

AMERICA'S WALKING CLUB



5 AVA BIENNIAL CONVENTION





THANK YOU!

The people, clubs, and organizations recognized and honored on the following pages have given time, talent and effort to help AVA: America's Walking Club achieve its Vision and Mission.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL RECIPIENTS!

Special thanks to those who took the time to nominate these Outstanding Volkssport Volunteers.

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The AVA Recognition Awards Program

Recognition awards are presented to honor individuals, clubs and organizations for Services which have supported or advanced the ideals and aspirations of Volkssporting. Recognition Awards presented at the AVA Biennial Convention include the following:

Hall of Fame

The AVA Hall of Fame Award honors an individual who has given at least ten years of service to AVA at the national, state and local level and has made exceptional contributions to volksmarching across several AVA regions.

AVA President's Award

The AVA President bestows this award upon individuals, clubs, or groups, who through their exemplary display of volkssporting spirit are worthy of national recognition.

Trailblazer Award

The AVA Trailblazer Award recognizes AVA Member clubs that have made significant contributions to the development, maintenance or improvement of walking trails, or to the support of trail related issues.

Distinguished Achievement Award

The Distinguished Achievement Award recognizes individuals who have given at least eight years of extraordinary, unequaled, and exemplary service to the AVA. Personal contributions must have been made at an exemplary level at several stages of service, including the national level.

The Meritorious Service Award

The Meritorious Service Award recognizes individuals who have given at least five years of outstanding service to the AVA.

Commendable Service

The Commendable Service Award recognizes individuals who have given a significant amount of service, regardless of the amount of time they have been a member.

Certificate of Appreciation

Certificate of Appreciation Award recognizes individuals, organizations and businesses for service to AVA on a regional, state, or club level.

Thank you to those who took the time to recognize and nominate these outstanding volkssport volunteers. Congratulations to each recipient.



This is the highest award presented by the American Volkssport Association. It recognizes exceptional contributions to the AVA and the promotion of volkssporting in the United States.

No. 1	Member Rev Mr. Kenn Knopp	Inducted 1985
No. 2	Carol Coffee, Ph.D.	1989
No. 3	Col. Thomas D. Boyde	1995
No. 4	Wendy A. Baumgardner	2005
No. 5	Lynn F. Clark	2005
No. 6	Nancy Stenger	2007
No. 7	John H. Ferguson	2007
No. 8	Col. Heinz H. Johnson	2009
No. 9	Shirley A. Lindberg	2009
No. 10	Dr. David N. Toth, MD	2009
No. 11	Ben F. Wilkes	2009
No. 12	Preston L. Johnson, JD	2011
No. 13	Joan M. Lampart	2011
No. 14	Curtis D. Myron	2011
No. 15	Donald N. Vartanian	2013
No. 16	Virginia K. Drumm	2015
No. 17	Wayne Holloway	2015

No. 18	Willis "Sam" Korff	2015
No. 19	Paul Lamb	2015
No. 20	Dennis Michele	2015
No. 21	Ellen Ott	2015
No. 22	Robert C. Wright	2015
No. 23	Phyllis Olson	2017
No. 24	Donna Seline	2017
No. 25	Annette H. Tollett	2017
No. 26	Joanne Forinash	2019
No. 27	Bonita (Bonnie) R. Johnson	2019
No. 28	Holly Pelking	2019
No. 29	Lynette Reagan	2019
No. 30	Frederick S. Sheets	2019
No. 31	Duncan Brantley	2021
	2025 Hall of Fame Inductees	

Thomas Baltes

Thomas Baltes served as the Regional Director of Northwest Region for two terms. In that time, his enthusiastic leadership has attracted many people to volkssporting, and his encouragement for others to volunteer has been superior. His forward thinking has helped our organization adapt to change.

David Bonewitz

David Bonawitz served two distinguished terms as President of AVA (2017-2021) and as Southeast Regional Director (2013-2017). He led AVA through the restatement of our Bylaws, thereby giving the organization strategic vision for the future.

Patricia Gunter

With over 40 years of continuous service in volkssporting Patricia Gunter has been active in many clubs servicing in various duties and committees. She has been active with the TTR/IML since its inception, volunteers at the AVA office every week for three years and helps with all the headquarter projects.

Susan Medlin

Personifies extraordinary leadership and dedication to AVA, spanning three decades. She was instrumental getting the Texas Trail Roundup festival certified as a second International Marching League (IML) event in the United States. Served as Co-Chair for the first IVV Olympiad ever held in North America and is a passionate ambassador for our sport.

Chris Mellen

Chris Mellen is and has been one of the most active members of our sport. He has served with distinction at every level. He is the "go to" person for updating The Starting Point, and continues to advise the headquarters.

Tom Mosley

Tom started volksmarching in 1975. He served as Vice President for the AVA Southeast Region 1983-1985. He proposed the re-alignment of AVA clubs into the 10 regions we have today. Tom also was the first President of the Maryland Volkssport Association.

Nancy Wittenberg

Nancy has served the National Volkssport Community with an abundance of time and energy by holding the offices of Northwest Regional Director, AVA Vice-President, and finally as AVA President/Chairman. She also has been extremely active and involved at the local level in various positions.

