



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



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

# 2025 AVA BIENNIAL REPORT & CONVENTION

# PROGRAM

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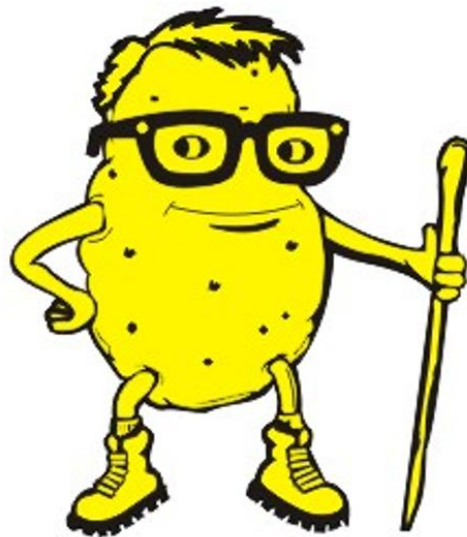
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**-The AVA Nation**

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# AVA National Board of Directors XXIV

## AVA National Officers



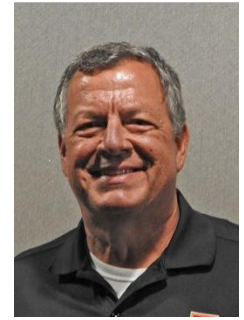
**AVA Board Chair**  
**Nancy Wittenberg**  
[chair@ava.org](mailto:chair@ava.org)



**AVA Board Vice Chair**  
**Carl Cordes**  
[vice\\_chair@ava.org](mailto:vice_chair@ava.org)

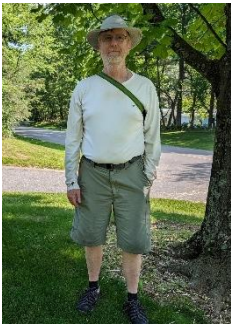


**AVA Board Secretary**  
**Leslie Stone**  
[secretary@ava.org](mailto:secretary@ava.org)



**AVA Board Finance Chair**  
**Ed McCabe**  
[finance\\_chair@ava.org](mailto:finance_chair@ava.org)

## AVA National Board of Directors



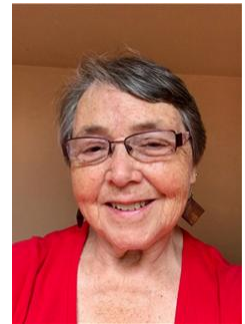
**Atlantic Region**  
**Jeff Giddings**  
[at\\_rd@ava.org](mailto:at_rd@ava.org)



**Mid-America Region**  
**Craig Gauger**  
[ma\\_rd@ava.org](mailto:ma_rd@ava.org)



**North Central Region**  
**Susan Pinneke**  
[nc\\_rd@ava.org](mailto:nc_rd@ava.org)



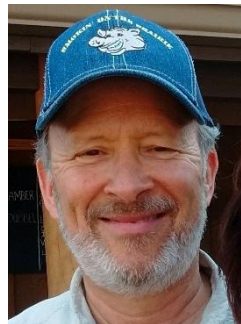
**Northeast Region**  
**Carol Giesecke**  
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**Northwest Region**  
**Sharon Moats**  
[nw\\_rd@ava.org](mailto:nw_rd@ava.org)



**Pacific Region**  
**Becky Forsythe**  
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**Rocky Mountain Region**  
**Steve Sandridge**  
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**South Central Region**  
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**Southeast Region**  
**Kathryn King**  
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**Southwest Region**  
**Andy Thomas**  
[sw\\_rd@ava.org](mailto:sw_rd@ava.org)



**Your National Office Team**  
**American Volkssport Association**

1032 S. Alamo St., San Antonio, TX 78210  
Phone (210) 659-2112 · Fax (210) 659-1212 · Email [henry@ava.org](mailto:henry@ava.org)

**President & CEO – Henry Rosales**



Mr. Rosales has been with the AVA for over 10 years and is responsible for the management and oversight of the national organization. He is a non-voting member of the Board and a member of the Fund development Committee, Marketing Committee, Walk App Committee, Executive Committee, and the Convention Committee.

**Finance Director - Erin Grosso**



Mrs. Grosso has been with the AVA seven years and is responsible for the fiduciary, oversight, management and operation of the organization's finance department and all departmental functions that contribute to the overall financial health and success of the AVA.

**Accounting Specialist – Marian DeVaul**



Mrs. DeVaul has been a dedicated member of the AVA team for seven years. She is responsible for preparing and issuing invoices and statements to clubs and customers. Additionally, she oversees the processing of merchandise sales and membership transactions. Her commitment to detail and customer service supports the financial health of AVA and enhances the experience of its members and partners.

**Awards/Membership Specialist – Karen Winkle**

After over 13 years of service to the AVA, Karen Winkle has left the organization. Karen was always kindhearted, welcoming, and cheerful with everyone she worked with. We will miss her and wish her the best with her new chapter in life. If you would like to send her a personal note, please mail it to the national office and we will gladly forward it to her.



**Information Technology Specialist  
– Hector Hernandez**

Mr. Hernandez has been with the AVA nine years and is responsible for providing technical support for the website and the Events Sanctioning Database to club members and employees. He also supports with fundraising events, website, TAW and updates the Checkpoint. He is also in charge of creating stamps, stamp handles and is a member of the Fund Development Committee and supports



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**June 7  
Sept 28**



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## AVA Past Presidents

Year Elected	Convention Location	President	# of individuals who have served
1979	Dayton, OH	David Toth	1
1981	Fredericksburg, TX	Carol Coffee	2
1983	Norfolk, VA	Max Martin	3
1985	St. Louis, MO	Max Martin	
1987	Tacoma, WA	Tom Boyd	4
1989	Dayton, OH	Tom Boyd	
1991	Baltimore, MD	Julian Bauer	5
1993	Austin, TX	Lynn Clark	6
1995	Portland, OR	Lynn Clark	
1997	Winston-Salem, NC	Ted Ballman	7
1999	Muncie, IN	Ted Ballman	
2000	San Antonio, TX (NEC Meeting)	Nancy Stenger	8
2001	Bellevue, WA	Nancy Stenger	
2003	Colorado Springs, CO	Shirley Lindberg	9
2005	Cherry Hill, NJ	Shirley Lindberg	
2007	Sacramento, CA	Curt Myron	10
2009	Richardson, TX	Curt Myron	
2011	Orange Beach, AL (NEC Meeting)	Dennis A. Michele	11
2011	Des Moines, IA	Heinz Johnson	12
2013	Orlando, FL	Dennis A. Michele	13
2015	Salem, OR	Dennis A. Michele	
2017	Billings, MT	David Bonewitz, Ph.D.	14
2019	Albany, NY	David Bonewitz, Ph.D.	
2021	Madison, WI	Nancy Wittenberg	15
2023	San Antonio, TX	Nancy Wittenberg	

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## America's Walking Club National Convention Schedule - Las Cruces, New Mexico

Saturday, April 26, 2025 - Sunday, May 4, 2025

All Bus Transportation Will Pick up and Drop Off at the Convention center.

CC=Las Cruces Convention Center

CC Ballroom 2 is open during the day for use by any Club or State Association. No reservations needed.

### Saturday, April 26, 2025 - The convention center is closed today.

Time	Event	Location	Transportation	Details
8:30am - 11:30am	<b>Featured</b> Pre Convention Walk (Available April 26 - May 4)	City of Rocks State Park, NM (1.5 hours, 90 miles away)	Self Transportation	Individuals are responsible for entry fee. Register at the Visitor's Center.
2:00pm - 10:00pm	¡MIRA! Las Cruces Spring Festival	Downtown Las Cruces	Self Transportation	Free Event. Stop by the AVA table!

### Sunday, April 27, 2025 -The convention center is closed today.

Time	Event	Location	Transportation	Details
8:30am - 11:30am	<b>Featured</b> Pre-Convention Walk (Available April 26 - May 4)	Silver City, NM (2 hours, 120 miles away)	Self Transportation	Register at the Plaza, Western New Mexico University (1000 W. College).
On your own time	Other YREs	Fort Bayard and Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, NM	Self Transportation	Walk info is in the online startbox and will also be at the Convention Center, Rooms 4,5,6

### Monday, April 28, 2025 - The convention center is open today from 11:00am. - 5:00pm.

Time	Event	Location	Transportation	Details
8:00am – 11:00am	New Mexico State University 5/10K Walk	The Start is Next to Convention Center	Self Transportation	Directions available Outside the Convention Center. Corner of Union and University
On your own time	Encanto Walk & Old Mesilla Walk	705 South Telshor, Las Cruces, NM	City Bus	YRE walk box is at the Encanto Hotel
On your own time	Cloudcroft and Ruidoso (East), Truth or Consequences (North), or Deming (West)	Cloudcroft, Ruidoso, Deming, Truth or Consequences, NM	Self Transportation	Walk info is in the online startbox and will also be at the Convention Center, Rooms 4,5,6.
11:00am - 4:00pm	Registration, Packet Pickup, Silent Auction Drop-off & Merchandise	CC Meeting Rooms 1,2,3		



Time	Event	Location	Transportation	Details
<b>11:00am - 4:00pm</b>	Book Stamping & Start for Convention Seasonal Events	CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6		
<b>Dusk to Dawn</b>	Las Cruces Bike Event	CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6	Self Transportation to Bike Shop	Bike event starts at the CC - part of convention package or register at CC, pay, pick up directions - bikes not included - must provide your own. For Bike Rentals Call 575-521-1922.
<b>2:30pm - 4:00pm</b>	Credentialing	CC Meeting Rooms 4,5, 6		

**Tuesday, April 29, 2025 The convention center is open today from 9:00am. - 5:00pm.**

Time	Event	Location	Transportation	Details
<b>On Your own Time</b>	<b>Organ Mountain Dripping Springs Chairperson's Walk - FEATURED</b> (Available April 26 - May 4)	(30 minutes, 15 miles away)	Self Transportation	Walk info is in the online startbox and will also be at the Convention Center, Rooms 4,5,6. Individuals will pay a Parking Fee.
<b>9:00am - 5:00pm</b>	Registration, Packet Pickup, Silent Auction Drop-off & Merchandise	CC Meeting Rooms 1,2,3		
<b>9:00am - 5:00m</b>	Exhibit Tables Set Up	CC Lobby		Exhibit tables will have your name. Please do not move tables.
<b>10:00am - 4:00pm</b>	Book Stamping	CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6		
<b>Dusk to Dawn</b>	Bike Events	CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6	Self Transportation to Bike Shop	Bike event starts at the CC - part of convention package or register at CC, pay, pick up directions - bikes not included - must provide your own. For Bike Rentals Call 575-521-1922.
<b>10:00am - 4:30pm</b>	<b>Silent Auction Open</b>	CC Exhibit Halls 3/A,B,C		
<b>10:30am - 12:45pm</b>	Credentialing	CC Meeting Rooms 4,5, 6		
<b>11:00am - 3:00pm</b>	New Mexico State University, Recreation Swim Center, Indoor Pool	University Recreation MSC 3M	Self Transportation	This event is on the campus of NM State Univ. Please check in at the front desk of the recreation center.
<b>1:00pm - 3:00pm</b>	AVA Board Meeting	CC Meeting Rooms 8 & 9		Open to the Public.



Time	Event	Location	Transportation	Details
5:00pm - 8:00pm	<b>WELCOME RECEPTION</b> (Buffet style dinner included)	New Mexico Farm & Ranch Museum	Buses begin departing from CC at 4:15pm	Welcome by the Honorable Russell Hernandez, Mayor of the Town of Mesilla and Rochelle Miller-Hernandez, Executive Director of Visit Las Cruces. Remarks by Tim Friesen, Walking Adventures.

**Wednesday, April 30, 2025 - The convention center is open today from 7:00am. - 8:00pm.**

Time	Event	Location	Transportation	Details
<u><b>Your Choice of 3 Walk Options</b></u> (Participants wanting to attend AVA Regular Membership meeting should select Option 1 or Option 3)				
7:00am - 7:30am	<u>Walk Option 1:</u> <b>El Paso International 6K Walk</b> (ONLY Available April 30th. You must pre-register.)	Lion's Plaza, 910 S. Santa Fe, El Paso Texas (1 hour, 50 miles away)	Buses Leave from Convention Center	Snacks & Entertainment in Juarez, MX Wait for buses at starting point in El Paso to return to Las Cruces. <b>You MUST Pre-Register. Passport, Official New REAL State ID, or Driver's License Required.</b>
7:00am - 7:30am	<u>Walk Option 2:</u> <b>International Walk AND El Rose Garden Walk</b>	Lion's Plaza, 910 S. Santa Fe, El Paso Texas (1 hour, 50 miles away)	Buses Leave from Convention Center	Walkers not intending to return to Convention Center by the start of General Sessions Meeting may select this option. Lunch on Your Own. Estimated Return Time is 3:00pm.
7:30am - 8:00am	<u>Walk Option 3:</u> <b>El Paso Rose Garden Walk</b> (Available April 26 - May 4)	Memorial Park, 3100 Copper St, El Paso, Texas	Buses Leave from Convention Center	Two 5K Loops. Last bus leaves to return to Las Cruces at 1:00pm. Passport not needed. Lunch on Your Own. Self driving individuals will be given directions at the CC
7:00am - 10:00am	Registration, Packet Pickup, and Merchandise Sales	CC Meeting Rooms 1,2,3		
11:00am - 3:00pm	New Mexico State University, Recreation Swim Center, Indoor Pool	University Recreation MSC 3M	Self Transportation	This event is on the campus of NM State Univ. Please check in at the front desk of the recreation center.
12:00pm - 5:00pm	Exhibits Open	CC Lobby		

