



Fun, Fitness, Friendship

April 2019

www.ava.org

CHECKPOINT

A big give Thank you

BREAKING NEWS!

2019 Biennial Convention Major Announcement.

Awards and Recognition Celebration Highlights,
Friday June 14, 2019, 7-11pm.

Be sure to get your tickets for the Friday night Awards and Recognition dinner before they sell out!



CEOs, Jadwiga Ziolkowski and Monique Ziolkowski
©Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation

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The Keynote Address will be delivered by Honoree, Ms. Jadwiga Ziolkowski, Chief Executive Officer for Crazy Horse Memorial. Ms. Ziolkowski is the fourth child of Sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski and his wife Ruth. Don't forget to make the Crazy Horse Volkssmarch a stop on your way to the convention June 1st and 2nd.

Entertainment will be provided by none other than the Multi Award Winning Elvis Tribute Artist, Travis Hudson! Best Elvis in 2017, 2018, and 2019 and a 2017 Semi Finalist around the world! Mr. Hudson attended the Crazy Horse Volkssmarch when he was a child!

This convention event is selling out fast so don't be left out! order your tickets today!



Important Deadlines for the June 2019 General Membership Meeting

Call to Clubs for Agenda Items for the General Membership and NEC Meeting

April 13, 2019 (60 days before meeting):

Clubs email Agenda Items to Regional Directors and AVA National Office.

Agenda items from Regional Directors for the General Membership and NEC meeting due to AVA National Office.

Final list of agenda items for the General Membership and NEC meeting sent to AVA Clubs and Regional Directors.

April 28, 2019 – Deadline date for clubs to be in “good standing” in order to be eligible to vote during the General Membership meeting this June. (If you are not sure your club is in good standing contact Erin at erin@ava.org)

May 13, 2019 (30 days before meeting): Officer’s, Regional Director’s and Committee written reports are due at AVA National Office. Reports will be published in the Biennial Report (300 word limit please).

May 14, 2019 – Credentialing forms must be postmarked by this date if you are mailing them to the AVA National Office.

May 22, 2019 (21 days before meeting): Meeting information package for General Membership and NEC meeting emailed to NEC members.

AVA NEC Officer’s Reports and Committee Reports:

[Click here for Agenda items Form](#)

[Click here for Officer Report Form](#)

[Click here for Committee Report Form](#)

NEW-TAW Production Changes Effective January 1, 2019

During the June meeting, the National Executive Council voted to reduce production costs of the The American Wanderer (TAW) by as much as 50% as part of the renegotiation of a contract extension with the current publisher. The annual cost of the TAW is approximately \$32,000 to publish and mail 6 issues.

Effective January 1, 2019, the TAW publication will be distributed quarterly instead of bimonthly. This change will save the AVA over \$10,000 per year.

The new 2019 TAW print deadlines will continue to be on the 25th of the month as follows:

January 25, 2019 – For the March Issue (Quarter 1)

April 25, 2019 – For the June Issue (Quarter 2)

July 25, 2019 – For the September Issue (Quarter 3)

October 25, 2019 – For the December Issue (Quarter 4)



Susan Medlin, Southwest Regional Director, announcing donations live during the Big Give Giving Day.

With these new deadlines it is very important events get sanctioned 90 days in advance to insure they are printed in the TAW. Members can still request the TAW in an electronic format, a hard copy or both. The TAW is a membership benefit for all AVA Lifetime and Associate Members.

Club Development & Support Committee—John McClellan, Chair

If you are running or supporting an AVA club as an officer or volunteer, I want to thank you for your continued efforts leading *America’s Walking Club!*

The AVA now has new policy (Section 6, AVA Policy Manual) and a process to provide assistance to clubs requesting support. Examples might be expertise in using online systems or establishing a website, help from a Trailmaster on creating an event, or assistance in creating club marketing and advertising. It will also be possible to request financial assistance, in the form of an AVA mini grant. Funds may be requested to support a new satellite group, form a new club, or for program expenses like porta potties, park fees, refreshments, and event outreach. Funds cannot be requested for administrative purposes or to pay debts owed to the AVA. Clubs must be in good standing to request funds. All funding requests are based on availability of funds at the time.

