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GO TO PAGE 3 FOR MORE INFO.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE - HENRY ROSALES

IMPORTANT DEADLINES FOR THE JUNE 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

May 15, 2021: Officer, Board Member and Committee Chair reports for the convention program are due. This is not a required report. Please limit reports to 300 words.

May 31, 2021: (30 days before meeting): Officer, Board Member, and Committee written reports and all supplemental documents for the June board meeting are due at AVA National Office.

May 31, 2021: Credentialing forms must be postmarked by this date if you are mailing them to the AVA National Office.

June 9, 2021: (21 days before meeting): Meeting information package for general membership and board meeting emailed to board members and club officers.

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[Click here for Agenda items Form.](#)
[Click here for Officer Report Form.](#)
[Click here for Committee Report Form.](#)

The AVA National Board will meet Tuesday, June 29, 2021, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Madison Concourse Hotel (meeting room to be announced).

Madison Concourse Hotel
1 West Dayton Street
Madison, WI 53703
(608)257-6000

The AVA General Membership Meeting will be **Wednesday, June 30, 2021, 2:15 – 5:15 p.m. in Exhibit Hall AB and on Friday, July 2, 2021, 2:15 – 5:15 p.m. in Exhibit Hall AB.**

General Membership Meeting Location

Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center
One John Nolen Drive
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 261-4000

NEW BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION DURING CONVENTION

There will be a one-hour orientation for all new and returning board members on Friday, July 2nd immediately after the General Membership Meeting at the Concourse Hotel (meeting room to be announced).

AVA STATE ASSOCIATION OFFICER'S MEETING - JUNE 30, 2021

A meeting for all AVA State Association Officer's is scheduled during the 2021 Convention on June 30, 2021 from 12:30 – 2:00 pm in the Monona Terrace convention center, Ballroom AB.

This is a closed meeting for AVA State Association Officers, Board Members, and Deputy Directors only. The purpose of this meeting is to solicit input on how the AVA and State Associations can better support each other. Please share your ideas with us on what you would like to discuss during this meeting. Send your comments to henry@ava.org

CALLING ALL REGIONS PURCHASE AN INFORMATIONAL TABLE FOR CONVENTION



For the reduced price of \$10, each Region has the opportunity to have a table in the Vendor's area where their clubs may showcase some of the unique and fun walk brochures, YRE and seasonal walk schedules, seasonal walking events for their states, i.e. Texas Roundup, Walking Around Florida, etc., give out candy to people who stop by your table, make friends, good conversation, etc. If you want a table with cloth and skirting, the cost is \$20

The IVV Olympiad

Is Coming to San Antonio, TX February 2023!



STAY TUNED FOR MORE UPDATES AND INFORMATION.



#BIGGIVE2021

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

IT'S THE SIMPLE ACTS OF KINDNESS THAT KEEP US WALKING.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE UPDATE - HENRY ROSALES

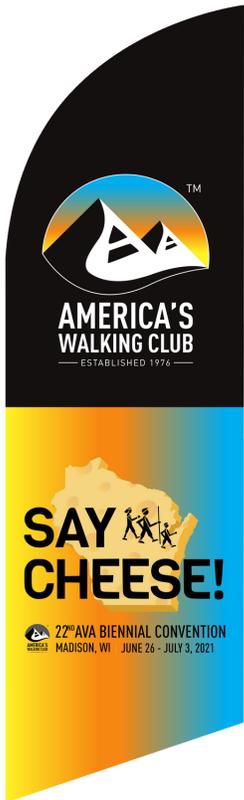
NEW! FREE BANNERS FOR CLUBS WITH THE NEW AVA LOGO!

Thanks to the support of the Publicity Committee and your National Office, we are happy to announce the AVA will be providing free club banners to all our clubs who request one. The banner will be feather shaped with either the club's name or logo on it and the new AVA logo.

If your club would like a free banner, email an image of either your club logo or you club name to Hector@ava.org If you would like to receive your banner at convention, please email this info to Hector by May 20, 2021.