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Time	Event	Location	Transportation	Details
<b>Dusk to Dawn</b>	Bike Events Open	CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6	Self Transportation to Bike Shop	Bike event starts at the CC - part of convention package or register at CC, pay, pick up directions - bikes not included - must provide your own. For Bike Rentals Call 575-521-1922.
<b>12:30pm - 3:00pm</b>	Book Stamping	CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6		
<b>12:30pm - 7:45pm</b>	<b>Silent Auction</b>	CC Exhibit Halls 3/A,B,C		
<b>1:30pm - 3:30pm</b>	Registration, Packet Pickup, and Merchandise Sales	CC Meeting Rooms 1,2,3		
<b>1:30pm - 3:30pm</b>	Credentialing	CC Meeting Rooms 4,5, 6		<b>Last Opportunity to turn in Credential Form or Make Changes</b>
<b>3:45pm - 5:30pm</b>	<b>AVA Regular Membership Meeting (Part 1)</b>	CC Exhibit Hall 2		Welcome by the Honorable Eric Enriquez, Mayor of Las Cruces. Remarks by Giuseppe Colantonio, IVV President.
	Lunch and Dinner on Your Own	Lunch and Dinner on Your Own		Lunch and Dinner on Your Own
	<b>Dessert in the Desert</b>			Enjoy dessert, coffee and tea while listening to great speakers.
<b>6:30pm - 7:00pm</b>	<b>From Conflict to Cooperation: The Story of Chamizal National Memorial</b> , by J.R. Lujan	CC Exhibit Hall 2		J.R. Lujan, park rancher with Chamizal National Memorial in El Paso, TX
<b>7:15pm - 7:45pm</b>	<b>A Las Cruces Overview- From Volcanoes to Moon Rockets</b> , by Jim Eckles	CC Exhibit Hall 2		Jim Eckles, retired from White Sands Missile Range, known as WSMR's Historian

**Thursday, May 1, 2025 - The convention center is open today from 6:30am. - 10:00pm.**

Time	Event	Location	Transportation	Details
<b>7:15am - 8:15am</b>	<b>White Sands National Park 5K</b> (Available April 26 - May 4)	White Sands National Park (1 hour, 55 miles away)	Buses Leave from Convention Center	Bus Ride includes Park Entry Fee. Limited parking for personal vehicles.
<b>7:30am - 10:30am</b>	<b>Mesilla Valley State Park 5/10K</b> (Available April 26 - May 4)	Mesilla Valley State Park (20 minutes, 15 miles away)	Buses Loop from Convention Center	The bus will continue pickups until everyone has completed the 10k. The last bus leaves the park at approximately 1:00pm.. Personal Vehicles will pay a Parking Fee.
<b>6:30am - 9:30am</b>	Registration, Packet Pickup, and Merchandise Sales	CC Meeting Rooms 1,2,3		



Time	Event	Location	Transportation	Details
<b>11:00am - 3:00pm</b>	New Mexico State University, Recreation Swim Center, Indoor Pool	University Recreation MSC 3M	Self Transportation	This event is on the campus of NM State Univ. Please check in at the front desk of the recreation center. Last day to swim!
<b>12:00pm - 4:00pm</b>	Registration, Packet Pickup, and Merchandise Sales	CC Meeting Rooms 1,2,3		
<b>12:30pm - 2:30pm</b>	Box Lunches Upon Return from Walks	CC Ballroom 2		Lunches included with Full Convention Pass or 5 Day Walk Pass.
<b>12:00pm - 6:00pm</b>	Exhibits Open	CC Lobby		
<b>Dusk to Dawn</b>	Bike Events	CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6	Self Transportation to Bike Shop	Bike event starts at the CC - part of convention package or register at CC, pay, pick up directions - bikes not included - must provide your own. For Bike Rentals Call 575-521-1922.
<b>12:30pm - 5:00pm</b>	Book Stamping	CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6		
<b>12:30pm - 7:00pm</b>	<b>Silent Auction</b> (Closes TODAY)	CC Exhibit Halls 3/A,B,C		Pick up items on Friday
<b>2:00pm, 2:45pm, &amp; 3:30pm</b>	<b>Workshop by Alexandra McKinney, Historian, Taylor-Mesilla Site</b> Leaving a Mark: The Fascinating Life of Eugene Van Patten Eugene Van Patten is one of Southern New Mexico's most fascinating characters. He did and saw it all! From working on Butterfield's Overland Mail Line, to serving as a Confederate officer, building a tuberculosis sanatorium, and more. Get an introduction into the history of Territorial New Mexico through the life of Colonel Eugene Van Patten.	CC Meeting Rooms 8 & 9		This workshop is a three-peat and available at 2:00pm, 2:45pm, and 3:30pm



Time	Event	Location	Transportation	Details
2:00pm, 2:45pm, & 3:30pm	<b>Workshop by Suzanne Mayas, Rails to Trails Conservancy</b> Designing events and other types of programming that invite people to spend more time walking, biking and getting outside can have a big impact—building a spirit of welcome and new community participation. Join this session to explore the ins and outs of planning events that engage, inspire and activate your community.	CC Meeting Room 7		This workshop is a three-peat and available at 2:00pm, 2:45pm, and 3:30pm
2:00pm & 2:45pm	<b>Workshop by Barbara Toth, Founder and Executive Director, Vulnerable Road Users, NM</b> Let's Talk About Walking: Walking = exercise, fresh air, uplifting sights, and meaningful friendships. Should it also include looking out for one another's safety?	CC Meeting Room 10		This workshop is a repeat and available at 2:00pm and 2:45pm
3:30pm	<b>Workshop by the AVA National Office</b> Learn about updates on AVA Policies, Procedures, and the Walk Application. National Office Team Members will be available to answers your questions.	CC Meeting Room 10		This workshop is avaiable at 3:30pm only.
5:30pm - 7:00pm	<b>Pre-Gala Social</b>	Lobby of Convention Center		Entertainment and Cash Bar.
7:00pm - 10:00pm	<b>AVA Awards Gala and Hall of Fame Inductions</b>	CC Exhibit Hall 2		2027 Convention Site Presentations from Visit Norman, Visit Springfield and Destination Rogers. Dress is business casual.

**Friday, May 2, 2025 - The convention center is open today from 6:30am. - 5:00pm.**

Time	Event	Location	Transportation	Details
<b>6:30am - 9:30am</b>	Registration, Packet Pickup, and Merchandise Sales	CC Meeting Rooms 1,2,3		
<b>7:15am - 8:15am</b>	<b>White Sands National Park 5K</b> (Available April 26 - May 4)	White Sands National Park (1 hour, 55 miles away)	Buses Leave from Convention Center	Bus Ride includes Park Entry Fee. Limited parking for personal vehicles.
<b>7:30am - 10:30am</b>	<b>Mesilla Valley State Park 5/10K</b> (Available April 26 - May 4)	Mesilla Valley State Park (20 minutes, 15 miles away)	Buses Loop from Convention Center	The bus will continue pickups until everyone has completed the 10k. The last bus leaves the park at approximately 1:00pm.. Personal Vehicles will pay a Parking Fee.
<b>8:30am - 4:30pm</b>	<b>Silent Auction</b> Payment and Pickup	CC Exhibit Halls 3/A,B,C		If you did not pick up your Silent Auction item, please contact Erin Grosso at <a href="mailto:erin@ava.org">erin@ava.org</a> (after the Convention) to find out how you may collect your item(s).
<b>12:00pm - 4:00pm</b>	Exhibits Open	CC Lobby		Exhibits will close today!
<b>12:30pm - 2:30pm</b>	Box Lunches Upon Return from Walks	CC Ballroom 2		Lunches included with Full Convention Pass or 5 Day Walk Pass.
<b>12:30pm - 2:30pm</b>	Book Stamping	CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6		
<b>Dusk to Dawn</b>	Bike Events	CC Meeting Rooms 4,5,6	Self Transportation to Bike Shop	Bike event starts at the CC - part of convention package or register at CC, pay, pick up directions - bikes not included - must provide your own. For Bike Rentals Call 575-521-1922.
<b>1:00pm - 2:15pm</b>	Credentialing			Information only



Time	Event	Location	Transportation	Details
2:30pm - 4:30pm	Regular Membership Meeting (Part 2)	CC Exhibit Hall 2	Delegates should get on earlier AM buses to and from the morning walk event(s)	Convention Closes at the End of Regular Membership Meeting.
4:45pm - 6:45pm	Co-Chairperson's Board Social - Invite Only	The Game Sports Bar & Grill 2605 South Espina Street, Las Cruces, NM	Self Transportation	For new/departing AVA Board Members and Deputy Directors.

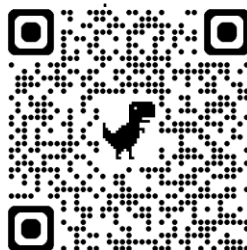
**Saturday, May 3, 2025 - The convention center is closed.**

Time	Event	Location	Transportation	Details
8:00am	Featured-Community Walk 10K	336 South Main Street, Las Cruces, NM	Self Transportation City Buses are Free	Start at Visit Las Cruces offices (336 S. Main) You will walk through Farmer's Market & Historic Mesquite District.
9:00am	Community GROUP Walk 5K and 3K	336 South Main Street, Las Cruces, NM	Self Transportation City Buses are Free	Start at visit Las Cruces offices (336 S. Main) You will walk through Farmer's Market & Historic Mesquite District.
	Town of Mesilla Cinco De Maya Festival	Old Town Mesilla, NM	Self Transportation City Buses are Free	The Town of Mesilla is holding their Cinco de Mayo Fiesta!

**Sunday, May 4, 2025 - The convention center is closed.**

Time	Event	Location	Transportation	Details
	<b>Featured</b> Post-Convention Walk	Socorro, New Mexico (2.5 hours, 150 miles away)	Self Transportation	Mostly Flat Surface. Seasonal Event Walk-Available Other Dates.

Scan to view  
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## Office of the Mayor

ERIC ENRIQUEZ  
MAYOR

CITY OF LAS CRUCES

Dear Members of the American Volkssport Association,

On behalf of the City of Las Cruces, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to our vibrant and scenic community for the American Volkssport Association's 2025 Biennial Convention. We are honored to host America's Walking Club and look forward to sharing the rich culture, stunning landscapes, and warm hospitality that define Las Cruces.

Nestled in the Mesilla Valley, Las Cruces offers a perfect blend of outdoor adventure, historic charm, and cultural experiences. As you explore our City, I encourage you to discover the picturesque trails that wind through the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, providing breathtaking views and unforgettable hiking opportunities. Our sunny climate makes walking a year-round pleasure, and you'll find no shortage of paths to suit all interests and abilities.

We are excited to welcome you to Las Cruces and hope your visit is filled with meaningful connections, memorable experiences, and plenty of steps along our beautiful paths. Thank you for choosing our city for your conference, and may your time here be both enjoyable and inspiring.

Best wishes for a successful and enriching 2025 AVA Conference!

Warm regards,

Eric Enriquez  
Mayor





Dear Members of the American Volkssport Association,

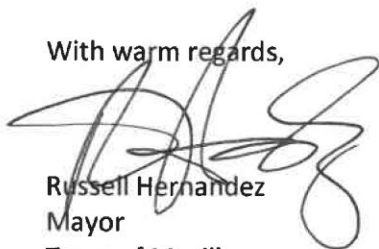
It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to our charming town of Mesilla, here in beautiful Southern New Mexico! As you gather in the region for the American Volkssport Association's 2025 Biennial Convention, I invite you to take some time to visit our historic and vibrant community.

Steeped in rich history, Mesilla has long been a crossroads for travelers seeking adventure, connection, and discovery. Once a bustling stop along the Butterfield Overland Mail route, our town played a vital role in shaping the culture of the Southwest. Today, Mesilla proudly celebrates that heritage through its beautifully preserved adobe buildings, cultural landmarks, and welcoming spirit.

During your stay, I encourage you to wander the picturesque Mesilla Plaza, where you'll find an array of unique shops, local art galleries, and delightful restaurants serving authentic New Mexican cuisine. Whether you're savoring a plate of enchiladas smothered in red or green chile, browsing handcrafted jewelry, or stepping into historic sites like the iconic San Albino Basilica, you'll feel the heartbeat of Mesilla's rich past and vibrant present.

We are honored to be part of your visit to Southern New Mexico and hope you'll find time to experience the warmth and charm of our community. On behalf of the residents of Mesilla, I wish you a wonderful conference and many memorable walks through our beautiful desert landscape.

With warm regards,



Russell Hernandez  
Mayor  
Town of Mesilla

## **AVA Board Chair – Nancy Wittenberg**

I want to welcome you all to our Las Cruces Convention. Although we had a wonderful Olympiad in San Antonio in 2023, this is the first real convention we have had since the 2021 Convention in Madison, Wisconsin. So, it is special to me: a chance to walk where I haven't walked before; to get to walk across the border to Mexico to experience some Mexican hospitality; and, especially a chance for all of us to see friends we may not have seen for some time. And, of course, to remember those we can no longer see.

My two terms as Board Chair have been full of challenges and looks to the future. I believe I have at least slightly furthered President David Bonewitz's channeling of board energy toward a more strategic board. This is always difficult, because our board is made up of Regional Directors (RDs), whose jobs focus on clubs and their issues. Most of these issues are operational, not necessarily strategic. I believe our RDs have done an outstanding job of taking off their operational "hats" and putting on their board hats in order to focus on what the board needs to do.

The next board will need to channel its energy toward building revenue; toward obtaining non-AVA members. And in my opinion, looking at the relationship between the AVA and its clubs. We all need to think beyond keeping AVA just doing what it always has done – for us, and look to where it needs to be for the next generation.

This includes the mobile walk application that is near to a selection of a firm to begin the development. And it also includes expanding our membership beyond clubs and state associations to individuals. How can we be a more viable organization? Perhaps a look again at our strategic plan: where do we want to go and how do we get there?

Let's all have fun at our convention and enjoy this chance to aim toward the future, and especially, to thank those who have done so much for us in the past.

Bienvenido!

## **AVA Vice Chair – Carl Cordes**

In addition to serving as Vice Chairman in support of Chair Nancy Wittenberg, I also served as Chair of Awards Recognition Committee. Some very deserving folks were nominated for National awards which will be presented at the Banquet. Another committee assignment was as member of the Governance Committee. Very thoughtful debate and coordination with Membership Committee resulted in the bylaw changes you will vote on. Personally, I am pleased we are finally trying to set AVA on the course of traditional membership-based non-profits. It has been long overdue.

