs | Steve Hughart Capital Room |
| 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Workshop: Saratoga Battlefield History | Megan Stevens Stonehenge D |
| 3:00 pm | Close Cohoes Walk | Matton Canal Boat Yard |
| 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm | General Membership Meeting Everyone is WELCOME | Stonehenge B & C |
| 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm | Baseball Park themed food, Meet & Greet with Cash Bar Proudly Wear your favorite Team Jersey/Tee shirt/Hat Baseball Trivia Games | Rear Courtyard behind Indoo Pool |

| THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019 | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|--|
| Today is WEAR YOUR SPECIAL PROGRAM T SHIRTS | | | |
| 6:00 am - 9:00 am CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST Front C | | Front Courtyard | |
| All Day | AVA Publicity Contest Entries on Display Middle Courtyard | | |
| 7:00 am - 9:00 pm | Convention Registration & Pick Up | Mezzanine | |

| THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019 | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 8:00 am -2:00 pm | 8:00 am -2:00 pm Credentialing Open | | |
| 7:15 am - 9:00 am | Buses depart for Saratoga Battlefield Walk | Exit G, back of Pool in Courtya | |
| 7:30 am - 9:00 pm | Silent Auction Last Day for Bidding | Phoenix Room | |
| 8:00 am - 12:00 pm 8:30 am - 12:00 pm 8:00 am - 9:00 am/9:00 am Start | Start Saratoga Battlefield Walk 6/7k,1B 10k 2B American Legion, Schuylerville 5k,1B 7/10k, 2B Group Bike Ride Registration All walkers and bikers will end up at the BBQ lunch | Stop 2 Battlefield Road Am. Legion, Schuylerville Visitor Center, Battlefield | |
| 10:00 am - 8:00 pm | Volkswim Volksbike | Indoor & Outdoor Pools Saratoga Battlefield/Schenectady | |
| 11:00 am - 1:30 pm | BBQ Lunch in Schuylerville | Schuylerville Amer. Legion 6 Clancy Street | |
| 1:30 pm - 6:30 pm | AVA/Convention Merchandise, Regions/States/Clubs, Stamping, Exhibit, Sponsors and Vendor Tables Open | Middle Courtyard | |
| 2:00 pm | LAST BUS for Red Lion Hotel | Ft. Hardy Park | |
| 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm | Workshop: Volksbiking | Tom Baltes, NW RD Capital Room | |
| 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Workshop: Historical and Architectural Development of Albany | Anthony Opalka Stonehenge B & C | |
| 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm | Meet the Candidates Forum Everyone is Welcome | Candidates Stonehenge D | |
| 3:00 pm | Close Battlefield & Ft. Hardy Walks & Bike Ride F Schuylerville Walk | | |
| 3:15 pm -4:15 pm | Workshop: Stress Management | Dar Parrow Capital Room | |
| 3:15 pm - 4:15 pm | Workshop: Underground Railroad | Paul & Mary Liz Stewart Stonehenge B & C | |
| 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm | Workshop: AVA Operations | AVA National Office Stonehenge A | |
| 3:30 pm -5:00 pm | Workshop: America Walks-Walk Audit Reports Kate Kraft, F Heidi Sim Stone | | |
| 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm | Workshop: Welcome to Cooperstown Live Presentation of "Casey at the Bat" | Tim Wiles Stonehenge B & C | |
| 4:00 pm -5:15 pm | RD/DRD/State Association Roundtable (This meeting is for State Association Officers and the AVA Board of Directors.) | John McClellan, SE RD State Room | |
| | (Groupworks Workshop is Cancelled) | | |
| 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm | Dinner on Own | | |
| 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm | Dessert/Cash Bar & "A Musical Walk Thru Northeast History" with Trish and John | Stonehenge B & C | |

| FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019 | | |
|--|--|-----------------|
| Today is WEAR YOUR 2019 CONVENTION T SHIRTS | | |
| 6:00 am - 9:00 am CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST Front Courty | | Front Courtyard |
| 7:00 am - 12:00 pm Convention Registration & Pick Up Mezzanine | | Mezzanine |

| | FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019 | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| 8:00 am - 12:00 pm | Credentialing Open | Upper Mezzanine | |
| 8:00 am - 6:00 pm | AVA Publicity Contest Entries on Display | Middle Courtyard | |
| 7:30 am - 9:00 am | Buses Depart for Albany | Exit G, back of Pool in Courtya | |
| 8:00 am-11:00 am | Albany President's Walk The AVA President and local dignitaries will walk at 9:00 am | Corning Preserve | |
| 10:00 am - 8:00 pm | Volkswim Volksbike | Indoor & Outdoor Pools | |
| 12:00 pm | Box Lunch Pickup/Lunch on Own | Front Courtyard | |
| 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm | AVA/Convention Merchandise, Regions/States/Clubs, Stamping, Exhibits, Sponsors and Vendor Tables Open | Middle Courtyard | |
| 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm | General Membership Meeting Everyone is WELCOME | Stonehenge B & C | |
| 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm | Silent Auction Items & Raffles Pick Up | Phoenix Room | |
| 1:00 pm - 6:30 pm 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm | Publicity Contest Entries Pick Up | Middle Courtyard | |
| 2:00 pm | Last Bus to Red Lion Hotel | Corning Preserve | |
| 3:00 pm | Close Albany President's Walk | Corning Preserve | |
| 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm | Workshop: Ask the IT Expert | Chris Zegelin TBD (Check with Information Boot | |
| 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm | New Board Members Welcome (This meeting is for all new and returning Board members.) | David Bonewitz, AVA Preside State Room | |
| 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm | Workshop: Trail Master Certification | Tom Baltes State Room | |
| 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm | Social Hour (Cash Bar) Announcement of AVA Publicity Contest Winners and Drawings for Bus Prizes Announced | Mezzanine | |
| 6:45 pm Doors Open | Closing Banquet Keynote by Jadwiga Ziolkowski - Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation AVA Walking Hall of Fame and Presidential Awards | Ballroom | |
| Entertainment Until 12:00 am | Continue Socializing-Live Entertainment by Award Winning Elvis Tribute Artist, Travis Hudson! | Ballroom | |

| SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2019 | | |
|---|------------------------|---|
| 6:00 am - 8:30 am CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST Courtyard | | |
| · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | | The Clark Sportscenter 124 County Highway 52 |
| 3:00 pm | Close Cooperstown Walk | The Clark Sportscenter |

| SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2019 | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| 8:00 am - 12:00 pm Start Buffalo Walk 60 Lakefront Rd. S | | 60 Lakefront Rd. S |
| 3:00 pm | Close Buffalo Walk | 60 Lakefront Rd. S |

Keynote Speaker



Jadwiga Ziolkowski currently serves as Chief Executive Officer for Crazy Horse Memorial. Jadwiga is the fourth child of Sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski and his wife Ruth. She possesses a business degree from the University of Wyoming and she has held just about every position at Crazy Horse Memorial, including accounting executive, visitor services manager, and personnel director. She has a wealth of experience in administration, business, tourism, and hospitality.

Jadwiga has previously served on the Rapid City Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and she is currently among the Board of Directors of First Interstate Bank Systems and the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce.

Jadwiga enjoys her five children, all of whom have graduated from college and are employed in exciting careers. Her daughter, Alisha, works at Crazy Horse Memorial as an archivist of mountain photography. Many of her children have families of their own, Jadwiga currently has six grandchildren.

Our Albany Convention's Silent Auction

We have received over 90 submittal SA forms from many AVA clubs and so appreciate their creative and generous donations. Filling out the form ahead of time will save Conventioneers and us a lot of time when donations are dropped off in the Phoenix Room at the Red Lion Hotel.

The Silent Auction Room will be open on Tuesday from 5:00 pm to 9:30 pm for **BROWSING ONLY**. One can drop off their donation(s) in the Phoenix Room anytime Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Place your bids for the wonderful donated items on Wednesday and Thursday from 7:30 am to 9:00 pm. Thursday at 9:00 pm, the Silent Auction doors will close and bidding will end. Lucky auction bidders will pay for and pick up their treasures on Friday from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm (earlier if paperwork can be completed).

Four small raffle items will be raffled (1 ticket for \$1 and 8 tickets for \$5) Tuesday to Friday as well as a 50/50 raffle (3 tickets for \$5) each day. A beautiful large quilt worth over \$1,000 will be offered as a special raffle Tuesday through Thursday with tickets being sold for one for \$5 and five tickets for \$20. This drawing will be held on Thursday evening, and the lucky winner does not have to be present to win!

Just a few donations that we have so far are:

Gift cards from L.L. Bean, Target, Macy's, Fleet Feet, REI, Athleta, Cabela's, and the Albany Red Lion Hotel.

Empire State Aerosciences Museum adult and child's baskets with aeronautical themed merchandise.

Specialty baskets from Oregon, Washington State, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Delaware, California, Oklahoma, Las Vegas, New England, Tennessee, South Dakota, Ohio, Nebraska, Crazy Horse, Connecticut, New York, Michigan, AVA, Texas, and Virginia containing locally produced items. 3 day's stay at a beach resort in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Weekend Getaway at the 18th annual US Freedom Walk Festival October 18-20.