Tucson, AZ

Louisville, TN

San Antonio, TX

San Antonio, TX

Tyngsboro, MA

Brookeville, MD

Puyallup, WA

East Texas Trekkers

For 27 years, the East Texas Trekkers has offered walks in over 30 counties and 15 state parks in East Texas, 64 parishes in Louisiana, and major cities in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Each have demonstrated creativity, discovery, charm, and pride in locales otherwise not available to our walking community.

Trailblazer Award



John Bohnert

John has been president of the Texas Hill Country Volkssportverein for 32 years. He has hosted the Easter Walk for 44 years and the Halloween Walk for 45 years. He coordinates 7 year-round events. John worked on the Richardson convention, TTR/IML, Olympiad and has served the TVA in various positions.

Tina Bohnert

Tina has served the Texas Hill Country Volkssportverein as the secretary/treasurer for 32 years. She hosts 7 year-round events, the Easter walk for the past 44 years, and the Halloween Walk for 45 years. Tina worked at the Richardson convention and has worked on the TTR/IML since the inception.

Susan Fine

Susan Fine is recognized for her efforts with the Tarrant County Walkers, as Secretary of Texas Volkssport Assn, and Chair of the AVA Publicity Committee. Susan's work with the Publicity Committee has transitioned and enhanced The American Wanderer from a paper publication to its new, fresh digital format.

Mike Green

For distinguished service to the American Volkssport Association as Atlantic Region Director, member and Chairman of the AVA Information Technology Committee, and Vice President of the Keystone State Volkssport Association. Particularly noteworthy has been his actions to support the Event Sanctioning Request System and the transition to my.ava.org.

Helen Hull

Helen Hull has worked tirelessly to create walks in Texas, Louisiana, and New Mexico so avid volkswalkers can walk all counties in these states. She is Trailmaster for the 2025 Las Cruces convention, President of East Texas Trekkers, Vice President of Dallas Trekkers, and has served as Southwest Region Director.

John Ives

John lves has served the volkssport community for over 12 years in multiple roles, He is the vice president of the Randolph Roadrunners and served as president of the Texas Trail Roundup for 4 years. He does the AVA HQ yard maintenance and serves as the office handy man.

John McClellan

John lives his philosophy of "You get back what you put in" for leading local, regional and national AVA efforts. From President of the Happy Wanderers to Southeast Regional Director, and Co-Chair of the Olympiad Committee, your efforts and contagious enthusiasm for this sport naturally motivates those around you.

Carolyn Warhol

Carolyn has excelled in promoting Volkssports in the local clubs and communities over 35 years. Her outreach and volunteering has brought many people to the world of Volkssports. She warmly welcomes each new walker to events and group walks. You know every detail has been carefully planned for walking enjoyment.

Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, D. C., West Virginia

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

Debra Choiniere

Debra Choiniere was the YWRW Treasurer for 27 years. She was an excellent treasurer for the club, always keeping the membership updated on the club's finances. She also assisted her husband organizing bus trips to many states. We miss her and her pleasant smile.

Keith Choiniere

York, PA

Keith Choiniere has been a member of the YWRW club for 29 years doing walks and setting up events. His help organizing bus trips to different states was great. He was a part of the AVA sponsored Girl Scout program. He performed the treasurer's duties while grieving his wife's passing.

Garland. TX

Comfort, TX

Comfort, TX

Ft Worth, TX

Souderton, PA

Garland, TX

San Antonio, TX

Port Orange, FL

Puyallup, WA

York, PA

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Pam Copenhaver

Pam Copenhaver has been President of the YWRW since 2015, being very active until recently. She performed all the jobs for the club President, helped volkssporting both locally and statewide. While President she attended many AVA National Conventions. Her pastime was geocaching.

Helen Garamone

Helen Garamone has served as NVV President and helped plan the 40th Anniversary activities in 2023. She has served as the Virginia Volkssport Association Secretary for the past two years.

Julianne Geyer

Julianne has been a member of the club since 1995, serving as Vice President. She has been POC of many walks that she laid out new trails. Was very active with attending meetings and helping to do all the extras needed to keep the club active.

Nancy Ickes

Nancy was a member of the YWRW for 37 years, offering help where needed. For many years, she was the newsletter editor, doing a great job. She did the design and layout for walk brochures and all the associated printing. She was very willing to assist with any computer issues.

Ron Jones

While serving as Northern Virginia Volksmarchers (NVV) club Secretary and Vice President, Ron Jones spearheaded the 40th Anniversary activities and grew membership. He volunteered at the first IVV Olympiad in the U.S. and also joined an AVA committee focused on growing membership and participation.

Anthony Lang

Tony has served as President of the Seneca Valley Sugarloafers Volksmarch Club for the past 8 years. He has organized over 10 Traditional Events, several in new locations and is the Point of Contact for three Year Round Events. He also done presentations to local organizations that has increased Sugarloafer membership.

Robert Wolfe

Robert Wolfe has served as President of the Freestate Happy Wanderers for 17 years. Bob keeps members up-to-date on issues in Maryland, the region and AVA.

