

# ILLINOIS TREKKERS FOOTNOTES

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## A Message from our President



As I write this article the Illinois Governor has OPENED INDOOR DINING ESTABLISHMENTS WITH SOME RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON THE OWNERS. Please adhere to the establishment rules which may include masks upon entering the facility, masks on while ordering your meal and when visiting but not eating or drinking, and when leaving the establishment. Please be courteous and use common sense. You are encouraged to continue walking the local YRE's but keep distance between walkers on the trail. Face masks are required in all businesses and when one cannot socially distance of at least six feet. When walking in groups if you choose not to wear a mask, please stay at least six feet from the nearest walker. There are still three events that do not have the start binders at the start point (Edwardsville, Maryville, and O'Fallon). Online Start Boxes are being created for some of the events. This will require registering on the computer and paying with a credit card. You will not be able to use Trekker Bucks or Trekker YRE Coupons. You will have to print your stamp requirements to cut and paste into the respective IVV Record Books. Watch the Illinois Trekkers website [www.illinois-trekkers.org](http://www.illinois-trekkers.org) and the Weekly News Alert for additional information.

*Submitted by Trudy Duffman  
President, Illinois Trekkers Volkssport Club*

## Membership Meeting

**The February general membership meeting is rescheduled for February 25, 2021 at the Senior Center, 7 Park Drive, Shiloh, IL 62269. Meeting 6:30pm. Mask required during the meeting. Hand sanitizer will be provided. No food or drink please. A special thank you to Shiloh for allowing us to meet in the Senior Center with the normal fee waived.**

## Keep on Trekkin'

### ONLINE START BOXES [OSB]

**Leonard Wojtysiak has been terribly busy tackling the task of creating OSB for Trekker events that have complicated start locations. Both the Maryville YMCA (walk & bike) and the Edwardsville YMCA (walk & swim) have restrictions on access to the facility. The start binders for all four events have been in possession of the POC Vickie Ridgeway. She and Leonard worked together to develop OSB for these events. Again, to sign up through the OSB, you must create a personal account at [my.ava.org](http://my.ava.org). You will be asked to establish a credit card on this account and add money in it to be eligible to sign up for walks. This is applicable for all OSB events throughout the United States. Numerous clubs have created OSB for their events due to the restrictions placed on start locations by the COVID pandemic. Please note that the Gateway Milers have their events with OSB options as does the Saint Louis Walkers (formerly the St Louis-Stuttgart Club). Thank you, Leonard.**

## Club Walk Vault

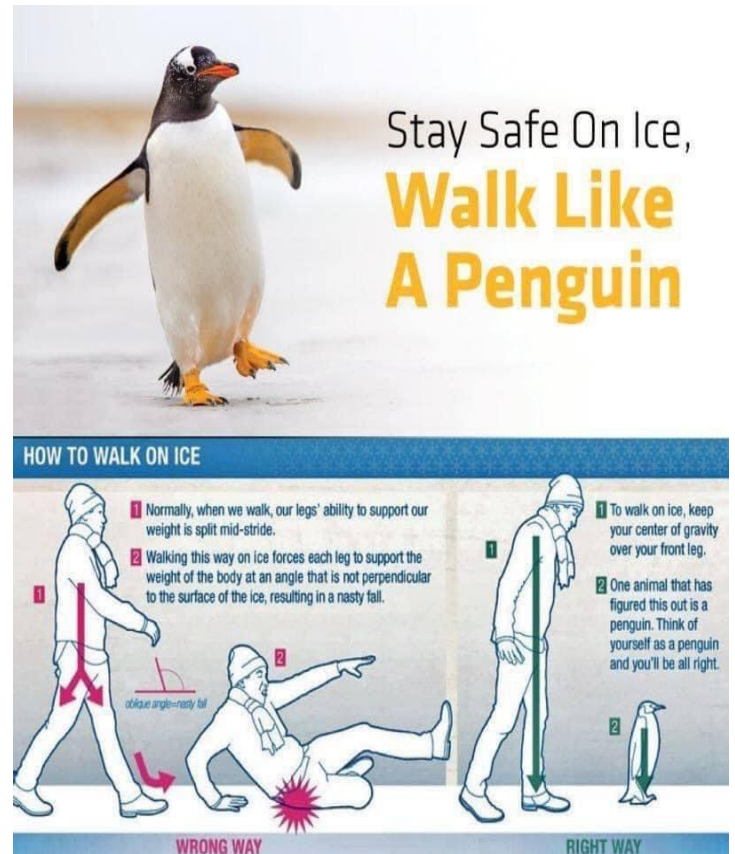
What the heck is that! Will let me explain. Our club walk vault is like a bank security lock box that some of us have to keep important papers, etc., etc. How it works is all our POCs will forward any club walk files to the club “banker” and he/she will store them on our club hard drive. This will have a few benefits for the POC/club. One benefit will be if the POCs computer crashes they can ask for copies of their files back after they have their computer up and running. Another benefit would be if a POC was called away unexpectedly for an extended period, another club member could ask the “banker” for whatever files needed to keep the walk functioning. The POCs will send any files that pertain to their walk, like maps, walking directions, etc. When they update a file, they can send it to replace the old file, so the “banker” has the latest copy.