Many handcrafted items such as hats, shawls, quilts, water bottle holders, scarves, and afghan.

Looking forward to seeing you in the Silent Auction Phoenix Room.

Vera and Marv Weiss Silent Auction Chairs

Merchandise Store

The official 21st AVA Biennial Convention merchandise colors are light blue and light gray with the WALK THRU HISTORY logo on each item. Women had the opportunity to pre-order a light blue short sleeve and/or 3/4 sleeve polo, a light gray T-shirt, a faded blue hat or a light gray unisex hat. The items that men had the opportunity to pre-order were a light blue short sleeve polo, a light gray long sleeve polo, a light gray T-shirt, a faded blue hat or a light gray unisex hat. For those of you who didn't pre-order merchandise, there will be a limited number of T-shirts available for sale at the merchandise tables located in the **Middle Courtyard**. Hurry before they're all gone! Pre-ordered merchandise may be picked up at any of the times listed below. You will be asked to show your convention ID and sign your name when picking it up.

Hours of Operation:

Tuesday, June 11: 3 - 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 12: 12 - 6 p.m. Thursday, June 13: 12:30 - 6:30 p.m. Friday, June 14: 12 - 6 p.m.

BOOK STAMPING

All convention walks will have multiple stamps in use at that walk's Start/Finish location.

Additionally, the Convention's Hospitality Table in the Courtyard at the Red Lion Hotel will offer stamping for participants and volunteers who were unable to be stamped at a walk's Start/Finish. The Hospitality Table is also the location for all swim and/or bike participants to check in and be stamped.



No problem drop by the Information & Hospitality

Table located in the Hotel Courtyard.

HOSPITALITY TABLE

Open Wednesday 12 noon to 6 pm, Thursday 12:30 pm to 6:30 pm & Friday 12 noon to 6 pm. The Hospitality Table is the location for all swim and/or bike participants to check in and will offer stamping for all Convention events, including pre and post-convention walks for pre-registered volunteers. IVV books and AVA merchandise will be available for purchase at the Merchandise Table next to the Hospitality Table.

SWIM

Check in at the Hospitality Table and receive event stamp upon completion. The swim event may only be completed in one of the Red Lion Hotel pools during the times outlined below. The swim event qualifies only for event credit (no distance books).

Red Lion Hotel Pools hours:

Indoor pool: 10 am to 8 pm Outdoor pool: 9 am to dusk



Bike

Check in at the Hospitality Table to register, pay, and receive bike instructions for the two convention bike events and return there upon completion for book stamping.





American Volkssport Association

General Membership Meeting

June 12/3:30 pm - 5:30 pm & June 14/1:00 pm - 3:30 pm, 2019

Stonehenge Ballroom

Red Lion Hotel Albany, 205 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205 (518) 458-7250

AVA: America's Walking Club Agenda

Wednesday, June 12, 2019, 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

- 1. Opening Ceremony Color Guard
- 2. Call to Order
- 3. Credentialing Report
- 4. Welcome and Introductions
- 5. Approval of Meeting Rules
- 6. Approval of Agenda
- 7. Test of Electronic Voting Devices
- 8. Announcement of Official Slate of Officer Candidates & Nominations
- 9. President's Report -- State of the AVA Nation
- 10. Treasurer's Report 2019/2020 Budget
- 11. Vice-President's Report Legacy and Sustained Giving Programs
- 12. Introduction of 21st AVA Biennial Convention Committee
- 13. Necrology
- 14. Recess

Friday, June 14, 2019, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- 1. Credentials Report
- 2. Election of Officers
- 3. Selection of 22nd AVA Biennial Convention Site
- 4. Bylaws Amendments
 - a. Motion to Change AVA Fiscal Year to a Calendar Year
 - b. Motion to Change Committee Structure
 - c. Motion to Add Up to Three At-Large Members to the Board
- 5. Audience Comments
- 6. Presentation of new Board
- 7. Closing Remarks
- 8. Closing Ceremony Color Guard

National Board of Directors XXI

National Officers



AVA National President David Bonewitz, Ph.D. president@ava.org



AVA National Vice President Nancy Wittenberg vicepres@ava.org



AVA National Secretary
Sam Korff
secretary@ava.org



AVA National Treasurer Bob Morrison treasurer@ava.org

National Regional Directors



Atlantic Region
Mike Green, Ph.D.
at_rd@ava.org



Mid-America Region Andy Bacon ma_rd@ava.org



North Central Region Jerry Wilson nc_rd@ava.org



Northeast Region Chris Mellen ne_rd@ava.org



Northwest Region Tom Baltes nw_rd@ava.org



Pacific Region Suzi Glass pa_rd@ava.org



Rocky Mountain Region Sherry Sayers rm_rd@ava.org



South Central Region Lucy Yother sc_rd@ava.org



Southeast Region
John McClellan
se rd@ava.org



Southwest Region Susan Medlin sw rd@ava.org

Parliamentarian (Consultant) Carol Schilansky, PRP cschilansky@gmail.com

IVV and **AVA** Leadership

International Federation of Popular Sports (IVV)

Executive Presidium

President: Giuseppe Colantonio (Italy)
Vice President: Graham Fawcett (Canada)
Secretary: Raymond Claude (Luxembourg)

Treasurer: Walter Motz (Germany)



IVV-Europe

Austria: Franz Kirchweger Belgium: Joseph Derclaye

Czech Republic: Werner Friedrich Denmark: Gunner Faarup Nielsen

France: Guy Borsenberger Germany: Uwe Kneibert Great Britain: Roger Baker Hungary: Zoltan Horvath

Luxembourg: Romain Buschmann

Netherlands: Tonny Mens

Norway: Roy Tait

Italy: Alberto Guidi

Poland: Andrzej Lindecki Sweden: Viggo Oterhals

Switzerland/Liechtensten: Rolf Roth

South Tyrol: Ploner Friedrich

Turkey

IVV Americas

President: Flávio Ferreira, (Brazil)
Vice President: Ethel Hansen (Canada)
Vice President: Diana Marshall, (Australia)
Secretary: Brenda Dudfield, (Canada)

IVV-Asia

Korea: Ik Paek

Japan: Mitsumasa Miyashita Taiwan: Dr. Chung-Da Ho

IVV International Members

Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, South Tyrol, Sweden, Switzerland, Slovakia, Taiwan, Turkey, USA.

IVV Direct Member Clubs

Andorra, Croatia, Indonesia, Ireland, Lithuania, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain.





Your National Office Team American Volkssport Association

1001 Pat Booker Road · Suite 101 · Universal City, TX 78148 Phone (210) 659-2112 · Fax (210) 659-1212 · Email <u>avahq@ava.org</u>

Executive Director – Henry Rosales



Mr. Rosales has been with the AVA a little over five years and is responsible for the management and oversight of the national organization. He is a nonvoting member of the National Executive Council.

Awards/Membership Specialist - Karen Winkle

Ms. Winkle has been with the AVA ten years and is responsible for the processing of IVV record books and awards. She also processes AVA memberships and requests for personal information. She is a member of the Ad Hoc Membership Committee.



Finance Director - Erin Grosso



Mrs. Grosso has been with the AVA three years and is responsible for the fiduciary, oversight, management and operation of the organization's finance department and all departmental functions that contribute to the overall financial health and success of the AVA. She is a member of the Ad Hoc Membership Committee.

Communications Specialist – Samanta Sanchez

Mrs. Sanchez has been with the AVA three years and is the Executive Assistant to the Executive Director. She is responsible for creating and updating content on social media outlets and AVA publications. She also supports with grant writing, fundraising, and NEC meetings. She is a member of the Ad Hoc Fund Development and the Publicity Committee.



Accounting Specialist - Marian DeVaul



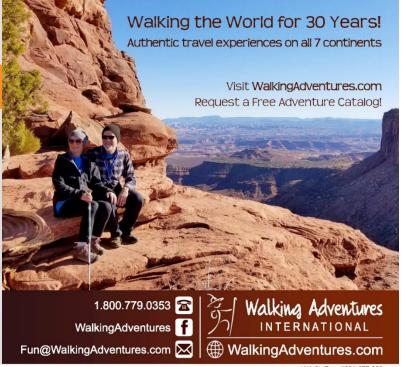
Mrs. DeVaul has been with the AVA two years and is responsible for preparing and sending all billing statements to clubs and other customers of the organization. She also reconciles financial accounts and processes merchandise orders. She is a member of the Ad Hoc Club Development and Support Committee.

Information Technology Specialist – Hector Hernandez



Mr. Hernandez has been with the AVA three years and is responsible for providing technical support for the website and the Events Sanctioning Database to club members and employees. He also supports with fundraising, website, Starting Point changes and updates the Checkpoint. He is also in charge of creating stamps, stamp handles and is a member of the Ad Hoc Fund Development Committee and supports the Information Technology Committee.





