

## 40th Anniversary

June 10—12 2016, Fredericksburg, Texas



**Less than a week away!** Join us for a book signing by Christine Handy our guest speaker and advocate walker. Also if you reserved your room and didn't leave a credit card please call (830) 997- 4484 and give them your credit card number. If not your room will be forfeited and you will have to make other accommodations.

\*\* See bottom of p. 3 for more details or [click here](#). \*\*

### NEC News

#### NEC Meeting Updates

The next NEC meeting will be held June 10-12, 2016 in Fredericksburg, Texas. The meeting location will be the Sunday House Inn and Suites:

501 East Main Street,  
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624.  
(830) 997-4484



#### Message from Dennis Michele, AVA President

"I want to personally thank all the individuals and clubs that supported the "Big Give". As a result of your efforts and generosity, we were able to collect \$51,798. I especially want to thank those donors who took the special effort to log on their donations at specific times. As a result, we won two time slot awards for the hours of 12 am—1 am(most unique donors) an 6 pm—7 pm (golden ticket). Well done to all!!!

Dennis"

#### NEC Meeting Agenda Items

Club Purchasing of Stamps  
Shorter Distance Walks-Less than 5K  
Trailmaster Certification Program-Mentoring and Certification of AVA Associate Members  
Participation Report After Action Fee for Free Walkers  
Release of Membership Information  
Increase in Participation Fees  
5K Trails – Walk Twice in lieu of 10K

[Click here](#) for complete description of agenda items as proposed.

## NEC Committee Updates

### ***National Special Programs—Susan Medlin, Chair***

I know that there are too many Special Programs (31). Please hang in there and do the best you can. In 2018 the number drops to 25, and by 2020 the number drops to 10. Do your research and list as accurately as you can all the Special Programs that each walk qualifies for. Keep in mind that even though a program ends (example Dec. 31, 2016) the walkers have a year after that date to complete the program. Please include those programs in your listing along with all current programs and the two new ones beginning Jan. 1, 2017 (Underground Railroad and Ice Cream Parlors). You will find them on the AVA website under Events – Special Programs—Future. Also listed there are the current programs and those that have ended. It is important that you enter these whether you are an avid supporter of Special Programs or not. You never know when a Special Program listed on your walk is just the one some walker is trying to complete. It is worth the effort.

There is not a space provided on the ESR form to enter the Special Programs. You will have to exit the ESR, go back to the Club Events navigation page and select the “Special Programs” line and then enter the Special Programs for that particular walk. Be sure to submit so the system will take your selections.

I hope this information makes it easy for you to enter your ESR and helps you give the AVA walking family what they need to know to enjoy your walk.

Susan Medlin  
Director, Southwest Region  
[Sw\\_rd@ava.org](mailto:Sw_rd@ava.org)  
210-325-3253

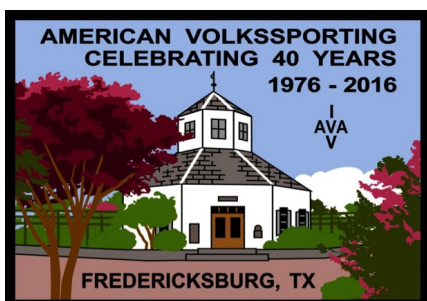
### **“STARTING POINT” TIPS AND GUIDELINES— by Joanne Forinash**

For tips and guidelines on entering information in the ESR for the Starting Point Book please [click here](#).

### ***40th Anniversary Cont.***

If you haven't got your tickets yet please email Ellen Ott at [ellenott@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ellenott@sbcglobal.net).

For you last minute Hotel reservation contact Judy Schorr at (830) 997- 4484. The hotel requires 24-hours in advance to cancel any reservation. If you have any questions send an email to Samanta at [intern@ava.org](mailto:intern@ava.org). Please note on subject line “Hotel Reservation”.



### **Schedule of Events**

FOR ALL EVENTS: All events are noncompetitive. Walk, jog, run, bike ride or swim at your own pace. Events are open to all and families are encouraged to participate. Children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult. There is a \$3 per person per event fee. Everyone must register and carry a START card and turn it in at the finish table. Pets are welcome on leashes. Route maps for all events will be provided at the registration table.