I attended a few regional and state conferences this term but not as many as I hoped. I led the USA delegation to the biennial IVV Conference of Delegates in Canberra Australia last year.

During this term I advanced from delegate to Vice President-USA on the Governing Council of IVV Americas and Oceania continental association. We established rules for hosting continental events to be held on even years. The first ever Oceaniapiad is next March in Canberra Australia. This is similar to Olympiad held on odd years but only 3 days. AVA clubs have the opportunity to submit a proposal for the first ever Americapiad in 2028. This would be a great opportunity to highlight one of our regions, possibly built around a regional conference.

Other major events I attended and, in some cases, emceed were the Texas Trail Roundup in San Antonio (2), US Freedom Walks Festival in Arlington Va, Rotorua New Zealand IML and Aussie Peace Walk Canberra Australia.

## **AVA Secretary – Leslie Stone**

It has been my pleasure to serve as your Secretary of AVA: America's walking club since June 2023.

During this time, I have attended all meetings of the Board of Directors. I have prepared the minutes of the meetings and participated in activities of the AVA, including fundraising.

In March 2024, it was my pleasure to attend the IVV Congress, held in Canberra, Australia, as a representative of AVA: America's Walking Club. During this trip, which was made with 5 fellow walkers from the USA, including Vice-Chair Carl Cordes. We attended the walking festival in Rotorua, New Zealand and the Aussie Peace Walk held in Canberra, Australia. It was a great feeling to be able to meet representatives of other countries who, also, have a passion for getting out and walking.

I healed quickly and attended the Canadian Walking Festival in Kingston, Ontario, Canada in May 2024. There, I met more Canadian friends and renewed acquaintances with others.

In February 2025, I attended the Texas Trail Roundup (TTR) in San Antonio. I volunteered in the set up of the TTR the day before it opened. It was a sad time, saying good-bye to its founder, Susan Medlin, but it was a new beginning for the TTR with new dreams and possibilities for the future.

I have continued to support volkssporting in my state and around the country, attending walks in four areas of the state of Florida and finding YREs to walk when I am on non-walking tours.

I look forward to serving the AVA, as Secretary, during the next two years.



## AVA Finance Chair – Ed McCabe

The Big Give once again was the AVA's largest fundraiser, bringing in greater than \$95,000 in 2024. This is a fairly easy source of revenue and I believe we could double that amount by increasing the participation of more members and clubs. By chairing this year's efforts, I learned a lot and look forward to taking these lessons to make 2025 the most successful fundraiser yet.

During my time as Finance Chair, I repeated at almost every board meeting that we do a good job in keeping down our expenses, but our focus needs to be on bringing in revenue, which includes new sources of funds. As I move to Vice Chair, that will be my primary focus and I welcome new ideas to the table.

We spent a good part of 2024 researching the Walking App. There has been an incredible amount of effort put in by that committee and the National Office and we look forward to seeing the fruits of their labor as we anticipate a 2026 launch. I am sure that this will be discussed in greater detail at this convention and in coming board meetings and webinars.

No new financial statements will be presented at this convention due to the timing of this event and our last board meeting. We will have a financial presentation at our next board meeting, headed by our new Chair.

## AVA President & CEO - Henry Rosales

Dear Friends,

Since our last Biennial Convention, many of us have lived through challenging times. We have lost Board Members, Club Officers, AVA Members, Friends, and Family. Yet despite these challenges the AVA continues to survive. We lived through a pandemic that made us stronger and more determined to continue our mission. Our 2021 convention in Madison was the first big event in the State of Wisconsin after covid! Our 2023 IVV Olympiad was the first ever in the Americas and yes, together we made history!

However, if we want to thrive and continue the legacy of the American Volkssport Association (AVA) there are three things we must collectively act on immediately.

1. Keep all club walks open and worst case, archive walks that can no longer be maintained. Club walks are our biggest asset and worth more than cryptocurrency! A walk application is not a pipe dream, it is the only way to keep our walks alive and grow the organization. Collectively, we probably have more walks than most companies in the walk application business!
2. Design a participation program that promotes, encourages, and rewards individuals who walk regularly. The more a participant walks, the more they should save on walk fees and the more incentives they should receive. We will not survive if we continue the old business model of charging per walk. Everyone walks for free these days. Participation will grow the organization, not walk fees.
3. Be *intentional* about inviting everyone in our communities to all our walks and events. This means going into communities we are unfamiliar with and inviting them not only to participate but also participate in *their* events and invite them to be a part of the club leadership.

### **These things are not difficult to do.**

Special thanks to all AVA Operational Committees who have been incredibly involved the past several years. Our work could not have been accomplished without their help and the support of the National Office Team and our office Volunteers. I thank you all and appreciate all your help. I am also grateful for the work and support of our Board Chair, Nancy Wittenberg. She has been an inspiration and beacon of hope.

## AVA Board of Directors Reports

### Atlantic Region – Jeff Giddings, Board Member

#### **State of Atlantic Region - 2025**

The past two years have brought some bad news and good news.

#### **The bad news first.**

We lost two clubs; one in Pennsylvania, the Penn-Dutch Pacers Volksmarch Club and one club in Virginia, the Gator Volksmarsch Club. We are sorry to see these clubs close.

We lost the President of the Liberty Bell Wanderers in an unexpected illness. We will sorely miss this very vibrant and upbeat person. We have also lost the following fellow Volkssporters during the last two years.

Charles (Chuck) Merkel	2023-Jan-31	MD	Freestate Happy Wanderers, Piedmont Pacers
Phillip "Phill" Dwight Wilder	2023-Apr-21	MD	Freestate Happy Wanderers
Darrell Neilly	2023-Aug-25	MD	Freestate Happy Wanderers, Maryland Volkssport Assn
Frank Santora	2023-Sep-20	MD	Freestate Happy Wanderers

Pam Copenhaver	2023-Dec-13	PA	York White Rose Wanderers
Larry Wagner.	2024-Jan-25	PA	Liberty Bell Wanderers
Vinnie Biancomano, Sr.	2024-Mar-01	NJ	Princeton Area Walkers
Jackie Johnson	2024-May-17	MD	Seneca Valley Sugarloafers
Nadine Chaisson	2024-Jun-08	MD	Seneca Valley Sugarloafers
Anita Juskelis	2024-Jun-07	MD	Freestate Happy Wanderers
W. Eugene "Gene" Geyer	2024-Oct-13	PA	York White Rose Wanderers
Bing Inocencio	2024-Jul-22	MD	Seneca Valley Sugarloafers
Jim Neville	2024-Dec-07	PA	Antietam Pathfinders
Francis Kupres	2024-Dec-26	MD	Baltimore Walking Club, Freestate Happy Wanderers
Joan Lampart	2024-Dec-29	PA	Liberty Bell Wanderers, KSVA, and AVA

We continue to lose club members to aging.

#### ***Now for the good news.***

The incoming Regional Director is Karen Kaufman and the incoming Deputy Regional Director is Jon Jones.

Karen is the current Deputy Regional Director, so she is experienced with dealing with most responsibilities of the Regional Director. As a retired Air Force Master Sergeant, she is capable of leading people and dealing with unexpected issues. She is a passionate Volkssporter and the current President of the First State Webfooters club in Delaware.

Ron Jones is also ex-military and is a passionate Volkssporter. He recently started the newest club in the Atlantic Region (the first in many years) at Smith Mountain Lake, Virginia.

Please join me in welcoming Karen and Ron in the roles of RD and DRD.

Most of the Seasonal and Year Round Events are on the Online Start Box. There are still a few that need to be converted but I believe that this transition will occur.

Many clubs will continue to host Traditional Events and there are several multi-day Traditional Events; the US Freedom Walk Festival and the Scottish Parade/National Harbor Walk Event that is hosted by the Northern Virginia Volkssporters and the Great Greenbelt Volksmarchers.

#### ***Farewell as RD.***

Thank you all for your patience with me as I grew into the role of RD and I hope that I have helped the Region's clubs a little bit during my tenure as Regional Director. Thank you for this opportunity. I will still be around and active in walking. I will also be available to Karen and Ron as they need me.

## **Mid-America Region – Craig Gauger, Board Member**

Welcome from the Mid America Region. We have just the walks you're seeking: rail trails, river walks, lakeside, and The Great Lakes. We have walks at 4 of the 5 Great Lakes. All 5 states, OH, MI, IL, IN, and KY, offer diverse events for your enjoyment. When you're travelling cross-country stop in for a leg stretch along one or more of our traditional or YRWs. Call ahead and someone may walk with you.

We have walks in cities, the countryside, city parks, state parks, national parks, and historical places. There are unique bridges to cross, caves to see, and theme parks to visit.

We have walks at or near: The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Pro Football Hall of Fame Muhammad Ali Center, Annie Oakley Festival, Biggest Week in American Birding (at Lake Erie), Air Force Museum, Art Institute of Chicago, Frank Lloyd Wright home, Indianapolis Speedway, Lincoln's Tomb, Churchill Downs, Louisville Slugger Museum, Cahokia Mounds, US President homes and important sites: McKinley, Hayes, Taft, Lincoln, Harding, Wm Henry Harrison, Grant, Benjamin Harrison, Garfield, Reagan, Ford, and Taylor.

Allen County Library in Fort Wayne, IN hosts one of the largest genealogical research facilities in the US. We have a few walks in and near Fort Wayne. We have college campus walks, gardens events, forest ambles, and serene cemeteries. Our capital cities have walks in Lansing, MI; Columbus, OH; Frankfort, KY, Indianapolis, IN; and Springfield, IL.

I'm sure I'm missing something for you to see and do. Do your online search, call or email local walk leaders, and stop by the Mid America states so we can visit with you. You will have a great time in our region.

## **North Central Region – Susan Pinneke, Board Member**

#### ***Activities & Accomplishments***

The North Central region is made up of the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. There are currently 11 clubs in the region. During the past 4 years, we've lost one club, Central Minnesota Volkssport and added one club, Northwest Nebraska Trails Association. Our clubs have hosted numerous traditional and year around events. Participation is rebounding since the pandemic.



#### North Central Events 2021 - 2024

Year	Traditional Events		Year Around Events	
	# of Events	Participation	# of Events	Participation
2021	55	10,360	161	8,829
2022	68	9,822	152	4,527
2023	75	12,558	156	5,082
2024	75	12,309	137	3,971

In 2023, Iowa's Walking Club hosted a regional meeting weekend attended by over 75 people.

The clubs in the region continue to come up with innovative ideas for walks and activities, that encourage fun, fitness and friendship. Several walking weekends are planned for 2025 throughout the region, with social activities as well as walking. The clubs are working to develop partnerships with local groups to develop interesting walks, promote walking and hopefully, increase membership. Several clubs have been able to secure sponsorships to increase their walkership and strengthen their club.

The region continues to have leadership and was able to elect a new regional director and deputy regional director.

#### Concerns & Recommendations

The clubs in the North Central Region face the problems that all our clubs face, declining membership, declining walkers and aging membership. Most of our clubs are fairly strong and work to recruit new members and develop interesting walking opportunities. However, there are struggles to secure club leadership, as past leaders wear out.

One bit of sunshine, it seems interest in walking is increasing, as in the last two months, there have been three groups, one in Iowa and two in Wisconsin, inquiring about starting a volkswalk club.

### Northeast Region - Carol C. Giesecke, Board Member

The Northeast Region consists of 10 clubs: 5 in New York State, 2 in Massachusetts and 1 in Connecticut, 1 in Southern Maine and Twin State in Vermont covers walks in Vermont and New Hampshire. The walks in Rhode Island are being covered by the clubs in Connecticut and Massachusetts

The Empire State Capital Volkssporters club is by far the largest club in the region with Walk 'N Mass being the second largest club.

Most clubs struggle with small membership numbers, small participation on walks and even smaller numbers of members who perform the duties of the club. Like many clubs in AVA, members in the Northeast Clubs are aging and some find it difficult to replace volunteers who move away from the region or who can no longer walk long distances.

However, a very bright note throughout the years has been the decision of individual clubs to hold weekend events to which other clubs are invited. For example, one club – the Niagara Frontier Volkssport Club invited clubs from the region and beyond to a weekend event focused on walks in and around Niagara Falls in September 2022. Next, the Walk 'N Mass Volkssport Club planned a weekend event in Hyannis and Cape Cod in May 2023 and also invited clubs from the region and beyond. Walk 'N Mass club's Walk Coordinator Beate Hait kept very careful event records of expenses and supplies needed. These records provided a good starting point for the next group to plan a regional event. This time, the Connecticut Club - CVVC and the Volkssport Club at West Point worked tirelessly together to plan and carry out the Hud to Hou walks in Poughkeepsie and Kent, Connecticut, in September 2004. They relied heavily on the size and expertise of ESCV to provide volunteers to help staff with the events. Chris Yost, then President of ESCV was instrumental in organizing the volunteer shifts, based on what the planners indicated they needed. Therefore, though the numbers in many of our clubs are small, we can do amazing things by working together. Finally, in 2025, three clubs – Two Town Volkssport Club in Danvers, MA, Twin State Volkssport Association in Vermont and Southern Maine Volkssport Association are planning a Tri-State weekend in May 2025.

Another way of helping clubs feel part of a larger group has been the *NERD News*. This idea was introduced to me by Wayne Knapp, former Regional Director. These newsletters, sent to the club presidents, have been a way to provide AVA Board news and regional items that may be of interest. An edition of the *NERD News* was sent out in September 2023, and in May, August and September 2024. Another edition is planned for May 2025. In addition, we have used Zoom to great affect planning the regional meetings and hope to use it more often in the future to provide an opportunity for club members to speak directly to each other about surmounting similar obstacles to growth and retention. We are also keeping the Northeast Website updated and I sincerely appreciate Deputy Regional Director Eileen Skinner's expertise with this part of keeping club members and others informed.

### Northwest Region - Sharon Moats, Board Member

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

In the NW Region, over the past 2 years, Walkers have enjoyed many walks and multi-day events. We have closed 2 clubs, but the members all belonged to other clubs and YR walks were transferred.

We have had some new Volkssporters welcomed into clubs. Many have taken on leadership responsibilities. We have 2 new Trailmasters and several other starting to work on these skills.

