



Beethoven Männerchor und Garten Walk at the Maifest event May 20, 2022. -
Photo submitted by Martin Callahan



AMERICA'S
WALKING CLUB
— ESTABLISHED 1976 —

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CHECKPOINT

WWW.AVA.ORG



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PRESIDENT/CEO - HENRY ROSALES

IMPORTANT DEADLINES FOR THE AUGUST 10TH, 2022, AVA ELECTRONIC BOARD MEETING

Call to Clubs for Agenda Items

Due Now - Clubs email agenda items to Regional Directors.

July 27, 2022 - Agenda items & written reports (with all attachments) from Officers, Board Members and Committee Chairs due at the AVA National Office

August 3, 2022 - Meeting information package emailed to Board Members.

AVA Board Officer's Reports and Committee Reports:

Click here for [Agenda Items Form](#)

Click here for [Officer, Board Member, & Committee Report Form](#)

AVA CLUB INSURANCE COVERAGE

The AVA carries two types of insurance coverage for its clubs, Participant General Liability and Excess Accident Medical. The Participant General Liability provides coverage for claims made against the AVA and/or any of its clubs. It helps cover defense costs and settlements if a claim is filed. The Excess Accident Medical coverage applies to AVA national and club members only and pays up to \$9,900, after the \$100.00 deductible, for medical expenses not covered by the participant's insurance after all other medical insurance coverages have been exhausted.

Attached is a document entitled Overview of AVA's Insurance. This document was prepared to help clubs better understand our coverage. Should you have questions, email henry@ava.org. Click her to view "[Overview of AVA's Insurance](#)" document.

AMERICA'S WALKING CLUB ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

The Big Give 2022

6 PM Thursday, September 22
through 6 PM Friday, September 23
thebiggivesa.org



GET READY TO GIVE!

We are counting down the days! The Big Give is only two months away. This year's online fundraiser will take place from **6 PM on Thursday, September 22 through 6 PM on Friday, September 23**. The Big Give website will open on **September 15 for early giving**. Please join us in our efforts to make this yet another successful fundraising campaign. Last year, our generous donors raised a total of \$96,548.55! Thank you all for your support. We hope we can continue to count on you to make an impact in our communities. Stay tuned for more Big Give updates.

2023 IVV OLYMPIAD AND IML TEXAS TRAIL ROUNDUP WALKING FESTIVAL UPDATES

HOST HOTEL -LA QUINTA BY WYNDHAM SAN ANTONIO RIVERWALK HOTEL

The La Quinta San Antonio Riverwalk Hotel still has plenty of rooms for the 2023 IVV Olympiad/IML Texas Trail Roundup Walking Festival. The rate for a single, double, triple, or quad room is \$159.00 plus taxes. This price includes breakfast. Parking is discounted at a rate of \$18.00/night for AVA hotel guests. The standard rate is \$26.00. There is a city parking lot across the street from the hotel which may be less.

This hotel will be the location for registration and packet pickup for all IVV Olympiad and IML Texas Trail Roundup events.

RESERVATION METHOD/PROCEDURE

Reservations will be made by calling 800-753-3757 or by using the link below on or before 1/19/2023:

[Click here to make reservation.](#)

Please use the information below when calling to make reservations.

Reservations Department #: 800-753-3757

Hotel: La Quinta by Wyndham San Antonio Riverwalk (property #53402)
303 Blum, San Antonio TX 78205

Group Name: American Volkssport Association

Group Code: CG8650

Please be prepared to provide credit card information to guarantee reservations.



HOTEL RESERVATION CUT OFF DATE

The guest room block will be held until **1/19/2023** which is **30** days prior to arrival or until such time as the block has been filled. Any sleeping rooms not reserved by the cut-off date shall be released by the HOTEL for sale to the public.

THERE ARE PLENTY OF ADDITIONAL HOTELS AVAILABLE FOR THE 2023 IVV OLYMPIAD

The AVA has negotiated special room blocks and rates at several hotels that are in downtown San Antonio, all within a couple of miles from the host hotel, La Quinta by Wyndham. The rates vary from \$104.00-\$259.00. To view these hotels and register go to the 2023 IVV Olympiad website at ivvolympiad2023.org and click on the Hotels link. If you encounter problems with your reservation, please call the hotel directly and advise them you are with the American Volkssport Association group. These hotels have agreed to issue the AVA a rebate on room nights therefore, by staying at one of these hotels you are supporting the AVA! Most hotels will allow guests to arrive a day earlier or leave a day later at the negotiated rate. If online registration does not allow this, please contact the hotel directly or contact Bernadette@ava.org

THE OLYMPIAD REGISTRATION IS OPEN! REGISTER TODAY TO RECEIVE YOUR DISCOUNT!

You can now register for the 2023 IVV Olympiad and IML/Texas Trail Roundup Walking Festival. Be sure to register before October 1, 2022, to receive the early bird discount. To register [click here](#).

The host hotel, La Quinta, will be the event registration and packet pickup site.



VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

This will be an incredible event that will require many volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Susan Pinneke at nc_rd@ava.org.

The 2023 Olympiad/IML TTR committee meets monthly. We welcome your concerns, questions, recommendations, and Olympiad stories! If you would like to share with us, you may contact us at olympiad2023@ava.org

LIKE US ON THE 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.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE - SUSAN FINE

COMMITTEE UPDATE

Have you registered for the 2023 Olympiad in San Antonio, February 19 – 26, 2023? We encourage you to register early, [click here](#) (before September 30). This is a huge undertaking for the committee, and they need to order medals, bags, and other goodies in October to ensure items arrive in time for the event in February. We are also sending out a survey to everyone to ask your thoughts about the Olympiad. Everyone who responds will be entered to win an IVV Olympiad pass, or an IML Texas Trail Roundup pass. **To participate in the survey [click here](#)**, please respond by August 31.

We have been working on the [Olympiad website](#) to give you more information, with [FAQs \(Frequently Asked Questions\)](#), information about San Antonio and all the Things to See, along with more information as the Olympiad gets closer. If there is something you are not finding on the website, please let me know: finesusan25@gmail.com. Most immediate updates will be posted on the [Olympiad Facebook page](#). We encourage you to share posts on your personal page, to encourage family and friends to join you in San Antonio.

The event includes seven days of walk, bike and swim events. The IVV Olympiad is February 19-22, 2023, followed by the IML Texas Trail Roundup February 24-26.

ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST - MARIAN DEVAUL

OLYMPIAD MARKETING MATERIALS:

We have the following free promotional materials available to Clubs for Olympiad marketing:

Key Chains, Save the Date Cards, Generic Business Cards, and the linked [Electronic Flyer here](#).

If you would like any of these materials, please fill out the linked [Olympiad Promotional Material form here](#) and return to marian@ava.org.



Click on images to view.



Click on image for form.

OCTOBER 2022 NATIONAL VOLKSPORT MONTH PATCH

October is National Volkssport Month. Celebrate by pre-ordering patches using the order form and returning to the National Headquarters. The 2022 patches are \$5.00 each (20% club discount does not apply. Shipping cost is not included)

Mail form to AVA, 1008 S. Alamo St, San Antonio, TX 78210, or fax form to 210-659-1212. You may also place your order by emailing this form to marian@ava.org. The deadline to order these October patches is September 15th. Don't miss this opportunity to offer this collectible patch to walk participants! Note: AVA will not be ordering extra inventory of this patch, clubs must pre-order the patch. Click on image for form.

STARTING POINT BOOKS ON SALE NOW!

We have discounted our 2022 Starting Point books. They are now available for sale at a cost of \$15.00 plus \$7.00 for Shipping / Handling. For purchase, please e-mail marian@ava.org, or call 210-659-2112.

As our publishing expense has increased over the years, the 2023 Starting Point books will see a price increase to \$30 plus Shipping / Handling. Clubs will still receive a 20% discount. Family and Individual Associate members will receive their 10% discount, and Lifetime members will continue to receive their 15% discount.

2ND QUARTER PARTICIPATION

It's time once again to submit your 2nd Quarter Participation Reports. Don't forget, the deadline is midnight on July 31st, and all reports submitted after this date are past due and subject to late fees.

FINANCIAL

If your club's fiscal year ends on 6-30-22, it is time to file your 990 E-Postcard, Annual Financial Report (AFR), update your club officers and members. 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. Thank you.

IT SPECIALIST - HECTOR HERNANDEZ

2023 STARTING POINT PHOTO CONTEST

Everything is now open and walking is permitted! How have you been documenting your moments? Let us see those pictures of the "People", "Places" or "Things" you encounter! They say pictures are worth a thousand words. What do your pictures say? Please submit your entries for this year's photo contest. The first and second place winners will get their photo printed on the front side (1st place) and backside (2nd place) cover of the 2021 Starting Point book. Winners will also get a complimentary copy of the Starting Point!

Entries are due to AVA National office no later than August 31, 2022. Rules, guidelines and the official entry form are attached in link below. Participation in the nationwide contest is open to AVA members, clubs and state organizations. All entries must have been created or occurred during the time period from July 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022. For more information contact Hector at hector@ava.org

[Click here for Order Form](#)

[Click here for Photo Contest Rules](#)



YRE RENEWAL

The YRE renewal process will begin July 15, 2022 and will end September 1, 2022.

RD's must review and approve all events by September 15, 2022 in order to get them into the 2023 Starting Point book. Any approvals after the 15th do not guarantee a section in the Starting Point book.

If you have any questions or need any assistance please call (210) 659-2112 or email Hector@ava.org.

***Please note that new events can be submitted year round. If you are planning a new event for 2023 you can submit those events anytime.

IT COMMITTEE - MIKE GREEN, CHAIR

YRE/SE RENEWALS FOR 2023

Clubs will be permitted to renew their 2022 YRE/SEs for 2023 starting July 15th.