**Starting point and registration for Friday evening walk**  
**Sunday House Inn, 501 E. Main St., Fredericksburg, TX 78624**

**Starting point and registration for Saturday events**  
**Markt Platz Pavilion, 100 W. Main St. Fredericksburg, TX 78624**

**Starting point and registration for Sunday events**  
**Cross Mountain, 1520 N. Milam St., Fredericksburg, TX 78624**

Disclaimer: The sponsors are not liable for accidents, thefts, and/or material damage. Reasonable effort has been made by the sponsor to make these safe, enjoyable and memorable events.

**For additional information: [Brian Fisher](#) or [Susan Medlin](#)**

### **Friday, June 10, 2016**

#### **Pilgrimage Evening Walk**

Length of walk: (10km or 5km)  
Register and start time: 6-7pm,  
Sunday House Inn



### **Sunday, June 12, 2016**

#### **Volkssportverein Friedrichsburg featured YRE -Morning Walk**

Length of walk: (10km or 5km)  
Register and start time: 6 to 6:30am, Cross Mountain, 1520 N. Milam St.  
Finish walk by 1pm



### **Saturday, June 11, 2016**

#### **Footsteps of the Founders Walk**

Length of walk: (20km, 10km, or 5km)  
Register and start time: 6am -11am,  
Markt Platz Pavilion  
Finish walk by 12 pm

#### **Texas Volkssport Association Walk**

Length of walk: (10km or 5km)  
Register and start time: 8am to 11am,  
Markt Platz Pavilion  
Finish walk by 2pm

#### **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bike Ride**

Length of ride: (25km or 13km)  
Register and start time: 6-10am,  
Markt Platz Pavilion  
Finish ride by 1:00pm

#### **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Swim**

Length of swim: (300m)  
Register and start time: 11am to 1pm, Markt Platz Pavilion  
Finish swim by 1:30pm  
Directions to local swimming pool at registration

**Special thanks to our sponsors:**

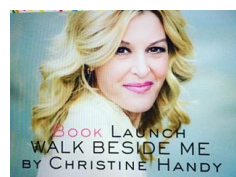


### **Special Guest Speakers:**



**The Honorable Linda Langerhans Mayor, Fredericksburg TX**

**Proclamation at 6 am Saturday morning walk**



**Christine Handy Keynote speaker Saturday evening dinner**

**Alarsch-und Wandergruppe**

**Fredericksburg Standard**  
Radio Post

## Special Programs Chair—Bonnie Johnson

### Special Programs Alert!!!

It is time to start thinking about new Special Program proposals which need to reach the Special Program Chair by November 1, 2016 in order to be introduced for approval at the January 2017 NEC meeting. The approved programs would begin January 1, 2018

You will find all the up to date criteria and policy in the AVA Policy Manual under 4.05, particularly portions of Section III-‘Approval of AVA Special Programs’ by [clicking here](#).

## Youth Committee—Debra Kruep

The 2016-2017 Girl Scout Walk Together Patch Contest has ended and the lucky winner is Katlyn Modlin from the Girl Scouts of Southwest Missouri and Southeast Kansas. Congratulations Katlyn! Her design will be replicated for the Girl Scout Walk Together Patch available in the fall of 2016.

AVA Headquarters has sixty 2015-2016 patches available for Walk Together summer events.

## Standards and Evaluations—Suzi Glass, Chair

### AVA Best Practices—Membership

The Randolph Roadrunners slip a club application into New Member Packets. The new member's club dues are waived for the first year. During that time, they are receiving emails regarding club activities, meeting dates, and other information that is disseminated to all members. What an easy and inexpensive way to keep folks involved!

---submitted by Ellen Ott

## AVA National Office Team

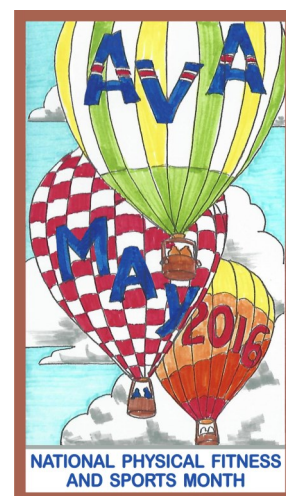
## Finance & Operations Director—Candace Purcell

### Club reminders of upcoming dates

Annual Club dues are invoiced every May. Your club will receive the invoice with the May statement sent at the end of the month. Annual dues are \$50.00 for each club and state association. Please remember:

- Annual dues are due July 1, 2016 for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.
- If dues are not paid by September 1, 2016 a late fee of \$25.00 will be billed.