So, what will the “banker” do with the files. Just like a bank, the “banker” will do nothing except store them when received.

Since I am secretary of the club, I volunteered to be the “banker” but if a club member would like to take over this fun task please step forward.

If you have any questions and/or ideas, please let me or Trudy Duffman know.

*Written by Leonard Wojtyasiak*



## AVA Headquarters

**The AVA Headquarters has relocated. The new address is: American Volkssport Association, 1008 S. Alamo Street, San Antonio, TX 78210. Members are requested not to send any IVV Record Books to them for processing between December 10, 2020 and January 10, 2021. Be sure to use this address in the future if sending IVV Record Books or other correspondence.**

## AVA Headquarters

**The AVA is open on a limited staff during the week. To cut financial spending, the office is CLOSED on Fridays. If you need to contact them, do not forget it is important to keep the Mid-America Regional Director apprised of club or AVA issues. Bob has been very diligent about sending AVA updates and meeting information to us. I try to ensure that everyone sees his latest information.**

## **WALKING WITH TRUDY DUFFMAN**

I was introduced to volksmarching by my husband, Jerry Duffman. We were both active-duty Air Force and Jerry had previously walked while he was stationed in Frankfurt, Germany.

The Duffman's started walking in the Scott AFB area where both were stationed in 1986. We walked numerous walks but did not belong to any local club nor did we have IVV Record Books. What a shame!

On a walk in Chester, IL, during the Popeye Festival, we were strong armed by Tom Boyd (deceased) and Leonard Wojtysiak to join the club since we were observed to walk a lot. We signed up and purchased New Walker packets. We then went to eat at the Pizza Hut across the parking lot from the start point at the grocery store. It was at that walk that Jerry's name was drawn for a FREE pair of New Balance shoes. Wow! I think we were hooked with the Illinois Trekkers.

We were still negligent regarding meeting attendance or volunteering to help the club host traditional walks. I guess we thought someone else would do that. Another mistake on our part. But that soon changed when I finished a traditional walk in O'Fallon, IL and was getting my books stamped. Suddenly, I was told by Wil Clark that I needed to sit down at the Finish Table and stamp walkers' books. I was shaking in my sneakers. I had no idea what to do and certainly did not want to "mess up" someone's books. Well, with a little On the Job training, I was doing a good job, I guess because no one fired me. That was the beginning of my volunteering to work at traditional events.

We began attending meetings when the group size was at least 50 people. Walkers attended from St Louis and in the local area. There were great discussions, tails from the trail, formal Christmas parties, summer cookout picnics and lots of fun walks. Unfortunately, some of the founding members of the club have departed this earth and I know they are walking in heaven.

Eventually I volunteered for the position of club secretary. I believe I held that position for two years. My memory is not always accurate. Then I volunteered for club Vice President. I was VP for

Packy Botula and Dee Wojtysiak. I then followed my husband to Germany where he was stationed at Ramstein AB in 1994. I was now retired and what a great assignment.

We walked in Germany every weekend when Jerry was not flying. I have walked in sunshine, rain (lots of rain in Germany), and ice. Walking in Germany was one of the best two years of my life. I walked in meadows, forests, up hills to castle ruins, and through German villages. I attended German festivals following walks. There were many weekends when Jerry and I were the only Americans in the village for the walk. What an honor. Jerry attended high school in Germany so he could speak enough German to at least order us a beer.

My favorite walk was about three hours north of Ramstein for a nighttime fackel march. This is an event where each walker receives a slow burning torch to walk through the hills and dales of the countryside. Oh, how beautiful. It was not a nice weather night though. Ice was falling the entire walk. I would pop it off my heavy denim coat and continue the walk. We finished at the hall and had hot soup, warm bread, and a beverage. The drive home on the Autobahn was dicey. We made it and what a memorable night.