Please note, due to the high volume of flags getting printed and the amount of editing involved, all flags may not be ready by the Convention. If your Club's flag is not ready by convention, we will mail it to you. If your Club is not attending the Convention, we will mail it directly to your Club address.

Special thanks to all the clubs and individuals who submitted entries for the Publicity Contest! Winners will be announced at convention!



Gruene Spring Walk. A close-up of the bars on Helgard Suhr-Hollis' jacket that she was wearing while working at the start point. - Photo submitted by Martin Callahan



Gruene Spring Walk. Walkers stop for a picture before beginning the walk with the H.D. Gruene Mercantile built in 1904. - Photo submitted by Martin Callahan

AMY STEED - SILVERDALE, WA

AVA IS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE AMERICAN BONANZA SOCIETY MAGAZINE

Hello AVA,

Attached is a PDF of an article appearing in the May issue of the American Bonanza Society's magazine which details our experience, using our Bonanza airplane, to get around for the 50 states walk challenge. You'll find the article at pages 16 to 21. There's a reference to AVA including the website. The article includes lots of pictures, including images of our stamped record books, as well as pictures from some of the walks we've taken.

The ABS is an organization of about 10,000 individual members who own and fly Beechcraft airplanes. The magazine is produced monthly and distributed in hard copy to the membership. We love using our plane to get around the country, and of course working on the 50 states challenge is a marvelous quest for us. It is my hope that the article will spark interest in some of the ABS members who read the article and think "Hey, we could do that too!"

If you'd like me to mail you a hard copy of the magazine once it's available, please let me know. I'd be happy to share that with you.

Happy trails!

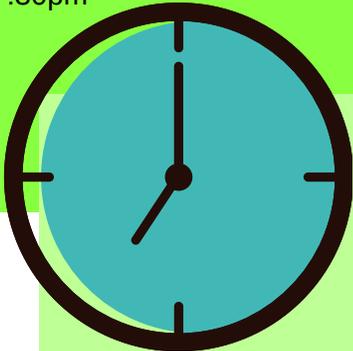
[CLICK HERE FOR MAGAZINE ARTICLE.](#)

FINANCE DIRECTOR - ERIN GROSSO

CONVENTION NEWS

CONVENTION REGISTRATION HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday, June 28: Soft Opening 5:30pm – 7:30pm
Tuesday, June 29: 7:30am - 5:30pm
Wednesday, June 30: 7:30am – 1:30pm
Thursday, July 1: 7:30am - 11:00am
Friday, July 2: 7:30am - 9:30am



Monday, June 28: Soft Opening 5:30pm – 7:30pm
Tuesday, June 29: 11:30am - 1:30pm
Wednesday, June 30: 10:30am - 2:00pm
Thursday, July 1: 10:30am - 3:00pm
Friday, July 2: 10:30am - 2:00pm

CONVENTION CREDENTIALING HOURS OF OPERATION

GOOD STANDING POLICY AND DEADLINES

The AVA Form 500 (credentials form) was mailed out April 7th. Please follow the directions on the form and return to AVA for Credentialing at Convention. **All forms must be postmarked no later than May 31st, 2021.** 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
1008 S. Alamo Street
San Antonio, TX 78210

Please do not forget that clubs must be in “good standing” forty-five days before the opening of the membership meeting 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 midnight of May 15, 2021.** Detailed information and some things to keep in mind regarding the AVA’s Good Standing Policy and Membership Voting Policy is provided below.

[To Review AVA's Good Standing Policy Click Here](#)

ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST - MARIAN DEVAUL

MAY 2021 NATIONAL PHYSICAL FITNESS & SPORTS MONTH PATCH

The May patches have finally arrived! There was a printing error which delayed the shipment of the patches.

If you submitted a pre-order, you will be receiving the patches next week.

Thank you for your patience, and I am sorry for any inconveniences this may have caused.

FINANCIALS:

If your club is on a calendar year, Annual Financials Reports, e-Postcard filings, and Officer Updates (ESR update) are due by May 15, 2021. Please submit a copy of your filings to marian@ava.org.

