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Ashville Amblers Black Mountain/Montreat Walk.  
Photo courtesy of Jon Whiteside

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE - HENRY ROSALES

### APPROVAL OF THE RESTATED AND AMENDED AVA BYLAWS AND CERTIFICATE OF FORMATION (ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION)

Drafts of the Restated and Amended AVA Bylaws, Certificate of Formation and a Summary of major changes were sent to all club Officers/POC's for review and input in October. A webinar with members of the AVA's Governance Committee and Board Members will be hosted **November 18, 2020 at 7pm Central Time**. The purpose of the webinar is to give clubs the opportunity to speak directly with Board Members on the recommended changes. To participate in the webinar (zoom meeting) you must register in advance by clicking below. After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

[Click Here To Register For The Webinar.](#)

Clubs will be asked to vote on the changes sometime in March 2021. Details will be sent directly to club officers via email and will also be posted in the December and January Checkpoint. We ask you to get involved in the governance of our organization by sharing your input with your regional Board Member (Regional Director) before December 12, 2020.

**Summary of Significant Proposed Amendments to the AVA Bylaws**

**Final Draft-Restated and Amended Certificate of Formation**

**Final Draft-Restated and Amended AVA Bylaws**

**AVA Current Bylaws**

**AVA Articles of Incorporation**

**PROCESS TO OBTAIN APPROVAL OF NEW BYLAWS AND CERTIFICATE OF FORMATION**

Requirements of Current Bylaws

**ARTICLE XIII**

**AMENDMENT OF THE BYLAWS**

13.1 Amendments. These Bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the AVA by a majority vote of the eligible delegates represented in person or by proxy, provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted to the National Executive Council and submitted, in writing, to all Members at least sixty days prior to the regular or special membership meeting at which vote shall be taken.

13.2 Waiver of Notice. The requirement for sixty days' notice to all Members of the AVA can be waived by two-thirds vote of the eligible voters represented in person or by proxy at a regular or special membership meeting of the AVA.

13.3 Waiver Process. If Section 13.2 of this Article is used in a regular or special membership meeting of the AVA so as to waive the requirements of Section 13.1 of this Article, then any such amendment must be submitted to the National Secretary in writing.

Membership (clubs) will be asked to approve two motions. The first will be approval of the Restated and Amended Certificate of Formation and the second will be amending the current Bylaws by replacing them with the proposed Restated and Amended Bylaws. The second must follow the requirements of Article XIII Amendment of the Bylaws in the current bylaws.

1. At the August 20, 2020, Electronic Board Meeting (EBM), the Board approved the Restated and Amended Certificate of Formation.
2. The Governance Committee working with our attorney produced a "final" draft of Restated and Amended Bylaws.
3. At the September 15 EBM, the Board reviewed and approved all changes in the drafts.
4. A Summary of all major changes to the Bylaws was published in the September Checkpoint.
5. In October, a draft of the Restated and Amended Bylaws and Certificate of Formation was emailed to all club officers. Regional Directors were asked to solicit feedback on the proposed changes to the Bylaws from the clubs in their region.
6. On November 18, a Zoom Webinar will be hosted to field questions about the Bylaws and their approval.
7. Additional comments must be received by the Regional Directors no later than December 12 to allow discussion and decisions to be made at the December Electronic Board Meeting. Once any required changes are made (assuming they don't have to be vetted by the attorney), the Board will be asked to vote to recommend approval to the Membership and issue a call for a Special Meeting for an up-or-down vote on the Bylaws.

8. Following the December 15 Electronic Board Meeting, clubs will be sent the Restated and Amended Certificate of Formation, the recommended Restated and Amended Bylaws, and the announcement of the Special Meeting to include the process of voting.

9. With the Special Meeting Call and copies of the proposed documents sent to the clubs by January 11, given the 60-day requirement in the current Bylaws, the Special Meeting and vote would be March 12. As a point of clarity, the March 12 date is the last date that votes would be accepted. Clubs will be free to cast their votes anytime from the date they receive the proposed changes until March 12. Voting will be done by e-mail from a club's official email address or by mail. If voting by mail, the return ballot must be postmarked no later than March 12.



