

*"The heart that gives thanks  
is a happy one, for we  
cannot feel thankful and  
unhappy at the same time."*

-Douglas Wood

On behalf of the AVA Board of Directors and the AVA National Office,  
we are very grateful for your continued support!



AMERICA'S  
WALKING CLUB  
— ESTABLISHED 1976 —

OCTOBER

2021

VOLUME 30

NO. 10

# CHECKPOINT

[WWW.AVA.ORG](http://WWW.AVA.ORG)

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**\$90,015 RAISED!**

*Thank you  
for leaving  
your footprint!*

## WALK AROUND FLORIDA 30



**November 5-7, 2021**

Four walks and a swim at the home of  
the world's most famous beach:  
**Daytona Beach.**



*Sponsored by*

**Happy Wanderers**  
John McClellan  
(781) 686-0660  
johnmc82@cfl.rr.com  
Happywanderers.org

**Mid-Florida Walkers**  
Cathy Metherell  
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Alice Lawrence  
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## \$90,015 RAISED TO DATE! THANK YOU FOR LEAVING YOUR FOOTPRINT

**Wow, \$90,015 raised!** Cheers! Today we toast to you because you made this possible. Thank you for making a difference through your compassion and generosity. It is because of you we have surpassed our Big Give fundraising goal of \$90,000! To date, about **420 individuals** and **60 AVA clubs** have made a gift and left their footprint.\* Special thanks to our Peer-to-Peer fundraising champions - together they raised **\$6,360!** An additional **\$2,625\*\*** was raised through the special Match Minutes; thank you to all who set their alarms to give during these times. We wouldn't be where we are without your support and your big heart.

Our Big Give fundraiser is not over yet. If you have not had the opportunity to give, there is still time! Our annual fundraiser ends **October 31, 2021**. To make a contribution please visit **ava.org** or mail your donation to the AVA National Office. Make sure to stay tuned for more Big Give updates. At the end of the campaign, we will announce our Big Giveaway winners and this year's Regional Challenge winner. Don't miss out!

\*Donor numbers include duplicate donors.

\*\*\$2,625 is included in the total amount raised

Please scan QR code to download pdf.

## **AVA BOARD MEETING NOTICE**

The AVA Board of Directors will convene for their quarterly meeting on

**Wednesday, November 10, at 7:00 p.m. Central Time.**

Board members should email agenda items asap to the Nancy Wittenberg, Board Chair at [chair@ava.org](mailto:chair@ava.org) and copy Henry Rosales, CEO, at [henry@ava.org](mailto:henry@ava.org)

***This will be an electronic Teams meeting.***

To join the meeting please [click here](#) or in the link in the Club help pdf. [Click here for Club help pdf](#). If you would like a calendar invite with link please email Hector.

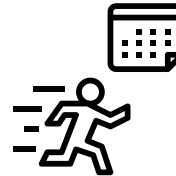
## **IMPORTANT AVA BOARD MEETING DEADLINES**

**Tuesday, October 12, 2021** – Deadline to submit agenda items.

**Thursday, October 14, 2021** – Agenda goes out to Board and Club officers.

**Friday, October 22, 2021** – All Board and Committee reports are due to the National Office. [Click here for the Committee report form](#).

**Thursday, October 28, 2021** – Board meeting packets emailed to all Directors and Deputy Directors.



Thank You...

I am grateful to have the opportunity to work with some of the most amazing people who stood by me when the going got tough. These have been challenging times for all of us as we fight to sustain our health, friendships, and a normal life during a time of isolation. Words are powerless to express my gratitude to everyone. Your support of the AVA, the Big Give, the IML's., the 2023 Convention, and so much more, has been remarkable. Thank you for supporting our AVA community!

In anticipation, I look forward to the 2023 Olympiad, February 19-23, 2023. This will be an event like none other and something we can all be proud of. The Olympiad has the potential to bring national exposure and sponsorship to the organization and not just San Antonio. Special thanks to the National Executive Council members who had the vision and persistency to make the Olympiad a reality for the AVA!

*"In the end, though maybe we must all give up trying to pay back the people in this world who sustain our lives. In the end, maybe it's wiser to surrender before the miraculous scope of human generosity and to just keep saying thank you forever and sincerely for as long as we have voices." — Elizabeth Gilbert*

## **2023 IVV OLYMPIAD UPDATES**

If you would like to share a story with us about your Olympiad experience, we would love to publish it on Facebook and in the TAW. Please send your stories to [scoutpjwriter@gmail.com](mailto:scoutpjwriter@gmail.com) and put Olympiad Story on the subject line.