When I retired in 2014 from CPI Corp in St. Louis, I became more active with the Trekkers. My desire was to walk, have fun, make new friends, and encourage others to join the club. I tried to keep up the club publicity and volunteer as a POC for traditional walks. Eventually I assumed the position of club president and am currently honored to have so many wonderful members filling officer roles and providing website support.

I have attended two AVA Conventions and plan to go to Madison, WI in June if the COVID situation is safe to do so.

I have attended several Mid-America Regional Conferences. These events are always great.

The success of the Illinois Trekkers for 40 years has been the result of many, many dedicated individuals. I only hope we can continue to walk, have fun, celebrate special occasions, and celebrate 45 years in 2025.

## WALK START LOCATION UPDATES

### St Clair Square Mall (Updated Hours)

The Mall is now open for business 11:00am – 8:00pm M – S and 11:00am – 6:00pm Sunday. Face masks are required, and social distancing is encouraged. **THE MALL IS NOW OPEN TO WALKERS AT 9:00AM FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.**

### O’Fallon Parks YRE

The Schnuck’s Customer Service area is currently closed in O’Fallon. Employees have other responsibilities in the store during this phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nikki Wilcoxon has the start binder. Contact her if you need to register and pay for events walked.

### Historic Downtown Belleville YRE

The Historic Downtown Belleville YRE is available for you to register inside the Balance Coffee and Tea, 732 S. Illinois Street, Belleville, IL. Consider purchasing a coffee, tea, or cold drink and a snack either before you walk or afterwards. The coffee shop would greatly appreciate your patronage. For additional information contact Susan Hodgson at 618-416-5533.

**AVA’s Vision: Increasingly engage Americans in lifelong walking and other noncompetitive physical fitness activities.**

**AVA’s Mission: Promote and organize noncompetitive fitness activities that encourage lifelong fun, fitness, and friendship for all ages and abilities.**

**HELP! THE EDITOR  
IS STRUGGLING  
FOR NEWS!!!**

### FOOTNOTES NEWSLETTER

The Footnotes Newsletter is published monthly. This is your newsletter, so everyone is encouraged to write an article or two to share with fellow walkers. Articles can be about new walks, health and fitness, dog tales from the trail, or other ideas. Send the articles to Trudy Duffman, [trudyduffman@yahoo.com](mailto:trudyduffman@yahoo.com) or bring to the monthly meetings prior to the next issue. Thank you for your support of the Illinois Trekkers.

### WEBSITE

Please check our club website for times and places of Trekin’ Tuesdays, 3-Mile Thursdays, and Saturday group walks. The website is currently updated routinely by Diane Prost. Thank you, Diane, for doing a great job.

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YRE TOTALS

BELEVILLE HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

January 20 YTD 20

BE YMCA – Walkers

January 20 YTD 20

BE YMCA – Bikers

January 0 YTD 0

COLUMBIA

January 9 YTD 9

EDWARDSVILLE PARKS – Walkers

January 0 YTD 0

EDWARDSVILLE YMCA – Swimmers

January 1 YTD 1

GLEN CARBON HISTORIC

January 7 YTD 7

O’FALLON PARKS

January 1 YTD 1

MARYVILLE CMT YMCA – Walkers

January 6 YTD 6

MARYVILLE CMT YMCA – Bikers

January 0 YTD 0

SHRINE

January 8 YTD 8

ST CLAIR SQUARE MALL

January 15 YTD 15

JEFFERSON BARRACKS ST LOUIS

January 10 YTD 10

SPRINGFIELD IL

January 2 YTD 2

**2021 YREs**

**Belleville Downtown, Historic District & Richland Creek Greenway (Walk) – OPEN**  
Balance Coffee and Tea, 732 S. Illinois Street, Belleville, IL 62220  
POC: Susan Hodgson, 618-416-5533

**East Belleville - YMCA (Walk/Bike) YMCA OPEN – BINDER AT THE DESK.**  
YMCA, 2627 Carlyle Ave., East Belleville, IL 62221  
POC: “Packy”/Susan Botula, 618-236-9521

**Belleville - National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows (Walk) Guesthouse OPEN!**  
Shrine Motel, 451 S. De Mazenod Drive, Belleville, IL 62223  
POC: Trudy Duffman, 618-670-6920

**Columbia – A Walk in Historic Columbia (Walk) NEW TRAIL AND START POINT**  
Columbia Police Department, 1020 N. Main Street, Columbia, IL 62236  
POC: Sue Bacon, 571-345-8301