COMMENDABLE SERVICE AWARDS

Patricia Bowra Harrisburg, PA Marcy Lucas Newport, PA **Roy Clugston** Duncannon, PA Lester Miller Ethers, PA Sis Clugston Duncannon, PA Sharon Miller Ethers, PA Patricia Eby Camp Hill, PA Lore O'Ferrall Dover, DE **Gloria Grabenstein** Harrisburg, PA **Gloria Reedy** Dover, PA Lydia Hack Camp Hill, PA James Reedy Dover, PA **Lorraine Jackson Biglerville**, PA **Edward Sandnes** Lewisberry, PA Kathy Kresko Smyra, DE Judy Yost Altoona, PA Jovce Krow Port Royal, PA **Regina Zapatosky** Harrisburg, PA William Lore York, PA **CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce** Dover, DE Kent County Convention and Visitor Bureau Dover, DE **Downtown Dover Partnership** Dover, DE

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

Susan Budd

For outstanding service to the Mid America Region. Huge impact from your work at the club, state, and region level. Kudos for your managerial skills which led to our very successful Mid America Conference in Kentucky in June 2024. Extra thanks for being the Indiana Volkssport Assn. president.

Bob Buzolich

South Bend. IN

Fort Wayne, IN

For outstanding service to the Mid America Region. Huge impact from your work at the club, state, and region level. Kudos for your managerial and writing skills as you created the MAC flyer and advertising materials, which led to our very successful Mid America Conference in Kentucky in June 2024.

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Fairfax Station, VA

Indianapolis, IN

New Oxford, PA

Etters, PA

Olney, MD

Fairfax Station, VA

Silver Spring, MD

MID-AMERICA REGION Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio

Faith Cataldo-Gauger

the conference.

Sandy Crabill

Tom Crabill

KY.

KY.

Maumee, OH

Coldwater, MI

Coldwater, MI

For outstanding service to the Mid America Region. Huge impact from your work at the club, state, and region level. Kudos for your abundance of skills which led to our very successful Mid America Conference in Kentucky in June 2024. Great work setting up lunch between walks at Harrodsburg,

South Lyon, MI

For outstanding service to the Mid America Region. Huge impact from your work at the club, state, and region level. Kudos for your managerial and writing skills which led to our very successful Mid America Conference in Kentucky in June 2024.

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Lois LaFleur

Roxie Geiser-Weaver

For outstanding service to the Mid America Region. Huge impact from your work at the club, state, and region level. Kudos for your varied team and trailmaster skills which led to our very successful Mid America Conference in Kentucky in June 2024.

Rob Weaver

For outstanding service to the Mid America Region. Huge impact from your work at the club, state, and region level. Kudos for your trail master work and willingness to go the extra mile, which led to our very successful Mid America Conference in Kentucky in June 2024.

COMMENDABLE SERVICE AWARDS

Dawn Gruber	Fairborn, OH	Shane Conley	Dayton, OH
	-		
	NORTH CENTR	AL REGION	

Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

Patricia Brinker

This award is in recognition of all the time and effort Pat has put into designing and refreshing the Davenport walks, often multiple times a year to route around flood waters. In addition, she completes the walks enough times each year to make the walk profitable.

Pegy Doane

This award is given to Peggy Doane in appreciation for her many years of promoting Volkssporting in Iowa by being the POC for the Altoona YRE, the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge YRE and the annual St Partick's Day Traditional Event.

Janet Dunn

This award is given to Jan Dunn in appreciation of her continuous service to Iowa's Walking Club as the coordinator of specialties.

Deb Gaskins

In recognition of years of tireless service to lowa's Walking Club. Deb has served in many capacities in the club and at numerous events. She is most known for the amount of research she does to provide historical context and information about her walks, making each walk a history lesson.

Janet Haugen

This award is given to Jan Haugen in appreciation for the many years of managing both the Boone and Ames YREs.

Sharon Haugen

This award is given to Sharon Haugen in appreciation for the many years of managing both the Boone and Ames YREs.

Corinne Nelson

In recognition of Corinne's years of devoted service to Iowa's walking Club. She regularly volunteers at events and has served on a number of committees. She is most noted for her work as a POC and the walks she has designed, often designing more than once a year.

Diana Whited

This award is given to Diana Whited in appreciation for her continued service to Iowa's Walking Club by handling all event sanctioning responsibilities.

O'Fallon. IL

South Lyon, MI

COMMENDABLE SERVICE AWARDS

Dee Wilemsen

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

Des Moines, IA

NORTHEAST REGION

Winterset, IA

Des Moines, IA

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

Dorothy Basini

Nora Hudson Barbara John

Casey's General Store

Easter Lake Park

Dorothy Basini is our club's POC for the Cornwall on Hudson event. She was also a key member of our club's 25th Anniversary celebration in 2013. "Dotti" also often covers for event hosting coverage as needed.

Deborah D'Arcangelis

In recognition of dedicated service to the Empire State Capital Volkssporters as Chair of the Wednesday Walk Program, POC for Albany Shaker Walk, and POC for the Albany Pizza Walk for many years. Your continued support of the club's activities is greatly appreciated.

Tad Darling

In recognition of dedicated service to the Empire State Capital Volkssporters as developer and chair of the bike program, past membership chair, and grill chef extraordinaire. Your support of all club activities and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Terry Gitnick

In recognition of dedicated service to the Empire State Capital Volkssporters as treasurer for several years. Your attention to detail and conscientiousness on the job are truly appreciated.