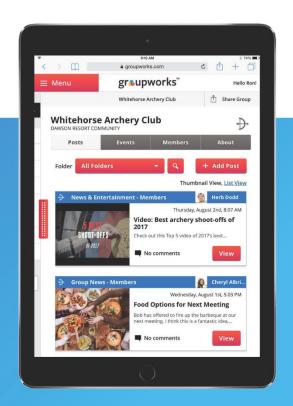
AVA Past Presidents

| Year Elected | Convention Location | President | # of individuals who have served |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1979 | Dayton, OH | David Toth | 1 |
| 1981 | Fredericksburg, TX | Carol Coffee | 2 |
| 1983 | Norfolk, VA | Max Martin | 3 |
| 1985 | St. Louis, MO | Max Martin | |
| 1987 | Tacoma, WA | Tom Boyd | 4 |
| 1989 | Dayton, OH | Tom Boyd | |
| 1991 | Baltimore, MD | Julian Bauer | 5 |
| 1993 | Austin, TX | Lynn Clark | 6 |
| 1995 | Portland, OR | Lynn Clark | |
| 1997 | Winston-Salem, NC | Ted Ballman | 7 |
| 1999 | Muncie, IN | Ted Ballman | |
| 2000 | San Antonio, TX (NEC Meeting) | Nancy Stenger | 8 |
| 2001 | Bellevue, WA | Nancy Stenger | |
| 2003 | Colorado Springs, CO | Shirley Lindberg | 9 |
| 2005 | Cherry Hill, NJ | Shirley Lindberg | |
| 2007 | Sacramento, CA | Curt Myron | 10 |
| 2009 | Richardson, TX | Curt Myron | |
| 2011 | Orange Beach, AL (NEC Meeting) | Dennis A. Michele | 11 |
| 2011 | Des Moines, IA | Heinz Johnson | 12 |
| 2013 | Orlando, FL | Dennis A. Michele | |
| 2015 | Salem, OR | Dennis A. Michele | |
| 2017 | Billings, MT | David Bonewitz, Ph.D. | 13 |
| | | | |



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President's Report - David Bonewitz, Ph.D.

This term of office has been quite busy and very productive. To allow the Board to make more timely decisions, we began holding monthly electronic meetings which also saved money by eliminating one in-person meeting. Working with the committee chairs we established charters for each of the Board committees. The staff worked hard to trim expenses without cutting capability. Looking toward a digital future, we tested a Virtual Online Program, implemented outstanding new event stamps, and rolled the On-Line Start Box out across the AVA nation. We had our Bylaws reviewed by an attorney and have begun developing the changes required by changes in Texas law. With the Executive Committee we developed three Bylaws changes in line with recommendations in the Strategic Plan. When it came to travel, this last year was particularly busy. I attended the 2018 IML Membership meeting in Sweden in support of San Antonio's selection as an IML event. This was followed by attendance at the IVV Congress in Sicily where we made bids for the 2020 IVV Congress and 2021 Olympiad. While neither was successful, we made progress in reestablishing AVA as an active participant in IVV. In an effort to encourage the membership and to hear from folks in the clubs, my wife and I attended all the regional conferences (Atlantic, Northwest, North Central, Mid-America, and South Central) and attended multiday events in California, Washington, Virginia, Florida, and Texas. We began focusing on the event at Crazy Horse as a National Publicity Event, helping the Black Hills Volkssport Association with the event and exposing thousands of participants to AVA: America's Walking Club. AVA is at a critical juncture with much to be done to ensure a bright future. Together we can make it happen.

Vice President's Report - Nancy Wittenberg

Attended all NEC on site meetings, Executive committee meetings and all but one Electronic Board meetings and chaired the February and May, 2018 NEC Electronic meetings for the President.

Attended the Texas Trail Roundup (TTR) in 2018 and welcomed participants in the President's stead. I also attended the TTR in 2019 to support its IML effort. I attended the Mid America conferences in both years, the Atlantic Regional conference in 2018 and the NW Regional conference in 2018. Two of these were in place of the President who couldn't attend.

Supported the Financial Sustainability goal of the Strategic plan and the Executive Director by chairing the Fund Development Committee and the Big Give subcommittee.

Chaired the Strategic Plan Implementation/Coordination Committee. Led the review of the Strategic Plan goals and objectives in June, 2018 and presented the status at the January 2019 Tucson NEC meeting.

Executive Director's Report - Henry Rosales

Is the glass half empty or half full? In spite of declining numbers in participation, traditional events and clubs, the AVA is moving in the direction of progress. As we evolve it is expected there will be attrition, followed by growth. How do I know we are making progress? I look for indicators or "green flags" that signal change towards progress. It is important to recognize that all these indicators are a result of our strategic planning efforts.

Below is a list of some of the "green flags" that indicate progress.

- Six new clubs over the past two years, the fact that we gained new clubs is phenomenal!
- Individual donor campaign revenue have exceeded goals the past three years;
- Two very successful conventions in 2015 and 2017, both generated a net gain for the AVA;
- A new 2020 IML sanctioned event in San Antonio, TX;
- The initiation of a National Marketing Campaign;
- Information and Technology advances in events, accounting, voting, and the stamp process;
- * Attained Nonprofit Financial Standards in Program Expenses and Functional Support Costs;
- Increased interest and financial involvement in the AVA by outside organizations;
- Invitation to present our strategic plan to the IVV;
- The installment of Deputy Directors this is very critical because it signals the development of succession planning for the AVA!

If you noticed, I did not even reference sanctioned events, participation numbers, or free walkers! This is because the emphasis should not be on more events that place even more burden on struggling clubs. We do need more quality events. However, in order to do so our clubs must *first* have the **capacity** is the *people power* needed to host large quality Traditional Events and/or more YRE's. Capacity includes utilizing volunteers, interns, students, paid personnel, and family members. Capacity will drive up participation and participation will drive the demand for more quality events and ultimately more revenues. The AVA would benefit greatly from a volunteer program and training on how to recruit and work with volunteers from all walks of life.

If we continue to look back and measure our progress by dated standards, we will never attain our goals and the glass will always be half empty. Now is the time to address club capacity by outreaching to volunteers, training them, and most important, listening to and implementing their creative ideas! This will help to grow the AVA. Volunteers are our future! Respect the past while building the future.

Atlantic Region - Mike Green, Ph.D., Director

Since the last AVA convention in 2017, the Atlantic Region has added 2 new clubs. During the same period 4 clubs folded.

A new region calendar is now maintained on the Atlantic Region website, http://mdvolks.org/Atlantic/, where Atlantic Region traditional events are manually entered when RD approved.

The Virginia Volkssport Association, led by Robert Wright, conducted a successful 2018 Atlantic Region Conference during which VIP awards were presented to club nominated individuals for their volunteer service.

To encourage the creation of a new club in West Virginia, DRD Dolores Grenier held events in 2018 and 2019 in Harpers Ferry, WV in conjunction with the local historic foundation events. Dolores also staffed booths at the 2018 and 2019 NBC4 Health Fairs in Washington D.C.

As a policy committee member, policy sections were authored detailing AVA policy for ACE events and event directions.

As an IT committee member, the AVA Legacy ESR system has been maintained and improved by 1) Updating the webserver OS, 2) Adding support for PPSF, ACE-T, ACE-P, ACE-WG, Traveling Guided Walks, and Guided Bike events including participation, RD and AVA HQ interfaces, reports, and user documentation, 3) Adding entry field validation for YRE/SE/TEs web interfaces, 4) Creating a complete replacement of the AVA Event Interactive Map feature, 5) Creating scripts to import ESR event sanctioning data into Quickbooks, 6) Creating special links and documentation to support club stamp text editing and entry of ACE-WG participation on my.ava.org, 7) Creating numerous web interfaces for accessing the ESR database to generate needed AVA HQ and RD reports, and 8) Creating a web interface to access the Azure based AVA membership/award db to provide TAW reports.

Tim Miner is leading an effort to engage the Civil Air Patrol to include participation in AVA events to be part of their physical fitness program.

Mid-America Region – Andy Bacon, Director

The Mid-America Region is in the heartland of the country. The Region's twenty-six clubs in the crossroads of America, are: Ohio with nine clubs, Indiana eight clubs, Illinois six clubs, Michigan two clubs and Kentucky one club, and two state organizations: Indiana and Ohio. During this two-year period one club was closed due to inactivity. The Region celebrated nine anniversaries ranging from twenty-five to forty years of AVA membership.

Our region is a vast area of unique historic and scenic treks like Michigan's Mackinac Bridge walk in the North, the Kentucky paths in Louisville, the Cleveland walks in the East, and the Saint Louis Metro East trails in the west. Mid-America clubs are clustered around larger cities especially Metro Saint Louis, Indianapolis/South Bend/Fort Wayne area, Dayton/Toledo/Columbus/Cleveland areas. Those traveling through our Region find many year-round walks near their travel routes. The Region held two well-attended conferences with walks in the Evansville, Indiana and Dundee, Michigan areas. Clubs are creative and adventurous with many walks, for example, a Snowshoe walk in the Chicago area, the Indiana Association's State Park series, Ohio's Air Museum walk, and the special program for Underground Railroads throughout the Region. Each unique walk helps our members experience the roots of our Region while gaining "Fun, Fitness and Friendship" in America's Walking Club.

