



Fun, Fitness, Friendship

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHARLOTTE PHILLIPS
FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE



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

SEPTEMBER
2021
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CHECKPOINT
WWW.AVA.ORG

**big
give** SEPTEMBER
23

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LEAVE YOUR FOOTPRINT

SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 | BIGGIVESA.ORG

LEAVE YOUR FOOTPRINT, YOUR GIFT CHANGES LIVES!

"Walking outdoors has definitely helped me cope with my anxiety and this isolation during the pandemic. I am so thankful that I came across this new walking club in my community. The area we live in is not the safest to walk in, but thanks to AVA we have explored new walking trails that are accessible for us. We have met great people on the walks and I feel this is a safe and fun activity for my daughter and me to do together. My baby girl doesn't talk yet, but when we are out walking we often exchange smiles and that lets me know that she's happy; therefore, I'm happy! We both smile more now." - Liliana, New AVA Walker

The Big Give 2020 was a great success! Our generous donors raised a total of \$104,196. Thanks to their contributions, AVA: America's Walking Club was able to relocate its National Office to sites that better reflect who we are and what we do. One of our new locations is in a nonprofit community center on the Westside of San Antonio and the other is in the historic King William District of San Antonio. Both offices are now located in highly visible walking neighborhoods and are engaging previously underserved walking communities all while developing new partnerships. We couldn't have done this without the support of our donors. Our donors help change lives! The story of Liliana is only one of the many lives we hope to have a positive impact on, but this can only be possible with your support. Please consider making an online contribution to our annual fundraiser, the Big Give SA on September 23, 2021, to help us meet our \$90,000 goal. To donate by check, mail your donation to our National Office now through October 31, 2021. With your help, we can help increase the accessibility of walking in many more communities. Leave your footprint this September 23rd!

HOW YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR FOOTPRINT

1. Make a Gift Online!

Get ready to give! On September 23, starting at 12am CT, you will have 24 hours (one day!) to leave your AVA Footprint! Invite family, friends, co-workers, and everyone you know to go online to the Big Give website and support AVA: America's Walking Club. The minimum online contribution per Big Give guidelines is \$10.00. Early online giving will start September 16th and run through September 22nd for those unable to donate on September 23rd. Early gifts will count towards our total amount raised. All online giving will end at 11:59pm CT on September 23, so make sure to get your gift in on time! [Click here](#) to make a gift online.

2. Set Your Alarms! Donate During Match Minutes

Donate online on September 23rd and the Big Give will match any donation dollar-for-dollar, up to \$100, during their six Match Minutes taking place at 9:15am, 12:15pm, 2:15pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm & 11:15pm Central Time. Gifts will only be matched if they are completed within the 1- minute or before the \$10,000 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. Last year, an additional \$2,300 was raised by donors who gave during the Match Minutes! Set your alarms, give during these Match Minutes, and double your impact!

GIVE DURING THESE TIMES AND DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

Donate on September 23 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, 12:15PM, 1:15PM, 4:15PM & 9:15PM

MOUNTAIN TIME: 8:15AM, 11:15AM, 1:15PM 2:15PM, 5:15PM & 10:15PM

CENTRAL TIME: 9:15AM, 12:15PM, 2:15PM, 3:15PM, 6:15PM & 11:15PM

EASTERN TIME: 10:15AM, 1:15PM, 3:15PM, 4:15PM, 7:15PM &
12:15AM (SEPT. 24)



3. Become a Fundraising Champion

Everyone loves a champion, including us! Become a fundraising champion for our cause during the Big Give 2021. Champion (Peer-to-Peer) pages are personal fundraisers on behalf of the AVA. 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! Last year, the majority of our new donors were gained through Peer-to-Peer campaigns. 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. Every dollar your friends give to your champion page will count towards our fundraising goal of \$90,000! Setting up your fundraising page is easy and fun! Just create your page, personalize it, and send out emails to your family and friends inviting them to support the AVA! 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 sanchezsam1819@gmail.com (note on subject line: Peer-to-Peer Help). [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. Make the ask today!

OUR BIGGEST GIVEAWAY YET!