Your first step is always your Regional Director (or, State Organization if you are in one of the 10 states with these) to seek any kind

of assistance. Your RD or State Association can usually answer questions and will be able to get you help from either the National Office or in some cases, another club nearby.

Please make requests for assistance in writing using the new form now available on the AVA website. Outline the issue or assistance needed, and your RD will direct your request to the State Organization, our Committee, other existing AVA committees, or through the Executive Director (all funds request) as needed.

If there is a broad area of AVA policy or operations that you think needs examination by our Committee, send me your inquiries: se_rd@ava.org and be sure to cc: your RD or State Org, or both.

See you on the trails!

[Click Here for Club Support Request Form.](#) 😊

Training Development Committee—Tom Baltes, Chair

Trailmaster Workshop

On Friday, during the convention in Albany, I'll host a Trailmaster workshop with several purposes in mind. First, for those who have essentially completed all the requirements for certification we will test that knowledge and recommend certification to the Regional Directors (RDs) for those who are ready. Bring along samples of your work such as walk directions that you would normally present to your RD. Second, I hope to engage participants who are interested in becoming certified and help them understand the fundamentals and advance their progress toward certification. Finally, I hope to use this workshop to gain feedback on how we might improve the Trailmaster Guide to keep it contemporary and consistent in the way all regions operate and reflect the evolving way we plan and host events. The AVA Training Committee has already begun a review and will discuss some ideas of improvements we plan to incorporate in the next edition.

Convention Silent Auction Committee—Vera Weiss, Co-Chair

Less than three months to go until we will see you at our Albany AVA/ESCV Convention!

Thank you for your support in filling out the donation Silent Auction form and submitting it to us. Most AVA members are bringing their S.A. item(s) to the Convention. Filling out the donation form ahead of time is a big help to my husband and me and will also save you time at the Convention when you hand over your S.A. item.

If you need to change your description or fair market value price or anything else that you wrote on the donation form, please send us an e-mail to silentauction@walkescv.org. We can correct it on our end and not cause any extra paperwork.

Following is the schedule for the Silent Auction Room:

Tuesday, June 11 - Silent Auction Room Open for **drop off items** from:
12:00pm – 5:00pm.

Tuesday, June 11 - Silent Auction Room Open for **BROWSING ONLY:**
5:00pm - 9:30pm

Wednesday, June 12 - Silent Auction Open for **Drop- Off and Bidding:**
7:30am - 9:00pm

Thursday, June 13 - Silent Auction's **Last Day for Bidding:**
7:30 am - 9:00 pm

Friday, June 14—Silent Auction & Raffle items to be picked up by winners from **1:00 pm to 4:00 pm** (perhaps earlier if we can complete all the preparations earlier)



Elvis taking pictures during the Big Give Fundraiser Event.

ATTENTION CONVENTION BUS RIDERS

*If you are planning on using
our buses, you must
Register for Busing by May 12
on the pre-registration form.*



After this date, we cannot guarantee you a seat. It will be first come, first seated without registering by May 12.

Don't delay, get registered!

How does my Club or Region obtain a table at convention?

✓ Email Marian at marian@ava.org that you would like to get a table to display your club's or Regions Traditional, YRE or Seasonal brochures/Year Schedules.



✓ She will want to know who (Club/Region) to invoice for the \$15.00. Upon receipt of money, Marian will let the convention folks know you have purchased one.

✓ A table will be set up in the Vendor Area waiting for you to display your areas interesting places where you have walking events. Put out some penny candy to attract lots of visitors to your table! Have some fun decorating and showing off your Region to all.

Click on images to view convention prices.

CONVENTION BUS GIVEAWAYS

AVA will be donating several gifts each of the 3 days of convention walks to those of you taking your tour or our provided convention buses.

This is to thank you for helping us keep down the massive numbers of cars with limited parking in all the venues where we will be venturing.

During each of the 3 evening social events, names will be drawn from the raffle ticket handed to you by the bus monitor as you get on your bus in the morning. If your number is called, you can collect your prize. AVA will be donating tee shirts, Event/Km books, Starting Point Books, who knows what other goodies they have planned to giveaway.

