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**AMERICA'S  
WALKING CLUB**  
— ESTABLISHED 1976 —

July 2020

[www.ava.org](http://www.ava.org)

# CHECKPOINT



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David Prewitt and Ellen Ott working at the start point.—Photo submitted by Martin Callahan.



*The AVA National Office will  
be closed on July 3rd in  
observance of  
Independence Day. Have a  
safe 4th of July!*

## Executive Director's Update—Henry Rosales

### You Are Invited to the AVA's National Board Meeting, July 10-11, 2020!

The Board of Directors will meet Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 6-10pm Eastern Time and Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 10am-8pm, Eastern Time. This will be an electronic meeting anyone can access on their personal computer or iPhone. Club members can login as a guest/attendee utilizing a link that will be posted on the AVA website Tuesday July 7<sup>th</sup>. If you want to attend all you have to do is click on the link and follow the instructions. Club POC's will also be emailed the meeting link on Tuesday along with an updated Agenda which will outline times for agenda items. We are excited about this opportunity to open the board meeting to a larger audience and look forward to your participation! Don't forget your cup of coffee!

For more information on the board meeting please contact your Regional Director.  
For more information on how to login the day of the meeting [click here](#).

### National Office Operations During These Challenging Times

The National Office continues to adjust and make necessary changes to ensure the sustainability of the organization during these challenging times which is changing how we do business. Currently, all employees are working 50% from home and 50% in the

office until the virus situation changes for the better in our area. The office and museum remain closed to all visitors. Club members can visit the office to meet with personnel if they set up an appointment in advance and are willing to wear a face mask.

As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, the estimated revenue loss, as a direct result of the COVID 19 virus was approximately \$68,000 and that number continues to grow weekly. In effort to offset some of the losses we were able to secure a Paycheck Protection Program Loan (Stimulus Funds) of \$50,700 that will not need to be repaid if funds are spent properly on payroll, utilities, and rent. On the expense side, cuts were made in personnel hours, supplies, board travel, and contract suspensions. Should the situation worsen, additional cuts will be made to personnel time and further contracts will be suspended. Additional cuts to personnel will impact operational hours and services.

In spite of this, we are hopeful things will change come Fall and anticipate an increase in participation for Fall events. We are grateful to all who have contributed to the Big Give 2020 and encourage your continued support of the Big Give during the upcoming months. These revenues will be used to support the operation of the AVA. We are also extremely excited about the number of rooms already booked for the 2021 convention in Madison, WI. If you have not already booked your rooms please do because this is shaping up to be one of our biggest and best conventions ever!

## Information and Technology Specialist—Hector Hernandez

### Electronic Board Meeting

The meeting has been set for this coming July 10 and 11. I will be available during the meeting for technical support or questions. Please feel free to email me at [hector@ava.org](mailto:hector@ava.org) or call the office phone at (210) 659-2112. If you are unable to use a mic during the Board meeting and have a question for the Board also feel free to call in and ask for Samanta or email your questions to [sharewithus@ava.org](mailto:sharewithus@ava.org).

### Starting Point Photo Contest

We have our mask, our phones, and our walks. Let us see those pictures of the “People”, “Places” or “Things” you encounter! Can you capture Volkssporting at its best? Let’s try! Please submit your entries for this year’s photo contest.

The first and second place winners will get their photo printed on the front side (1st place) and backside (2nd place) cover of the 2021 Starting Point book. Winners will also get a complimentary copy of the Starting Point!



2019 submission by Frank Sayers.

Entries are due to AVA National office no later than August 15, 2020. Rules, guidelines and the official entry form are attached in link below. Participation in the nationwide contest is open to AVA members, clubs and state organizations. All entries must have been created or occurred during the time period from July 1, 2019 – August 15, 2020. For more information contact Hector at [hector@ava.org](mailto:hector@ava.org).

[Starting Point Photo Contest Rules](#)

[Pre-Order Form](#)

### Electronic Sanctioning Renewal

The sanctioning of our Year-Round and Seasonal Events opened June 1. All sanctioned events appear on the AVA website where they can be viewed by seasoned Volkssporters as well as potential new participants.

Clubs have the responsibility of providing good information that will interest people in attending the event and enable them to get there. These events identified as Year-Round or Seasonal (beginning February 1) are included in the Start Point Book published annually by AVA. Additional information may be entered from the Edit page and will appear on the AVA Events webpage only under Comments. This provides free information for the clubs and accuracy is important.

[Renewal Instructions](#)

### ***Tips for renewing your YREs and Seasonals.***

- Please do not mark your events “No Renewal” if undecided. There is no “undo” button, you will have to re-enter a new ESR.
- For a faster and error free renewal, do a fast and quick renewal without changes. Simply click renew and submit. You may enter your changes or updates by going to the ESR Listing page to edit your event information.
- Your event will disappear from your renewal list if you enter incorrect information. Contact Hector to have your event reactivated if your event disappeared during renewal.
- Most errors occur when entering information in the POC section. Please follow the instructions carefully.

Contact Hector at [hector@ava.org](mailto:hector@ava.org) for any ESR renewal problems and concerns.

For renewed YRE/SEs, the [my.ava.org](http://my.ava.org) specific event data are copied from the original 2020 YRE/SE to the corresponding renewed 2021 event soon after the renewed event is picked up by the [my.ava.org](http://my.ava.org) system from the legacy ESR system. The copied [my.ava.org](http://my.ava.org) specific event data includes the sell-it features (elevator pitch, brochure, and pictures), the location feature, stamp text, and event directions pdf (for OSB events).

