

DAVID BONEWITZ

CANDIDATE FOR AVA PRESIDENT



Two years ago I introduced myself as a candidate for AVA President. I was honored that you chose me to serve in that position. I won't repeat the biographical information from 2 years ago as that is less important now since you have had almost 2 years to decide if you made a good choice.

Since election as AVA President, I have worked hard with the NEC/Board of Directors to position AVA for a bright future. Together with the Headquarters Staff, using the Strategic Plan as our roadmap, we have developed new programs (e.g., Virtual On-Line Program [VOLP]), worked to cut expenses (e.g., moving TAW from a bimonthly to a quarterly publication and reduced in-person NEC meetings), moved forward with a national PR campaign with outreach at national events like Crazy Horse, began development of national partnerships (e.g., AmericaWalks), established new tools (e.g., expanded the On-Line Start Box and GroupWorks), and worked for overall improvements to AVA (e.g., new event stamps, ability to produce awards and AVA-brand merchandise with the laser cutter, electronic submission of record books, expanded Centurion Program, monthly electronic board meetings to be more responsive to needed changes, proposed opening the Board to non-Volkssporting experts to put AVA on a better footing as a national non-profit corporation).

During this "tour of duty," my wife, Mindy and I have done extensive travel for AVA. Our goal was to meet our members to hear their thoughts and provide personal encouragement to our clubs. We have gone to the IML General Meeting in Sweden and the IVV Congress in Italy to represent AVA on the international scene. We also traveled to the five Regional Conferences and introduced literally hundreds of walkers to AVA: America's Walking Club at Crazy Horse. In order to save AVA some money, most of this travel was at our own expense. AVA is a family-friendly organization, and I am blessed with Mindy's support as I have committed time and energy to serving as your president. Admittedly, this job has been tougher and more time consuming than we ever imagined. However, we are prepared to make the commitment to serve for another term.

There is much still to do if we are to position AVA for a bright future. Some things are those I feel that I haven't accomplished this first term. Others are works in progress that we must push forward. We have a long way to go, but if we work as a team, don't lose our enthusiasm for what we do, and make the needed changes, we can establish a bright future for AVA.

While we still don't have all the answers to AVA's problems, I know that using the powerful roadmap of the Strategic Plan, we will find the answers through communication and negotiation. I seek your support not just with your vote, but with your continued commitment to AVA.

Feel free to contact me at SPC4AVA@Gmail.com.

We are America's Walking Club, and working together we will have a bright future.