This year (2025) our region has 438 SYR/YR down 49 from last year, mainly due to homelessness along routes and major construction. 22 walks are entirely new this year. Last year we had 133 Traditional events and are on the pathway to that number this year, albeit many have become TGW's due to much lower attendance.

Our region is participating in the pilot program using Stickers instead of stamps. Most clubs are participating. A large quantity of sticker pages was procured by donation and shared to clubs. Most clubs have a few people that have the capability to do the printing of the stickers for the club and helping other clubs. The stickers are really appreciated by the walkers.

**ACTIVITIES:**

- Normal RD duties such as event sanctions, award certificates, participating in local club activities, assisting with technical questions and issues, liaison among local clubs, regions and AVA National.
- Promoted AVA Regional and National events.
- Elected regional representatives for the 2025-2027 term. Thanks to Nomination Committee: Mike Nagan (chair), Joe Blazek and Ed Hainline. The new representatives are:  
Sandi Severtsen , Northwest Regional Director  
Pat Jewett, Northwest Deputy Regional Director

**CONCERNS:**

19% reduction in walkers (mostly physical decline and not driving as far to walk due to traffic)

Declining club membership.

Some clubs not having the skills/capacity to refresh walking routes.

So many other walking/hiking opportunities in our region.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

AVA Headquarters, Board and Club Officers review the survey taken this past year and focus on helping our clubs and walkers to have a better level of satisfaction with our product.

## **Pacific Region – Becky Forsythe, Board Member**

Enthusiasm for walking is the driving force of the seasoned walkers of the Pacific Region. The sixteen clubs and one state organization in the region sponsor over two hundred year-round and seasonal walking events providing a wide variety of walks throughout the four states. So far this year nearly seven thousand AVA walks have been taken in this region.

When club members are not out scouting new walk routes and checking currently sanctioned events, they are busy organizing club walks and friendship walks with neighboring clubs. Some clubs hold advertised group walks several times per week. The love of walking is evident by these committed club leaders.

In June 2024, the California State Organization held its annual convention in Rohnert Park, CA. It was hosted by the Sonoma County Stompers and Vaca Valley Volks. The event was a grand success, and the organizers were greatly appreciated for their hard work which showed off the beautiful wine country and the San Jose area.

There is an opportunity to walk in every county seat in Nevada. This is an amazing and unique set of walks. Many walks are quite remote. This is definitely something for a county adventurer to explore.

It is a pleasure to work with so many hardworking, committed people that love what The American Volkssport Association has to offer to everyone. Without their enduring efforts, the message and example of fun, fitness and friendship through walking together would no longer shine in this Pacific Region.

Although there are several very vibrant and active clubs in the Pacific Region, the biggest challenges to this region are the decreasing number of event walkers and the need for fresh leadership both in the clubs and regionally.

## **Rocky Mountain Region – Steve Sandridge, Board Member**

Our region continues to offer over 100 year-round and traditional events despite continued club membership and walk participation and venue fee challenges. Our selection of year-round/seasonal and traditional events offer plenty of great scenery throughout the Rockies! Here are a few highlights:

- The Woodland Wanderers club hosts the new Grain Elevators: Monarchs of the Plains special program and continues to host its Utah County Seat Challenge of year-round walks in all 29 county seats through 2026. See <https://woodlandwanderers.org/> for details and special completion award.

- Our Wyoming Buffalo Pathfinders club has year-round events in scenic Lander and the famous Thermopolis Hot Springs State Park along with several other events taking in lots of western heritage. The Rocky Mountain Wanderers' year-rounds include some great walks in the famous mountain towns of Vail, Frisco and Georgetown.

- This year the Colorado Springs Walking Club hosts a new seasonal walk at the very scenic Sandstone Ranch Open Space and continues to host the final year of the Rails to Trails special program.

- Our Falcon Wanderers club in Colorado Springs continues their periodic fellowship walks while annually hosting over 30 traditional, seasonal and year-round events. They're also developing a 2026 Special Program commemorating America's 250th anniversary and AVA's 50th Anniversary.

- A special thanks to Walking Adventures International who annually sponsor interesting walks at various western National and State Parks.

As I end my second consecutive RD tour, our recently elected former DRD, Christopher Begnoche, of Saint George, Utah, assumes RD duties in May. An AVA Life Member, Chris began AVA walks several years ago with the First State Webfooters Walking Club in Delaware. Here he organized the Saint George, Utah, Virgin River Walk and also hosts the Bryce and Zion National Park walks. At the national level, Chris served on the AVA Awards Committee. Congratulations, Chris!

Be sure to make some Rocky Mountain region walks part of your Rockies travels!

## South Central Region – Teresa Arnold, Board Member

The South Central Region consists of five (5) states with ten (10) active clubs currently. Our clubs are no nearer than a minimum of two hours apart, however, despite this distance, our clubs support each other and attend the events of fellow clubs and often host multi-events together.

In 2024, 38 traditional events were held with a total participation of 1,279; in addition, there were 130 YREs with a total participation of 4,189.

Many of the traditional events were multi-events, which tend to increase participation. Walkers like the opportunity to get more "bang for their buck" Also, many clubs are including walk events in all the counties of their respective state to attract the "county-walkers"

South Central had a very successful Regional Roundup in October, of 2024, with an average of 60 participants with attendees from fourteen (14) states!

The South Central clubs continue to strive to increase visibility in order to attract new walkers to our sport, so that more will enjoy the benefits of Fun, Fitness, and Friendship.

## Southeast Region – Kathryn King, Board Member

This biennial, the Southeast Region added one club--the Alpine Helen Volksmarch Club in Helen, Georgia. The club has revitalized the annual Volkswanderung 5 and 10K in April featuring a Bavarian Biergarten Style Festival and a huge prize drawing.

The Mid-Florida Milers, Happy Wanderers, and Suncoast Sandpipers continue to host their successful Walk Around Florida. The 2025 event, scheduled for November 7-9, will be the 34th. Four walks and a swim in south Orange and north Osceola counties in central Florida are scheduled. Fall is a great time to visit Florida.

With more than 200 sanctioned events in the region, there are trails for everyone to explore in the Southeast.

## Southwest Region – Andy Thomas, Board Member

**TTR:** The Texas Trail Roundup was well-organized and successful this year. Many participants want to see it return next year. Since this event had been established and organized for several years by Susan Medlin, and she was diagnosed with ALS, this year's event was a tribute to her, and the leaders were planning to retire the event. Susan Medlin, in hospice care in Oregon, passed away shortly before the closing ceremony.

After getting so much positive feedback, the organizers are planning to continue the TTR in future years, with the AVA National Office in charge of it. The AVA can use certain resources such as contacts with the city, registration software, volunteer sign-up system, wider call for volunteers, etc.

**AVA 50th:** Club leaders are working on possible plans for regional and/or national celebrations of the AVA's 50th anniversary, possibly in San Antonio or Fredericksburg. Watch for updates in the TAW and Checkpoint.

**Texas Volkssport Association:** The TVA holds semiannual meetings with 2 to 3 walks during a weekend. On Nov. 7 to 9, 2025, the next meeting will be in Gonzales featuring a 3-month seasonal walk marking the 200th anniversary of the city. Gonzales is best known for the "Come and Take It" cannon from the 1836 Texas Revolution. This weekend will also have walks in Shiner and Palmetto State Park.

In March 2026, the North Texas clubs will host the TVA meeting. Plans are tentative, but they mentioned possibly Granbury and Dinosaur Valley State Park.

**New Mexico Counties:** New Mexico has many YREs and seasonal walks available for any walkers on an extended journey following the convention. This includes six county walks that are concluding Helen Hull's county program.



# AVA BOARD STANDING COMMITTEES

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nancy Wittenberg - Chair	Puyallup, WA	NW	Sharon Moats	Enumclaw	WA
Leslie Stone	Ormond Beach	FL	Carl Cordes	North Las Vegas, NV	PA
ED McCabe	Dripping Springs, TX	SW	Henry Rosales, CEO – AVA National	San Antonio, TX	SW

## Governance Committee – Becky Forsythe, Chair

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- A. Proposed bylaw changes in support of the Nominating Committee:
- B. Proposed bylaw changes in support of the Membership Committee and the BOD: Restate and update bylaws section 3 Membership
- C. Policy Manual Addendum: Corporation Dissolution instructions provided to CEO for review

### RECOMMENDATION:

The committee recommends the Board review and forward the 2025 proposed bylaws changes (Atch 1) to the membership for approval at the May, 2025, AVA convention regular meeting.

### ACTIVITIES:

The Governance Committee met for several months throughout 2024 and early 2025 and reviewed the following topics and issues as requested by the Chair, Board, CEO and committees.

### Explanatory notes:

#### 1. Bylaws reviews.

- a. The committee spent a few months meeting and reviewing the Membership Committee's recommendation to drop the current Affiliate Membership, offer a national Individual Membership and discontinue future AVA lifetime memberships. The CEO has already sunset Lifetime memberships effective March 31, 2025. The committee offers recommended bylaws changes to create the Individual member category as part of its overall 2025 bylaws change recommendations. See attached summary of recommended bylaws changes (Atch 1).
- b. The AVA Nominating Committee requested Bylaws changes to enhance committee flexibility. The committee reviewed and recommended some changes. See attached recommended 2025 proposed bylaws changes (Atch 1).
- c. The CEO suggested allowing national staff to handle club deactivation requested (i.e. remove Board approval). The committee agreed and recommended a related bylaws change flexibility. See attached recommended 2025 proposed bylaws changes Atch 1).
- d. The committee also made several recommended administrative bylaws changes (see attached recommended 2025 proposed bylaws changes).
- e. The committee reviewed AVA Bylaws in reference to Intellectual Property for using club walk routes, maps and brochures for the new AVA APP underdevelopment. It's not clear whether AVA has any such agreements with clubs for posting walks on the AVA website or OSB system. The CEO advised that corporate counsel recommends AVA have a more detailed property rights agreement with its clubs. The committee consensus is that the bylaws are sufficiently broad as to AVA's right to use club member walk information. Instead of adding what is arguably operational-level detail to the bylaws, the committee suggests that the End User License Agreement (EULA) that will accompany the new APP should outline all AVA, club and member rights and obligations for using the new APP and would be the best document to capture such club walk/map authorizations and rights.

2. **Corporation Dissolution instructions.** The committee identified that the AVA does not have any detailed policy or checklists to handle corporate insolvency should the need arise. Having such a policy is simply one hallmark of a non-profit's due diligence and having an exit plan is merely an indication of sound corporate governance – something every good organization should have. While insolvency is briefly mentioned in the AVA Certificate of Formation (Article 2), the AVA should have more detailed policy steps, checklists or best-practices for the Board and Staff to follow. Accordingly, the committee provided the CEO a detailed outline (not included in this report) of current non-profit exit plan best-practices including several applicable website references for review and feedback.

3. **Remote Voting.** The committee briefly considered the issue of allowing remote voting at conventions. Although the bylaws text seems to conflate board / committee meetings with regular and special (national) member meetings, the committee suggests AVA keep the current proxy voting system for voting at regular or special (national) meetings.

4. **Code of Civility.** The committee continued to discuss a possible need for an AVA "Code of Civility" or some delineation of behavior standards for its clubs and members. A brief review of several for-profit and non-profit policies indicates that such policies or guideline are difficult to enforce but might contribute

to at least help share expectations of behavior. No action taken by the committee. Perhaps this could be included in a future Affiliate Expectations chartering document under an as-yet-to-be-determined new AVA club construct.

5. **Future Governance Improvements.** The committee also discussed ideas to improve AVA’s overall flexibility in governing the organization. These notions would require further study and, if recommended by the Board, would require members voting to approve. Specifically, there are efficiencies to be had by making some fundamental changes to the current AVA Bylaws governance model to reflect the following:

- a. AVA members should elect Board Directors and not specific Board or Corporate officers (Chair, Vice, Finance, Secretary). Instead, members would elect directors and the Board would then select or appoint its officers from among the elected directors. This already happens should an officer need to be replaced in between our semiannual regular member meetings (the Board appoints a new officer from among its directors and can currently replace a vacating director and officer).
  - b. The Board should have the authority to amend AVA Bylaws whenever necessary. This was actually recommended by corporate counsel in the first draft of the 2021 revised bylaws but was omitted. There could be some process to solicit member inputs but the reality is that members elect directors to run the corporation on their behalf.
- Attachment 1 - 2025 Feb 18 Board Meeting Proposed Draft Restated And Amended Bylaws.pdf (approved version sent to membership March 2025).  
Attachment 2 – (current) 2021 AVA Restated and Amended Bylaws.pdf (withdrawn)

**CONCERNS:** *None noted.*

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Becky Forsythe, Chair	Las Vegas, NV	PA	Teresa Arnold	Broken Arrow, OK	SC
Nancy Wittenberg	Puyallup, WA	NW	Carl Cordes - Chair	N Las Vegas, NV	PA
Steve Standridge	Colorado Springs, CO	RM	Wayne Knapp	Schenectady, NY	AT

**AWARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Carl Cordes - Chairman	N Las Vegas, NV	PA	Christopher Begnoche	St George, UT	RM
Suzi Glass	San Jose, CA	PA	Sam Korff	Clatskanie, OR	NW
Chris Mellen	Tyngsboro, MA	NE	Cecilia Miner, Ph.D.	Woodbridge, VA	AT

**Nominations Committee – Robert Buzolich, Chair**

For the AVA 2025 Biennial Convention and General Membership Meeting, the Nominations Committee identified one nominee for each of the AVA’s National Leadership Positions to be elected during the May 5 Session of the General Membership Meeting. There is no competition for any of the positions, which effectively disallows the exchange of fresh and competing views to guide stakeholders in their voting decision. The process, no doubt, was challenging for the committee due to inertia within the organization.

In general, the lack of interest is the major concern. We need people to volunteer not only to run for national office, but also to serve on committees. The continuing lack of interest does not reflect well for the organization. It does reflect a lack of vitality. The reverse of which is a key element of sustaining and growing the organization.

Communications within the organization seems not to reach all stakeholders. The use of TAW, the Checkpoint, some email addresses and some Board Members/Regional Directors may connect us with the majority of stakeholders. However, we seem to be missing stakeholders, who may actually have an interest in the information disseminated and may be inclined to take action. In other words, we may have missed someone’s nomination, because he or she was unaware of what was happening??