Larry Godshalk

In recognition of dedicated service to the Empire State Capital Volkssporters as Vice President, Traditional Walk Chair, Online Start Box mentor and liaison, walk POC, as well as providing countless hours recreating walk directions with the organization's POCs. Your continued support of the club's activities always with a smile is greatly appreciated.

Mike Green

Michael Green, the National AVA IT Committee Chair, is the webmaster of our website. Mike has recently assisted our club in moving the majority of our events to the Online Start Box. His assistance in providing hosting for the 2024 Northeast Region Walking Weekend was especially appreciated.

Keith Harlow

Keith poses the questions that get new thoughts flowing and actions taken. Group walks during the week and Cape Cod weekend are just two of his successful ideas. Serving as Vice President, assuring items needed for events and co-hosting and assisting at events are all skillfully managed.

Marianne Marshall

Since Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club began in 1985, she has been instrumental in guiding, supporting, and providing an optimistic outlook. Her dependable service includes secretary, volunteer awards coordinator, and POC of several seasonal events. Marianne also volunteers at every WnM day event. Her dedication and joy are an inspiration!

Tom Nisonger

Tom is currently the POC of two of our walks. He provides a variety of support for other clubs' walks, including pre-walks, walk sweeps, assistance to setting and tear down, and automobile logistics. He has been the host of walks when the official POC cannot attend a specific event.

Andrew Schmidt

Andrew D. Schmidt is the Volkssport Club at West Point's current Treasurer. He was the elected Deputy Director of the AVA Northeast Region from 2019-2021 and was co-chair of the AVA Northeast Region Walking Weekend in September 2024 that hosted almost 100 participants from around the country.

Carol Schmidt

Carol Schmidt has held most of the elected positions of the club, such as President, Vice President, and is currently the Secretary. Most recently, she was on the 2024 AVA Northeast Region Walking Weekend Committee and served as a host during the three-day weekend event.

Cohoes, NY

Scotia, NY

Souderton, PA

Wappinger Falls, NY

Poughkeepsie, NY

Poughkeepsie, NY

Blackstone, MA

Waltham, MA

New Windsor, NY

Colonie, NY

Burnt Hills, NY

Joan Vorbach

West Middletown, NY

Joan has been our President for many years and is involved in all of the club's activities such as scheduling, conducting membership meetings etc. She is also the POC for two of our events and is our annual holiday club Holiday Party coordinator.

Patty Wing

Patty has as been our liaison to the Club for the West Point Post Office in another county some 30 miles apart. As a result, members appreciate the timeliness that their membership checks are deposited, along with the usual other business reasons we need our mail provided continuously.

Chris Yost

Scotia, NY

Fishkill, NY

In recognition of years of dedicated service to the Empire State Capital Volkssporters and the advancement of American Volkssport Association Programs in New York by holding a variety of leadership positions, planning new walks, chairing social events and communicating weekly with membership. Her many contributions and enthusiastic spirit are greatly appreciated.

COMMENDABLE SERVICE AWARDS

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Karin Berzins James Campbell Arden Lawand **Denise Macaronas** Linda Morzillo

Greenfield Center. NY Topsfield, MA Schenectady, NY South Portland, ME Saratoga Springs, NY Kathrvn Piffat Louise Remillard Mary Saratora **Brenda Steed** Marjorie Wytzka

Danvers, MA Scotia, NY Danvers, MA Saratoga Springs, NY **Greenfield Center, NY**

The General Store Carol West Anrew Schmidt Bea Hait **Carol Giesecke Carol Schmidt Chris Yost** Kathy Mack Lee West Wayne Knapp Andrea Capodanno Anu Bheemineni **Bob McDougall** Celia Murray **Donna Farber Eileen Skinner**

Wethersfield, CT Poughkeepsie, NY Holliston, MA Cambridge, MA Poughkeepsie, NY Scotia, NY Schenectady, NY Wethersfield, CT Schenectady, NY Larchmont, NY Latham, NY Glastonbury, CT Troy, NY Albany, NY **Clifton Park, NY**

Newport, RI

Jennifer Reidy Joan Kimmel Joe DiMichele Lea Darling Lilani Asmara Linda Morzillo Lisa Ciccone **Marjorie Geiger** Matt Busse Sylvia Reuter **Tad Darling** Teresa Kennedy **Terry Gitnick Tom Nisonger** Wayne Endriss

Larchmont, NY Poughkeepsie, NY Poughkeepsie, NY Burnt Hills, NY Niskyauna, NY Saratoga Springs, NY Clifton, NJ Albany, NY Kent, CT Poughkeepsie, NY **Burnt Hills, NY** Schenectady, NY Cohoes, NY Wappinger Falls, NY Stonington, ME

NORTHWEST REGION

Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

Regina Blake

Gresham, OR Regina Blake has served as Vice President of OSTVA and East County Windwalkers Volkssport Club. Throughout her many years of service, she continues to be the heart of the club. Thanks for all you do to keep Volkssporting strong in Oregon.

Joe Blazek

We deeply appreciate your leadership as Evergreen State Volkssport Association as President/Vice President and Area Coordinator over the past years. Now added to your volunteering is Trailmaster for many new walks in the scenic areas of our state.

