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\$65,356 RAISED
AND STILL GOING STRONG!

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GIVE \$10 ON SEPTEMBER 10!

NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL.

DAVID BONEWITZ, Ph.D., AVA PRESIDENT

CRITICAL CHANGES MUST BE APPROVED

At the Albany Biennial Membership Meeting, I advised the membership that we were required to modify our Bylaws in order to be in compliance with Texas Law. When the Texas Nonprofit Corporation Act was rewritten in 1994, the new statute contained over 3,000 changes to the prior Texas Nonprofit Corporation Act. When the Texas Nonprofit Corporation Act was incorporated into the Texas Business Organizations Code (TBOC) in 2006, the Texas legislature made an additional 2,000 changes. Since AVA has not made any changes to its Bylaws as required by Texas law, as of 2006 the AVA has been out of compliance with the TBOC. We have been fortunate that we have not been fined or otherwise sanctioned by the Texas Attorney General. Making changes to our Bylaws is not optional and must be done if we are to continue to operate in the State of Texas.

Your Board of Directors and the Board's Governance Committee have been working hard to bring our Bylaws into compliance with Texas Law. This has been a time consuming and difficult task as well as an expensive one with the need to have significant support of an attorney. Given the number of changes needed to bring us into compliance with Texas law, we took this as an opportunity to also reorganize and reformat the Bylaws to put them in a more transparent and practical order. The proposed amendments to the AVA Bylaws provide more precise guidance for the administration of the AVA and ensure that the AVA complies with the TBOC.

You will soon receive copies of the proposed Restated and Amended Bylaws of the American Volkssport Association, Inc. and the Restated and Amended Certificate of Formation of the American Volkssport Association, Inc. which is a replacement for the Articles of Incorporation also required by the revisions to TBOC. Due to the extensive changes required, with this letter we are providing a Summary of Changes for the Bylaws that will give you a better understanding of the nature of the changes to our Bylaws. There is also included a schedule that we will be following to approve these changes.

I hope that you understand how important it is to get these changes approved so that AVA is once again operating with the legal bounds of Texas law. Please do not hesitate to ask questions and discuss these changes with your Regional Directors.

[Click here](#) to review the Summary of Recommended Changes to the AVA Bylaws.

[Click here](#) for the Process to approve the Recommended Changes to the AVA Bylaws.

COMMUNICATIONS - SAMANTA SANCHEZ

THE HEART OF THE AVA

Have you heard? There is a national organization, with clubs all across the nation, inviting people to engage in physical fitness activities as a way to promote healthy living. Countless hours are dedicated by the volunteer-driven clubs to organize walking events. Trails are carefully curated by the club volunteers to provide well-marked, beautiful and historic trails. In these times of uncertainty, these clubs are going above and beyond to provide safe walking events for all to participate and enjoy by following local and national safety guidelines. Participants socially engage with others, at a safe distance of course, and walk away with a memorable walking experience and great cardio workout! You may ask, "What organization is this? Can I join?" This organization is AVA: America's Walking Club and you are already a part of it! You are the heart of the AVA. Without the support of our clubs and volunteers, we wouldn't be standing here today and for that we thank you!

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT #BIGGIVE2020

I. DONATE ONLINE!

On September 10, you will have 24 hours (one day!) to make a difference. This year's Big Give will take place from 12:00 AM to 11:59 PM on Thursday, September 10, 2020. Invite family, friends, co-workers and everyone you know to go online to the Big Give website and donate to AVA: America's Walking Club. The minimum online contribution per Big Give guidelines is \$10.00. Early online giving will start September 3rd and run through September 9th for those who are not able to donate on September 10th. All early gifts will count towards our total amount raised. [Click here](#) to donate online to your favorite walking organization – AVA: America's Walking Club!



Click on image to view David's Big Give Video.

GIVE \$10 ON SEPTEMBER 10

This September 10, we ask you to please spare a minute of your time and consider donating \$10 or more to our Big Give campaign. We are humbled and grateful that many of our supporters have already given to our Big Give COVID Relief campaign. Thanks to your generous hearts, the AVA has raised \$65,356 to date! But, our fundraiser is not over yet! That is why we come to you, to help us spread the word of our work and invite your family and friends to give \$10 on September 10.

GIVE DURING THESE TIMES AND DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

Donate on September 10 during the Match Minutes below and your donation will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$100!