No Traditional Event held fee will be billed in July, 2016. This fee is \$50.00, it is not an additional annual due. Your club must hold a traditional event by June 30, 2016 to avoid this fee. A guided event qualifies as a traditional event.



*\*Note: May Physical fitness patches are available as well as May World Walk Day certificates.*



Sanctioning of 2017 YRE's and seasonals begins June 1, 2016 and ends August 31, 2016. RDs have until September 15 to review their region's events; after September 15 if your club sanctions a YRE or seasonal it will not appear in the 2017 Starting Point Book. Starting Point changes are listed only for events published in the Starting Point.

\*\* Once sanction window closes after 8/31/2016 you must go to Traditional Events pull down menu of Type and select YRE or Seasonal. \*\*



### **IRS 990 N Form**

For those clubs needing additional information completing the one time IRS online registration for the filing of the 990 N form refer to the article written by Frank Sayers by [click here](#).

*\*Note: We are ordering more 40th Anniversary patches*

**2016 Starting Points** are still available at a reduced rate of \$20.00, plus shipping costs, while supplies last! Get yours today!

### **Requirements for Starting a New AVA Club**

There is now a requirement sheet and checklist for starting a new club. You can find this information by [clicking here](#).

### **Events Coordinator—Marie Bebley**

"Is your club participating with the celebration of the AVA 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary? If you sanctioned a Traditional walk and would like to use an anniversary slug, please contact Marie at the headquarters to order a slug. This special slug is limited, place your order now"



Please be advised, the sanctioning of events is always open to all clubs.

Renewing YRE and Seasonal events is from June 1 to August only. All RD must approve events by Sept. 15.

2017 Start Point Book file must be checked and ready for Publisher no later than Oct. 15. Target date to send out Starting Point Book is before Thanksgiving weekend.

Please [click here](#) for renewal instructions.

### **Awards and Membership Coordinator—Karen Winkle**

To view the Monthly Comparison Chart for the Total Number of Awards processed [click here](#).

The IVV Has made new "Resolutions" and "Recommendations" to become effective by January 2018. Please discuss these items with your club, and share your recommendations with your Regional Director.

Recommendation: [Please click here](#).

It is recommended to use basically a certificate as IVV award.

Further awards could be available for purchase---- Meaning Pins and Patches.

IVV Event and Distance books are different than ours. We could keep our books, and continue with the pins

and patches we currently have, until they run out, or continue to purchase pins and patches. We will need to make decisions soon to know how to proceed with multiple supply orders.

## **Communications—Samanta Sanchez, Intern**

### **Big Give Raises \$51,798!**

Despite all the unfortunate technical issues that occurred on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Big Give SA turned out to be a huge success! As of June 2<sup>nd</sup>, we raised \$48,298 through online and mail contributions. The great news is that AVA received 3 cash prizes thanks to everyone's efforts. A \$1,000 prize was awarded to AVA for the Most Unique Donors on May 3<sup>rd</sup> between the hours of



12:00AM-1:00AM. AVA also came in 3<sup>rd</sup> place for the Most Unique Donors within Medium Size Budget organizations - that was an additional \$1,000 prize. The third prize that AVA received was the Golden Ticket for the 6:00PM-7:00PM hour on May 4<sup>th</sup> and that prize amount was \$1,500. Our Grand Total is **\$51,798**, thus exceeding our \$50,000 goal! We could not have done it without the support of everyone. It is because of you that AVA keeps America walking.

***Thank You All!***

## **AVA's Executive Director's Update—Henry Rosales**

### **Executive Director's Update**

The final version of the AVA Strategic Plan will be presented to the NEC this June during their scheduled meeting. Please contact your Regional Director for a copy of the plan.