One of the special features of our Region is its emphasis on events during the holiday season, for example in the Dayton area, Indianapolis area and Metro St. Louis area where annual walks featuring Christmas light displays are held between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Each month a regional newsletter is distributed with topics for our clubs — safety, club ideas, thank you's, AVA news and other ideas. The Region has a bright future and remains in the center of AVA statistically. Given our constraint of a roughly nine-month walking season, we remain vibrant and optimistic.

North Central Region - Jerry Wilson, Director

Major National Promotional Efforts: Three times during the last two years a National Promotional Effort was conducted at the Crazy Horse Monument event to reach out to walkers that are not AVA walkers. June 2018, September 2018 and June 2019 national volunteers greeted non-AVA walkers in South Dakota; thousands of walkers potentially saw AVA volunteers and many were greeted. Walkers were informed about the National AVA and the local AVA club. Until approached, many of those contacted did not know there were thousands of walking events conducted around the country annually, and that local clubs are located across the country. Outreach like this is needed when we are able to contact walkers. Outreach to the general public is also needed, but contacting actual walkers gives us an audience already on their feet and out on the trail.

Club Development: In September 2018 we added a new local club in North Dakota. The RD had several contacts with the new club representative and the existing club in the same city. Both groups were interested in having separate local clubs and had no problem with having a second club in town. We also received exceptional assistance from the AVA National Office in getting the new club's first event sanctioned and processed in a very short time period. Over the last two years we lost three local clubs in the region. This is sad. Each club had very low membership, and only one or two people willing to do the volunteer work near the end.

Regional Get Together: A North Central Regional Convention was conducted in and near the Twin Cities, MN in September 2018. It was a well planned three-day event put on by three local clubs; however, regional attendance was lower than anticipated. AVA President, David Bonewitz, attended and addressed the attendees during a friendship dinner.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Develop and implement a new design for the National Board to relieve some RD duties, while tapping into new board members that have fundraising contacts on the national and global level. This will possibly require identifying non-RD AVA members to serve on the national board. How

many of us sit on national company boards and have those contacts? Also identify more AVA members at-large to participate on national committees freeing up the RD and Deputy Regional Director (DRD) to address more regional duties, including soliciting local input to national procedures.

Northeast Region - Chris Mellen, Director

The AVA's NE Region includes all New England States (ME; NH; VT; MA; RI; CT & NY). Each state has at least one of the nine sanction clubs in the Region, except there is no individual club within the boundaries of RI; however, it does have three events sponsored by Walk 'n Mass. The clubs annually provide more than one hundred year round and seasonal events along with many traditional events. Membership in the clubs has been fairly even with new members generally offsetting those who do not renew for many reasons.

This is the first time a convention is being held in the Northeast with the theme being Historic. I have received a number of emails from those who have not travelled to the Northeast. Once the convention in Billings, Montana ended and the Empire State Capital Volkssport Club (ESCV) was awarded a convention, the site being in Albany, New York. Beginning in July 2018, the Executive Director Henry Rosales, the President David Bonewitz, and the RD Convention Liaison met with the newly formed committee at the Albany Visitors Center. We proceeded to meet with the Parks Superintendent and the Mayor of the City. Almost every month since then the Convention Committee has met and have made their meeting minutes available to their club, the region, and AVA Headquarters in San Antonio. All clubs in the Northeast in some way will participate and support this first convention.

The Convention Committee, the supporting Clubs, and AVA Staff have been instrumental in providing a well-organized Convention. I have been reelected to serve another two years as Regional Director and thank each club for their support and look forward to serving 2019-2021. I will have shared my energy directly with Headquarters the past twenty years.

Northwest Region - Tom Baltes, Director

With 2 state associations, 39 clubs and just over 1300 members (roughly 13% of AVA's membership) in 4 states, the Northwest Region is AVA's most productive region. I owe great thanks to my deputy and state association leaders who work tirelessly with our clubs. During the past two years both state associations have spent thousands of dollars on club support, including new arrows and ribbons, start cards and other supplies. Both associations contributed \$1000 to support the 401k virtual online program. Thanks to a robust schedule of traditional events and 400 year round events, the NW clubs deliver nearly 20% of AVA's event revenue, in spite of the high number of free walkers reported from the region. Major multi-day events included a Regional Conference in Port Angeles WA in 2018, Whidbey Island Walking Fest in 2018, Seabreeze 2019, Central OR multiday event in 2018, Seattle Link Rail Celebration 2019, several Four Plus Foolhardy Folk events, and a Winthrop WA Rendezvous. In addition, our Region maintains a very close relationship with Canadian clubs in British Columbia, partnering in cross-border events and multi-day events in Canada. Our state associations have funded Meetup.com accounts in support of our clubs, with excellent recruitment results. Our clubs have taken a lead in using the online start box, traveling guided walks and guided walks. As RD, I maintain daily contact with clubs working issues with our national office. On a monthly basis I publish a newsletter known as Tom's Walk Talk and a spreadsheet with future events to help publicize events across the region and deconflict schedules. I've attended 8 state association meetings, numerous club meetings and walks with nearly all the clubs in the region, including a February 2018 Fur Rondy walk in Anchorage, AK.

Pacific Region - Suzi Glass, Director

The Pacific Region continues to include 22 clubs in four states, one each in Hawaii and Nevada, three in Arizona,16 in California and the California Volkssport Association (CVA). Last year, the Sierra Gold Striders closed but the Central Coast Beach Boardwalkers (CCBB) was founded. Since 2017, CVA, the Low Desert Roadrunners (LDR) and the San Francisco Bay Bandits (SFBB) celebrated 35 year anniversaries, the Davis Dynamos finished 30 years, Saguaro Sun Striders (S3) 15 and both the Sierra Gold Striders and Shasta Sundial Strollers (SSS) 10 years.

Clubs have embraced new AVA inventions including the Community Events ACE-T (traditional) walk designation, stamp editing and Per Participant Sanction Fees for untried events.

Since 2017, YRE's increased from 249 to 271, including 7 from Traditional Events. California listed 44 events on the Online Start Box, nearly triple the 2017 number.

Clubs hold holiday walks (S3's Pi Day, Delta Tule Trekkers' Spooky Walk, SSS, South Bay Striders and Sacramento Walking Sticks' walk New Year's Day) as well as adding walks to festivals. The Placer Pacers scheduled the El Dorado Trail during Apple Hill, Tahoe Trail Trekkers' used the Commemorative Emigrant Trail, CCBB walked Cambria during the Scarecrow Festival, LDR at Riverside's Dickens Festival and Sonoma County Stompers walked Santa Rosa on its 150th birthday. OptOutside participation peaked in 2017 – nearly 1/3 of clubs walked post-Thanksgiving. Bad weather caused the Tahoe Trail Trekkers to cancel their 2018 OptOutside event and the South Bay Striders' walk in the rain drew few participants.

The dwindling number of participants is the major concern. The use of weekly emails and Meet-up has increased to combat this trend. Three clubs recently started weekly or twice monthly walks, following the success of clubs with established weekday walk groups.

Rocky Mountain Region - Sherry Sayers, Director

The Rocky Mountain Region was pleased to host the 2017 AVA Biennial Convention in Billings, Montana. Over 500 enthusiastic volkssporters from all over the US and several other countries joined us for nine great events, with fantastic weather, delicious food and productive meetings experienced. Everyone had a super time, and the region saw an increase in participation, not only at the convention events, but at many YRE and seasonal events, with folks traveling to and from the convention. The convention years always boost participation across the AVA Nation.

The Rocky Mountain region unexpectedly lost their deputy director, Lynette Reagan, in June 2018. She was a vital member of the region and had served only one year of her term when she passed away. Luckily, a good friend of hers, Steve Sandridge, stepped up to the plate and volunteered to take over her duties, so the region has continued to run smoothly.

The region also lost two clubs that decided to close due to dwindling membership and poor attendance at their events. These two clubs were Columbine Country Cruisers in Colorado, and Miles City Volksmarch in Montana. The good news is we are welcoming a new club coming onboard from Utah called Midway Walking Sticks.

The past two years were good in our region, albeit a little challenging, but we look forward to the next two years by putting on more events and introducing new walkers to America's Walking Club.

South Central Region - Lucy Yother, Director

The South Central Region consists of 14 active clubs in Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri and Oklahoma. The Region appreciates the support of the East Texas Trekkers, Inc. in sponsoring 15 Year-Rounds in Louisiana, a state that currently has no active club.

The South Central region has a weekend conference every even numbered year. The eighth biennial conference was held in October 2018 in Ottawa, KS and was hosted by the Sunflower Sod Stompers, a small club with a big heart, who recently celebrated their 35th anniversary. Conference attendees participated in four volkswalks and six swims, with a dinner on Saturday night. The walking events were all located in east central Kansas and walkers came from ten states.

We encourage multi-event weekends that get people together, to socialize and enjoy great events. We are currently walking the parishes in Louisiana and the counties in Kansas and Missouri. Some of these walks are sanctioned as Seasonal events. So far 25 parishes have been completed in Louisiana, 45 counties have been completed in Kansas, and 82 counties have been completed in Missouri. All 77 counties in Oklahoma have been completed, but are now being offered as requested.