MATCH MINUTES

PACIFIC TIME: 7:15AM, 10:15AM, 1:15PM, 4:15PM & 9:15PM

MOUNTAIN TIME: 8:15AM, 11:15AM, 2:15PM, 5:15PM & 10:15PM

CENTRAL TIME: 9:15AM, 12:15PM, 3:15PM, 6:15PM & 11:15PM

EASTERN TIME: 10:15AM, 1:15PM, 4:15PM, 7:15PM & 12:15AM (SEPT. 11)



2. NEW - MATCH MINUTES!

Donate online on September 10 and the Big Give will match any donation dollar-for-dollar, up to \$100, during their five Match Minutes taking place at 9:15am, 12:15pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm & 11:15pm Central Time. Gifts will only be matched if they are completed within the 1-minute or before the match pool runs out for each (whichever comes first). We recommend having your donor/payment information entered and ready to click submit as soon as the match minute hits. Match Minute dollars are distributed on a first come, first serve basis. You may give during each of the five Match Minutes using the same card, name, and email address to have your donation matched. Give \$10 or more during these Match Minutes and double your impact!

3. CALLING ALL FUNDRAISER CHAMPIONS!

Join us and become a fundraiser champion for our cause during the Big Give 2020. Last year, majority of our new donors were gained from participating Peer-to-Peer fundraisers. These small fundraising campaigns are a great way to introduce our organization and mission to new individuals. One Peer-to-Peer campaign can bring up to four new donors! Reach out to your friends, family, and colleagues and talk to them about who we are, what we do, and why it is important to YOU to continue AVA's mission. Setting up your page is easy, and we have developed a fundraiser toolkit just for you. Our [Peer-to-Peer Toolkit](#) contains email templates and social media posts, along with graphics, to make fundraising easy and FUN! Don't forget, donations received through your personal campaign during the five Match Minutes will be matched dollar-for-dollar. We are the champions for our cause, let's keep our mission going. If you need assistance creating or personalizing your page please refer to the [Crash Course](#) on Peer-to-Peer handout. If you need further assistance, please send an email to emily@ava.org (note on subject line: Peer-to-Peer Help) or call the Peer-to-Peer Hotline at (210) 659-2112. [Click here](#) for Peer-to-Peer How to Video.

4. ASK YOUR EMPLOYER TO MATCH YOUR DONATION

Employers want to give to causes you care about the most. Many companies will match employee donations dollar-for-dollar through their Employer Matching Gifts program. Matching programs double the value of an employee's gift to the AVA. To date, we have received two employer match donations: one from the American Family Insurance and the second from Boeing. We want to thank the employees of these two companies for requesting their Big Give donations to be matched.

THANKYOU

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

1. Mail donation checks to the AVA National Office prior to September 10, 2020.
2. Make an early online contribution anytime from September 3 to September 9, 2020.
3. Make an online contribution the day of September 10 to help us leverage additional cash prizes.
4. Donors can now make bank to bank transfer donations. Minimum donation amount for a bank transfer is \$100. *Fee for bank transfer donations is \$3.00 per transaction. Fee for all other online donations is 6.2% + \$0.30.
5. Fundraise on behalf of the AVA by creating a Peer-to-Peer page.
6. Individuals or clubs can hold a walk-a-thon to raise a few extra dollars for the AVA.
7. Share our Big Give social media posts using the hashtags #BigGive2020 #keepAVAonitsfeet



GIVE BIG, WIN BIG!

For the past three years, our Big Give donors have been eligible to win AVA prizes. This year is no exception and donors have a higher chance to win! AVA members who donate during the Big Give are eligible for the following prizes:

- For every 30 clubs that donate, free AVA Memberships for club members will be awarded to the winning clubs (value of \$25 for each club member!). AVA Membership includes a 10% discount off convention registration and an invitation to the exclusive President's Reception during convention
- For every 50 individual donors, a 2021 Starting Point Book or AVA T-shirt will be raffled
- One club and one individual will be the lucky grand prize winners of an all paid 2021 Convention Registration
- Individuals who donate during the five Match Minutes will receive a free AVA T-shirt



WHO WILL WIN THE FIRST BIG GIVE REGIONAL CHALLENGE?

After months of leading the Regional Challenge, the Atlantic Region steps down from first place to make way for the new leading region. The Northwest Region is now the leading the competition with the most dollars raised - \$18,897.88! The campaign is not over yet, there is still time to donate! Any region can still be crowned the 2020 Regional Challenge winner. The region with the most dollars raised during our Big Give fundraiser will be awarded the Walking Stick of Kindness. Donors from the winning region will also receive special recognition during our 2021 Convention and a Front of the Line Pass. Pass includes front line access to all AVA food and beverage catered events like lunches, socials and gala dinner.



Click on image to view Nancy's Big Give Video.



