



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

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CHECKPOINT

WWW.AVA.ORG



2025 Convention - At the Farm and Ranch Museum, enjoying the entertainment, food and view.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE - ROBERT A BUZOLIC, CHAIR

AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP TEAM ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

During the 2025 Biennial Convention in Las Cruces, New Mexico, the assembled delegates and proxies voted on Friday, May 2, by acclamation for three nominees to national office.

The nominees elected to national office are as follows:

Chair Carl Cordes, Pacific Region
Vice Chair Ed McCabe, Southwest Region
Secretary Leslie Stone, Southeast Region
Finance Chair VACANT

Let us congratulate and welcome the three nominees elected to the American Volkssport Association, also known as America's Walking Club, leadership team. All nominees assumed their national position as members of the Board of Directors at the close of the General Membership Meeting on May 2.

Chris Mellen, Northeast Region, who was the nominee for the position of Finance Chair, rescinded his nomination. As of the close of the General Membership Meeting on May 2, the fourth national leadership position remains unfilled. Consequently, the Nominations Committee remains active in a search a Finance Chair. Once a nominee or nominees have been identified, the Board of Directors will call a Special General Membership Meeting to elect a Treasurer, and to conduct such other business as may be necessary.

AVA NATIONAL OFFICER ELECTIONS

Nominations are now being accepted from candidates who seek to fill the position of AVA Finance Chair on the American Volkssport Association's Board of Directors. Upon identification of a nominee or nominees, the Board of Directors will call for Special General Membership Meeting for the purpose of electing an individual to fill the vacant position. The successful candidate will take office effective at the close of the Special General Membership Meeting to serve a two year term ending at the close of the 2027 Biennial Convention.



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Step 1 in the process is for the candidate to submit a Letter of Intent by email no later than midnight (his/ her local time) Friday, May 23, 2025. The brief letter need only include: office being sought; candidate's name; official mailing address; phone number; and email address. Electronic submission of the letter goes to the chair, Robert Buzolich at nominations@ava.org. A confirmation of receipt will be sent via email, as well as an attachment of Election Guidelines for Officer Candidates. Upon receipt of an individual's intent, the Nominating Committee will vet the individual's eligibility with the National Office based upon the eligibility requirements of Paragraph 4.04 Eligibility -National Officers of the current Bylaws of The American Volkssport Association. Late submission of the Letter, or failure to satisfy the eligibility requirements of Paragraph 4.04 Eligibility -National Officers of the current Bylaws of The American Volkssport Association, will cease further consideration for Step 2 in the nomination process.

Individuals, who do not satisfy the timely submission or eligibility requirements will be so notified by email.

Step 2 is for the candidate to submit a Nomination Package by email to the chair, Robert Buzolich at nominations@ava.org no later than midnight (his/her local time) Tuesday, May 27, 2025. The Package must be consistent with the information in the Guidelines for Officer Candidates, but must contain two items: a biographical article (narrative) in Microsoft Word that is no more than 500 words and a candidate photo in .jpg format. The narrative should include reasons why you are a candidate for office and your goals (tell us what you hope to accomplish if elected). The Guidelines will also contain information regarding campaigning. A confirmation of receipt will be sent via email. Late submission of the package will cease further consideration in this process.

For those candidates who have met the timelines for submission of the nomination package, and whose narratives are deemed accurate, the nomination package will be forwarded by May 29 to TAW for publication in the June issue. However, the Nominations Committee may vet the accuracy of the information provided (e.g. positions held; awards received). If there is a problem with the accuracy of the information, the Nominating Committee will notify the individual via email for correction. Corrected narratives must be received no later than May 28 so as to allow its submission to TAW on May 29. The Nominating Committee will not correct a narrative's grammar or spelling. Photos submitted will not be altered by the Committee, though the TAW publisher may do so to meet their standards for publication. The nomination package will not be returned.

Basically, what you submit is what the AVA membership will see except in two cases: if the information submitted is found to be in error, or the word count exceeds 500 words. Erroneous information may be deleted. If word count exceeds the limit you will be notified to edit and resubmit your article. If you do not resubmit in time for publication, your article may be edited to delete everything after the 500 word count. So, please be clear, concise and correct with your submission, preferably the first time.

You are entitled to one complimentary bio article and one photograph in TAW. This is considered to be your nomination package. These articles will appear in the June 2025 issue of TAW, which will be printed and released on or about July 1, unless there is a special post convention edition of the TAW being disseminated earlier.