With respect to communications, we are also faced with the prospect of having to expand our ability to communicate with many, and hopefully, more active stakeholders. If passed during the General Membership Meeting in Las Cruces, the proposed Bylaw changes regarding individual members will require expanding the number of stakeholders to be represented by the Regional Directors. One of the key functions of the Regional Director is to facilitate communications between the National Organization and all stakeholders within the Region. If the above mentioned Bylaw changes are passed, Regional Directors will need to expand their communication efforts to include the individual members to ensure that all stakeholders are represented.

Please do not interpret this report as doom and gloom for the AVA. However, do take it as a call to action, and to serve in leadership roles at the national, regional and club levels as the opportunities arise.

## NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Robert (Bob) Buzolich - Chair**  
**Margie MacLeish**

**N Las Vegas, NV PA**  
**Wyoming DE**

**Chris Mellen**

**Tyngsboro, MA NE**

## AVA OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES

### IT Committee – Mike Green, Ph.D.

#### AVA IT Committee Accomplishments since 2023 Convention

Below is a summary of the AVA IT committee's activities over the last 2 years. Please use the link,

<https://nodegreen.com/ava-it/ITCommitteeReportDetails2023-2025.pdf> to view a more detailed outline of the committee's accomplishments.

- Providing personal help for those needing assistance with our online systems, often in collaboration with the AVA National Office.
- Developing new online tutorials, authoring checkpoint articles and conducting webinars to help those using our online systems.
- Adding support for filtering "by state" event listings based on accessibility and/or amenities. • Supporting online registration for the 2025 AVA Convention.
- Developing an RFQ for an AVA App and reviewing App vendor responses.
- Producing and distributing new club feather banners and physical stamps.
- Maintaining and improving the [ava.org](http://ava.org) website.
- Editing and producing the monthly Checkpoint as well as supporting the distribution of the new electronic/digital TAW. • Adding support for the Grouper Strider program to TE/YRE/SE participation feature for 2024 then later disabling this feature for 2025.
- Supporting online voting for the 2025 AVA Convention.
- Developing new (or improving existing) AVA HQ reports.
- Moving the TE/YRE/SE participation feature from the Legacy ESR System (hosted by an in-house server) to the [my.ava.org](http://my.ava.org) system (hosted by Dreamhost).
- Moving historical participation data from the Legacy ESR to [my.ava.org](http://my.ava.org).
- Archiving Legacy ESR data then proceeding with the shutdown of the Legacy ESR system and the associated in-house server.
- Adding support for club the printing of stamp images on pre-cut adhesive label sheets.
- Regularly sending Grouper event data CSV files in support of the Grouper RSVP program.
- Maintaining the AVA current, past, and expired Special Program pages.
- Adding to the [my.ava.org](http://my.ava.org) new "club challenges" and login page multi-event ads.

## INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Mike Green - Chair**  
**Jeffrey Giddings**  
**Hector Hernandez – AVA National**  
**Chris Mellen**

**Souderton, PA AT**  
**Rockville, MD AT**  
**San Antonio, TX SW**  
**Tyngsboro, MA NE**

**Andrew Schmidt**  
**Eileen Skinner**  
**Chris Zegelin**

**White Plains NY**  
**Clifton Park, NY NE**  
**San Jose, CA PA**

### Publicity Committee – Susan Fine, Chair

A year ago in April 2024, the first electronic TAW was produced, and the Publicity Committee worked with the AVA staff to produce this e-magazine. We continue to spend about 25 hours every 2 months working on TAW, editing stories from contributors, writing stories, and handling overall concepts. Hector Hernandez then "puts all the pieces together" creatively and concisely, and works closely with our committee and Henry Rosales on the final product. We will continue to evaluate the direction of TAW to be sure it is meeting the needs of AVA members.

Publicity is also working with the AVA Convention Committee, to promote the 2025 convention in Las Cruces, NM to our current members, volkswalking clubs, and the general public in southern New Mexico and El Paso, Texas. Visit Las Cruces will distribute press releases that we write. We created flyers to distribute for the Community Walk May 3<sup>rd</sup>, to invite the local population to enjoy a walk and learn about our sport. We have consistently posted on social media, created an email newsletter to everyone who receives the TAW that registration is open, posted on media calendars, and created ads when needed. While in Las Cruces, we will work with local media to create publicity for AVA.

Other work we do includes helping to promote events (like Texas Trail Roundup and US FreedomWalk) and National Walking Month; create advertisements when needed; create social media posts; work with clubs when asked; and aid the AVA office.

For the future, we will help promote AVA on its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Our goal is to work on national publicity with major media. This is always a challenge, but we need to reach non-volkswalkers while raising the profile of AVA. To help this, we need more people on the committee. If you are interested, please email: [publicity@ava.org](mailto:publicity@ava.org).



Thank you to our committee: Susan Ives, Pat Jewett, Dolores Grenier, Kathryn King, Hector Hernandez and Henry Rosales.

## PUBLICITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Susan Fine - Chair	Granbury, TX	SW	Dolores Greiner	Longs, SC	SE
Patricia Jewett	Portland, OR	NW	Kathryn King, APR	Maryville, TN	SE
Hector Hernandez, AVA National	San Antonio	TX	Henry Rosales, CEO – AVA National	San Antonio, TX	SW
Susan Konschak-Ives	San Antonio, TX	SW			

## Programs Committee – Diane Howell Evans, Chair

The new 2025 Special Programs “Walking with the Wild Things” and “Grain Elevators: Monarchs of the Plains” began January 1<sup>st</sup> and are off to a great start as folks look for gnomes, gargoyles, fairies, trolls and steel or concrete grain skyscrapers. A new Special Program “Anniversaries Hurrah” celebrating America’s semi-quincentennial (250<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary and the Golden (50<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary of the AVA begins January 1, 2026. The Committee is looking forward to working with our AVA Regions and clubs to host memorable events celebrating these milestones.

Over the course of the past 2 years many articles have been written for the Checkpoint and TAW to keep our walking community informed of new Special Programs, deadlines for the redemption of completed challenge books for those programs aging out, and searches for clubs interested in hosting new special programs. The Programs Committee has also worked with the Publicity Committee to develop a list of multi-day events/fests for the Checkpoint, TAW and the AVA website.

The Programs Committee is very appreciative of all the Special Program POCs, that not only volunteer their valuable time and dedication to oversee these special programs, but also provide our walking community with challenges that introduce us to new and exciting items along our trails as well as open our eyes to people, places and objects that were unnoticed in the past.

**Special Programs POCs:** Lori Anderson, Sue Capp, Tom Crabill, Sandy Croushore, Betty Green, Mike Green, Pam Greig-Davis, Karen Kaufman, Margie MacLeish, Susan Medlin, Tim Miner, Susan Noonan, Frank Sayers, Sherry Sayers, Terri Tyler, and Karen Winkle.

The Programs Committee Chair also sincerely appreciates the members of the committee who have assisted in the review of Special Program proposals and provided helpful and varied points of view on the walking community from their part of the country.

**Programs Committee Members:** Joe Blazek, Cheryl Dines-Patterson, Roxie Geiser-Weaver, Molly Hayward, Diane Howell Evans, Patrick Jones, Chris Mellen, Susan Strachan, Terri Tyler, and Marjorie Wytzka.

## PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Diane Howell Evans, Chair	Patrick Jones
Cheryl Dines-Patterson	Chris Mellen
Roxie Geiser-Weaver	Susan Strachan
Molly Hayward	Terri Tyler
Joe Blazek	Marjorie Wytzka

## Convention Committee – Jerry Wilson, Chair

The 2025 AVA Biennial Convention is upon us! A very special 2025 Convention has been created for you, highlighted with very special, one-of-a-kind walks. Spring in Las Cruces will be a great time! We hope you have come prepared to enjoy great walks, food, and friendship. A special thank you to all 2025 committee members as well as Visit Las Cruces and Destination El Paso representatives.

We always start working on the next convention before the current convention convenes, and 2025 along with 2027 is no exception. During the 2025 Convention in Las Cruces attendees should hear from location semi-finalists for 2027. Your ideas for future conventions, and proposals to host a future convention are encouraged, along with comments about the 2025 AVA Biennial Convention. Please send communications to [Convention@AVA.org](mailto:Convention@AVA.org), and label each with “2025”, “2027” or “2029”.

## CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jerry Wilson, Chair	Nora Ochoa, Visit El Paso
Veronica Castro, Visit El Paso	Susan Penneke, Volunteer Coordinator
Marian DeVaul, Convention Registration	Eileen Roberts, Sun Country Striders
Susan Fine, Publicity Chair	Henry Rosales, Convention Contracts & Coordination
Jeff Giddings, Registration System	Steve Sandridge, Convention Speakers
Erin Grosse, Convention Finances	Leslie Stone, Convention Delegate Credentialing

Hector Hernandez, IT and Convention Publications  
 Albert Herrera, Visit Las Cruces  
 Helen Hull, Trailmaster  
 Marisol Mendoza, Coordinator, Chihuahua,  
 Convention Bureau

Andy Thomas, Silent Auction Chair  
 Henrietta Vargas, Sun Country Striders  
 Liz Vega, Visit Las Cruces  
 Edgar Cazares, Director, Chihuahua, Convention  
 Bureau

## BIG GIVE COMMITTEE

ED McCabe - Chair	Dripping Springs, TX	SW
Susan Fine	Granbury, TX	SW
Hector Hernandez – AVA National	San Antonio, TX	SW
Robert (Bob) Buzolich	N Las Vegas, NV	PA
Nancy Wittenberg	Puyallup, WA	NW

Phyllis Olson	Urbandale, IA	NC
Henry Rosales, CEO – AVA National	San Antonio, TX	SW
Patricia Jewett	Portland, OR	NW
Kathryn King, APR	Maryville, TN	SE

Incoming call...

Rogers, AR

Decline Accept

**DESTINATION ROGERS** AR  
*it all starts with a visit...*

From the forested beauty of Hobbs State Park to the vibrant streets of downtown Rogers, every walk is an adventure.

WEBSITE TRAVEL GUIDE

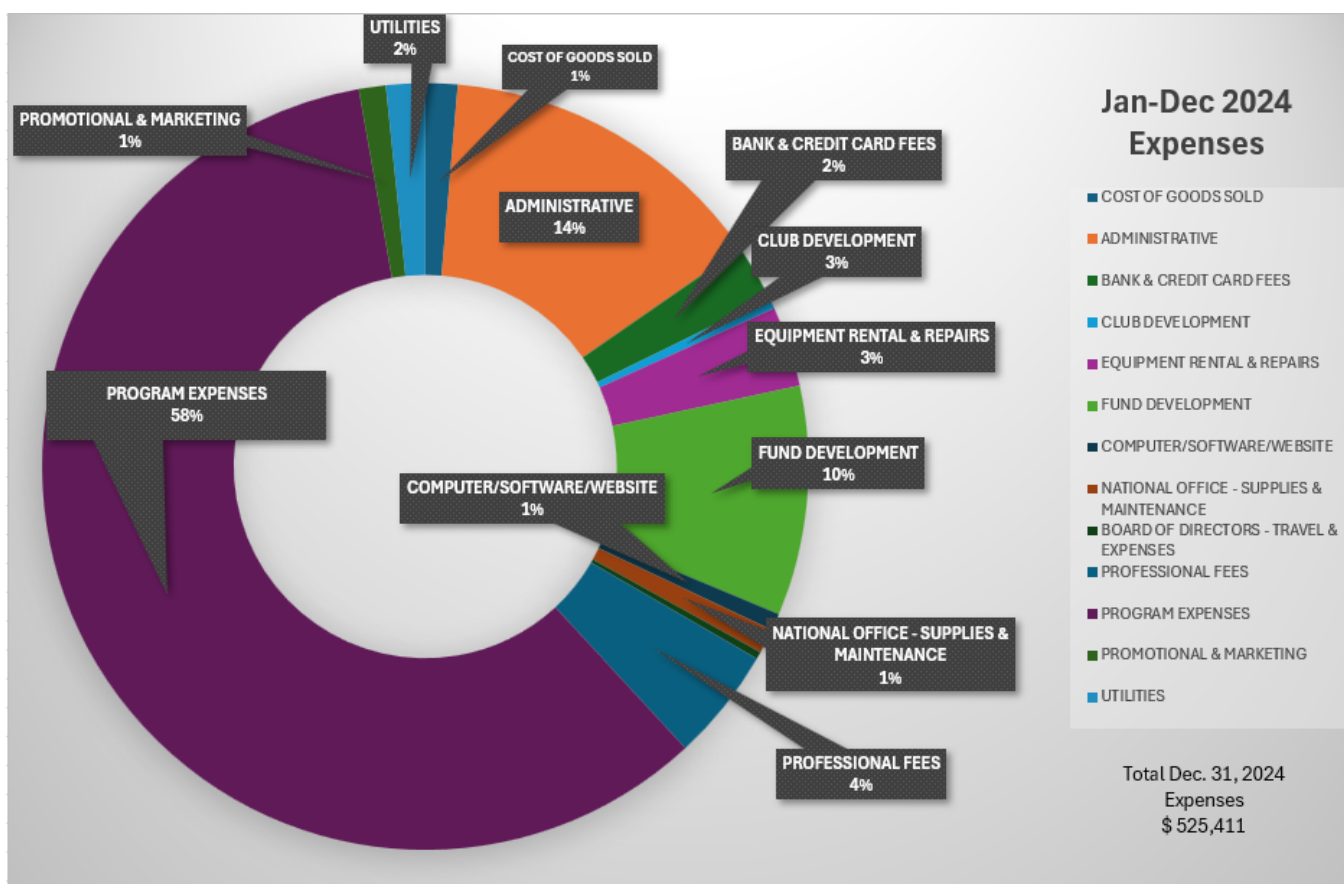
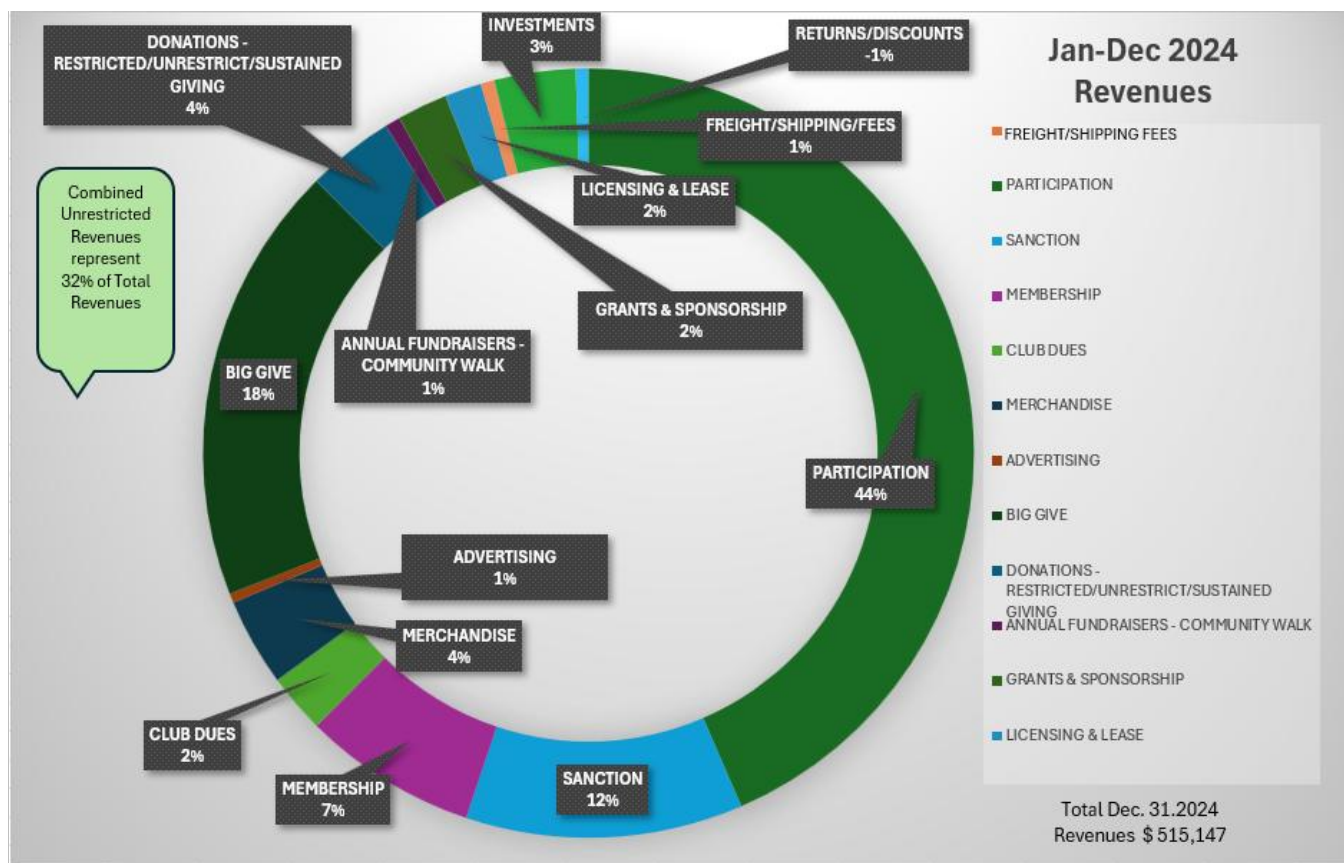
TRAIL MAPS NEWSLETTER