Chase Davis

The AVA /Northwest Region recognizes you for long-term commitment to our programs for non-competitive walking. We deeply appreciate your leadership as ESVA Treasurer, NW Pathfinder editor and your enthusiasm for AVA/ESVA/OTSVA special programs, including your information sharing. Thank you for sharing where the best bakeries/ice cream shops along routes are!

Louise Dix

Louise Dix has served two terms as President of OSTVA and also served as President of East County Windwalkers Volkssport Club. Louise has led her club into the 21st Century.

Ellensburg, WA

Lacey, WA

Gresham, OR

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Diane Evans

Seabeck, WA AVA/Northwest Region recognizes you for long-term commitment to programs for Volkssporting. We appreciate your leadership as ESVA Secretary. We are grateful you brought your enthusiasm for volkssporting to our region. It is fun to have you chime into zoom meetings, wherever you may be, enjoying family and walking. "Where's Diane"?

Ed Hainline

Ed has served as an incredible NW Region DRD the past 4 years. He took on this while currently President of CRVC and an officer in many other clubs in the region. "Mr Volkssport" has worked so hard to make NW Region a showcase of the American Volkssport Association.

Patricia Jewett

Pat Jewett has served as the President of Rogue Valley Walkers for two plus years. She is currently the OTSVA Webmaster, where she redesigned the OTSVA website. She is currently a member of AVA Publicity Committee. She continues to be a source for others to contact for guidance.

Karen McGehee

Karen McGehee has served as the OSTVA Treasurer since July 1, 2014, to present in an outstanding manner. Compiling various reports to OTSVA Meetings with status of all the walks participation. She maintains information about the organization and furnishes needed information to the National Office of AVA in a timely manner.

Todd Oberlander

AVA/Northwest Region recognizes you for long-term commitment to our programs for non-competitive walking. We appreciate your leadership as ESVA Vice-President and Area Coordinator. Your meticulous record keeping for the walk review program is appreciated. Thank you for keeping the Olympic Peninsula region a prime area for walking and exploring.

Cheryl Patterson

Cheryl Patterson is a promoter of all things Volkssport at all levels. Cheryl is very active in local clubs and readily volunteers for activities at State/Regional Level. Cheryl is a true ambassador for Volkssporting. Thank you for all you do to promote Fun, Fitness and Friendship in the Volkssport community.

Don Reed

Don Reed has served as Albany Fitwalkers President, 2018 to present, with dedicated service. He has also been the OTSVA Secretary for 4 years. Don has been club trail master for numerous years, researching walking locations which has not been walked in the past. Thanks, Don, for all you do.

Carolyn Smith

Carolyn Smith has served as the Secretary of the Cedar Milers Walking Club since 2017 in a superb manner. She is noted for her recording of the club meeting with great detail and quick to publish them. Thanks for keeping Volkssporting strong in the Northwest Region and AVA..

Diane Wagner

Diane has served several clubs with time and expertise. As President of Over-the-Hill Gang, Diane has personally kept the club functioning for years. Diane has also served at the state level and in particular with the NW Pathfinder publication. Thanks for all you do to keep Volkssporting strong in NW Region.

Dan Webster

Dan Webster has served as President of Cedar Milers Walking Club since 2015 and OTSVA "Walk Oregon Challenge" Coordinator along with monitoring the walking events of OTSVA since July 2021. He leads his club superbly and strives to have the best events possible for all to enjoy.

Jim Wescott

Jim has served the Willamette Wanderers Walking Club as their President starting January 2018 continuing to present with dedicated service and coordinating various activities with members for upcoming events. He maintains the OSB information and ensures the walk information located there is up to date and as accurate as possible.

Julia Westerberg

Julia Westerberg has served Willamette Wanderers as Vice President for many years with dedicated service to the club, along with the Oregon State Association, Northwest region and AVA. Thanks for all you do to keep Volkssporting strong throughout the AVA.

COMMENDABLE SERVICE AWARDS

Jenny Berg Sandi Bjornstad Lynn Blazek Megan Cecil-Gobble **Carol Froelich Yvonne Gergen** Nancy Goodno **Pam Greig-Davis** Anthony Holt Jean Jensen

Kent, WA Troutdale, OR Ellensburg, WA Portland, OR Olympia, WA Portland, OR Seattle, WA Lacey, WA Kirkland, WA Troutdale, OR Kathryn Olsen **Burt Paynter Michelle Roberts** Lisa Robertson **Kimmy Schenter** Sandi Seversen Dennis Standridge **Annette St-Pierre Bill Winton** Jim Wolfe

Portland, OR Vancouver, WA Seattle, WA Seattle, WA Beaverton, OR Shoreline, WA Nine Mile Falls, WA Stevenson, WA Tualatin, OR Beaverton, OR

Happy Valley, OR

Portland, OR

Jefferson, OR

Hadlock, WA

Graham. WA

Albany, OR

Portland, OR

Graham, WA

Aloha, OR

Salem, OR

Salem, WA

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Baymont by Wyndham Hotel Best Western Plus Yakima, WA Ellensburg, WA Best Western Plus Martin's Market Place Zillah, WA Cashmere, WA

TRAILMASTERS CERTIFICATE

Katie Sell

Bellevue, WA

Jane Clark

Seattle, WA

PACIFIC REGION

Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

Kathy Bundy

Kathy serves as the Low Desert Roadrunners President. Her club covers a vast number of counties and manages 32 year-round events plus weekday and Traditional Events. Kathy is a reflection of selfless service and is always willing to help other clubs and CVA.