I commend the hard workers in all of the clubs in my Region. Every club has them! Most of our clubs are small. They host several Year-Round and Seasonal events, and a few traditional events.

I am grateful for the many good things the clubs in this region have accomplished – good walks and great people!

Southeast Region - John McClellan, Director

The Southeast Region has 19 clubs and 1 state association (Tarheel State Walkers Volkssport Association), with Paws & Effect (AVA-0982) of Ashville, NC joining us and the Meandering Manatees (AVA-0755) of Lehigh Acres, FL closing since the last edition. At the end of 2018, we had ∼850 club members and 300 AVA Associates.

Significant major storms have impacted our lives in the Southeast these past two years. This increasingly volatile weather has hampered Region-wide participation which was 12,023 in 2017 and 11,372 in 2018. Multi-event weekends were held clubs in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

With the closure of our last club in Mississippi, the 4 remaining year-round events (including the capital walk in Jackson) have been moved to the Online Startbox. SE Region has 19 events on the OSB: 7 in FL, 5 GA, 3 in NC, 1 in SC and 3 in TN, including the new Appalachian Trail events in GA, NC and TN.

SE Region club members have given generously of their time and talents as volunteers. 38 people and 8 clubs were recognized for meritorious or commendable service, with one Hall of Fame nomination and a posthumous award recognizing Martin Britton of the Upstate Pathfinders. Another 38 local businesses were also recognized.

Our Region celebrated several club anniversaries in the last 2 years:

2018:

| Georgia Walkers | 35th Year |
|--|-----------------------|
| Triangle Trailblazers | 25th Year |
| Tarheel State Walkers Volkssport Association | 25th Year |
| Ready Set Walk! | 10th Year |
| <u>2019</u> : | |
| Suncoast Sandpipers | 35 th Year |
| Capital City Wanderers | 35 th Year |
| Pensacola Volksmarch | 35 th Year |
| Rowan Roamers | 35 th Year |
| Mid-Florida Milers | 30 th Year |
| Tuck-A-See Wanderers | 30 th Year |
| East Tennessee Wanderers | 10 th Year |

As of this writing it appears that Robert and I will continue to serve the SE Region as RD and DRD for a 2nd two-year term. - Our Thanks!

Southwest Region - Susan A. Medlin, Director

The Southwest Region of the U.S. consists of the states of New Mexico and Texas. There are currently 28 active clubs; 3 in New Mexico and 25 in Texas. These clubs are sponsoring 173 YREs in 2019, 76 Traditional Walks and more than 260 Featured YRE walks. Featured YRE walks are regularly held on weekdays, during hot summer months, and to plug empty Saturdays on our year-round calendar.

We continue to work on ways to promote our smaller clubs. The Sun Country Striders of Las Cruces, NM created a multi-day walking event Ruidoso, NM. In 2020 it will be 24 – 29 June. They hope to emulate the successful West Texas Trail Walkers event which brings in walkers across the country. I failed to start new walking clubs in Waco, Temple, and Fort Hood.

In Texas, we created new annual Traditional Events like the Christmas Lights Walk in San Antonio, the Llano Earth Art Festival, and the Johnson City Christmas Lights walk. We also create new YRE walks like Wimberley, Stone Oak, and the North Star Mall Indoor Walk, which is very popular in the hot and humid summer months. We created more local Special Programs which feature our club's YREs. The latest example is the *Texas Coastal Cities & Rio Grande Valley* (3 clubs have 11 YREs in it). We plan to market it to the Winter Texans along the coast. Texas State Association continues the policy of asking clubs that are in remote areas and are struggling to host the semi-annual TVA meetings. The TVA pays the expenses and provides much of the labor, and the hosting club receives the profits. This gives the clubs a chance to promote their sport locally. We also hold TVA Meetings in areas where we would like to start a club.

Helen Hull, President of the East Texas Trekkers, is doing her best to keep Volkssporting in Louisiana. She created a Special Program to walk the Parishes of Louisiana. On MLK Weekend in January, she schedules a multi-day walking event featuring the new crop of Parish walks. Helen is the POC for 15 YRE Walks in Louisiana in 2019.

The Selma Pathfinders Volkssport Club AVA partners with San Antonio as the city hosts an annual World Heritage Festival in September. They create and run the walk portion of the five-day event. Working with this level of support and funding (a budget, sponsors, TV & newspaper ads, professional graphics, NPR!) is amazing. We meet many new walkers and we promote Volkssporting wholeheartedly.

To reach out to an international audience, we stood up the Texas Trail Roundup Volkssport Club to create a second US IML event in San Antonio, Texas. 3-day walking events were held in February 2017, 2018, and 2019. We passed our inspection in 2019 and became a new IML in May 2019. The US Freedom Walk Festival, which sponsors the other US IML event in Arlington, VA, was a great help in this endeavor.

Even with the summer heat, our clubs continue to hold events. In the greater San Antonio region, we run a Summer Sunrise Calendar June through August. Almost every Saturday morning has a walk. Most are featured YREs, which are staffed from 7 -10 am. Walkers are encouraged to start and finish early, before the heat of the day sets in. The Randolph Roadrunners also host two Traditional Events in San Antonio during the summer. They hold them at local Taco Cabanas, who donate a portion of their sales that morning to the club. The club, in turn, donates all profits to the AVA HQ.

Our Texas County Walkers continue their quest to sanction a walk in all 254 counties in Texas. This is an ambitious goal, but other clubs assist them by sanctioning walks in counties that have not been walked before. Since many of these counties are in remote areas with very few inhabitants (and usually no volkssporters!), the walks are sanctioned as 3- or 6-month Seasonal Events. This allows the Texas County Walkers to sanction a number of walks each year as they work toward 254 counties.

The West Texas Trail Walkers rotate their first class 3-day hiking events over the Columbus Day weekend in October. They have a six-year cycle; rotating between Big Bend National Park, Palo Dura Canyon State Park, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, the Lincoln National Forest and the Sacramento Mountains area (Ruidoso), Davis Mountains State Park, and Caprock Canyons State Park. These events are challenging hikes, and many volkssporters enjoy them. Because this event is usually scheduled the weekend before the IML event in Washington DC, they frequently get international walkers. In 2019 the event is in Caprock Canyon.

Patterned on their success, we created a 3-day walking event in and around Ruidoso, NM, beginning in 2018. In 2020, the Sun Country Striders of Las Cruces, NM offer 6 hikes in and around Ruidoso. There are also another 5 YREs in the El Paso/Las Cruces area. While much of Texas and New Mexico will be in sweltering heat, the mountain towns of Ruidoso and Cloudcroft will be between 70-80 degrees.

I finish my four years as SWRD this summer. My replacement is Sammy Hunnicutt, who will do an excellent job. Thanks to everyone for your support.





Awards Committee - Suzi Glass, Chair

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

As a committee of five, we vetted the nominations for national awards in the categories of Hall of Fame, Distinguished Achievement and Trailblazer. Paperwork for the honorees we recommended was submitted to the NEC for the January, 2019 meeting. Discussions and secret ballot voting was completed. Chair Suzi Glass emailed the award recipients' citations to HQ.

The 2019 Convention Awards book was reorganized so regional awards are listed together. Meritorious Service Awards include a 50-word citation, Commendable Service Awards, Trailmaster Certifications and Certificates of Appreciation are listed by recipients' names and places of residence.

ACTIVITIES:

In addition to the above, the committee designed a new regional award. It planned to honor volunteers with extended years of service in various capacities who had already received Commendable and Meritorious awards. The NEC voted it down.

Regional awards were gathered and formatted into consecutive pages and submitted to Hector Hernandez and Henry Rosales at AVA.

CONCERNS & RECOMMENDATIONS

For those not attending the AVA Convention, finding the current awards is difficult. We recommend the local awards be listed on the AVA website by region, as found in the 2019 book, rather than by award (Meritorious for all 10 regions, then Commendable for all regions, etc.) as is now shown under History of Conventions. Further, award lists are being developed so Regional Directors will have records of previous honorees.

Bylaws Committee - Lucy Yother, Chair

The Bylaws Committee received four amendments submitted from the field and the Board. Three amendments were proposed for adoption by the Board, while the fourth was sent back to Committee by the Board for additional work.

Club Development and Support Committee - John McClellan, Chair

The Committee on Club Development and Support was chartered this term as a standing committee to implement Strategic Objective 1.c. - Establish a Club Development Program. The AVA President declared the theme of this term would be *Helping Clubs Grow and Growing New Clubs*. This committee is examining issues that frustrate club leadership to make recommendations on workable solutions.