WWW.DESTINATIONROGERS.COM

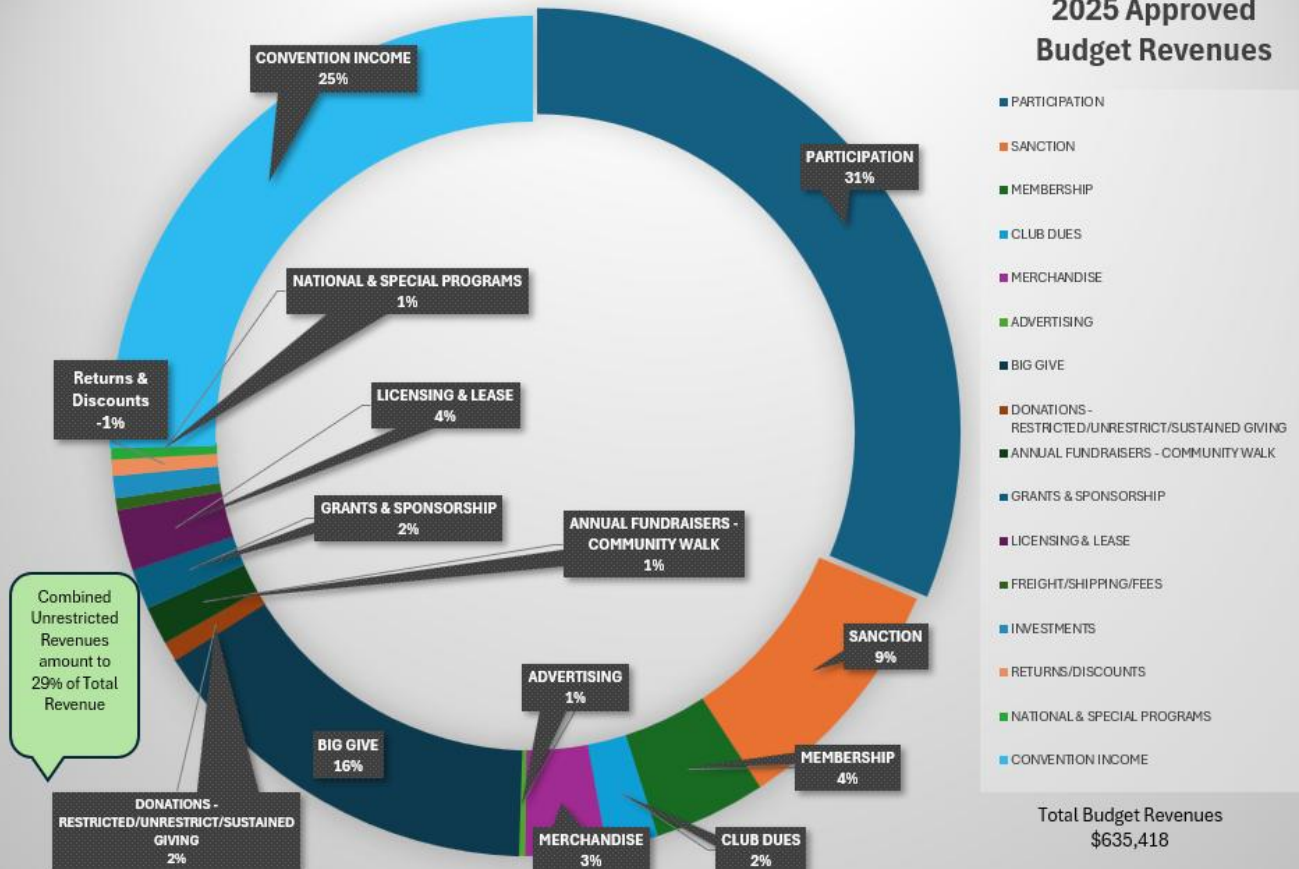
Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2024 PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT			JANUARY - DECEMBER 2025 APPROVED BUDGET		
REVENUE			REVENUE		
PARTICIPATION	\$226,548		PARTICIPATION		\$201,842
SANCTION	\$60,569		SANCTION		\$60,520
MEMBERSHIP	\$38,093		MEMBERSHIP		\$27,695
CLUB DUES	\$13,019		CLUB DUES		\$12,900
MERCHANDISE	\$19,202		MERCHANDISE		\$20,000
ADVERTISING	\$2,061		ADVERTISING		\$2,000
BIG GIVE	\$96,213		BIG GIVE		\$100,000
DONATIONS - RESTRICTED/UNRESTRICT/SUSTAINED GIVING	\$19,095		DONATIONS - RESTRICTED/UNRESTRICT/SUSTAINED GIVING		\$5,000
ANNUAL FUNDRAISERS - COMMUNITY WALK	\$3,333		ANNUAL FUNDRAISERS - COMMUNITY WALK		\$9,500
GRANTS & SPONSORSHIP	\$11,020		GRANTS & SPONSORSHIP		\$10,000
LICENSING & LEASE	\$8,042		LICENSING & LEASE		\$15,000
FREIGHT/SHIPPING/FEES	\$3,009		FREIGHT/SHIPPING/FEES		\$3,000
INVESTMENTS	\$17,702		INVESTMENTS		\$5,500
RETURNS/DISCOUNTS	-\$2,759		RETURNS/DISCOUNTS		-\$4,050
			NATIONAL & SPECIAL PROGRAMS		\$3,500
TOTAL REVENUE	\$515,147		CONVENTION INCOME		\$163,011
			TOTAL REVENUE		\$635,418
EXPENSES			EXPENSES		
COST OF GOODS SOLD	\$7,120		COST OF GOODS SOLD		\$14,200
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$73,596		ADMINISTRATIVE		\$81,652
BANK & CREDIT CARD FEES	\$12,566		BANK & CREDIT CARD FEES		\$8,000
CLUB DEVELOPMENT	\$2,488		CLUB DEVELOPMENT		\$2,000
EQUIPMENT RENTAL & REPAIRS	\$17,780		EQUIPMENT RENTAL & REPAIRS		\$15,500
FUND DEVELOPMENT	\$50,874		FUND DEVELOPMENT		\$45,704
COMPUTER/SOFTWARE/WEBSITE	\$3,768		COMPUTER/SOFTWARE/WEBSITE		\$2,500
NATIONAL OFFICE - SUPPLIES & MAINTENANCE	\$5,450		NATIONAL OFFICE - SUPPLIES & MAINTENANCE		\$4,000
BOARD OF DIRECTORS - TRAVEL & EXPENSES	\$1,634		BOARD OF DIRECTORS - TRAVEL & EXPENSES		\$2,000
PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$25,042		PROFESSIONAL FEES		\$13,000
PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$310,498		PROGRAM EXPENSES		\$343,005
PROMOTIONAL & MARKETING	\$5,957		PROMOTIONAL & MARKETING		\$5,000
UTILITIES	\$8,639		UTILITIES		\$7,500
			CONVENTION EXPENSES		\$91,357
TOTAL EXPENSES & COST OF GOODS SOLD	\$525,411		TOTAL EXPENSES & COST OF GOODS SOLD		\$635,418
NET PROFIT OR LOSS	-\$10,264		NET PROFIT OR LOSS		\$0