Don Deal

In Recognition of dedicated service to the Sonoma County Stompers and the advancement of the American Volkssport Association Programs in California by holding positions of leadership and hours of dedicated assistance in planning and holding walking events throughout California.

Priscilla Fife

Priscilla serves as the San Francisco Bay Bandits President and VP Central for California Volkssport Association. Her involvement in the local and state level is much appreciated. Her book walking club is a one-of-a-kind special event for avid walkers who love to read.

Ty Fredricks

Ty has served as the Central Coast Beach Boardwalkers' President since the club formed in 2018. He is passionate for Volkssporting and has put together many creative walking events including birthday bashes, Scarecrows in Cambria and more. He oversees 14 year-round self-guided walks as well as group walks.

Judy Gregory

Judy Gregory has worked for many CVA Presidents as the state Webmaster. She was instrumental in designing an appealing, user friendly Website. When she has been tasked to add another option or drop-down category, she gladly takes care of business. Her dedication and creativity greatly enhance the CVA and American Volkssporting.

Shirley Hightower

In Recognition of dedicated service to the Sonoma County Stompers and the advancement of the American Volkssport Association Programs in California by holding positions of leadership and hours of dedicated assistance in planning and holding walking events throughout California.

Steve Hughart

Steve Hughart has already made an impact in his first term as California Volkssport Association Treasurer. He was instrumental in correcting state required paperwork and setting up our bank account. He keeps me informed on decisions and changes that need to be addressed. He is a dedicated Volkssporter and money manager.

Jean Lucas

Jean Lucas has been part of "The Compass" team overseeing mailing lists, donations and subscriptions since 2016. She is invaluable to the California Volkssport Association. Her professionalism has helped "The Compass" continue to operate smoothly each quarter. Her enthusiasm and dedication are top-notch for the promotion of American Volkssporting.

Betsy McDevitt

Betsy is invaluable to the California Volkssport Association. She serves as President for the Tahoe Trail Trekkers and assists "The Compass" editor in getting the quarterly publication to production. She is a valuable wealth of information to the CVA President and very supportive of all the Central and Northern California clubs.

Bruce McDevitt

Bruce is invaluable to the California Volkssport Association. He has volunteered to help on numerous committees and serves as President for the Placer Pacers. His knowledge is first-hand and very valuable to the SEC. He plays a vital role in ensuring our quarterly publication, "The Compass" gets to production on time

Marilyn Nasi

Marilyn has been a long-time serving president of the Sonoma County Stompers. Her club is in the heart of wine country and Marilyn has been responsible for some amazing walking events. She spent hundreds of hours preparing and coordinating the 2024 CVA Convention. Her selfless service and dedication is exemplary.

Petaluma, CA

Alameda, CA

Santa Maria, CA

Windomar, CA

Rancho Cordova, CA

Santa Rosa, CA

Sacramento, CA

Davis, CA

Applegate, CA

Applegate, CA

Santa Rosa, CA

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ia, Hawaii, Nevada

Mary Ptacek

Mary has been an active volkssporter for years. Her promotion of walking, both locally and nationally, have brought countless walkers to events, introduced them lifestyle walking and lifelong friendships. She has been introduced many people to the world of volkssporting.

Don Ratliff

Don Ratliff has been an avid Volkssporter for more than 20 years - both as a walker and as a bike rider. He was president of the Placer Pacers for many years and has been the coordinator of the California Volkssport Association bike events as well. His enthusiasm and dedication promote fitness and Volkssporting.

Jill Simmons

Jill has been the Business Editor for the "The Compass" for over 15 years. She is invaluable to the California Volkssport Association. Her professionalism has helped "The Compass" get to production on time every quarter. Her enthusiasm and dedication are top-notch for the promotion of American Volkssporting.

Tom Smith

Tom serves as the Vaca Valley Volks President. Tom is instrumental in his club continuing to operate, and he helped absorb the Davis Dynamos yearround and traditional walks. He also did a great job at the 2024 CVA Convention. His enthusiasm and dedication are top-notch for the promotion of American Volkssporting.

Chris Zegelin

Chris Zegelin served several terms as the South Bay Striders President. Under his leadership, he changed all the club's year-round walks to OSB only. He unselfishly has volunteered for positions in the American Volkssport Association and has been a invaluable asset and voice for the California Volkssport Association.