PRESIDENT/CEO - HENRY ROSALES

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AVA NATIONAL OFFICERS!

During our 2025 Regular Membership meeting on May 2, 2025, our AVA officers were elected by Acclamation.

Chair – Carl Cordes

Vice Chair – Ed McCabe

Secretary – Leslie Murphey Stone

Finance Director – Vacant (Refer to article by Nominations Committee Chair, Bob Buzolich)

Congratulations to our National Officers and all Board Members and Deputy Directors. A listing of all new Officers, Board Members and Deputy Directors, will be published soon on the AVA website.



AVA 2025 BIENNIAL CONVENTION

To all our members, friends, family, and volunteers in Las Cruces, El Paso, and Juarez, who attended our 2025 Biennial Convention in Las Cruces, NM, thank you very much for your unwavering support of the AVA. We had approximately 277 attendees. One of my memorable moments was the walk in Juarez, MX. We had 180 participants venture into Mexico where we were greeted by Juan Acereto Cervera, a representative from the government of Juarez International Affairs, Edgar Cazares, Director of Tourism Development for the State of Chihuahua, Veronica Castro, Director of Tourism Development for the city of El Paso, and Nora Ochoa, Ecotourism & Cultural Heritage Manager, Visit El Paso.

We are still reviewing walk participation numbers and all receivables and payables to determine how our convention managed financially. A full report will be published in the June Checkpoint.

Special thanks to Jerry Wilson, Chair of the Convention Committee and all committee members who work on convention planning year-round! This would not be possible without their leadership, commitment, and time.

2027 DESTINATION POLL RESULTS

Based on a poll taken during the Regular Membership Meeting, Visit Springfield, MO is the frontrunner destination for the 2027 convention with Visit Norman, OK, in second place and Destination Rogers, AR in third place. The convention committee will review the results and decide how to proceed.

One of the main criteria for hosting a convention used to be there had to be a club in the area to support it. However, while this is still very important, it is no longer required. The main reason being because we no longer have clubs willing to host the convention. The committee also looks at other considerations such as unique walking trails, affordability, and financial support from the host city. The city of Las Cruces provided a \$11,544 grant and a \$7,389 nonprofit discount on the convention center! The cities of El Paso and Juarez provided approximately \$2,500 in in-kind and volunteer support. All registered convention attendees will receive a survey. We appreciate your time in completing it, as your feedback helps us improve.

If you would like to help us plan the next convention, contact the Committee Chair, Jerry Wilson at conventions@ava.org.

2025 REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING UPDATE

During the Regular Membership Meeting Delegates voted on the following two AVA Bylaws amendments on May 2, 2025.

The AVA Board of Directors voted at its meeting, February 18, 2025, to recommend passage of the proposed bylaw changes to the current AVA Bylaws dated 5/3/21.

Changes 01-06 are administrative or efficiency changes in the following five areas:

- a. Nominating Committee (change 01).
- b. Membership Termination (change 02).
- c. Document Naming Conventions (changes 03-04).
- d. Administrative (change 05).
- e. Allow all members to nominate At-Large board members (change 06).

The following is a summary of these first six changes to the Bylaws for your information:

CHG	PAGE	SECTION	CHANGE	RATIONAL
			NOMINATION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS	
01	07	4.06 (a)	Change nominating committee members from five to "not less than three and not more than 10 individuals" and adjust timeframe from six to "nine" months before a regular meeting.	Administrative. Enhance committee operation as recommended by the AVA Nominating Committee.
			TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP	
02	04	3.05	Remove Board approval of club closures and member resignations.	Administrative. Streamline the process with terminations managed by National Office as an operational and not Board/strategic issue.
			UPDATE NAMING CONVENTIONS	
03	03-04, 05, 26	3.01, 3.02, 3.03, 3.06, 14.02	Delete 'Regular' where used with Member or Membership.	Administrative. Simplify membership naming convention.
04	03,04, 27	3.03,3.05, 15.03	Replace 'Headquarters' with 'Office' when referring to National corporate location.	Administrative. Update document naming convention of AVA's corporate entity
			ADMINISTRATIVE	

PROPOSED CHANGES TO 5/3/21 AVA BYLAWS

05	14	6.02 (c)	Insert new section number (d) before next to last sentence "No person may hold a National Office and serve as a Regional ..." And, insert new section number (e) before the last sentence "No person may serve more than two..."	Administrative/grammar/clarity. No change to text. Breaks this section into 3 parts, creating new sections (d) and (e).
			AT-LARGE DIRECTORS	
06	06	4.05 (a) 2 and 3	Remove "Associate" before Members in both sections and administrative edit.	Allow all Members to nominate and vote for At-Large Directors.