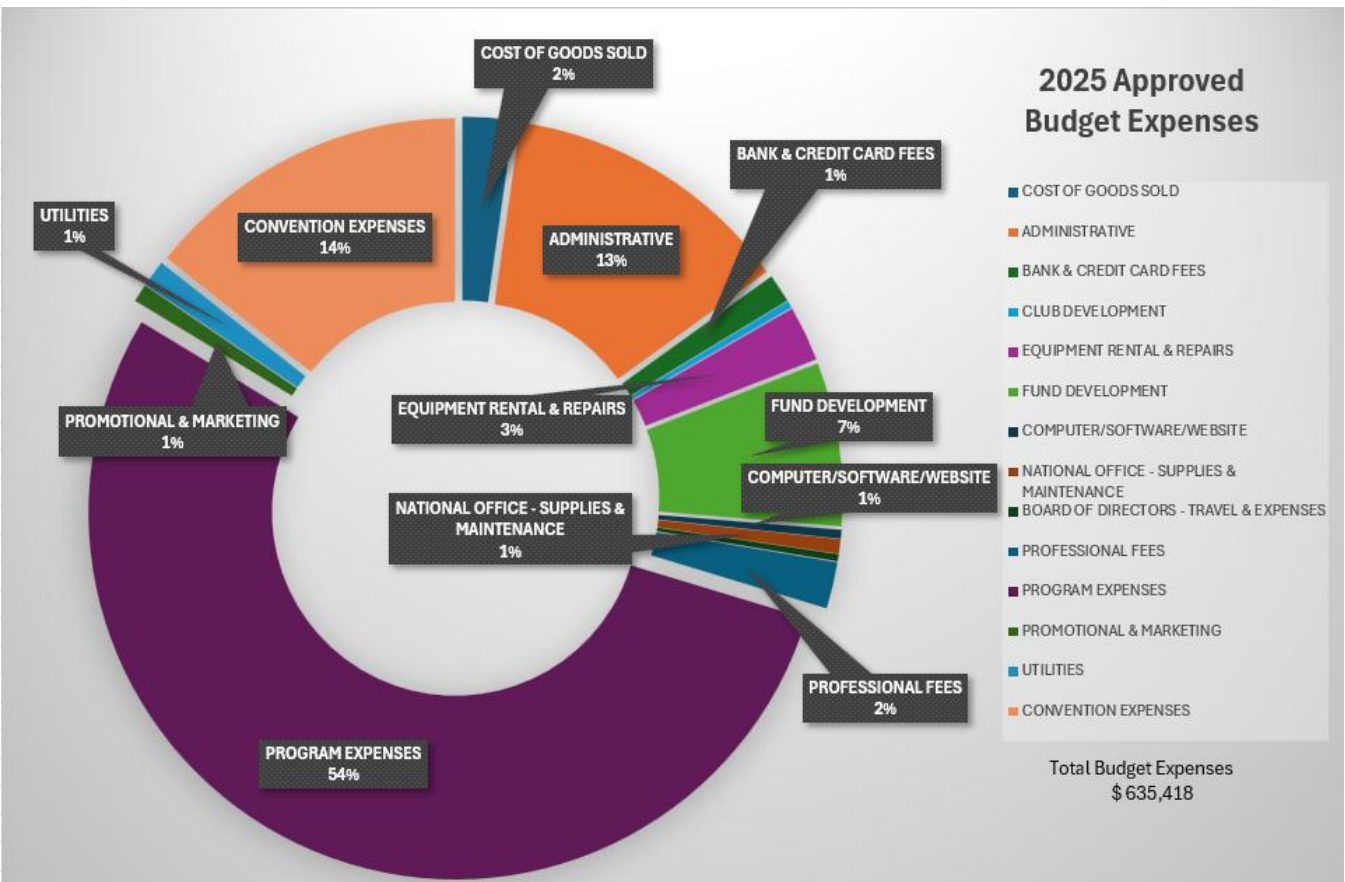




## 2025 Approved Budget Revenues

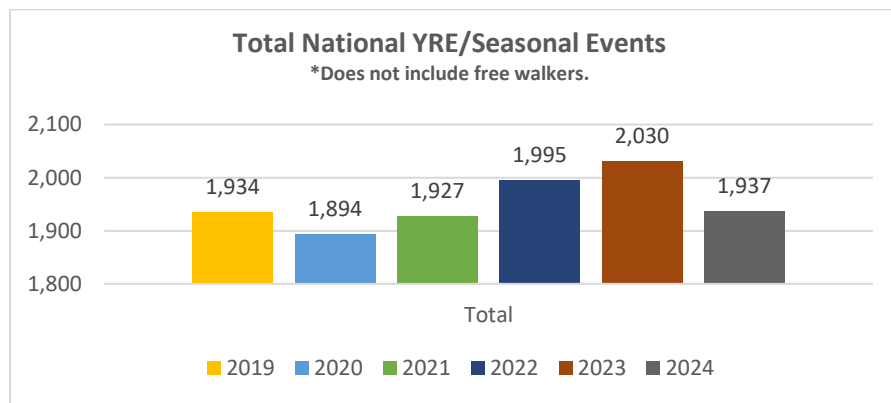


## 2025 Approved Budget Expenses

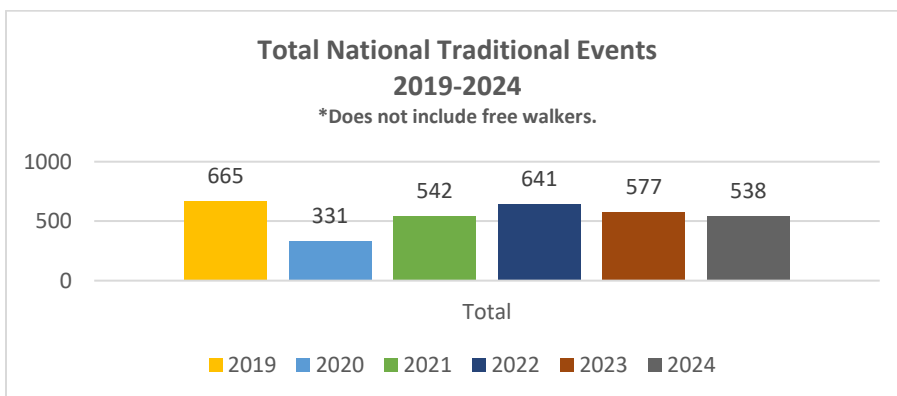


## Total Number of Sanctioned Events 2019-2024

Total Number of YRE /Seasonal Events by Region						
Region	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Atlantic	287	281	293	313	315	231
Mid-America	126	118	116	117	116	111
North Central	148	164	161	152	156	137
Northeast	118	121	120	128	131	122
Northwest	415	410	429	443	464	487
Pacific	271	246	252	249	249	249
Rocky Mountain	71	66	62	64	91	95
South Central	126	119	126	122	117	130
Southeast	211	209	207	216	214	210
Southwest	161	160	161	191	177	165
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,934</b>	<b>1,894</b>	<b>1,927</b>	<b>1,995</b>	<b>2,030</b>	<b>1,937</b>

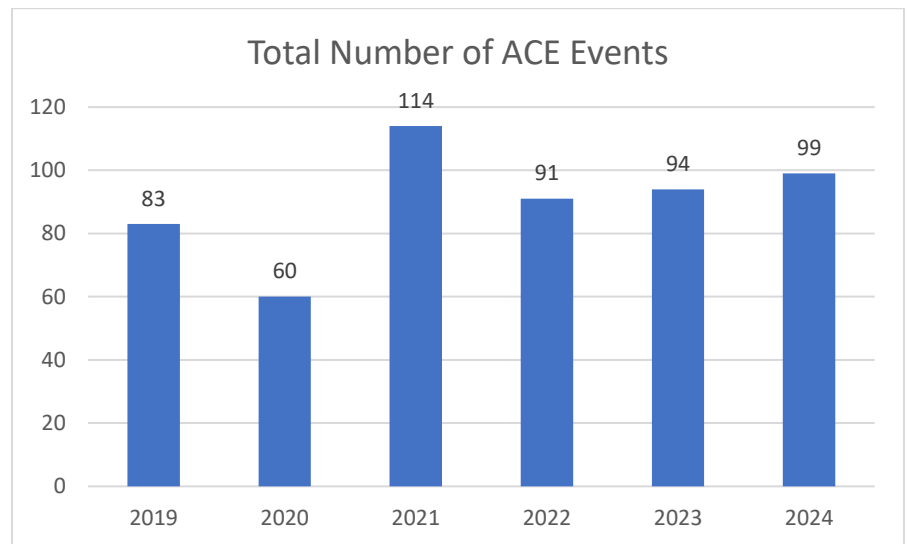
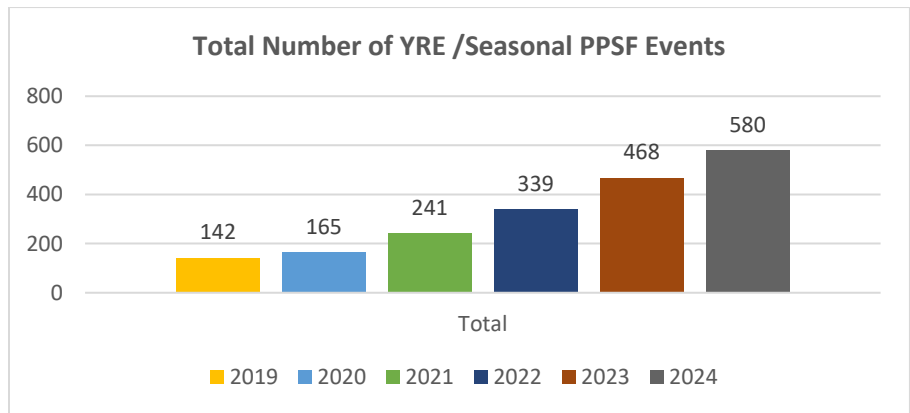


Total Number of Traditional Events						
Region	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Atlantic	100	41	74	93	76	66
Mid-America	68	37	72	78	66	59
North Central	72	42	55	68	75	75
Northeast	45	26	46	44	43	36
Northwest	123	57	89	110	113	123
Pacific	62	24	28	34	32	26
Rocky Mountain	23	10	19	36	18	16
South Central	48	29	52	52	43	38
Southeast	58	33	58	75	59	54
Southwest	66	32	49	51	52	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>538</b>



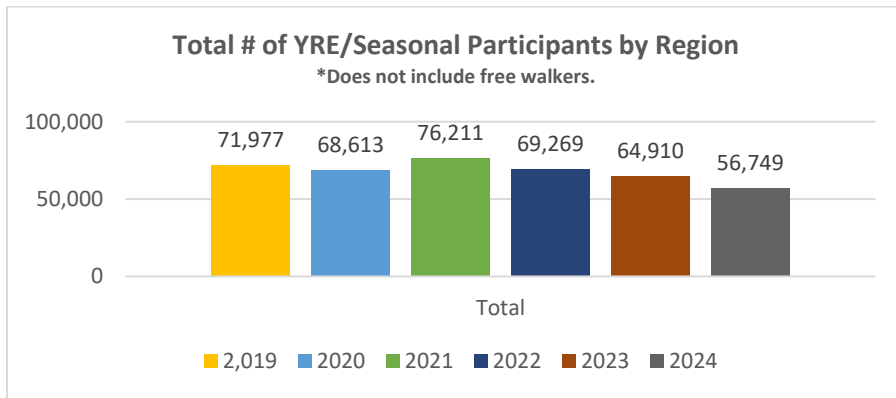


Total Number of YRE /Seasonal PPSF Events by Region						
Region	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Atlantic	45	47	50	60	89	112
Mid-America	1	1	0	16	28	31
North Central	0	0	0	0	3	0
Northeast	12	13	22	29	34	40
Northwest	47	63	89	106	130	185
Pacific	13	19	28	24	50	53
Rocky Mountain	13	11	31	33	58	64
South Central	0	0	0	12	17	30
Southeast	11	11	21	25	27	33
Southwest	0	0	0	34	32	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>580</b>



## 2019-2024 Participation

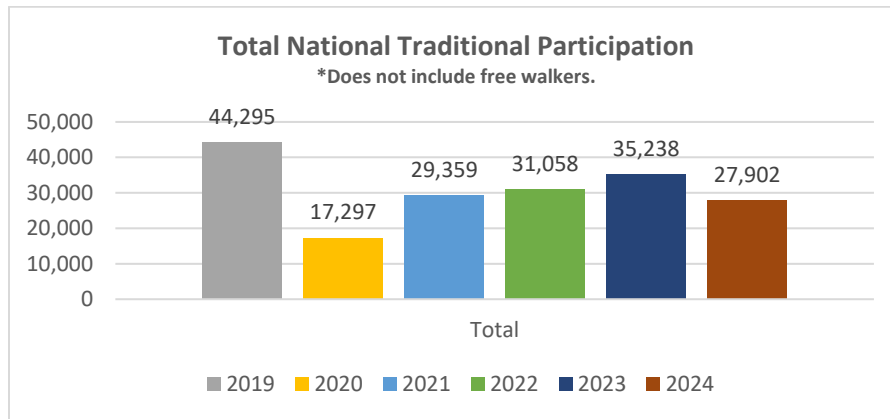
Total # of YRE/Seasonal Participants by Region						
Region	2,019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Atlantic	12,317	12,566	12,781	11,900	11,286	10,275
Mid-America	5,111	4,674	5,700	4,362	4,441	3,655
North Central	4,894	6,030	8,789	4,512	5067	3,971
Northeast	5,309	2,872	3,950	3,860	3,278	3,537
Northwest	17,047	17,630	18,405	18,407	16,162	13,310
Pacific	7,495	6,508	7,257	6,668	5,774	6,262
Rocky Mountain	2,126	1,386	1,722	1612	1,847	1,567
South Central	4,943	4,364	5,121	4,584	4,092	4,174
Southeast	7,723	6,778	7,690	8,179	7,630	6,059
Southwest	5,012	5,805	4,796	5,185	5,333	3,939
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,977</b>	<b>68,613</b>	<b>76,211</b>	<b>69,269</b>	<b>64,910</b>	<b>56,749</b>



Total # of YRE/Seasonal Free Walkers by Region						
Region	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Atlantic	456	209	197	167	132	NA
Mid-America	82	73	141	84	101	NA
North Central	19	11	40	15	15	NA
Northeast	182	112	289	249	188	NA
Northwest	5210	1895	2,331	2,288	2,152	NA
Pacific	1633	1365	1,804	1,641	1,563	NA
Rocky Mountain	73	56	48	124	103	NA
South Central	56	16	53	26	32	NA
Southeast	643	409	394	410	473	NA
Southwest	276	182	123	76	84	NA
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,630</b>	<b>4,328</b>	<b>5,420</b>	<b>5080</b>	<b>4,843</b>	<b>NA</b>



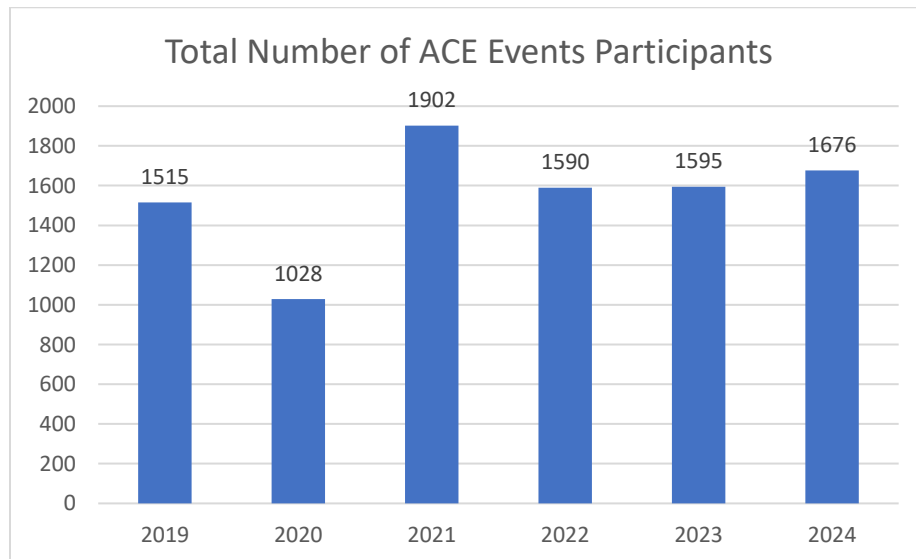
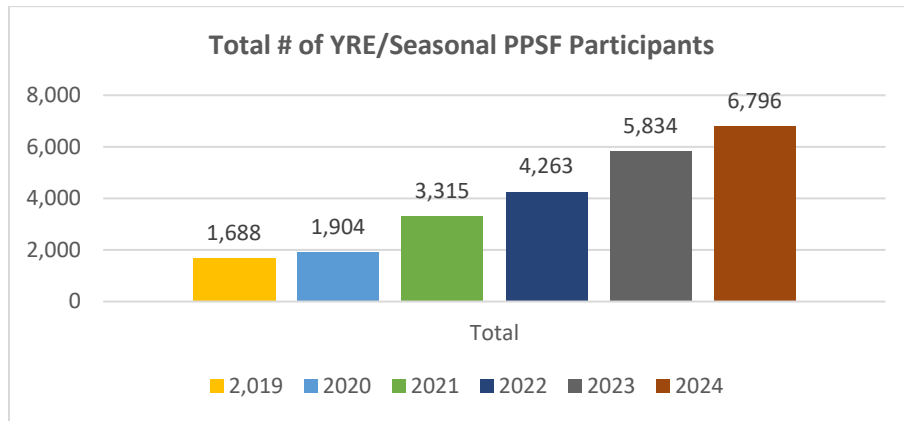
Total Number of Traditional Participants						
Region	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Atlantic	5,247	1,590	3,176	3,814	3,579	3,082
Mid-America	2,966	928	2,157	2,855	1,465	1,173
North Central	12,787	5,700	10,342	9,822	12,558	12,256
Northeast	5,207	1,189	2,208	1,777	1,756	1,449
Northwest	7,137	1,721	3,702	4,020	3,689	3,470
Pacific	2,478	728	1,096	1,120	957	902
Rocky Mountain	760	254	570	1,157	565	537
South Central	1,435	841	1,485	1,486	1,081	1,275
Southeast	2,212	1,446	1,746	1,969	1,916	1,587
Southwest	4,066	2,900	2,877	3,038	7,672	2,171
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,295</b>	<b>17,297</b>	<b>29,359</b>	<b>31,058</b>	<b>35,238</b>	<b>27,902</b>