## **2021 Starting Point Books Print Deadline**

Sanctioning of 2021 YREs and Seasonals began June 1, 2020 and ends September 15, 2020. RDs have until September 30 to review their region's events; after September 30 if your club sanctions a YRE or seasonal it will not appear in the 2021 Starting Point Book. For tips and guidelines on entering information in the ESR for the Starting Point Book please refer to the link below to Joanne Forinash's article.

[Starting Point Tips and Guidelines](#)

### **Accounting Specialist—Marian DeVaul**

## **2nd Quarter Participation Reports Due**

It's time to submit your 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Participation numbers. Although you have until July 31st to file your reports, it is always much appreciated when you file as soon as possible. We understand that during this time of COVID, some clubs will not be able to access their walk boxes. In this case, just estimate the number of participants and adjust in the next quarter. Thank you, and stay safe!

## **October 2020 National Volkssport Month Patch**

October is National Volkssport Month. Celebrate by pre-ordering patches using the order form and returning to the National Office. You may mail the form to AVA, 1001 Pat Booker Rd #101, Universal City, TX 78148, or fax to 210-659-1212. You may also place your order by e-mailing the form to [Marian@ava.org](mailto:Marian@ava.org). As we will not be ordering extra inventory, clubs must pre-order the patch. The deadline to order these October patches is August 4th. Don't miss this opportunity to offer this collectible patch to walk participants!



Please click on image for order form.

### **Communications— Samanta Sanchez**

## **New Regional Challenge Prize!**

This year, the Big Give Committee has decided to award a prize and special recognition to the region with the most amount raised during our Big Give campaign. The Walking Stick of Kindness will be awarded to the winning region and it will be passed down from winner to winner each year. In addition, the regional winners will be recognized during the 2021 AVA Biennial Convention and will receive a Front of the Line Pass\* to all social events and gala dinner. So spread the word among your regions and donate to the Big Give for a chance to win the Regional Challenge. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we are getting closer to reaching our \$80,000 goal! To date, the AVA has raised \$57,776.64! Thank you all for your support.

\*Pass includes front line access to all AVA food and beverage catered events like lunches, socials and the Thursday night Gala.



The Board had previously determined that Traditional events that were rescheduled during the 2020 calendar year would not require an additional sanctioning fee. We recommend that all clubs try and reschedule postponed Traditional events, already sanctioned and paid for, within this calendar year. There is no waiver of a processing fee for YRE and Seasonal events because the processing fees make up fifty percent of the forty-dollar (\$40) sanction fee. The National Office will delay billing of the processing fees (sanction fees) for YRE's and Seasonals if requested. Please contact Marian at the National Office should you have any concerns.

If a Traditional event was CANCELLED or cannot be rescheduled for whatever reason, clubs should submit a request to their RD indicating why they could not reschedule the event this year or why it was cancelled. The RD will present this to the National Office who would make the call whether or not to grant a credit for a 2021 sanctioned Traditional event.

Nominations Committee—Tom Jackson, Chair

Opportunity to Serve

The 22nd AVA Biennial Convention in Madison, Wisconsin, is less than a year away. While we will enjoy great walks, see new and old friends, and gain knowledge at workshops, a critical activity at our convention is the election of the national officers for the term of office from July 3, 2021 – June 30, 2023. Those national officers are the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Think of AVA as a sailing ship. The clubs are the sails that give AVA its energy and move it forward. The Regional Directors are like the lines that set the sails and configure the ship to run at its most efficient. The National Officers are like the rudder that sets the direction that the ship is going to sail. You get the idea. Good leadership is essential for AVA to keep moving forward. Think about what you have done for your club, your state association, your region, and AVA. You have ideas about how AVA could do things better. It is easy to sit back and criticize, but what does that accomplish. Now is the time to step up and make a difference. Run for national office!

The Nominating Committee is made up of experienced, dedicated AVA members who volunteer to encourage AVA members to volunteer to run for office, and assist the candidates seeking office to understand the timelines and procedures to seek office.

Nomination Letters of Intent and Candidate Packages will be due in October in time for inclusion in the December 2020 TAW. Further details and precise schedule will be provided in upcoming TAWs and *Checkpoint*.

For more information, contact Tom Jackson at [nominations@ava.org](mailto:nominations@ava.org).

US FreedomWalk Festival Club—Dolores Grenier, Director

US Freedom Walk Festival Club Announces IML portion of the US Freedom Walk Festival is Cancelled



On Sunday, 21 June 2020 the US FreedomWalk Board Members discussed whether to hold the 19<sup>th</sup> annual US FreedomWalk Festive scheduled for 16-18 October 2020. We decided to cancel the IML portion of the event considering the spread of Covid-19 and the restrictions imposed on international travel. A final decision will be made on 13 September 2020 whether to hold the AVA portion of the USFWF in October or possibly rescheduling our 19<sup>th</sup> event later in 2020. By then we will have a better idea of the Covid-19 situation for the local walkers who will not have to scurry for airfare and quarantine restrictions.



Click on image to view our latest Big Give video of Mary Ptacek, Tater Tours

This saddens us to have to relay such news as many walkers are disappointed and hoping for a few more IML events in 2020. We appreciate your understanding of the situation. The health and safety of our walkers are our first priority.

We look forward to seeing all walkers, local and international 15-17 October 2021.

[For Official pdf click here.](#)

## Support Our National and International Friends



## International

**October 29—November 2, 2021 17th IVV Olympiad**

**Seoul, Korea 2021**

**Click on images to enlarge.**

[Click here for more information.](#)

## National



***The BHVA club will make a decision on the Autumn Crazy Horse walk by August 26.***

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

To receive an electronic copy of the Checkpoint send your request to Hector at [hector@ava.org](mailto:hector@ava.org). Please note on the subject line: Request for Checkpoint.

Reminder: The National Office is closed at 1:30pm every first Friday of the month for employee development.



**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.**



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