**Edwardsville – YMCA (Walk/Swim) YMCA OPEN LIMITED-POC has the binder!**  
**A Walk to Edwardsville Parks**  
YMCA, 1200 Esic Drive, Edwardsville, IL 62025  
POC: Vickie Ridgeway, 618-792-3881

**Fairview Heights – St. Clair Square Mall (Walk) MALL OPEN-OBSERVE HOURS!**  
**Walgreen’s, 6505 N. Illinois Street, Fairview Heights IL 62208**  
POC: Trudy Duffman, 618-670-6920

**Glen Carbon – Old Town (Walk) – OPEN**  
Casey’s General Store, 70 W. Main Street, Glen Carbon IL 62034  
POC: Dee & Leonard Wojtysiak, 618-530-3325

**Jefferson Barracks – Lemay, MO (St Louis) Walk – OPEN**  
**Walgreens, 2700 Telegraph Road, Lemay, MO 63125**  
POC: Sue Bacon, 571-345-8301

**Maryville - CMT YMCA (Walk/Bike) YMCA OPEN MEMBERS ONLY-POC has the binder!**  
YMCA, 1 Town Center Drive, Maryville, IL 62062  
POC: Vickie Ridgeway, 618-792-3881

**O’Fallon – Walk in the Parks (Walk) Customer Service CLOSED-POC has binder!**  
Schnuck’s Market, 907 E. Hwy 50, O’Fallon, IL 62269  
POC: Nikki Wilcoxon, 618-973-3825

**Springfield, IL – Capitol Walk – OPEN**  
**Carpenter Street Hotel, 525 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Springfield, IL 62702**  
POC: Dee & Leonard Wojtysiak, 618-530-3325



# Illinois Trekker Membership Meeting

## January 14, 2021

1. **Call to Order:** 6:33pm per Trudy Duffman, President
2. **Special Guests:** None.
3. **New Member:** None.
4. **Secretary's Report:** Minutes for November were approved as written.
  - A. Nikki Wilcoxon made the motion & Dee Wojtysiak seconded it. Passed
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Report was approved pending audit.
  - A. Muriel Barber made the motion & Nikki Wilcoxon seconded it. Passed
6. **Events:**
  - + Way of Lights – November 23, POC Diane Prost
    - 67 walkers attended this tremendous lighted event, with more lights than ever!
    - \$50 will be donated to the Snows as a thank you for their wonderful support.
    - Joyce Bevirt made the motion to donate \$50 and Diane Prost seconded it. Passed
  - + Club Christmas Walk – December 5, POC Nikki Wilcoxon
    - 19 walkers attended on a nice afternoon with a fun game to start the walk.
    - Club officers were sworn in at the walk.
  - + Wreaths Across America at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery – 19 Dec, POC Diane Prost
    - Club members placed 15 wreaths in this very restricted event.
  - + New Year's Eve Walk – 31 Dec, POC Diane Prost
    - 14 walkers attended on this cool but pleasant evening.
  - + Highland Walk – 1 May 2021. POC Diane Prost
  - + Clinton Hills Walk – 18 Sept 2021. POC Diane Prost
  - + Lebanon Walk – 2 Oct 2021. POC Diane Prost
  - + Shiloh Walk – 16 Oct 2021. POC Trudy Duffman
  - + Way of Lights – 22 Nov 2021. POC Diane Prost
  - + Club Christmas Walk - 4 Dec 2021. POC Nikki Wilcoxon
  - + Mascoutah Walk – 31 Dec 2021. POC Susan Jones
7. **Old Business**
  - Mid-America Zoom Meeting on 11/15. Leonard Wojtysiak plans to attend.
8. **New Business:**
  - + Please submit articles for the Footnotes, our editor is running out of ideas.
  - + Dee presented changes to the rules for Trekker Bucks.
    - Joyce made a motion to accept changes and Nikki Seconded. Passed
9. **President's Report**
  - A. POCs please send electronic copies of walk files to Leonard for backup storage.
  - B. The club will start to use online start boxes as an additional way to register for a walk. We will leave the normal walk boxes in place wherever possible. Be aware, you cannot do both for the same walk. Also, to use the online start boxes, you must have an AVA account. You can setup an account anytime and fund it. PayPal can NOT be used at this time.
  - C. Illinois Trekker Board meeting was held January 5.
  - D. Our club is POC for the Springfield and Jefferson Barracks YRE walks.
  - E. Paul Wojtysiak fixed the problem with posting to Facebook.
10. **Items from the Floor:**
  - None.
11. **Attendance Drawing:** Darleen Kraemer won the door prize.
12. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be February 11; meeting will be held at Shiloh Senior Center at 6:30pm.
13. Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.