We began by recruiting members, eventually reaching 8 to include 3 Club Presidents and representation from 5 AVA Regions. A budget line was created, and revenue sources identified to support committee initiatives. Among the committee's first recommendations were changes to the club dues structure and

increased support to RDs and DRDs. We examined the characteristics of "strong" and "struggling" clubs to create an analysis process -- assessing clubs across all Regions. Our findings were briefed to the Board at the June 2018 NEC meeting. New policy guidelines, including a process for clubs to request assistance, has now been approved and published as Chapter 6 to the existing AVA Policy Manual. We reached out to our state organizations on the issues affecting clubs and their role in support of clubs. In the last several weeks, the committee opened a Club Support page on the new "GroupWorks" platform, using it to distribute useful products for clubs such as checklists for planning/holding Traditional Events or Informational booths. A club-level presentation on "Health Benefits of Walking" was also created and shared. Along the way, our committee members fielded numerous club questions, resolved issues, and discussed any and all ideas we thought could help clubs succeed

As we move into the next term, we will continue to develop ways to support our clubs. I expect that training support and ways to share the best practices of our most successful clubs will be high on our agenda. Our thanks to all the great AVA clubs out there!

Fund Development Committee – Nancy Wittenberg, Chair

Committee members provided on-going support for and assistance to the Executive Director for the Financial Sustainability goal of the strategic plan. The chair provided on-going training at each in-person meeting of the NEC on the board's role in fund development and created a charter for the Fund Development Special committee.

The Big Give subcommittee of the Fund Development committee which includes staff, assisted the AVA staff by training the NEC in peer-to-peer fund raising, by finding people to record a video in support of the Big Give, by challenging the NEC to match the chair's donation to the Big Give and by writing articles for the TAW and Checkpoint on the value of the Big Give to AVA and its mission. The subcommittee decided on prizes and recognitions for the Big Give. The result is that for three years in a row, the Big Give exceeded its goal.

The Fund Development committee developed a legacy giving program called AVA's Angels that will be introduced at the Albany, NY convention. Brochures and recognitions for members of the program will be provided.

The committee also approved implementing a sustained giving program and approved how it will interact with AVA's Charity Proud application. This program will also be introduced at the convention and will appear in the near future via a link on AVA's website.

IT Committee - Chris Zegelin, Chair

The last two years have seen some remarkable improvements in many aspects of our IT infrastructure. We have upgraded software, added new functionality to legacy systems, all while fighting equipment failures and other problems beyond our control. We experienced a protracted outage due to road construction, and system slowdowns due to hacking by bit coin miners. Our systems have now been stable for the last 6 months as we move forward.

The major achievement has been the new stamps. These are manufactured and require considerable manufacturing software to queue the stamps for the laser cutter and to produce the correct images. This software is a full custom design because no one makes software that will do this task. We had to do it ourselves. It is stable and working to our needs.

The legacy ESR software has been improved. A much-needed OS software upgrade was installed that eliminated many of the problems. Several scripts and improvements to the ESR application have been deployed. These help the RDs and HQ to better serve the community.

The new volkssporter portal, "my.ava.org" is being used to manage the new stamps. It is ready to host the Online Start Box (OSB) and that will go live on July 1st based on software has been transitioned from the California Volkssport site. Special care is being taken to assure that each individual's OSB records are preserved during this transition. This effort has taken 8 months.

Completely customizable pre-registration and on-site registration software was developed for the 2019 convention which can be adapted for future conventions and multi-day events.

Understanding what is needed, how to deliver it, and then the priority of the projects is just as important as doing the work. In all a productive and successful two years.

Program Committee - Debra Kruep, Chair

#OptOutside continued and grew stronger. Staff at the AVA office was trained to collect and collate information with clubs and advertise those events while gathering new walker data.

The committee working with Walker Tracker, created an original program for AVA. The first Virtual Online Program (VOP), 401K: Invest in Your Health kicked off January 2018. It was developed, implemented and monitored by the committee, as well as recruiting sponsors, T-shirt design and giving various presentations across the US.

A second VOP, Walkin' Canada began January 2019 featuring permanent trails across Canada. The map was created by a team effort from program committee members and the Canadian Volksport Federation. This program is also implemented and continually monitored by the committee. As an added bonus for our AVA members a regional challenge with ten teams was included. The team with the highest average of steps will win the Regional Traveling Trophy presented to the Regional Director during the awards banquet at the convention

Combined efforts from Programs, IT and Training committees brought AVA ACE events to reality. Clubs are now sanctioning and hosting ACE-GW, ACE-Y and ACE Traditional events.

Youth —Programs connect clubs in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Carolinas, Minnesota, New Jersey and Pennsylvania with Navigators USA and/or Girl Scouts to conduct Walk Together events. Many of these clubs were trained in the art of working with youth.

Programs supported the efforts of AVA clubs in the early stages of fostering new youth clubs in grade schools, Footloose Fridays and Cardinal Walking Club.

The committee revised the Walk Together Patch contest making it more relevant by opening to all youth groups, not exclusively Girl Scouts. The current patch may be earned by any youth walking together with an AVA club. Thank you to California's Central Coast Girl Scouts, Chapter 102 Navigators USA and the Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valley Girl Scouts.

Strategic Planning Implementation Report – Nancy Wittenberg

The Vice President agreed to chair the committee and reviewed Strategic Plan activities via reports and discussion with chairs. Initially the OnStrategy application was used to record activities and progress on the plan's implementation. However, only a few committee chairs were able to use the application and the Executive Director and Vice President decided it was too complicated to use effectively. A simpler method using a KPI (Key Performance Indicators) Dashboard and a Financial Ratio and Trend Analysis created by Bobbi Bilnoski was used for 2018. A review of the strategic plan goals and objectives was done at the June 2018, Albany, NY, NEC meeting. No changes were recommended or made.

The President has taken the lead as chair of the Governance Committee and has had our bylaws reviewed by an attorney for compliance with Texas law. Additional bylaws changes, recommended by the strategic plan, have been made all of which will be voted on by the membership at the Albany, NY meeting. These include removing items from bylaws that belong in policy and simplifying committee structures to conform to a strategic board focus. Operational issues become the province of the Executive Director who can determine which committees are needed. As of July 1, 2019, the National Executive Committee (NEC) will become "the Board" in all AVA documents per the motion passed by the membership at the Billings, MT 2017 membership meeting.

All strategic plan implementation committees have created charters defining their roles. They have worked on their sections of the strategic plan. Committees must continue to focus on objectives and take some risks in proposing what needs to happen to accomplish the plan.

Training Development Committee - Tom Baltes, Chair

Upon assuming chairmanship in August 2017 my first task was to recruit talented new members with varied skills and these are the dedicated members who stepped forward: Betty Green, Carolyn Adams, Joe Blazek and Sharon Moats. To align with the Strategic Plan, we then wrote a committee charter outlining our responsibilities and goals. Continuing the work completed by the previous committee, we coordinated with the national staff to publish the Club Operations Guide (COG) on the AVA website. Our ongoing mission is to continually review and update the Trailmaster Guide, COG and Policy Manual to ensure they are current and reflect the latest in technology and policy. We completed one Policy Manual revision to align event distance requirements with the latest IVV policy. As part of our ongoing training efforts we published monthly tips in Checkpoint on various topics as refreshers for the membership and to stimulate conversation on new topics. As chairman, I have attended all Board meetings, including monthly electronic board meetings to represent our committee's efforts. In early 2018 we began working on the 2019 convention workshop plan and added two new members to the committee from the host club—Barbara Kolapakka and Trudi Thun. I visited the host hotel in Albany, NY twice to survey the layout and develop a working relationship with the dedicated volunteers of the Empire State Capital Volkssporters. In an effort to improve the next convention we developed an electronic survey for attendees to report their experiences and future expectations. I want to thank our Executive Director for obtaining GroupWorks support as a new host for communications. Our stretch goal is to develop multi-media training modules for club and state association leaders available through the AVA website, GroupWorks and other online services.



TATER TOURS

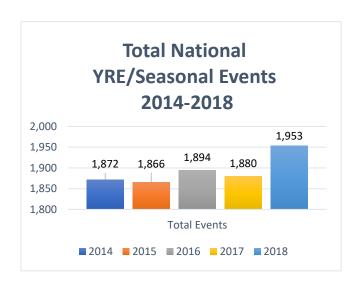
https://tatertours.blogspot.com

American Volkssport Association, Inc. A 501(c)3 Organization Financial Scorecard: FY 2013 -FY 2018 Ratio and Trend Analysis