Total Number of Traditional Free Walkers						
Region	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Atlantic	599	93	228	223	255	NA
Mid-America	351	188	335	284	182	NA
North Central	40	0	18	0	0	NA
Northeast	100	37	53	43	51	NA
Northwest	2,523	677	1,197	1,310	1,327	NA
Pacific	895	337	392	314	271	NA
Rocky Mountain	996	355	606	647	422	NA
South Central	74	18	11	27	4	NA
Southeast	79	45	112	60	13	NA
Southwest	4	1	6	10	0	NA
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,661</b>	<b>1,751</b>	<b>2,958</b>	<b>2,918</b>	<b>2,525</b>	<b>NA</b>



Total # of YRE/Seasonal PPSF Participants by Region						
Region	2,019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Atlantic	482	927	921	963	1,440	1,534
Mid-America	30	49	0	192	381	430
North Central	0	0	0	0	19	0
Northeast	219	34	216	421	263	638
Northwest	625	711	1,037	1,234	1,523	1,820
Pacific	135	42	450	171	616	603
Rocky Mountain	98	66	518	511	669	597
South Central	0	0	0	208	232	519
Southeast	99	74	173	262	193	162
Southwest	0	0	0	301	498	493
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,688</b>	<b>1,904</b>	<b>3,315</b>	<b>4,263</b>	<b>5,834</b>	<b>6,796</b>





## AVA State Associations and Active Clubs

As of April 18, 2024

### ALABAMA

Alabama Amblers  
Capital City Wanderers

### ALASKA

Anchorage Volkssport Club

### ARIZONA

Saguaro Sun Striders  
Thunder Mountain Trekkers  
Tucson Volkssport Klub

### ARKANSAS

Gold Boot Walkers  
Ozark Hill Hikers

### CALIFORNIA

**California Volkssport Association Inc.**

Bay Bandits Volksmarch Club  
Central Coast Beach Boardwalkers  
Delta Tule Trekkers  
Low Desert Roadrunners  
Placer Pacers  
Sacramento Walking Sticks  
Sonoma County Stompers  
South Bay Striders  
Tahoe Trail Trekkers  
Vaca Valley Volks

### COLORADO

Colorado Springs Walking Club  
Falcon Wanderers  
Rocky Mountain Wanderers  
Woodland Wanderers

### CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club

### DELAWARE

First State Webfooters

### FLORIDA

Emerald Coast Volkssport Club  
First Coast Trail Forgers Walking Club  
Happy Wanderers

Mid-Florida Milers Walking Club  
Pensacola Volksmarch Club  
Suncoast Sandpipers Volkssport Club

### GEORGIA

Alpine Helen Volksmarch Club  
Georgia Walkers  
Southeast Striders Walking Club

### HAWAII

Menehune Marchers

### IDAHO

Treasure Valley Volkssports

### ILLINOIS

Gateway Milers NFP  
Illinois Trekkers Volkssport Club  
Kishwaukee Valley Wanderers  
Ridgewalkers Walking Club  
Windy City Walkers

### INDIANA

**Indiana Volkssport Assn.**

Bedford Hiking Club  
Hoosier Hikers  
Indy 'G' Walkers  
Three Rivers Strollers  
Whitewater Valley Walkers

### IOWA

Greater Des Moines Volkssport Assn.

### KANSAS

Kansas JayWalkers  
Sunflower Sod Stompers

### MAINE

Southern Maine Volkssport Assn.

### MARYLAND

**Maryland Volkssport Assn.**  
  
Annapolis Amblers  
Antietam Pathfinders Volksmarch Club, Inc.

Baltimore Walking Club  
Columbia Volksmarch Club  
Freestate Happy Wanderers  
Great Greenbelt Volksmarchers, Inc.  
Seneca Valley Sugarloafers

### MASSACHUSETTS

Two Town Walking Club  
Walk 'N Mass Volkssport Club

### MICHIGAN

Michigan Pathfinders  
Washtenaw Wanderers Volkssporting Club

### MINNESOTA

Lake Country Wanderers  
NorthStar Trail Travelers  
Twin Cities Volkssport

### MISSOURI

Clay-Platte Trackers of Kansas City  
Dogwood Trailblazers  
Pace Setters Volkssport Club  
St Louis Walkers

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Nebraska Wander Freunde Trailblazers  
Northwest Nebraska Trails Association

### NEVADA

Las Vegas High Rollers & Strollers

### NEW JERSEY

Princeton Area Walkers

### NEW MEXICO

Double Eagle Hike & Bike Club  
Kiwanis Club of Raton  
Sun Country Striders

### NEW YORK

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Germania of Poughkeepsie Volkssport  
Niagara Frontier Volkssport Club  
The Fingerlakes Region Volkssport Club  
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- Metrolina Walkers
- Paws & Effect
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- Triangle Trailblazers
- Winston Wanderers

**NORTH DAKOTA**

- Bismarck-Mandan CVB
- Koda Manipe Volkssport Club

**OHIO**

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- Heart of Ohio Hikers
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- Cedar Milers
- Columbia River Volkssport Club
- Corvallis Cruisers
- East County Windwalkers
- Rose City Roamers
- Silverton Walk Abouts
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- Chester County Red Rovers
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- Susquehanna Rovers Volksmarch Club
- York White Rose Wanderers

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- East Tennessee Wanderers
- Tuck-A-See Wanderers

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- Colorado River Walkers
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Twin State Volkssport Assn.

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- Northern Virginia Volksmarchers
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- U.S. Freedom Walk Festival Club
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- Central Washington Sun Striders
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- Emerald City Wanderers
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- Four-Plus Foolhardy Folks
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Buffalo Pathfinders

**America's Walking Club extends its heartfelt gratitude to the compassionate donors who have championed our mission with their generous gifts. Thank you to all who participated in our Big Give 2023 & 2024 fundraisers. Your unwavering support raised a remarkable total of \$188,973 for the 2023 & 2024 Big Give campaigns.**



*"Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love."*  
- Lao Tzu

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Zaragoza, Federico  
Zeitler, Mary Frances  
Zook, Robert & Letitia

**We are deeply touched by your generous Big Give donations made in honor or memory of your loved ones. Your contributions not only honor the cherished memories of those we hold dear, but they also help create a positive impact in our community. Thank you.**

Barbara Nuss  
Bob Gambert  
Bob Shockey  
Candy Burtch  
Charles "Pat" Patterson  
Charlotte Phillips  
Cheryl Palmer  
Chuck Head

Claire Conants  
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Marianne Gray	Phill Wilder	Rose Edmiston	Susan Medlin
Morna Anderson	Preston and Liz Johnson	Rose, a great 4Plus member	Suzi Glass
Nancy Wittenberg	Ray Rudacille	Rudy	Thelma Goris
Noah Cassares	Rick White	Ruth Cade	Therese Glatzhofer
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Pat Patterson	Ron Cramer	Susan	

***America's Walking Club sincerely appreciates those caring donors who supported our mission through their generous gifts.***

***Thank you to all our donors who contributed from June 1, 2023 - March 31, 2025***

Asheville Amblers	Clancy, Jeanne	Jones, Rita	Principle Foundation
First State Webfooters	Clark, Deborah	Kaufman, Karen	Prost-Domasky, Janine
Global Adventurers	Clawson, Vickie	Kellaris, Wendi	Ramsay, Barbara &
Keystone State Volkssport Assn.	Conyers, Glen & Doris	Kimmel, Joan	Christopher
Liberty Bell Wanderers	Corey, Debby	Kirby, Patricia	Reidy, Jennifer
Nebraska Wanderfreunde	Crisfulla, Patricia	Knox, Barbara	Ricaurte, Guillermo & Sara
Trailblazers	Curtis-Klein, Shirley	Koert, Joyce	Ridge, William
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**We are deeply touched by your generous donations made in honor or memory of your loved ones. Your contributions not only honor the cherished memories of those we hold dear, but they also help create a positive impact in our community.**

**Thank you.**

Betty L. Green	Jerry Golmanavich	Larry Boehm	Renate Sabulsky
Charles Gilbert	Joan Lampart	Mark Johnson	Sharon Snyder
Dorothy West ( Lee West's mom )	Karen Dye	Mel Bohn	Susan Medlin
Edie Williams	Ken Eberhart	Patricia Thompson & Sandra Evett	
Jean Vik	Kenneth Elbert	Phil Wilder	

***AVA extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Friends of America's Walking Club Sustained Giving Program for their generous donations made from June 1, 2023, to March 31, 2025. Thank you for being a part of our monthly donor community. We appreciate your generosity and commitment to supporting our mission.***

Susan A. Medlin  
Diane Duesterhoeft  
Susan Fine  
Heidi Foster  
David E. Freshwater

Helen Hull  
John & Sheila McClellan  
Robert McDaniel  
Henry Rosales  
Scott Steele Jr.

Andy Thomas  
Phil & Marial Wilder  
Nancy Wittenberg

*"Generosity can make a day, even change a life. Your willingness to give makes you a catalyst for change." –Anonymous*

### **Planned Giving Program**

*"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away." – William Shakespeare*

**Thank you to all our**

**AVA Angels**



Patricia Brinker  
Cathy Johnson ( 2022 Donor)  
Susan A. Medlin  
Timothy & Cecilia Miner  
Jerry Rehmar  
Nancy Wittenberg  
Robert Yannaccone ( 2023 Donor)

### **Have You Been Looking For Something Meaningful To Invest In?**

Planned Giving presents the perfect opportunity to support the American Volkssport Association, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. One of the simplest ways for you to make a future contribution to support the AVA is through your will or trust. Your gift represents an investment in the health of our community and the future of thousands of event participants seeking fun, fitness, and friendship. If you have questions, please contact our President & CEO, Henry Rosales, at [henry@ava.org](mailto:henry@ava.org) or (210) 659-2112

**AVA: America's Walking Club would like to thank all of the clubs, RDs, and other individuals who donated items to the Silent Auction for this year. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated. As of April 23, 2025.**

Sound Steppers Volkssport Club  
Keystone State Volkssport Association  
Volkssportverein Friedrichsburg  
Liberty Bell Wanderers  
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York White Rose Wanderers  
Susquehanna Rovers Volkssmarch  
Organ Mountain Outfitters  
Leslie Stone

Saint Louis Walkers  
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Tito's Handmade Vodka

### Acknowledgments

Electronic Caregiver  
New Mexico State University, Department of University Recreation  
Las Cruces Fire Department and Las Cruces Police Department Joint Honor Guard  
Alex Mares, Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park  
Gabriel Medano, City of Rocks State Park  
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White Sands Natural Area  
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Socorro, NM  
Western New Mexico University, Silver City, NM  
Sun Country Striders Club, Las Cruces, NM

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Jim Eckles, Las Cruces, NM  
Alexandra McKinney, Instructional Coordinator Supervisor at the Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site  
Erin Grosso, Marian DeVaul, Hector Hernandez, AVA National Office  
Barbara Toth, Founder and Executive Director of Vulnerable Road Users NM  
Suzanne Matyas, Rails to Trails Conservancy  
Bluebird Running Company

### Volunteers – We Appreciate You!

We would like to thank all the volunteers that made this convention possible. Your generosity with you time and cheerful, helpful attitude is greatly appreciated. We want to especially thank the community volunteers from Visit Las Cruces and Electronic Caregiver. Many thanks for your help.

### *We dedicate our work to the memory of Darrill....*

*Darill loved to organize, was never afraid to dream big, and put his heart into making those dreams a reality.*

*He started out with the El Paso club and worked AVA headquarters for about 2 years trying to secure the convention for Las Cruces. When we voted to continue the club, he was eager to be trailmaster. He used his experiences volunteering at other AVA events to build on his knowledge of running events as well as having a large role in a national meeting hosted by the El Paso Zoo where he was also a volunteer. He would be proud to know his dream finally came true.*



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

**American Volkssport Association**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> Biennial National Convention**  
**Membership Meeting**  
**April 30, 3:45p.m.-5:30p.m. & May 2, 2:30p.m.-4:30p.m., 2025**  
**Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E University Ave, Las Cruces, NM 88001**

***Membership Meeting Agenda***

**Part 1, Wednesday, April 30, 2025 3:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

1. Opening Ceremony – Color Guard
2. Call to Order
3. Credentials Report
4. Welcome and Introductions
5. Welcome by the Mayor of Las Cruces
6. Remarks by Antonio Giuseppe Colantonio, IVV President
7. Approval of Meeting Rules
8. Approval of Agenda
9. Announcement of Official Slate of Officer Candidates
10. Officer Candidates comments
11. Board Chair's Report --
12. Finance Chair's Report – (2025/2026 Budget)
13. Introduction of 23<sup>rd</sup> AVA Biennial Convention Committee
14. Necrology
15. Recess

**Part 2, Friday, May 2, 2025, 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

1. Credentials Report
2. Election of Officers
3. Bylaws Amendments
  - a. Administrative and Efficiency changes numbers 01 – 06
  - b. Delegate comments.
  - c. Vote to approve Administrative and Efficiency changes numbers 01 – 06.
  - d. Membership changes numbers 07 – 11
  - e. Delegate comments.
  - f. Vote to approve Membership changes numbers 07 – 11.
4. Audience Comments
5. Presentation of new Board
6. Closing Remarks
7. Closing Ceremony – Color Guard



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