COMMENDABLE SERVICE AWARDS

Diane Bartlett	Modesto, CA	Barbara Nuss	Sacramento, CA
Fred Barton	Tucson, AZ	Cathy Pauley	Stockton, CA
Carolyn Barton	Tucson, AZ	Susan Profito	Vernalis, CA
Nancy Breen	Sierra Vista, AZ	Dr. Amul Purohit	Davis, CA
Maureen Carlson	Canyon Lake, CA	Parul Purohit	Davis, CA
Carl Cordes	North Las Vegas, NV	Kathryn Raimondi	Santa Rosa, CA
Heidi Foster	Fair Oaks, CA	Don Raimonoi	Santa Rosa, CA
Ginger Fredricks	Santa Maria, CA	Paul Robb	Elk Grove, CA
Diane Gomes	Manteca, CA	Carolyn Romig	Mililani, HI
Brenda Harris	Boulder City , NV	Dennis Romig	Mililani, HI
Linda Jubin	Santa Rosa, CA	Frank Sayers	McNeal, AZ
Al Korejwo	Las Vegas, NV	Patricia Thomas	Concord, CA
	CERTIFICATES O	FAPPRECIATION	
Starbucks	Stockton, CA	Hampton Inn	Rohnert Park, CA
Hampton Inn	Livermore, CA	Cheryl Sykes	Stockton, CA
Calaveras Big Trees State Park	Arnold, CA	Angie Beckler	Ripon, CA
Caswell Memorial State Park	Ripon, CA	Danni Randolph	Santa Rosa, CA
lone Plaza	lone, CA	JoAnne Romero	Lodi, CA
The Holiday Inn	Livermore, CA		

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

Lois Petersen

Buffalo, WY

The Buffalo Pathfinders 2009 founder and current president, Lois worked hard work over the years to preserve the Thermopolis and Sinks Canyon, WY, walks and add the Sheridan, WY, seasonal event. Thanks in large part to her diligent efforts, club event participation has increased 40 percent since 2022.

Terence Lunghofer

Colorado Springs, CO

A 36-year Falcon Wanderers member and president since 2022, Terry volunteered at several AVA conventions and numerous club events and for years hosted weekly summer club walks, fellowship walks and trail clean-ups. He recently proposed a 2026 AVA Special Program recognizing USA's 250th, Colorado's 150th, and AVA's 50th anniversaries.

Henderson, NV

Newcastle, CA

Vacaville, CA Ovnamos vear-

Vacaville, CA

San Jose, CA

Frank Sayers

Colorado Springs, CO A longtime club president, Frank sponsors 51 AVA events including the 16-event Charlie Pride and 29-event Utah County Seat challenges. Several years ago, he saved the Walking the USA special program by adopting the Helena, MT, capitol walk and recently developed the new Grain Elevators: Monarchs of the Plains program.

Sherry Sayers

A fixture in the Colorado Springs walking community, longtime Colorado Springs Walking Club president and former Rocky Mountain Regional Director Sherry Sayers continues to manage the Rails to Trails special program and was instrumental in developing and will sponsor the upcoming Grain Elevators: Monarchs of the Plains program.

Cecilia Lutz

Cecelia is a 40-year Rocky Mountain Wanderers member and was elected club president in 2022 after serving several years as treasurer. Thanks in large part to her efforts and, despite considerable seasonal event volunteer turnover, the club continues to post the region's second highest seasonal participation averaging 375 walkers.



MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

David and Peggy Bessier

The Bessiers supported two year-round events from the hotel start point as point of contact for the last 10 years. Dave hosted many group walks every year at both year around events, Peggy was Club Secretary, and together they supported traditional events. Their contributions to the Pathfinders were significant.

Sandy McArthur

For meritorious service to the Happy Wanderers Walking Club since 2019 as a volunteer, member-at-large (elected) and, then, vice president since 2021. Sandy became a contributor the moment she joined and has been an innovative and effective vice president. Her continued service well represents the AVA.

Sheila McClellan

For meritorious service to the Happy Wanderers Walking Club since 2015 as club newsletter editor, social media influencer, and frequent volunteer during walks and traditional events. Sheila leads with her heart and completes formal tasks while connecting members and maximizing volunteers, living the AVA motto of "Fun, Fitness & Friendship."

Jacqueline Reynolds

For outstanding service to Florida volkssports as a co-founder of Volks South, a group devoted to walking in a spirit of fun and friendship. For 20 years as a Volks South leader, she epitomized camaraderie, service, and health, inspiring many participants to continue the volkssport tradition.

Douglas Reynolds

For outstanding service to Florida volkssports as a co-founder of Volks South, a group devoted to walking in a spirit of fun and friendship. Under his guidance, the Volks South held popular weekly winter walks for 20 years, providing safe, comfortable, and enjoyable experiences for both veteran and first-time participants.

Kelly Roscche

For seven years of service in support of the Upstate Pathfinders, including service as a key officer and playing a key role in rebuilding the program following the resignation of the president and vice president. While working, she worked with members to return to bimonthly group walks.

Fred Sheets

For sustained meritorious service to the Walk Around Florida (WAF) volkssporting weekend since 2018 as a volunteer in a variety of roles. He fills any vacancy needed, and then helps his partner learn more about volkssporting and duties at hand, epitomizing the AVA motto of "Fun, Fitness & Friendship."

Leslie Stone

Ormond Beach, FL For sustained meritorious service to the Walk Around Florida (WAF) volkssporting weekend since 2018 as a volunteer in multiple capacities, including treasurer for 3 of the last 4 years. She works wherever asked, epitomizing the AVA motto of "Fun, Fitness & Friendship."

