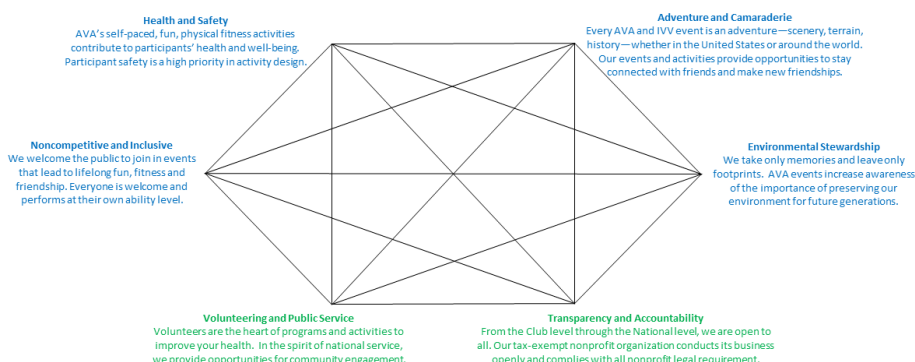




AVA Values

Our mission. Our commitment.



Click on image to enlarge.



AVA Biennial Publicity Contest – 2017

As the excitement builds for the 2017 Convention in Billings, Montana so grows the anticipation for all the interesting and unique entries in our Biennial Publicity Contest! Winners of our 2017 national competition will be recognized at the 19th AVA Biennial Convention, June 7-9, in Billings, Montana.

All entries must have been created or occurred during the time-period from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016. Specific rules and submission category guidelines are attached. A separate Official Entry

Form must be submitted with each entry and this form may be reproduced as needed. Submit your form in an envelope and attach it to the items submitted for judging. All photography category entries must include the Photo Release Form.

Competition in the AVA contest is open to AVA members, clubs and state organizations. Names of the winners will be published in the American Wanderer newspaper, the AVA website, and other promotional outlets. Winning photographs or other images may be used on our website or for other purposes such as the cover photo on the "Starting Point" book.

AVA cannot be responsible for any late, damaged or incomplete entries. All entries submitted to the contest will become the property of AVA and may not be returned.

All submitted entries must arrive at AVA National Office no later than April 14, 2017. Mail them to the American Volkssport Association, 1001 Pat Booker Road, Ste. 101, Universal City, Texas 78148, Attention: Publicity Contest or email with the subject line "Publicity Contest Entry" to hector@ava.org.

Entry submission deadline is April 14, 2017 Midnight/Central Time

[Photo Release Form](#)

[Categories/Guidelines](#)

[Official Entry Form](#)

Standards and Evaluations—Suzi Glass, Chair

PARTNERS

While AVA partners with manufacturers and global tour groups, local clubs have cultivated partners for a variety of reasons. Clubs have established partnerships for an event or a long-term relationship for advertising, gaining co-sponsors, adding walkers, and discounts.

The San Francisco Bay Bandits combined with the San Francisco National Maritime Park to support and honor each other's schedules. The National Park Service (NPS) holds walking events on the first Saturday of every month and advertise via email and at their Visitors' Center. The Bay Bandits use other weekends for events and participate in NPS events as well. The Placer Pacers' biennial Lake Tahoe-Fallen Leaf Lake events are co-sponsored by the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit of the U.S Government.

The Freestate Happy Wanderers have partnered with the Maryland Geocache Society to the benefit of both groups. At traditional events, there have been between 5 and 40 geocachers walking. Several club members, who are also active geocachers, have added caches to the event routes.

Discounts can often be set up. Both the Sonoma County Stompers and the Low Desert Roadrunners are masters at securing discounts for lunch places on their walk routes. They advertise the restaurants at their start points.

Businesses that house start point boxes are already partners. Check them out for other mutual benefits.

AVA National Office Team

Awards and Membership Coordinator—Karen Winkle

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

We are currently out of Girl Scout patches for 2016-2017. If your club is planning to order patches before June 2017, please let me know ASAP so I can place an order.

Information and Technology Specialist—Hector Hernandez

Walks to Remember

Lets begin the New Year with a walk. What is your club's famous walk coming up for the month of February? Email your club's walks information to hector@ava.org and we will help to market your walk.

Starting Point Books

We are almost out of books so be sure to buy your book today for \$25 plus shipping and handling. To place an order please contact Theresa at (210) 659-2112.

Starting Point Changes

Please remember to make all changes within your ESR and then send to Hector. The website will be updated weekly. Email changes to hector@ava.org.



Click here for this months [Starting Point Changes](#)

AVA's Executive Director's Update—Henry Rosales

Strategic Goal #3 of the AVA Strategic Plan calls for increased public awareness, operational capacity and efficiency to facilitate engagement and growth. Below is an update on work being done to implement these operational goals.