May 15th, 2021 – The following items are due:

- E-post card must be filed with the IRS and a copy provided to AVA HQ.
- Club’s Annual Financial Report is due to the AVA HQ.
- Update of Officers Information in the ESR must be completed by each club.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns, I am certainly available and eager to help in any way possible.

Note: Financials for clubs with a fiscal year ending 6-30-21 are not due until November 15, 2021.



Please click on image to view form.

AWARDS AND MEMBERSHIP - KAREN WINKLE

The deadline for submitting names for the Necrology list that will be printed in the Convention Reports/Program Booklets will be May 15, 2021.

The deadline for Regional Directors to order supplies for Special Awards is also May 15th. This includes certificates, pins, patches and rockers for the award, and folders. We are working with a limited supply of some pins/patches but have ordered more and should be receiving those items soon.

Please send your requests to karen@ava.org.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE - JERRY WILSON, CHAIR

COMING OUT FROM UNDER COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS IN TIME FOR THE 2021 CONVENTION

Public Health Madison & Dane County Order no. 15 will go into effect on May 5. The County in which the 2021 AVA Biennial Convention will convene has taken a very cautious approach to health precautions during the entire pandemic. A health order is issued every 28 days based on health reports in the County and projections over the next 28 days.

In the words of local officials: "Good news for the mass gatherings limits. We can now have 350 people at indoor gatherings that offer or provide food and beverage!

GATHERINGS

Indoor gathering limits increased but requirements for outdoor gatherings are unchanged from Order #15.

- Indoor gatherings. Indoor gatherings are limited to 350 people or less, not including employees if food or drink is offered or provided. Indoor gatherings are limited to 500 people or less, not including employees if food or drink is not offered or provided. Indoor gatherings must also comply with the percentage capacity caps. In addition, gatherings must allow for 6 feet distancing between individuals not from the same household or living unit, except when in transit. Face coverings are required.
- Outdoor gatherings. Numbers must be limited to ensure people who don't live together can maintain six feet physical distancing at all times, except when in transit.

Here's a link to the full order if you'd like to read it:

https://publichealthmdc.com/documents/2021-04-29_Order_16.pdf

The convention will actually take place under Dane County Health Orders No. 16 and 17, not available until very early June and late June, but the last few health orders show a strong trend towards the Covid-19 health situation improving each month.

See you in Madison in June!

2021 AVA BIENNIAL CONVENTION

As we get closer to the 2021 AVA Biennial Convention we are coming down to the wire and things keep changing! Change apparently is the name of the game.

What we need from everyone intending to come to Madison is that you get registered as soon as possible. Final numbers as of May 15 will affect our planning, some low numbers may result in cancelling specific plans.

Updated registration dates are:

May 15: This is the revised final date to register on-line to guarantee that merchandise ordered and event patches are available and in your registration bag. Sooner registration will aid convention planners.

June 23: Final day to register online through midnight. Payment via USPS should be received by June 25.

June 28: In-person registration will begin on site at Monona Terrace, One John Nolen Dr., Madison.

June 28: 1:00 - 5:00pm will be a soft convention registration opening with fully staffed registration starting the morning of Tuesday, June 29.

Our plans for multiple options on Wednesday evening of the Convention are dwindling. One big attraction was to attend a weekly Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra concert on the grass of the state Capitol building, however it has **been canceled due to Covid-19 precautions**. The National Office will handle refunds for those having already ordered the Wednesday food and beverage package and picnic blanket.

Committee members and National Office representatives have had several discussions with representatives from the Monona Terrace Convention Center and the Concourse Hotel, our convention hotel, about Covid-19 cleaning precautions. The Monona Terrace Convention has worked with us to move inside events to larger rooms so we can better spread out, and we are planning some functions held outside with inside weather precaution areas just in case, larger than needed so attendees can spread out.

Monona Terrace has received GBAC Star Accreditation for their Covid-19 related cleaning procedures. All areas are sanitized following use for your protection.

On Wednesday of the Convention an early afternoon session for State Associations and Regions has been scheduled. Instead of ten separate sessions, one combined session will be presented. This amends a statement I made during the April 21 AVA monthly on-line webinar.