COMMENDABLE SERVICE AWARDS

Richard and Pat Klimaszewski Gail Martorana Sheila McClellan Jerry Newman

Anderson, SC Palm Coast, FL Port Orange, FL **Ormond Beach, FL** Lorna Newman **Kelly Rosche** Steve Wagner **Janet Wagner**

Ormond Beach, FL Greenville, SC **Ormond Beach, FL Ormond Beach, FL**

Bradenton, FL

Port Orange, FL

Colorado Springs, CO

Boulder, CO

Travelers Rest. SC

Ormond Beach. FL

Bradenton, FL

Greenville, SC

Palm Bay, FL

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CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Carmenza Milan **Richard Troutman** Anne St Hilaire Jo Anne Connor Laura Anderson

Greenville, SC Mauldin, SC Greer, SC Greenville, SC Greer, SC Starbucks at Alta Vista **Springhill Suites by Marriott Dale and Susanne LeClair** Hamtpon Inn

Greenville, SC Greenville, SC Simpsonville, SC **Travelers Rest, SC**



New Mexico, Texas

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

Audrey Vertucci

For over 20 years Audrey has published a very informative monthly newsletter for the Randolph Roadrunners. She also produces the flyers for all Roadrunner events and special activities. Audrey can be found working most Roadrunner events as needed.

Jill Troyer

Jill Troyer has faithfully served the Randolph Roadrunners for over five years as secretary and works wherever needed at all club events. She is currently the president of the Texas Volkssport Association and coordinates two year-round events for the Texas Trail Roundup club.

Suzanne Markgraf

Suzanne has faithfully served the Roadrunners in all positions during her 19 years of volkssporting. Currently, she is membership chair and works at many Roadrunner events. She has served as secretary of the Texas Volkssport Association and their treasurer for four years.

Bruce Bartlett

Bruce was president of Hood County Hummers for over 10 years and was involved before that in various other officer roles. He suggested having other YREs in small North Texas towns to showcase the beauty of small towns and enthusiastically worked to create great routes.

Sonny Byington

Trailmaster for Hood County Hummers for 15+ years, overseeing five YREs in small North Texas cities. He leads a group walk every weekend, no matter the weather. Sonny was a past President of the club. He volunteers regularly with other North Texas clubs when they host traditional events.

COMMENDABLE SERVICE AWARDS

Dianne Duesterhoeft	San Antonio, TX
Martin Callahan	San Antonio, TX
Michael Hermes	San Antonio, TX
Carol Obianwu	Austin, TX

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Broadway Daily Bread	San Antonio, TX	PODS
Comfort Inn & Suites Texas Hill Country	Boerne, TX	Brooks
Del Webb Hill Country Retreat	San Antonio, TX	H-E-B S
Drury Inn & Suites San Antonio La Cantera	San Antonio, TX	Hilton
Beethoven Männerchor Halle und Garten	San Antonio, TX	Motel
Universal City Library	Universal City, TX	Super

Enterprises LLC shires Grocery Supermarket n Garden Inn l 6 Benbrook-Ft Worth 8 Motel by Wyndham

Candy Robinson

Dianne Duke

Judy Cato

John Lupe

Garland, TX Glen Rose, TX Cleburne, TX

Midlothian, TX

Richardson, TX

Richardson, TX

Granbury, TX

Granbury, TX Benbrook, TX Stephenville, TX

New Braunfels, TX

Garden Ridge, TX

San Antonio, TX

Granbury, TX

Granbury, TX



Necrology List for 2023-2025 Convention It's easy to walk into someone's life but hard when they walkout.



Mary Agars Roberta Allen Joyce Backus Pauline (Polly) Baker Maria Baxter Vinnie Biancomano, Sr. Mel Bohn Janet Brewer Kathleen Brown Robert "Bob" Bulver Larry Byrd Deborah Carter Nadine Chaisson Paul Chasteen Pamela Dale Copenhaver Heike Cotrell Ron Cramer Carol Coss Melinda Crouse Bernard Desroches Donna Drossart Molly (Mary) Earle Kent Edwards Linda Ellis Irene Erwin Sandra Evett Norma Finley Leslie Flowers Joanne Forinash Lee Frantz Audrey Gardner Dick Gardner William Eugene "Gene" Geyer Charles A. Gilbert Heidi Gleb Jim Goeltz Jerry Golamnavich Suzanne Gooch

Thelma Goris Betty Green Bob Haberman Nancy Hamby Jen Harker Kenneth Harker Janice Hellyer Paul Hennosy Jean Hubinger **Bing Inocencio** Ron Jewett Hienz Johnson Jackie Johnson Jane Jones Anita Juskelis Jan Kaminski Martha Kirkpatrick Carol Kobuski Edward Koch Duane Kraemer Francis Kupres Joan Lampart Alan Leach John Lehman Ed Low Charles Macke Bill Malina Ann McCandless Margaret McGee Susan Medlin Carol Miller Charles (Chuck) Merkel Jay Messenger Christine Moroni Diane Morrison Jim Mount Curt Myron Darrell Neilly

Jack Nemceff Jim Neville James Parrish LeeAnn Pelea **Temple Pounce** Tim Prost Carl Riggs Joan Rossi Ray Coleman Rudacille Frank Santora Pat Schafer George Schauer Shirley Schleper Johanna Schmidt Joann Sells James Shanley Kirk Shuster Heide Silkworth Bryant Silliman Helga Slade Ann Smith Sharon Snyder Mary Sorell John Spaeni Donna J Speakman Leonard Strickland Gloria Taylor Patricia Thompson Bob & Betty Urbanski Larry Wagner Sylvia Waldren Marvin Weiss Phillip "Phill" Dwight Wilder Edie Williams As of April 22, 2025