Each convention and tour bus will be showing a short video of the area where you are walking on Wednesday and Thursday, on the way to the venue.



HELLO Convention
and Tour Bus Riders!!

How can you support

Your

2019 AVA Albany

CONVENTION

By making a donation of \$100.00, your name will be listed in the **Official Convention Program book as a FRIEND.**

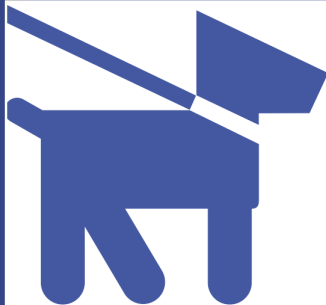
You will know that you have helped to pay for the various convention walks expenses.

Without our walks we wouldn't have an International or national organization.



Click on images to view convention prices.

Leashed Dogs are WELCOMED on All the Walks



Just to reiterate, yes leashed dogs are welcome on all the convention walks.



You should check with the Saratoga National Historic Park for their requirements before showing up with Fido.

Does your Region have left over Awards or Patches from past events?

We would like to suggest to all US Regions gather their leftover Awards/patches and showcase them at their Region tables.

All items could be priced at the reasonable price of \$2 and all the proceeds could go to Convention or kept in your treasury.



Let's see which region drums up the most business. Great way to share your old Awards and dean out someone's basement that is housing these treasurers for someone else.

Awards & Membership—Karen Winkle

Notice to all clubs- Please make sure that you email the names of members and walkers that have passed in the last two years to [Karen@ava.org](mailto:karen@ava.org). The names will be listed in our Necrology report at the convention in June. Please include the name and state they

The World Walking Day certificates are in!

World Walking Day is May 8th. Since the 8th is a Wednesday, walks on May 5th and May 11th are good to qualify for the certificate. Certificates will be signed by club representatives. Send your orders in now!

Information and Technology Specialist—Hector Hernandez

Stamp Printing Update

I will be printing stamps with the window of May to June 10 so that I may send them out. If you have a late entry please update me so that I may send the stamps to you as soon as possible. Please note that there is a late fee.

Walks to Remember

April showers bring May flowers. With nice weather comes nice walks. What's a nice walk in your area? Share it with your friends and share it with AVA. If you need assistance marketing April/May walks and events please email your walk or event information to hector@ava.org.

Starting Point Changes

Starting Point changes on the AVA website are only for events published in the Starting Point Book. Please remember to make all changes within your ESR and then send to Hector. The website will be updated weekly. Email changes to hector@ava.org.

Click here for this months [Starting Point Changes](#)

Communications— Samanta Sanchez

Your Generosity Can Help Us Reach our Goal

Online giving might be over, but our Big Give fundraiser will continue through April 30th, 2019. With your support, the AVA has raised \$73,027 to date! We are only \$4,973 away from reaching our \$78,000 goal. We would like to give a big thanks to all the 449* donors who have contributed thus far. Your contributions show the power and strength of our walking community. Special thanks to those that stayed up to donate online between the hours of 12am-6am CT. Your online donations helped the AVA earn \$1,000 in prize money. The AVA would also like to thank all our Peer to Peer fundraisers as they managed to raise \$2,940. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you! Your donations help build a stronger walking community.

If you have not donated and would like to contribute, mail your check prior to April 30th to the American Volkssport Association 1001 Pat Booker Road, Suite 101, Universal City, TX 78148.

*Number includes duplicate donors



You Gave Big and We Gave Back!

Congratulations to our AVA Prize winners! Phyllis A. Olson, Keung Hui, Cynthia Mayfield, & John Glass have all won a free 2019 or 2020 Starting Point Book. The US Freedom Walk Festival was the lucky winner of a free sanctioned traditional event. Please expect an email from samanta@ava.org with instructions on how to redeem your prize. Donations made after March 28th will still be eligible to win AVA prizes. These prizes, along with the Grand Prize, will be drawn during the 2019 Convention.