## **NATIONAL OFFICE IS RELOCATING IN 2021**

As you may know, the National Office is relocating in 2021 to a community that better reflects who we are and what we do. The ideal location would be a walking community with high visibility and complimentary businesses in the area. Our plan is to be in new office space no later than December 31, 2020. While we will have regular USPS forwarding services of our mail, we are suggesting that you hold off mailing any of your Event or Distance Books beginning December 10, 2020 and through January 10, 2021. There is so much mail traffic during the holiday season and we find that mail service becomes a bit slower and less reliable. We surely do not want anyone's books/records to get lost in the move. We will get our new address out to the AVA clubs and members as quickly as possible. The new location will also be posted on the AVA website. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **AVA CONVENTION JUNE 29-JULY 2, 2021- REGISTRATION COMING SOON!**

Look for the 2021 convention online registration to open in early December! To register, go to the AVA website. We are excited to report the convention center we will be utilizing for our meetings and events has been accredited by the Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC). This means the facility has implemented the most stringent protocols for cleaning, disinfection and infectious disease prevention and demonstrates the center has strict safety protocols in place and is prepared to operate safely for all our conventioners. See you in Madison!

## **SILENT AUCTION 2021 CO-CHAIR - JOANNE REUTER**

### **CHEESED TO MEET YOU!**

You're probably aware that Wisconsin, the site of our 2021 AVA Convention, is known as "America's Dairyland." So I'm sure you'll be thrilled to hear that I came across a number of cheese puns that will be sprinkled through this article. It can't get any cheddar than this!

In the last TAW, my co-chair Diane Thornbery, wrote a great article giving some possible ideas or themes to use when creating a donation for the Silent Auction. Like all chairpersons before us, Diane and I want to have a successful event that raises a Gouda amount of money for the AVA!

In this article, I'd like to focus on all of you who have been buyers at previous Silent Auctions. I have a few questions to ask you. Think back to those times, and try to remember what it was that caused you to stop and look more closely at a particular item, and ultimately place a bid on it. What interested you? Were you drawn to a basket of food items, or clothing? Did something hand-crafted grab your eye? Were you looking for things to do during quiet times? Did you gravitate toward candy, chocolate, wine or a novel beer? Do you tend to bid on the same type of item each time? What type of item is it? If you have worked on previous Silent Auctions, can you recall what ended up getting the most bids, or the highest bid?

Now that you've retrieved this information from your memory banks, could you do me the favor of emailing your answers to me at [jmreuter815@gmail.com](mailto:jmreuter815@gmail.com)? My plan is to present your anonymous answers in a future article, as suggestions to those who are unsure how to make their donation appealing to others.

Donations made to the Silent Auction will need to be registered online, once the Convention website is active. We'll be explaining this process in a future article.

Well, ricotta go! Havarti a grate day!

Silent Auction Co-chairs:

[Diane Thornbery, dthornbery@gmail.com](mailto:dthornbery@gmail.com)

[Joanne Reuter, jmreuter815@gmail.com](mailto:jmreuter815@gmail.com)

## MEMBERSHIP AND AWARDS - KAREN WINKLE

Clubs and Regional Directors, please submit your requests and/or orders for convention awards no later than December 31, 2020. The AVA will not be accepting any orders placed after this date. Please submit your requests as soon as possible. Most of these awards include a certificate, pin, patch, and rocker.

- Commendable Service
- Meritorious Award
- Distinguished Service
- Committee Service
- Trail Master Certificate
- Certificate of Appreciation



[Click here for pdf.](#)

Lady Bird Lake YRE 069 on May 30, 2020. A group of walkers with masks and the skyline of downtown town Austin behind.  
Photo courtesy of Carol Obianwu



## COMMUNICATIONS - SAMANTA SANCHEZ



### CLAIM YOUR AVA PRIZE!

In the past issue of the Checkpoint, we announced our AVA Prize Winners. All winners should have received an email from me with details on how to claim your prize. I have only received a few responses from our prize winners. If you have not responded please send an email to [samanta@ava.org](mailto:samanta@ava.org) to claim your prize.

Below is a list of our AVA Prize Winners:

The winners of a Starting Point Book or AVA T-shirt are: Kevin M. Carlson, Barbara Jacobson, Catherine Greutert, Bob Morrison, Lynn Blazek, Daniel Barnett, Theresa Booker, Carolyn Ott, Linda Dennis, and Jesus Martinez III.