The remaining five proposed changes (07-11) replace the current AVA Associate member with a new Individual AVA member as recommended by the AVA Membership Committee.

CHG	PAGE	SECTION	CHANGE	DESCRIPTION
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP				
07	02	3.01	Add "Individual members"	Replaces the current Associate membership category with "Individual members" category.
08	03	3.01(c)	Replace 3.02 "AVA Associate Membership" with 3.01(c) "Individual Member"	Define new individual national member type.
09	03	3.02	Renumber section and insert "individual or" in (a) and remove "club" as only member type.	Application Procedures.
10	03-05	3.03	Renumber sections 3.03, 3.04, 3.05 and 3.06	Administrative/grammar/clarity. Note 3.03(a) "Every Member is entitled to... exercise the right to vote."
11	28	17.08	Remove "AVA Associate Member"	Administrative/grammar/clarity.

Below are the results of the voting. Should you have any questions, please contact your Regional Director.

Vote Results

[Return to Voting](#)

One Vote per Club

Voting Stats - Clubs: **118 out of 134** RDs: **10 out of 10** Officers: **4 out of 4**

Bylaw Amendments (01-06) Administrative Changes

Approve	Don't Approve	Abstain
122	7	3

Bylaws Amendments (07-11) Membership Changes

Approve	Don't Approve	Abstain
93	37	2

2027 Convention Destination Preference

Destination Rogers, Arkansas	Visit Norman, Oklahoma	Visit Springfield, Missouri	None of the Above
34	39	52	7

To revisit the bylaws amendments that previously sent to clubs [click here](#).



AVA WEDNESDAYS WEBINARS– MAY 21, 2025, AT 7:00 P.M. CENTRAL

The next AVA online webinar will be Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 7:00-8:00 pm Central. The registration link will be on the AVA website, or you can [click here](#) to pre-register for the event. If asked for a passcode, the passcode is AVA.

April online seminar presenters include:

Rachel Bush, Associate Professor Graphic Design, Internship Coordinator, Austin Peay State University

If you need help with brochure, banner, t-shirt or website graphics you will not want to miss this webinar. Learn how your club can benefit from our partnership with Austin Peay State University by working with student interns who can help you with graphic design. The AVA offers limited scholarships to clubs to support this work. If you were a recipient in the past, please join us and share feedback on how we can improve and grow this program!

This t-shirt design was created by students from Austin Peay!





IT SPECIALIST - HECTOR HERNANDEZ

16

PARTICIPATING CLUBS

60

OF EVENTS

12

PARTICIPATING STATES

NATIONAL WALKING MONTH

First half of the month has past and we still have some time to promote and get our walks in, please click the logo for link. To help promote your events see the marketing tools at the bottom of the National Walking Month page by [clicking here](#). For more information on National Walking Month go to ava.org.



INTERNATIONAL



NATIONAL EVENTS

CVF/FCV 2026 Festival



Yellowknife, NWT, Canada

June/June 12-14, 2026



A Springtime Oktoberfest!

GERMANIA OF POUGHKEEPSIE

MAIFEST 2025

MAY 16, 17, 18

BIER!

BRATWURST

PRETZELS

BAVARIAN FOLK DANCES BY
Germania Almrausch Schuhplattler Verein & Kindergruppe

MUSIC BY
MARIA & JOHN BAND

BERNIE'S ORCHESTRA

THE ADLERS BAND

GAMES PRIZES CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES LOCAL VENDORS

RAIN OR SHINE

FUN FOOD FEST

OMA'S FAMOUS GERMAN BAKED GOODIES!

Doors Open: Fri, May 16th-5-10pm / Sat, May 17th-1pm-10pm / Sun, May 18th-12-5pm
\$5.00 Daily Admission — 16 & under FREE - \$1.00 discount for Veterans/Military with ID

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Come and join us for the 24th
US FreedomWalk
17-19 October 2025

Walk to Arlington USFreedomWalk.org
An International Walking Experience

39th Annual Spring Volksmarch
June 7, 2025

AMERICA'S WALKING CLUB
Volksmarching at its Best

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. 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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