For the past four years, Big Give donors have been eligible to win AVA prizes such as t-shirts, Starting Point Books, free sanctioned events, memberships, and even Convention Registrations. This year we decided to go even bigger! Any donor who contributes \$100 or more to our Big Give fundraiser, will have his or her name entered in a drawing to win a VIP Pass to the 2023 IVV Olympiad. Five lucky winners will have the opportunity to enjoy seven glorious days of walking, biking, and swimming and have access to the Olympiad Village where all social events will take place. In addition to the VIP Passes, we will also be giving away 2022 Starting Point Books for every 50 donors. Good luck everyone!

AVA SUPERHEROES DO NOT WEAR CAPES

Check out our latest Big Give video on our YouTube Channel. Click on image to view.



HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE DURING #BIGGIVE2021



1. Mail your donation check to the AVA National Office prior to October 31, 2021.



2. Make an early online contribution anytime from September 16 to September 22, 2021.



3. Make an online contribution the day of September 23 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. Donate during the six Match Minutes to double your impact!



7. Share our Big Give social media posts using the hashtags #BigGive2021 #LeaveYourFootprint



SECOND ANNUAL REGIONAL CHALLENGE



Around this time last year, the Northwest, Atlantic, and Pacific Regions were battling it out to win our first Regional Challenge. Ultimately, the Southwest Region was crowned the winner, raising a total of \$17,758! Congratulations Southwest Region! You were crowned as our first-ever Regional Challenge winner and the first to ever hold the Walking Stick of Kindness. Who will win this year's Regional Challenge? Stay tuned!



IT COMMITTEE, CHAIR - MIKE GREEN, Ph.D.

2022 STARTING POINT PREVIEW AND EVENT ANALYSIS REPORT

Just Click on “Go” - Clubs may now preview how their Year Round and Seasonal Events (YRE/SEs) will appear in the upcoming 2022 Starting Point. Clubs are strongly encouraged to review all of their 2022 YRE/SEs using this report created by clicking the “GO” button below the heading, “2022 Club Starting Point Report”. Shown below is an image of this button from a club my.ava.org home page.



The report PDF contains two sections.

Starting Point Listing - The first section of the report includes an introductory page followed by the club's 2022 YRE/SE information formatted as it will appear in the 2022 Starting Point Book.

Event Analysis - The second section contains an introductory page followed by an analysis of each YRE/SE with recommendations for improvement.

Sell it and Location - Please use this pdf report to confirm your 2022 event data is accurate and includes the use of the my.ava.org specific event features accessible via the “Sell It” and “Location” tabs.

Unapproved and Approved Events - Until 9/15/2021, the events listed in the report can be unapproved and approved events. After this date, the report will only contain RD approved events.

Update and Repeat - Changes to the my.ava.org event data will appear immediately in the next report. However, any changes to the legacy ESR event data can take up to 30 hours to appear on my.ava.org and therefore in the next report.

OSB and OSB/PSB - While OSB (Online Start Box) and OSB/PSB (Online Start Box / Physical Start Box) events renewed from 2021 will inherit their OSB or OSB/PSB designation and event pdf, clubs may choose to designate a PSB event as an OSB or OSB/PSB event starting in 2022. When a 2022 YRE/SE is marked as OSB or OSB/PSB (via the OSB tab), it will appear in the Starting Point as an OSB or OSB/PSB event independent whether the club has uploaded the required event pdf and obtained OSB customer service approval. The assumption here is that the club will upload the required event pdf file and submit the event for OSB approval well before (at least four weeks prior to) the event's start date.

Deadline 10/11/2021 - It is expected the Starting Point book event data will be shipped to publisher on or about 10/18/2021. Clubs need to have all their changes in place before the 10/11/2021 deadline.

IT SPECIALIST - HECTOR HERNANDEZ

2022 STARTING POINT PHOTO CONTEST

Thank you to everyone who has submitted their photos for the contest. Our Publicity Committee will be reviewing them and sending me the results as soon as they can. Good luck!

ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST - MARIAN DEVAUL

STARTING POINT BOOK:

[Pre-Order Form](#)

Do not forget to pre-order your 2022 Starting Point Book. The deadline is no later than midnight, September 30, 2021. Please e-mail the form to marian@ava.org. Please send your pre-orders in this month so we can determine how many books to request from the publisher. Thank you.

OCTOBER 2021 NATIONAL VOLKSSPORT MONTH PATCH:

We are still taking orders for the October patch using the order form and returning to the National Office. Please e-mail the form to marian@ava.org, or mail the form to AVA, 1008 S. Alamo St., San Antonio, TX 78210, or fax to 210-659-1212. Do not miss this opportunity to offer this collectible patch to walk participants!