Publicity/Marketing Campaign

The Publicity committee is in the process of creating a blueprint for a national publicity/marketing campaign. A request for services from a marketing firm will be released early Spring. The goal is to kick-off a national publicity/marketing campaign in 2019 that will include all AVA programs and services and promote all clubs. The committee is also exploring the possibility of having a national spokesperson for the AVA. Email your thoughts and recommendations to the committee chair, Mr. Andy Bacon at bacon.arthur@gmail.com

2019 Convention Application

A new AVA convention application has been created and will be released early February 2017. The convention application will emphasize partnerships with the local organizations, thorough planning and creativity. Any state association, club or group of clubs may apply to host the 2019 convention. Applications will be due March 31st, 2017. Finalists must be willing to travel to the 2017 convention in Billings, Montana to present to the membership. For more information email Henry at henry@ava.org

AVA Privacy Policy

Last June the NEC approved the creation of a Privacy Policy so that certain personal data collected by AVA can be used for dissemination of information related to AVA services and activities and shared with other club presidents, state associations and Regional Directors. This policy has been completed and approved by our legal counsel. Once it has been approved by the NEC it will be sent to all AVA members via mail. A copy of this policy will also be posted on the AVA website. The information we will be sharing will be name, address, telephone number and/or email address. It is important to note that at any time anyone can opt out of the sharing of their information.

National Office Team in Transition

Sometimes the unexpected departure of key personnel can bring an organization to a grinding halt if there has been no cross training and/or succession planning. The recent departure of a senior AVA employee has conveyed the importance of cross training. It also casts light on new opportunities for a reorganization of roles and responsibilities that are better aligned with our strategic goals and the strengths of employees. We appreciate your support as we work through this transition with the national office team. In the meantime, please refer your questions and concerns to the following individuals at the national office:

For questions about late fees, sanction fees, participation fees and all invoice related questions please contact **Theresa** at theresa@ava.org

For questions about stamps, sanction numbers, club insurance, reports and all other club related questions about an event please contact **Samanta** at samanta@ava.org

For technical support and website related questions please contact **Hector** at hector@ava.org

He will work closely with our IT Chair to help resolve any database related issues.

Special thanks to all of our office volunteers who have supported us through the transition with training, love and respect.





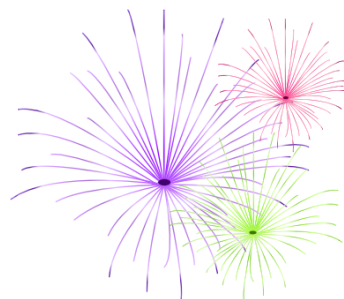
Support Our National and International Friends!

National



Click image for more information.

[Click here the call for proposals.](#)



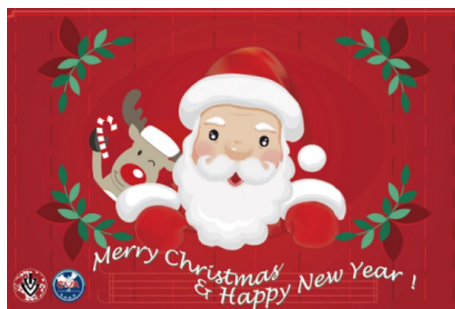
International



[Click here for brochure.](#)



Click image for more information.



Dear IVV family members:

Thanks for all the help and support.

Wishing you a happy Christmas and a Happy New Year!

I wish you happiness in the distant China!

[Click here to view full greeting card.](#)

Jin Qiao (金乔)
CVA Secretary General
China Volkssport Association (CVA)
China BeijingToday Walk Center
Tel: (8610)-84896319\20\21

Fax: (8610)-84896317
E-mail: ivv2009@163.com
Website: www.chinawalking.net.cn 【中国徒步网】
WeChat Public Number: 中国徒步网
Add.: Nr.68 Anli Road Sunshine Plaza, Chaoyang District Beijing, China

Dear friends,

Warm greetings from Jogjakarta!

As the year ends, we think about the things we are grateful for. Our friendship is surely one thing we treasure. Thank you for your participation. We wish you a merry Christmas and success in the new year.

Best regards.

Fitriani Kuroda

Secretary General of Jogja Walking Association



Jogja Walking Association

Jl. Kompleks Colombo No. 39, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
55281

+62274 - 566728

<http://jogjaheritagewalk.com>



Agradeço a oportunidade de fazer parte do Congresso IVV no Brasil

Quero desejar a todos um FELIZ NATAL e Um Ano de 2017 abençoado.

Att

Ivaldete A. Zampronio Zarpellon
Turismo Rural - Emater
Fone - 43 3472 5800

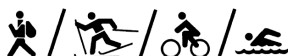
Checkpoint Available Via Email to All Club Members Who Request It

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 samanta@ava.org.



Fun, Fitness, Friendship



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.