It should come as no surprise that the AVA is in transition and with transition comes change. As we move towards the implementation of the strategic plan changes will need to be made with respect to internal and external operations of the National Office. Part of this change is impacted by the retirement of our Director of Finance and Operations, Mrs. Candace Purcell.

I wish to express my gratitude for the blood, sweat and tears Candy has given to the AVA over the past 18 years. She has been a pillar of strength for National office and her expertise, wit, and tenacity will be missed. In spite of the times we had to agree to disagree I respect her for expressing what she thought was in the best interest of the AVA. May she enjoy her retirement without the hassle of audits, financials, and deadlines and may she be blessed with the joys and happiness of retirement.

### **FINANCE (Unaudited Report)**

**Year to Date Report Fiscal Year Ending 2016**—The April 2016 financials reflect a net income loss of **\$113,488** through 04.30.2016. On the expense side, wages will be a little higher than projected due to the overlap in staffing to train a new finance person. On the revenue side, there was a big drop in participation, sanction, and membership fees. (These fees were already budgeted at 5% less from the previous year.) Also the projected amount of \$25,000 in grant funds has not yet materialized. The total loss of income from these revenue streams is **\$114,939**. (Only a small portion of the Big Give revenues are reflected in the April statement.) With additional income from the Big Give and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter participation fees I am projecting we will end this fiscal year with a net loss of approximately **\$60,000**.

The Big Give campaign was very successful in generating over \$51,000 in unrestricted revenues for the AVA. We surpassed our goal and did better than last year! The majority of donations were from clubs and individuals within our volkssporting community. ***I am very grateful for the continued support of everyone and humbled to be a part of this community.***

## Big Give SA Comparison 2015 & 2016

	2015	\$ Amount Raised	2016	\$ Amount Raised
Online Individual Donors	129	\$10,496	223	\$14,572
Online Club Donors	12	\$3,275	13	\$2,100
Mailed Individual Donations by Check/Cash	93	\$8,240	269	\$11,698.25
Mailed Club Donations by Check/Cash	27	\$6,630	68	\$9,927.75
Prize Money-PENDING		\$0		\$3,500
<b>Total Donors</b>	<b>261</b>		<b>573</b>	
<b>Total Raised</b>		<b>\$28,641</b>		<b>\$41,798</b>
Match 2015 (Individual)		\$30,000		
Match 2016				10,000
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$58,641</b>		<b>\$51,798</b>

## Support Our National and International Friends!

### National Trails Day® Event in 2016

Saturday, **June 4, 2016**, marks American Hiking Society's 24th Annual National Trails Day®. Across the country, thousands of individuals and organizations will offer local recreational opportunities to celebrate America's magnificent trail system. Register your event. NTD is a great opportunity to build community engagement and support for your volkssport club! To learn more or host an event go to: <http://nationaltrailsday.americanhiking.org/>



### Support the Alzheimer's Association by Joining a Walking Team!



**What Will You Do To Fight Alzheimer's on June 20<sup>th</sup> ?** -Join teams around the world on [The Longest Day](#), an event to raise funds and awareness for the Alzheimer's Association! Held annually on the summer solstice, the duration of this sunrise-to-sunset event symbolizes the challenging journey of those living with the disease and their caregivers. Teams are encouraged to create their own experience as they fundraise and participate in an activity they love. Start a team with your fellow club members and track your fundraising progress along with other

AVA clubs across the country! Register now at [alz.org/ava](http://alz.org/ava).

### Checkpoint Available Via Email to All Club Members Who Request It

To receive an electronic copy of the Checkpoint send us an email to the attention of Samanta requesting that you be put on our distribution list for the Checkpoint. Please note on the subject line: Request for Checkpoint. Send your request to Samanta at [intern@ava.org](mailto:intern@ava.org).

## **The American Volkssport Association**

**The Mission of AVA is to promote and organize noncompetitive physical fitness activities that encourage lifelong fun, fitness, and friendship for all ages and abilities.**

1001 Pat Booker Road · Suite 101 · Universal City, TX 78148

Phone 210.659.2112 · Fax 210.659.1212 ·

**Email: [avahq@ava.org](mailto:avahq@ava.org) Website [ava.org](http://ava.org)**

**[Click to Like Us on Facebook](#)**

**[Click for our Cafepress Store](#)**