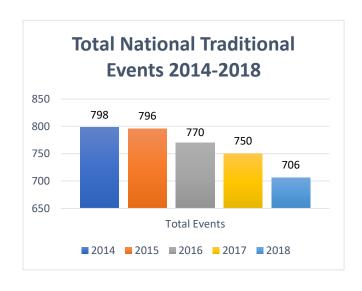
| | Audited | 990 | 990 | 990 | 990 |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Standard Nonprofit Finacial Ratios | FY 7/13-6/14 | FY 7/14-6/15 | FY 7/15-6/16 | FY 7/16-6/17 | FY 7/17-6/18 |
| CAPAC | ITY | | | | |
| North America | | | | | |
| Regions | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 14 |
| State Associations | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 14 |
| Membership | | | | | |
| Clubs | 239 | 232 | 230 | 220 | 230 |
| Lifetime | 905 | 925 | 962 | 988 | 962 |
| Individual | 344 | 233 | 350 | 350 | 350 |
| Family & Friends | 562 | 549 | 550 | 550 | 550 |
| Total Members | 2050 | 1939 | 2092 | 2108 | 2092 |
| 1000 | 2% | -6% | 23% | 1% | -1% |
| Liquidity Measures | 2 /0 | -0 /0 | 20 /0 | 1 /0 | -1 /0 |
| Current liabilities | 78,324 | 111,756 | 94,002 | | |
| Quick Ratio | 18,324 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Annual cash expenses *1 | 597,806 | 528,302 | 532,711 | 2 | |
| Days of Cash on Hand | 44 | 175 | 113 | 78 | 64 |
| • | 7.7 | 110 | 110 | 70 | 0.7 |
| Leverage Measures Net Assets | 4 400 000 | 4 000 004 | 1,018,013 | | |
| Debt/Equity Ratio | 1,189,862 9% | 1,020,631 10% | 9% | 8% | 8% |
| • • | 9 /0 | 10 /0 | 9 /0 | 0 /0 | 0 /0 |
| Profitability and Effectiveness Measures | | | | | |
| 4. Primary Revenue Growth | | | | | |
| Current Year Revenue *2 | 435,896 | 604,334 | 446,418 | 000/ | 000/ |
| Primary Revenue Growth | -24% | 39% | -26% | 23% | -20% |
| 5. Program Expense Growth | | | - / | | |
| Current year program expenses *1 | 368,613 | 553,797 E0/ | 349,720 | 4.40/ | 70/ |
| (*1) Change in Expenses | -21% | -5% | -5% | 44% | -7% |
| 6. Net Assets/Cash Flow Change (Profitability) | 1 101 705 | 4.000.440 | 1 1 1 0 0 1 5 | | |
| Current year net assets | 1,131,765 | 1,208,419 | 1,112,015 | 70/ | 400/ |
| % Change in Net Assets | -4% | 7% | -8% | -7% | -16% |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| EFFICIEI | NCY | | | | |
| Financial Effectiveness Measures | | | | | |
| 7. Program Expenses | | | | | |
| Total Expenses less non-cash *1 | 495,046 | 528,302 | 532,711 | | |
| (less noncash) Program Expense Ratio | 74% | 66% | 62% | 77% | 77% |
| 8. Functional Support Costs | | | | | |
| Total Expenses less non-cash | 495,046 | 528,302 | 528,700 | | |
| (less non-cash) Functional Support Cost Ratio | 26% | 34% | 38% | 23% | 23% |
| 9. Fundraising Efficiency | | | | 285 | 1000 |
| Total Revenue (less non-cash) *3 | 435,896 | 604,334 | 446,418 | 550,123 | 438,260 |
| Fundraising Efficiency | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| NOTE: *1 Excludes in-kind expenses *2 Excludes in-kind contributions | | | | | |

Number of Sanctioned Events 2014-2018

| Total Number of YRE /Seasonal Events by Region | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|--|
| Region | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | | |
| Atlantic | 265 | 284 | 289 | 281 | 293 | | |
| Mid-America | 109 | 108 | 109 | 111 | 123 | | |
| North Central | 152 | 149 | 148 | 138 | 150 | | |
| Northeast | 115 | 113 | 111 | 114 | 120 | | |
| Northwest | 407 | 405 | 407 | 396 | 399 | | |
| Pacific | 261 | 275 | 264 | 252 | 274 | | |
| Rocky Mountain | 83 | 76 | 78 | 83 | 86 | | |
| South Central | 100 | 105 | 115 | 130 | 130 | | |
| Southeast | 222 | 199 | 205 | 208 | 206 | | |
| Southwest | 158 | 152 | 168 | 167 | 172 | | |
| Total: | 1,872 | 1,866 | 1,894 | 1,880 | 1,953 | | |



| Total Number of Traditional Events by Region | | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|--|--|
| Region | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | | |
| Atlantic | 100 | 118 | 126 | 120 | 118 | | |
| Mid-America | 101 | 95 | 94 | 86 | 86 | | |
| North Central | 76 | 63 | 80 | 77 | 70 | | |
| Northeast | 54 | 44 | 46 | 42 | 40 | | |
| Northwest | 144 | 118 | 124 | 114 | 110 | | |
| Pacific | 68 | 70 | 75 | 63 | 67 | | |
| Rocky Mountain | 43 | 37 | 22 | 32 | 24 | | |
| South Central | 72 | 78 | 62 | 73 | 61 | | |
| Southeast | 63 | 91 | 63 | 60 | 58 | | |
| Southwest | 77 | 82 | 78 | 83 | 72 | | |
| Total: | 798 | 796 | 770 | 750 | 706 | | |



2014-2018 Participation

| Total Number of YRE/Seasonal Participation by Region | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--|--|
| Region | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | | |
| Atlantic | 14,318 | 15,156 | 13,941 | 13,420 | 12,318 | | |
| Mid-America | 5,079 | 5,989 | 5,803 | 5,221 | 5,546 | | |
| North Central | 6,829 | 6,379 | 6,255 | 6,430 | 4,946 | | |
| Northeast | 5,473 | 5,121 | 4,308 | 4,481 | 3,378 | | |
| Northwest | 18,262 | 18,435 | 17,211 | 15,414 | 17,101 | | |
| Pacific | 11,870 | 10,392 | 9,335 | 7,997 | 9,374 | | |
| Rocky Mountain | 2,523 | 2,319 | 1,992 | 3,160 | 2,307 | | |
| South Central | 7,089 | 6,547 | 6,678 | 7,726 | 5,686 | | |
| Southeast | 9,576 | 9,379 | 8,797 | 8,648 | 8,303 | | |
| Southwest | 7,270 | 5,987 | 7,044 | 6,197 | 5,944 | | |
| Total: | 88,289 | 85,704 | 81,364 | 78,694 | 74,903 | | |

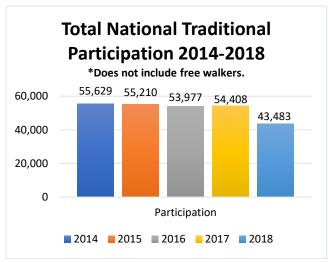


2014-2018 Participation Cont'd

| Total Number of YRE/Seasonal Free Walkers by Region | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--|--|
| Region | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | | |
| Atlantic | 776 | 882 | 742 | 588 | 605 | | |
| Mid-America | 217 | 245 | 141 | 165 | 189 | | |
| North Central | 96 | 28 | 52 | 28 | 38 | | |
| Northeast | 305 | 415 | 337 | 275 | 151 | | |
| Northwest | 5,216 | 5,977 | 5,760 | 5,351 | 5,936 | | |
| Pacific | 2,675 | 2,859 | 2,126 | 1,944 | 2,061 | | |
| Rocky Mountain | 179 | 177 | 184 | 200 | 68 | | |
| South Central | 251 | 193 | 142 | 125 | 87 | | |
| Southeast | 934 | 985 | 1,102 | 924 | 753 | | |
| Southwest | 549 | 505 | 378 | 308 | 219 | | |
| Total: | 11,198 | 12,266 | 10,964 | 9,908 | 10,107 | | |

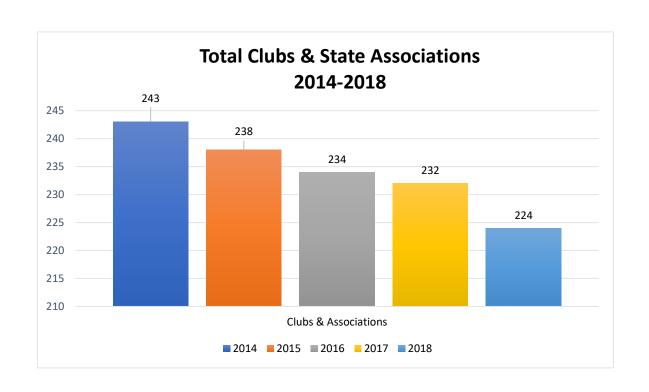
| Total National YRE/Seasonal Free Walker Participation | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--|--|
| 5,000 | 11,198 | 12,266 | 10,964 | 9,908 | 10,107 | | |
| 0,000 | | | | | | | |
| 5,000 | | | | | | | |
| 0 | | | | | | | |
| Free Walker Participation | | | | | | | |
| ■ 2014 ■ 2015 ■ 2016 ■ 2017 ■ 2018 | | | | | | | |

| Total Number of Traditional Participation by Region | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--|--|
| Region | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | | |
| Atlantic | 6,918 | 8,004 | 8,374 | 7,171 | 5,860 | | |
| Mid-America | 5,738 | 5,047 | 5,489 | 4,884 | 4,119 | | |
| North Central | 13,609 | 16,307 | 16,726 | 17,109 | 13,255 | | |
| Northeast | 2,369 | 2,164 | 2,006 | 2,279 | 1,858 | | |
| Northwest | 11,782 | 7,234 | 7,897 | 6,302 | 6,617 | | |
| Pacific | 3,214 | 3,235 | 3,007 | 2,199 | 2,272 | | |
| Rocky Mountain | 1,856 | 1,753 | 895 | 4,457 | 840 | | |
| South Central | 2,520 | 2,736 | 2,193 | 2,070 | 1,938 | | |
| Southeast | 1,791 | 3,470 | 2,058 | 2,213 | 2,114 | | |
| Southwest | 5,832 | 5,260 | 5,332 | 5,724 | 4,610 | | |
| Total: | 55,629 | 55,210 | 53,977 | 54,408 | 43,483 | | |



| Total Number of Traditional Free Walker Participation by | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|--|--|
| | Region | | | | | | | |
| Region | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | | | |
| Atlantic | 1,391 | 1,243 | 1,132 | 1,221 | 852 | | | |
| Mid-America | 696 | 607 | 544 | 462 | 349 | | | |
| North Central | 209 | 94 | 79 | 48 | 38 | | | |
| Northeast | 253 | 156 | 156 | 154 | 105 | | | |
| Northwest | 5,628 | 4,166 | 4,714 | 3,391 | 3,244 | | | |
| Pacific | 1,616 | 1,444 | 1,334 | 1,030 | 787 | | | |
| Rocky Mountain | 627 | 526 | 407 | 383 | 417 | | | |
| South Central | 149 | 255 | 177 | 128 | 92 | | | |
| Southeast | 458 | 646 | 383 | 366 | 125 | | | |
| Southwest | 143 | 97 | 44 | 32 | 13 | | | |
| Total: | 11,170 | 9,234 | 8,970 | 7,215 | 6,022 | | | |