### **Olympiad Facebook Page!**

Please go to [www.facebook.com/2023IVVOlympiadUSA](https://www.facebook.com/2023IVVOlympiadUSA) and "like" us! Invite your volkssporting friends and fellow club members to like us. Help us build awareness and excitement as we move towards 2023! Look for the latest on the joint Olympiad/IML events and answers to questions you may have.

**Upcoming AVA/IML/IVV Events.** We need clubs, State Organizations and Regional Directors, to keep us informed about upcoming multi-event weekends, State or Regional Conferences where you'd like to have information about the Olympiad. Our committee can provide the STD cards and (in future) other products; and we can send a team or "zoom" in with a short presentation on the event.

*To order STD cards for your organization or event – contact us at [olympiad2023@ava.org](mailto:olympiad2023@ava.org)*



Olympiad Planning Volunteers Are Still Needed! We are continuing to recruit volunteers for our planning team(s) – with sub-committees being formed now in areas such as large-event planning, logistics, transportation, finance, opening/closing ceremonies, marketing & publicity, social media, and cultural/language skills.

Some of the work can only be done locally in San Antonio, but there are many tasks already being worked on by volunteering across the AVA through the magic of online/distributed work processes. We are using e-mail, Zoom, MS Teams and Dropbox.

If you want to be a part of it, please contact us at [olympiad2023@ava.org](mailto:olympiad2023@ava.org)

THANK YOU

PEER-TO-PEER

Fundraisers

| Fundraisers        |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| 1 Marian DeVaul    | \$1,665.00 |
| 2 Nancy Wittenberg | \$1,605.00 |
| 3 ROBERT BUZOLICH  | \$850.00   |
| 4 Kathryn King     | \$625.00   |
| 5 Henry Rosales    | \$585.00   |
| 6 Hector Hernandez | \$380.00   |
| 7 Erin Grosso      | \$250.00   |
| 8 Peggy Kugel      | \$200.00   |
| 9 Karen Winkle     | \$200.00   |



## ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST - MARIAN DEVAUL

### QUARTERLY REPORTING

It's time once again to submit your 3rd Quarter Participation Reports, even if you had zero participants. Don't forget, the deadline is midnight on October 31st, and all reports submitted after this date are past due and subject to late fees.

### OCTOBER PATCHES

If you missed the opportunity to pre-order the October patch, we still have patches available for purchase. Please contact [marian@ava.org](mailto:marian@ava.org), if you are interested in purchasing these beautiful seasonal patches for your event.



Click on image for order form.

### CLUB FINANCIAL REPORTS

If your club's fiscal year end is in June, it is time to start preparing your required financial documents. You will need to file your 990 E-Postcard, submit the Annual Financial Report (AFR), and review/update your club officers in the ESR. An IRS user guide, and the AVA Retention policy for financial and event records have been posted on the AVA website under "Clubs Only". Please submit a copy of your filings to [marian@ava.org](mailto:marian@ava.org) no later than November 15, 2021. The financials for clubs who switched to the calendar year ending in December, will not be due until May 15, 2022.

Thank You.



## IT SPECIALIST - HECTOR HERNANDEZ

### CLUB BANNER UPDATE

The second batch has been ordered. We have 40 banners currently in the making. Sorry for the lateness. I have been working as I can on getting the Club logos up to printing standards so that you can get a fresh looking banner. Please give me a little more time to get the next 40 done and ready. I hope to have them ready and ordered soon.

*"The Tahoe Trail Trekkers love our new flag! Thanks AVA!" - Photo submitted by Judy Gordon*



## #OptOutside

For those Clubs who wish to participate in OptOutside this year AVA will gladly post your events on the website and Facebook. Please fill out the form by clicking the link below. This year Black Friday will land on November 26th, 2021 so I will need all submissions for participating Clubs and events to be sent in by November 1st, 2021. Please email [hector@ava.org](mailto:hector@ava.org) for any questions or help with events.

[Click here for form.](#)

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION COMMITTEE - CARL CORDES, CHAIR

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

I am in search of a couple volunteers from different regions that would like to serve. We are responsible for coordinating and implementing procedures that facilitate the nomination and distribution of awards for clubs, individuals and organizations through the National Executive Council and Executive Director. The committee works in partnership using email and electronic meeting sessions, if needed. Please email me at [pa\\_rd@ava.org](mailto:pa_rd@ava.org) if interested and include a brief summary of positions you may have held at club, state or national level. Current committee members are from the Atlantic, Pacific and Northwest regions.