This **Thursday, September 10** is the Big Give! Join us at the **Virtual Happy Hour & Social (5-7 pm CDT)** with something to sip on & a memory to share! We will be using TEAMS to come together on our fundraising day to share some of the happy history that AVA has shared with its members. Please bring your favorite keepsake from any AVA Adventure such as a photo, t-shirt, hat, or souvenir. Throughout the social, Samanta and Emily will facilitate lots of Big Give fun and we'll get to experience a Big Give match minute together! We hope to see you there!!

A pink background decorated with white and pink streamers and small heart-shaped confetti. The text "big give" is written in a large, white, lowercase serif font, with "big" stacked above "give". Below this, the words "VIRTUAL" and "HAPPY HOUR & SOCIAL" are written in a bold, pink, uppercase sans-serif font, stacked on two lines.

big
give

VIRTUAL
HAPPY HOUR & SOCIAL

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3aa741d4eb215f472f959927dccc0eb92%40thread.skype/1599158963357?context=%7b%22tid%22%3a%224bbeb637-8bf2-4cda-9e83-8e2c43c8b7c2%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%2254cfa11c-f7a7-4965-af2e-caac9a7ed3a4%22%7d>

Do not forget to pre-order your 2021 Starting Point Book. The deadline is no later than midnight, September 30, 2020. Please e-mail the form to marian@ava.org. Please send your pre-orders in this month so we can determine if there is any interest in the publication this year.



We are still taking orders for October patch using the [order form](#) and returning to the National Office. You may mail the form to AVA, 1001 Pat Booker Rd #101, Universal City, TX 78148, or fax to 210-659-1212. You may also place your order by e-mailing the form to marian@ava.org. Do not miss this opportunity to offer this collectible patch to walk participants!

If you have not renewed your events please do so soon. Events need to be entered into the ESR so that stamps can be made and mailed out in late November. The 2021 YRE and Seasonal Renewal process opened up June 1, 2020, the deadline is midnight, September 15, 2020. RDs have until September 30 to review their region's events. If you would like your walks to be listed in the Starting Point book, please renew your walks at your earliest convenience. [Click the link for Renewal Instructions.](#)

- Please do not mark your events “No Renewal” if undecided. There is no “undo” button, you will have to re-enter a new ESR.
- For a faster and error free renewal, do a fast and quick renewal without changes. Simply click renew and submit. You may enter your changes or updates by going to the ESR Listing page to edit your event information.
- Your event will disappear from your renewal list if you enter incorrect information. Contact Hector to have your event reactivated if your event disappears during renewal.
- Most of the errors occur when entering information in the POC section. Please follow the instructions carefully.

Contact Hector at hector@ava.org for any ESR renewal problems and concerns.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE—TOM JACKSON, CHAIR

AVA NATIONAL OFFICER ELECTIONS

Nominations are now being accepted from candidates who seek to be the next national officers of the American Volkssport: president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer. Elections will take place at the membership meeting at the Madison, Wisconsin convention starting June 30, 2021. Successful candidates will take office on July 3, 2021 and serve until June 30, 2023.

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) Sunday, October 4. 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, Tom Jackson at nominations@ava.org. A confirmation of receipt will be sent via email, as well as an attachment of Election Guidelines for Officer Candidates. Late submission of the Letter will cease further consideration for Step 2 in the nomination process.

Step 2 is for the candidate to submit a Nomination Package, only by email, no later than midnight (his/her local time) Sunday, October 11. The package must be consistent with the information in the Guidelines for Officer Candidates, but must contain two items: a biographical article, in Microsoft Word, for The American Wanderer of no more than 500 words or less and a candidate photo. This bio should include reasons why you are a candidate for office and your goals. It should tell us what you hope to accomplish if elected. The Guidelines will also contain information regarding campaigning. Electronic submission of the package goes to the chair, Tom Jackson at nominations@ava.org. 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, and whose narratives are deemed accurate, their papers will be forwarded by October 25 to TAW for submission in the December issue. However, the Nominating Committee reserves the right to make contacts with persons to verify the accuracy of information provided (e.g. positions held; awards received). We will correct neither grammar nor spelling. Photos submitted will not be altered by the Committee. Neither the photos or papers will 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 will 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 will be edited to delete everything after the 500 word count. So, please be clear, concise and correct with your submission.

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 December 2020 issue of TAW, which will be printed and released on or about November 15.

CONVENTION SILENT AUCTION COMMITTEE -DIANE THORNBERRY, CO-CHAIR

SAY, "CHEESE!" AND SMILE FOR THE SILENT AUCTION

Thanks, in part, to our beloved Green Bay Packers, Wisconsin is known as the Cheesehead State. But did you know our state's motto is "Forward?" It's time to start looking "Forward" to the 2021 Convention Silent Auction. In less than a year, Monona Terrace Convention Center will have a large room filled with items on which one may bid often and bid high. But these items don't just appear. They are thoughtfully donated by clubs, national and regional officers, and individuals. They may represent some of the fine products produced in a region; or items dedicated to the tenets of the AVA: Fun, Fitness, and Friendship; or showcase special talents of a member. Please start thinking of your donation to the Silent Auction. When the Convention website is up and running, you'll be able to register your gift and help us fill the room - and the coffers of the AVA.