AVA appreciates the support of our members, clubs, organizations, and individuals who made donations from June 1, 2017 to April 30, 2019.

Adams, Carolyn Albright, Tamra A. AmazonSmile Andrews, Betty Anonymous (5) Arn, Denise Baerwald, Thomas

Baker Jr., Ph.D., Marvin Baltes, Thomas R. Balz, Winifred Barnett, Daniel P. Barton, Fred

Beam, Craig & Debbie Bennett, Terry A. Biehl, Gene & Cindy Bishop, Josette

Bonewitz, David & Mindy

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Stroud, Judy

Stucky, Thomas & Cindy Sunflower Sod Stompers Sykora, M.D., Martha N. Szczesiak, Kathy B. Talaga, Carol The K Foundation Theall, Bonnie

Thomas, Frank & Lynda Uhl, Bruce Varner, Marjorie Vaughn, Betty

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Wittenberg, Nancy
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Zook, Robert

Thank you to all our generous donors! Special thanks to those who donated in memory of:

Gloma Rosental Martha Bonewitz Bob Gambert Candy Purcell

AVA State Associations and Active Clubs

As of May 28, 2019

ALABAMA

Capital City Wanderers

ALASKA

Anchorage Volkssport Club

ARIZONA

Saguaro Sun Striders Thunder Mountain Trekkers Tucson Volkssport Klub

ARKANSAS

Ozark Hill Hikers

CALIFORNIA

California Volkssport Association Inc.

Bay Bandits Volksmarch Club
Central Coast Beach Boardwalkers
Coronado Beachcombers
Davis Dynamos
Delta Tule Trekkers
Green Valley Gaiters, Inc.
Low Desert Roadrunners
Placer Pacers
Sacramento Walking Sticks
Shasta Sundial Strollers
Sonoma County Stompers
South Bay Roadrunners
South Bay Striders
Tahoe Trail Trekkers

COLORADO

Vaca Valley Volks

Colorado High Country Hikers Colorado Springs Walking Club Falcon Wanderers Northern Front Range Wanderers Rocky Mountain Wanderers Woodland Wanderers

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club

DELAWARE

First State Webfooters

FLORIDA

Emerald Coast Volkssport Club First Coast Trail Forgers Walking Club Happy Wanderers Mid-Florida Milers Walking Club Pensacola Volksmarch Club Perdido Key Volksmarch Club Suncoast Sandpipers Volkssport Club

GEORGIA

Georgia Walkers

HAWAII

Menehune Marchers

IDAHO

Treasure Valley Volkssports

ILLINOIS

Gateway Milers NFP Illinois Trekkers Volkssport Club Kishwaukee Valley Wanderers Lebanon Cedar Cruisers Ridgewalkers Walking Club Windy City Walkers

INDIANA

Indiana Volkssport Assn.

Bedford Hiking Club
Bloomington Flying Fish Volkssports
Goodtime Trailblazers
Hoosier Hikers
Indy 'G' Walkers
River City Ramblers
Three Rivers Strollers
Whitewater Valley Walkers

IOWA

Greater Des Moines Volkssport Assn.

KANSAS

Kansas JayWalkers Sunflower Sod Stompers

KENTUCKY

Derby City Walkers

MAINE

Southern Maine Volkssport Assn.

MARYLAND

Maryland Volkssport Assn.

Annapolis Amblers
Antietam Pathfinders Volksmarch Club, Inc.
Baltimore Walking Club
Columbia Volksmarch Club
Freestate Happy Wanderers
Great Greenbelt Volksmarchers, Inc.
Seneca Valley Sugarloafers

MASSACHUSETTS

Two Town Walking Club Walk 'N Mass Volkssport Club

MICHIGAN

Michigan Pathfinders Washtenaw Wanderers Volkssporting Club

MINNESOTA

Central Minnesota Volkssports Lake Country Wanderers NorthStar Trail Travelers Twin Cities Volkssport

MISSOURI

Clay-Platte Trackers of Kansas City Dogwood Trailblazers Global Adventurers Ozark Plateau Walkers Pace Setters Volkssport Club Rolla Roadrunners Volkssport Club St Louis-Stuttgart Volksmarch Club

MONTANA

Madison County Volkssport Club

NEBRASKA

Lincoln Volkssport Club, Inc. Nebraska Wanderfreunde Trailblazers

NEVADA

Las Vegas High Rollers & Strollers

NEW JERSEY

Garden State Wanderers Princeton Area Walkers

NEW MEXICO

Double Eagle Hike & Bike Club Kiwanis Club of Raton Sun Country Striders

NEW YORK

Empire State Capital Volkssporters Niagara Frontier Volkssport Club The Fingerlakes Region Volkssport Club Volkssport Club at West Point

NORTH CAROLINA

Tarheel State Walkers Volkssport Assn.

Asheville Amblers Metrolina Walkers Paws & Effect Ready Set Walk! Club Rowan Roamers Triangle Trailblazers Winston Wanderers

NORTH DAKOTA

Bismarck-Mandan CVB
Dakota Wanderers
Koda Manipe Volkssport Club
Red River Volkssport Assn.

OHIO

Ohio Volkssport Assn.

Gemutlich Wanderers
Germania Volksmarch Gruppe
Heart of Ohio Hikers
Maumee Valley Volkssporters
Ohio Wander Freunde
Tecumseh Trailblazers
Valley Vagabonds, Inc.
Wandering Wheels Volkssports Club
Xenia Walking Club

OKLAHOMA

Lawton Walkers Tulsa Walking Club Wandergruppe Walking Club World Wide Walkers

OREGON

Albany Fitwalkers

Oregon Trail State Volkssport Assn.

Border Crossers
Cedar Milers
Columbia River Volkssport Club
Corvallis Cruisers
East County Windwalkers
Eugene Springfield Mossback Volkssport
Rogue Valley Walkers
Rose City Roamers
Silverton Walk Abouts
Turnaround Trekkers
Valley Volkswalkers
Willamette Wanderers
Yachats Coastal Gems Volkssport Club

PENNSYLVANIA

Keystone State Volkssport Assn.

Chester County Red Rovers
Cumberland Valley Lead Foot Club
Liberty Bell Wanderers
Mon Valley Trailblazers
Penn-Dutch Pacers Volksmarch Club
Susquehanna Rovers Volksmarch Club
York White Rose Wanderers

SOUTH CAROLINA

The Upstate Pathfinders

SOUTH DAKOTA

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City of McAllen Parks and Rec. Dept.

TENNESSEE

East Tennessee Wanderers Tuck-A-See Wanderers

TEXAS

Texas Volkssport Assn.

Colorado River Walkers Dallas Trekkers, Inc. East Texas Trekkers, Inc. Hill Country Volkssportverein **Hood County Hummers Houston Happy Hikers** Kerrville Trailblazers LoneStar Walkers Midland Walkabout NB-Marsch-und Wandergruppe Plano Walking Club Randolph Roadrunners **Rockport City Trailways** San Angelo Volkswalkers San Marcos River Walkers Selma Pathfinders Star Trekkers of Irving **Tarrant County Walkers** Texas County Walkers, Inc. Texas Trail Roundup **Texas Wanderers** Volkssportverein Friedrichsburg West Texas Trail Walkers

UTAH

Gadabout Golden Spike Striders Midway Walking Sticks

VERMONT

Twin State Volkssport Assn.

VIRGINIA

Virginia Volkssport Assn.

Bad Pennies, The
Cavalier Volkssporting Club
Ft Belvoir - DFMWR
Gator Volksmarsch Club
Germanna Volkssport Association
Lee Lepus Volksverband
Northern Virginia Volksmarchers
Peninsula Pathfinders of Virginia
U.S. Freedom Walk Festival Club
Virginia Vagabonds
Wood and Dale Wanderers

WASHINGTON

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