Convention Hotel Updates

The Red Lion Hotel in Albany has officially sold out! This is exciting news! We are happy to learn that we will see a lot of you at the convention. If you did not have the chance to book your reservation at the Red Lion Hotel, no need to worry. The AVA now has a block of rooms reserved with Red Roof Inn at a discounted group rate of \$77.99. Please note, Red Roof Inn is not a full-service hotel and continental breakfast will not be included. To make your reservations please call the number below and ask for the American Volkssport Association group rate. To receive our discounted group rate, make sure to book your reservations before May 21, 2019. After this date, our group rate will close. Cancellation 3 days prior to the day of arrival will result in a penalty of 1 night's room rate plus tax.

Accounting Specialist– Marian DeVaul

1st QUARTER PARTICIPATION

Don't forget to submit your 1st Quarter Participation numbers as they will be considered late as of May 1st. Although you have until April 30th to file your reports, it is always much appreciated when you file as soon as possible.

May National Physical Fitness Patch

We are currently taking orders for the 2019 May National Physical Fitness Patches.

Clubs hosting events during the month of May can order patches by filling out and returning the form to the AVA National Office no later than April 16, 2019. Supplies are limited, so orders will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Clubs may place reorders until supply is exhausted. Don't miss the chance to offer this collectible patch to walk participants. \$2.50 each to clubs which includes shipping, but the 20% discount does not apply.

Mail form to AVA, 1001 Pat Booker Rd, Suite 101, Universal City, TX 78148, or fax form to 210-659-1212. You may also place your order by emailing [this form](#) to Marian@ava.org.



GOOD STANDING POLICY & DEADLINES - 21st Biennial Convention 2019 – CITY, STATE

The AVA Call to Convention and AVA Form 500 will be mailed to the clubs by the end of February. Please follow the directions on the form and return to AVA for Credentialing at Convention. All forms must be postmarked no later than May 14th, 2019. If the

deadline for mailing this form to the National Office is missed, all copies of the form must accompany the Delegate, Alternate, or Proxy to the Credentials booth at the Convention. The form should be mailed to:

American Volkssport Association, Inc.
Attn: Erin Grosso
1001 Pat Booker Rd. Ste 101
Universal City, TX 78148

Please do not forget that clubs must be in "good standing" forty-five days before the opening of the membership meeting in order to be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the members. The final date for clubs to meet the criteria of being in "good standing" to vote is mid-night of April 28th, 2019. Detailed information and some things to keep in mind regarding the AVA's Good Standing Policy and Membership Voting Policy is provided below.

[Click here](#) to see full article with AVA Bylaws

2019 AVA CALENDARS ARE ON SALE!! SLASHED PRICES!

Purchase your 2019 AVA Calendars while supplies last! They are large 11 x 17 calendars with lots of pertinent information listed: holidays, weekend walking events, AVA deadlines, along with highlighted National events. The price is \$3.00 plus shipping. To order, contact Marian at marian@ava.org or (210) 659-2112.



Support Our National and International Friends

National

Crazy Horse Memorial Volkssmarch, June 1-2, 2019, Crazy Horse, SD.



AVA 21st Biennial Convention
June 9-16, 2019
Albany NY
 ★ Empire State Capital Volkssporters ★ Northeast Region ★

21st AVA CONVENTION ALBANY NEW YORK
WALK THRU HISTORY
 JUNE 9-16, 2019

— Pre-Convention Walks —
 June 9th Portsmouth NH
 June 10th Danvers MA
 June 11th Springfield MA

— Convention Walks —
 June 12th Coloes/Waterford NY
 June 13th Saratoga National Historical Park & Schuylerville NY
 June 14th Presidents Walk Albany NY

— Post-Convention Walks —
 June 15th Cooperstown NY
 June 16th Buffalo NY

<http://www.walkescv.org/>

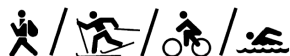
Click on image for more information

Checkpoint Available Via Email to All Club Members Who Request It

To receive an electronic copy of the Checkpoint send us an email to the attention of Samanta requesting that you be put on our distribution list for the Checkpoint. Please note on the subject line: Request for Checkpoint. Send your request to Samanta at samanta@ava.org.

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.



1001 Pat Booker Road, Suite 101 · Universal City, TX 78148, Phone 210.659.2112 · Fax 210.659.1212 avaqh@ava.org / ava.org