BEAT THE HEAT YRE - PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MARTIN CALLAHAN

## IT COMMITTEE - CHRIS ZEGELIN, MY.AVA.ORG DEVELOPER

### A NEW SANCTION PRINT CAPABILITY ON MY.AVA.ORG.

'my.ava.org' is intended to fully replace the legacy ESR system and this is an ongoing project. In the meantime there are smaller but important additions to the new web site that are occurring. Being able to easily print the sanction is one such addition.

The sanction "view" had a legacy system 'link' that allowed people to view and print the sanction from there. Some had trouble printing the web page view. Now there is a "D'load long format PDF" button that does what you expect. It provides you with a PDF of the sanction that you can print or simply keep on your phone or tablet while you travel.

The long format provides you everything in the sanction request including the pictures. (There is much additional information in the PSB and/or the OSB event directions). At this time it is not possible to customize the PDF. Customization would be quite a bit of additional work and would add a layer of complexity and possible confusion to people who just want to click and print (most of us). I would be interested in suggestions that would improve the printout and will quickly incorporate the easy ones. The more complex ideas will have to go on what is still a pretty long list of web site improvements.

The second button, “D’load info PDF”, is an idea that I have bounced around for a few years. Only now have I had a compelling need to create this. It is essentially a “brochure” for the event driven solely from information in the sanction. It will provide a generic, but good looking, brochure substitute for all events including YRE’s and Seasonals. It is designed to be a brochure format, printed double sided, but the first page has everything needed to get to the event if there is a Physical Start Box (PSB). If the event is hosted on the Online Start Box (OSB), then the directions are found in the downloaded event directions.

Again, this PDF cannot be customized so it will not satisfy every club or individual. There may be issues with the format or language that is not what your club wants. This is solved by one of two methods. The first is to create and upload your own brochure. Your brochure will replace the generic one for the specific event. The second option is to disable the generic brochure for your club’s events. Simply send an email to “chris@zegelin.com” that includes your club code (AVA-xxxx).

If your event currently has a brochure that has been uploaded to my.ava.org (via the “Sell it” feature), then you will not see the “D’load info PDF” button.

### \*\*\* TO DO \*\*\*

The “Info PDF” uses the AVA logo as a default. If you upload your clubs logo, that will be used instead. This is another new feature. In your club’s account, click the “Profile” tab and then the “Logo” tab. The instructions are there.

### \*\*\* IMPORTANT \*\*\*

Many years ago, the Starting Point was changed to provide an “Event Information” field. This field was filled from the “extra description” field found in the legacy ESR instead of the “comments” field. Somehow this caused a mess in our database that is easy to fix... now. Basically about half the sanctions have these fields reversed. When a sanction is being printed the difference is obvious when all the sanction fields are presented in a logical order. Look at the printout for your sanctions and if they do not feel right, you can swap the two fields with a click. Go to your club account, tab to ‘Sanctions’ then ‘Sell it’. Click the ‘Swap fields’ button... done. You can check all of your sanctions while you are on the “Sell it” page.

“Event Information” should contain all of the must-read information about restrooms, parking, pets, and such. “Comments” allows you to provide additional detail about what you will see on the trail. Web search engines are very good at finding interesting things to read about a selected subject but they need original content and some help. The future of the “comments” field and the event pictures will be to provide the right sort of content. Marketing is vitally important to AVA’s and Volkssporting’s future. Our database needs a thorough cleanup before we can make use of this free resource to entice people to participate with us.

The new ESR code is in progress. It is complex because there are lots of details that have to be incorporated. So far, I am very pleased with how it is coming together with several new features that will help everyone. The target date for going live is February of 2022. The plan is to have a major article with details in the next Wanderer, and then again in the January Checkpoint.



## WALKING WITH THE STARS

South Hamilton - Karen West Campbell, 73, of South Hamilton, MA passed away on September 28, 2021 after a protracted battle with cancer.

[Click here for full Obituary.](#)



## WALKING ON THE CLOUDS

Jimmie Eisen started volunteering for the AVA National Office in 1992. She came in to the office on Mondays and helped wherever she could making New Walker Packets, Membership Enrollment Packets, Invoice filing, Statement mailing, and just about anything else you might need. Miss Jimmie always asked about your family and how everyone was doing. She loved walking and worked at numerous walks. Heinz Johnson, former AVA President, presented her the Presidents Award for her service to AVA.

## SUPPORT OUR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS

### NATIONAL EVENTS

Click on image to go to the official website.

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

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



*The American Volkssport Association*

*The Mission of AVA is to promote and organize noncompetitive physical fitness activities that encourage lifelong fun, fitness, and friendship for all ages and abilities.*



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