Silent Auction Co-chairs:

Diane Thornberry, dthornberry@gmail.com

Joanne Reuter, jmreuter815@gmail.com



22nd AVA BIENNIAL CONVENTION
MADISON, WI | JUNE 28 - JULY 3, 2021

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - DAVID BONEWITZ, Ph.D., CHAIR

NOMINATION PROCESS FOR AVA AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBER

At the August Electronic Board Meeting (EBM), the Board approved opening one seat on the Board to its first At-Large Board Member. The Board is seeking an individual with the qualifications of marketing experience, business problem solving experience, and an entrepreneurial background. Said nominee will be preferred to come from outside the Volkssporting community in order to bring us fresh ideas.

In accordance with the Bylaws, nominations may be made by any Associate Member (annual or life). The following information must be provided for a valid nomination.

1. Name of the individual being nominated
2. Contact information (mailing address, phone number and email address)
3. Confirmation of the willingness of the individual to serve on the AVA Board
4. Single page biography

Any nomination must be received by the Board Secretary (secretary@ava.org) no later than **October 18, 2020**.

The Secretary will distribute all nomination packages that meet the above requirements to the members of the Board in time for review prior to the October 20 EBM. At that October Board Meeting, the Board will meet in Executive Session to discuss the nominees and determine the slate that will be submitted to the Associate Members for a vote. Candidates' names and bios will be sent to Associate Members with a request for the Associate Members to vote for one candidate no later than **November 14**. That vote will be certified at the EBM on November 17, 2020, and the new At-Large Board Member will be seated at the EBM on December 15.

Further details about the voting process will be provided at a later date. If only one nomination is received and that candidate is approved by the Board, the Board can certify that candidate as duly elected as an At-Large Member effective at the October EBM.

ATLANTIC REGIONAL DIRECTOR—MIKE GREEN, IT COMMITTEE CHAIR

2021 STARTING POINT REPORT AND ANALYSIS FOR CLUBS AND STATE ASSOCIATIONS

A new AVA IT feature has been implemented that can be used to create a **2021 Starting Point report PDF** for Clubs and State Associations. This report has two parts. The *first* part presents YRE/SE information as it will appear in the upcoming 2021 Starting Point book. The report's *second* part is a summary listing of the same events that includes an analysis of where improvements are recommended (typically missing data). Both parts are preceded by a single page of explanatory text applicable to the following pages.

The goal of this report is to encourage clubs to improve their event content by making use of the new my.ava.org event data features that will appear in the 2021 Starting Point Book.

Club specific Starting Point reports are available via a "Quick Link" on the **my.ava.org** club home page as shown in the image below:

2021 Club Starting Point Report

[GO](#) Create Report PDF including an analysis with recommendations for improvement

State specific Starting Point reports are available to State Associations via a link of the State Association Legacy ESR Nav page as shown, for example, in the image below for Pennsylvania:

2021 State Starting Point Report PDF (including an analysis with recommendations for improvement)	Get Report for PA
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AVA: AMERICA'S WALKING CLUB AND THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE HOST MONTHLY ONLINE SEMINARS

In July and August, the Program Committee hosted the first two online webinar/ seminars to highlight and inform all members of America's Walking Club about opportunities to expand their walking and volkssporting in their communities. July's program had over 100 AVA members listen to the POCs from many of the current Special Programs talk about their efforts, and heard about the two new Special Programs that begin on January 2021. August's online seminar introduced Natasha from the Element3 Health partnership to many more AVA members, and took a deep dive into the AVA Policy Manual with former committee-chair, Deb Kreup, to get the information on the four different ACE events that allow clubs to hold walking events that don't conform to IVV rules. These regular online efforts allow AVA members to ask questions directly from the national leadership and program influencers.

The September online webinar, will stay on the fourth Wednesday evening at 8 pm EDT. The topic will be about publicity and the Online Start Box (OSB) program which allows paperless and cashless registration for YRE and Seasonal events. Is OSB right for YOUR club?

Here is the registration information for the September Webinar:

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Sep 23, 2020 08:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join-link>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Thank you again for joining America's Walking Club on the trail and online for the new monthly seminars and webinars.



SUPPORT OUR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS



NATIONAL EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE! The Fall Crazy Horse Volksmarch will be held September 26 & 27, 2020. Visit ava.org for more information.



GIVE \$10 ON SEPTEMBER 10!

NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL.



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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