On the AVA website, under the Convention information button you can find FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions). Look for updates from now until the end of the Convention. We learn as we go.

Silent Auction, A Major AVA Fundraiser: Don't forget to register your Silent Auction donations as soon as possible. Select the Silent Auction button on the Convention Registration System to enter your donation. Those registered by May 15 will be listed in Convention materials. All are appreciated. Look into the FAQ section for delivery details, both via shipping and hand delivery. For hand delivery, if your donated basket is large or heavy, delivery by vehicle is recommended. Our convention hotel is about five blocks from the Monona Terrace Convention Center. Cash donations and gift cards are also welcome!

Volunteers are Still Needed: We are always looking for volunteers, both at the four pre-convention sites, but also every day in Madison, Tuesday through Saturday mid-day. Those that put their name in during the 2019 general session in Albany will be contacted during May to confirm their availability and area of interest.

One additional cancellation that was a potential draw for people to stay in Madison before the actual convention and drive daily to each pre-convention event site was the Madison fireworks display scheduled for the Saturday preceding the Convention, Saturday, June 26. Referred to as Shake the Lake in early TAW convention articles, with fireworks displayed over one of our four lakes. It too has been cancelled. Sorry! Madison remains a site central to the four pre-convention sites for those that prefer not to change hotels/motels nightly.

Stay healthy! See you in June in the upper Midwest!

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE - TOM JACKSON, CHAIR

CANDIDATES FOR AVA NATIONAL OFFICE

We have one candidate for each of the AVA National Officer positions for the term of office from July 3, 2021, to June 30, 2023. Elections will be held during the Membership Meeting at the AVA Convention in Madison, Wisconsin.

With the recent approval of the Restated and Amended Bylaws of the American Volkssport Association, some of the information in the December 2020 edition of the Checkpoint is no longer accurate.

The candidates are:

Chair (in lieu of President): Nancy Wittenberg from Puyallup, Washington

Vice Chair (in lieu of Vice President): Susan Medlin from San Antonio, Texas

Board Secretary (in lieu of Secretary): Cecilia Miner from Woodbridge, Virginia

Finance Chair (in lieu of Treasurer): Ed McCabe from Dripping Springs, Texas

In accordance with paragraph 4.06(e) of the Bylaws, nominations of additional candidates will not be permitted from the floor at the Membership Meeting.

There is a workshop at the Convention on Thursday, July 1, from 3:30 pm – 4:15 pm, titled “Meet the AVA Candidates”. The title of this workshop will be changed to “Meet the New National Officers” and there will be an opportunity for the membership to ask questions of the new officers in an informal setting.

TRAINING COMMITTEE - SAMMY HUNNICUTT, CHAIR

OFFICIAL TRAIL RATING

It has been discovered that there were multiple Trail-Route Rating Systems that with conflicting information. Please use only the from page 5 of the AVA Trailmaster Guide. This is the official rating system for use.

Click on image to enlarge.

	Part 1 – INCLINE/ELEVATION		PART 2 - TERRAIN
1	Very small hills or very little climbing. Probably suitable for strollers and wheelchairs. Cumulative elevation gain from Starting Point: up to 200 feet.	A	Almost entirely on pavement.
2	Some moderate hills and stair climbing. Probably suitable for strollers. May not be suitable for wheelchairs. Cumulative elevation gain from Starting Point: 200 - 1000 feet.	B	A significant part of the route is on well-groomed trails with very few obstacles.
3	Some significant hill or stair climbing. Not suitable for strollers or wheelchairs. Cumulative elevation gain from Starting Point: 1000 – 2000 feet.	C	A significant part of the route is on somewhat difficult terrain, (rocky / rooted paths or soft sand).
4	Lots of significant hills or stair climbing. Cumulative elevation gain from Starting Point: 2000 – 3500 feet.	D	A significant part of the route is on very difficult terrain.
5	Many steep hills. Cumulative gain from Starting Point: more than 3500 feet.	E	The majority of the route is on very difficult terrain.