The winners of free AVA Memberships for their club members are: East Texas Trekkers, Inc., Windy City Walkers, Tecumseh Trailblazers, and Ridgewalkers Walking Club.

The lucky winners of an all paid 2021 Convention Registration will be drawn during this month's Electronic Board Meeting. The meeting link will be posted on our AVA website. You don't want to miss it!

Please stay tuned for more Big Give updates in the upcoming December issue of the Checkpoint.

## ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST - MARIAN DEVAUL

### 2021 CENTURION ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE:

The 2021 program begins January 1, 2021. You must be an AVA Associate Member (annual or lifetime) to participate in the Challenge. Eligible participants may register for the 2021 Challenge between October 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021 using the official registration form.

[Click here for instructions.](#)

[Click here for form.](#)



2021 CENTURION  
PROGRAM  
BEGINS  
JANUARY 1, 2021  
BOOKS ON SALE  
NOW!

### FINANCIAL AND CLUB OFFICER UPDATES:

If your club's fiscal year ends on June 30th, the following updates and financial documents are due to the National Office by November 15th, 2020:

- E-post card must be filed with the IRS and a copy provided to AVA HQ.
- Club's Annual Financial Report is due to the AVA HQ.
- Update of Officers Information in the ESR must be completed by each club.

If your club's fiscal year ends on December 31st, the required financial documents (E-post card and Annual Financial Report) are due to the National Office by May 15th, 2021.

\*Regardless of your fiscal year, club officer updates are due November 15th.

### CHANGE OF CLUB ADDRESS INFORMATION:

If your club has a change of address, POC or club officers, please make sure that in addition to updating that information in the ESR, that you email these same changes to Marian. She will need to update any necessary information into our accounting program. [marian@ava.org](mailto:marian@ava.org)

### STAMPS AND FEES:

Our IT Committee is working on a new billing system for event stamps. Instead of receiving an invoice from the National Office, the charge for stamps will appear on your Quarterly Participation Report. Please note the new fee schedule that went into effect October 1, 2020.

- The 1st stamp is included with your sanction fee.
- Replacement and additional stamp handles are available to purchase for \$9 each.
- Additional stamps are \$5.00. • Note: It may take up to 6 weeks to receive stamp(s).
- Additional stamps requested well in advance of the event start date (more than 6 weeks), will be scheduled for production at the same time as the 1st free stamp.
- A new online "my.ava.org" club interface will be deployed to allow clubs to request additional stamps.
- Additional stamps that are needed more quickly (Emergency Stamps) will cost \$12.00 (includes regular USPS shipping & handling). Priority or overnight shipping is not included in the \$12.00 fee.

- Use the new online interface to request an additional stamp.
- Then, contact the AVA National Office (Hector) and request that the additional stamp should be upgraded to an Emergency Stamp and agree to the total charge of \$12 for this service. A projected shipping date for the Emergency Stamp will be provided.
- Custom stamps are \$15.00 (plus S/H). Contact the AVA National Office (Hector) concerning custom stamp requests.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST - HECTOR HERNANDEZ

### STAMPS AND HANDLES

Stamps and handles for 2021 YRE's and Seasonal events will be mailed by the first week of December. Extra handles are on backorder at this time. If you need an extra handle in addition to the one handle that comes with a new sanctioned event, please email Hector at [hector@ava.org](mailto:hector@ava.org) with the name of your club and the number of extra handles you want. Please remember, free handles go out for new Year Round and Seasonal events. Extra handles cost \$9. If you have further questions email [hector@ava.org](mailto:hector@ava.org).

### STARTING POINT BOOKS

Due to the COVID delay in the scheduling of sanctioned events, the Starting Point books will go out a little later than normal this year. We held back on publishing the books to allow clubs more time to determine whether or not they would sanction an event next year that will be published in the Starting Point. The projected date to send out the books will be the first week of January. Thank you for your patience.



**Thank you all for your submissions and participation in the Starting Point Photo Contest!**

## SUPPORT OUR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS

### NATIONAL EVENTS

US FreedomWalk Festival (USFWF) 15-17 October 2021. It's a go! A Guided Walk will be held for all AVA walkers. Click on image to go to the official website.



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.



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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