Click on image for order form.

FINANCIAL:

If your clubs fiscal year ends on 6-30-21, It is time to file your 990 E-Postcard, Annual Financial Report (AFR), and update your club officers in the ESR. An IRS user guide, and the AVA Retention policy for financial and event records have been posted on the AVA website under "Clubs Only". Please submit a copy of your filings to marian@ava.org. You may also mail a hard copy to AVA, 1008 S. Alamo St., San Antonio, TX 78210. Thank you.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE - JOHN McCLELLAN

2023 IVV OLYMPIAD UPDATES.

Planning continues for hosting the 2023 IVV Olympiad in San Antonio, Texas. AVA: America's Walking Club! will be hosting the first Olympiad ever to be held in North America!

Save The Dates! Our joint event – the IVV Olympiad and the existing IML Texas Trail Round Up, will take place back-to-back from 19-23 FEB and 24-26 FEB 2023. That's a whole week of fantastic walks (from 5k – 42k), bikes and swims, in a once-in-a-lifetime international atmosphere. America's Walking Club is bringing together the two largest international walking federations to bring these events to the USA. Who are they you ask?



SAVE THE DATE

**18th IVV Olympiad and
IML Texas Trail Roundup**



**February 19-23, 2023/IVV Olympiad
February 24-26, 2023/IML Texas Trail Roundup**

Seven glorious days of walking, biking and swimming including the world-famous Riverwalk and World Heritage missions. Then, enjoy a uniquely American experience at the award winning San Antonio Stock & Rodeo Show!



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



The INTERNATIONALER VOLKSSPORTVERBAND – or International Federation of Popular Sports (IVV) – is the governing organization for volkssports, internationally, comprised of 3 geographic regions (Europe, Asia & Americas), 31 national members and 10 countries with single (club) members. America's Walking Club and all our member clubs are part of the IVV.

The IML Walking Association (known until 2006 as the International Marching League) is a non-profit organization which promotes recreational walking in the form of international non-competitive multi-day walking events or "marches" in its member countries. There are 29 member nations holding IML events, including the United States – with events hosted in Arlington, VA and San Antonio, TX.

Olympiad Facebook Page!

Please go to www.facebook.com/2023IVVOlympiadUSA and "like" us! Invite your volkssporting friends and fellow club members to like us. Help us build awareness and excitement as we move towards 2023! Look for the latest on the joint Olympiad/IML events and answers to questions you may have.



Upcoming AVA/IML/IVV Events. We need clubs, State Organizations and Regional Directors, to keep us informed about upcoming multi-event weekends, State or Regional Conferences where you'd like to have information about the Olympiad. Our committee can provide the STD cards and (in future) other products; and we can send a team or "zoom" in with a short presentation on the event.

To order STD cards for your organization or event – contact us at olympiad2023@ava.org

Planning Volunteers Still Needed! We are continuing to recruit volunteers for our planning team(s) – with sub-committees being formed now in areas such as large-event planning, logistics, transportation, finance, opening/closing ceremonies, marketing & publicity, social media, and cultural/language skills.

Some of the work can only be done locally in San Antonio, but there are many tasks already being worked on by volunteering all across the AVA through the magic of online/distributed work processes. We are using e-mail, Zoom, MS Teams and Dropbox.

If you want to be a part of it, please contact us at olympiad2023@ava.org

Volunteers Needed!



PROGRAMS COMMITTEE CHAIR - TIM MINER

AVA MONTHLY WEBINAR

September 2021

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Sep 15, 2021 08:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZAufumgrz8oHtZUAzeKxPMSwLdS_9zGK83x

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



WALKING ON THE CLOUDS

Robin was born in Charlotte, Texas on October 28, 1926. She is preceded in death by her parents, Gladys and Henry Martin; husband, Jack Callahan; brother, Landon Martin and sister, Elaine Martin Rutledge. She is survived by her son, Martin; and her brother, Don Martin.

[To read full obituary click here:](#)

SUPPORT OUR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS

NATIONAL EVENTS

Click on image to go to the official website.

**9th Annual Fall
Volksmarch
September 26, 2021**



**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

**WALKING ASSOCIATION
NOT JUNGAT AMBULANE**

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.



**AMERICA'S
WALKING CLUB**
ESTABLISHED 1976

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.](#)