SUPPORT OUR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS

NATIONAL EVENTS

**36th Annual Spring
Volksmarch
June 5 and 6, 2021**



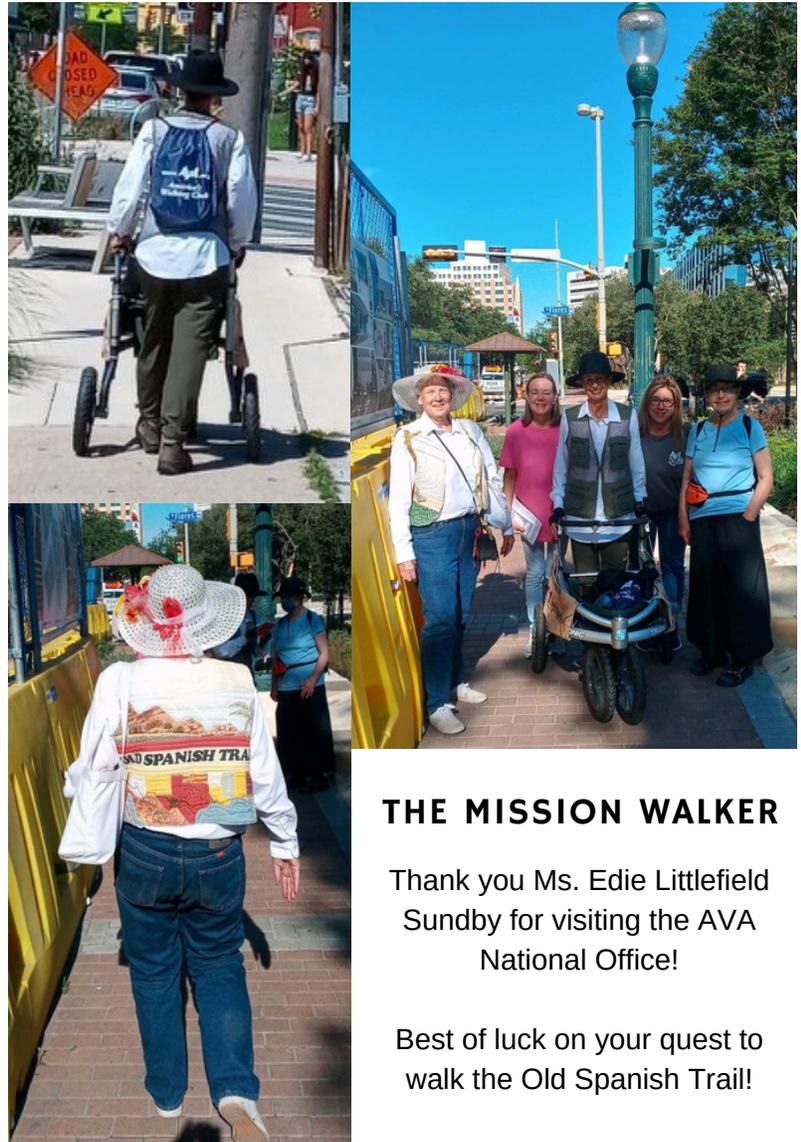
Please click on image to learn more.

**20th Annual
US FreedomWalk Festival**
15 - 17 October 2021
— An International Walking Experience —
Arlington, Virginia USA
3 days of Fun, Fitness, and International Friendships.
Come walk with us for a world class walking adventure alongside walkers from around the world!
www.USFreedomWalk.org

AMERICA'S WALKING CLUB
ESTABLISHED 1976
Volksmarching at its Best

Walk Arlington
THE WALKING ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

US FreedomWalk Festival (USFWF) 15-17 October 2021. It's a go! A Guided Walk will be held for all AVA walkers. Click on image to go to the official website.



THE MISSION WALKER

Thank you Ms. Edie Littlefield Sundby for visiting the AVA National Office!

Best of luck on your quest to walk the Old Spanish Trail!

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.



1008 S Alamo St · San Antonio, TX 78210, Phone 210.659.2112 · Fax 210.659.1212 [Message US](#).