There will be a general announcement sent to all club POCs on or about July 15th with more information.

All renewals are done via club's account on my.ava.org by clicking on "Sanctions" tab then the "Edit/New" tab to display the club "Sanctions in buffer" page. On this page, events yet to be renewed are listed in the "EVENT RENEWALS" section.

When renewing a YRE/SE, the club should carefully review the event information by clicking on each of the blue "Sanction Tiles".

The my.ava.org system has a number of new features (as compared to the Legacy ESR) that the clubs are encouraged to use to improve the quality of their event submission. You will not be able to renew/submit an event for RD approval that is missing required event information (as discussed in the article "The New ESR - Event Information" found in the [April 2022 Checkpoint](#) PG. 7).

PUBLISH, PUBLISH, PUBLISH

A number of clubs have a large number of their 2022 YREs events actively being edited and ready to be published. It appears that these clubs don't realize that the events need to be "Published" to make the changes publicly viewable.

To publish an edited event starting from the my.ava.org club homepage, click on the Sanctions tab, then the Edit/New tab then the Review button for each event. On the event's Review page click on the "Publish" button.

Please do this for each event.

Note, when renewals are enabled only Published event data will be copied from 2022 to the 2023 event.

MY.AVA.ORG - CHRIS ZEGELIN, DEVELOPER

THE NEW ESR FEATURE ON MY.AVA.ORG

I have added a new feature to the ESR edit on my.ava.org. Special fees are part of AVA policy where a club can require a fee to participate in an event over and above the fee for event credit. These fees typically support the cost of a venue for a festival or convention, but might also support permit costs, and food. This feature addition to the sanction provides a standard way to inform participants so there are no surprises.

The feature is item #7 on the "basics" tile when editing or creating a sanction. Standard text will be added to all public sanction views if a special fee item is selected. This will also show up in the generic "brochure".

There is no practical way for the club to collect these fees for a Year Round or Seasonal event. They are generally limited to traditional events. However, all events can have fees required to participate, such as a park entrance fee or a required parking fee. This feature addition allows you to clearly inform your participants of these potential costs.

If the fee details are known, such as actual cost, and are not likely to change, then put that information in the "Important Event Information" field (Description tile, item #3).



PROGRAMS COMMITTEE - TIM MINER, CHAIR

The America's Walking Club online webinar for July is **Wednesday, June 20 at 8 pm Eastern**. It will last for one hour. Pre-registration is required.

Topics for this month include:

2023 Special Programs to begin January 2023
Updates on the 2023 IVV Olympiad and other special events coming up
Q&A on hosting the 2025 National Conference
Event Renewals

Registration link below:

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZApdu2spjwvHd2GydZCGZXR84jKWUXIzDZz>

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

HOSTING THE 2025 AVA BIENNIAL CONVENTION - LOOKING FOR PROPOSALS!

The American Volkssport Association (AVA), America's Walking Club is issuing a Request For Proposals (RFP) for local clubs jointly applying, a singular club and/or state association to host the 2025 AVA Biennial Convention. RFP documents are available upon request from the National Office. Contact us now!

Typically every two years the membership of the AVA convenes for seven (7) to nine (9) days to participate in some of the best organized walks in America as well as other noncompetitive fitness activities before, during and after a national general membership business meeting. We refer to this convening as our biennial convention. The number of individuals who attend the full convention could be approximately 350. However, the number of individuals who attend the walks and social events exceeds 700! Our goal is to increase these numbers by 25%.

The biennial convention includes the business meeting (two one-half day sessions), workshops, socials, an AVA Board Meeting, silent auction, cash raffle, exhibit booths and health fair, walking events and other noncompetitive physical fitness activities which take place during three days of the convention and the a nine-day convening period with pre and post convention activities.

Those Considering Submitting Proposals (RFPs) Need to Contact AVA and Develop a Proposal

September 1 Due Date for Completed Proposals (RFPs) to Reach the National Office

September 2 - September 21 A Review of Submitted Proposals Will be Conducted by National Office Staff, and Representatives of the Convention Committee

October 1, 2022 Two (or Three) Semi-Finalists Will Be Notified and On-site AVA Visits Will Be Scheduled

October - November 4, 2022 On-site Visits by National Office and AVA Convention Committee Representatives at Semi-Finalist Locations, Tour Sites and Meet Local Committee Members

November 9 National Office and the Convention Committee Present Semi-Finalists to the Board at the Board Meeting Requesting Board Input, and if Desired, a Board Recommendation

February 20-23 or 20-26 Semi-Finalists Will Be Offered a Booth in San Antonio to Share Information

February 24, 2023 Membership Business Meeting - In-Person or Video Presentations by Semi-Finalists

June 2023 Member Delegates Selection/Vote - Virtual Voting (Date to be selected.) REVISED SCHEDULE!

July 3, 2023 Finalist Selected Will Be Notified, as Well as the Runner-up REVISED SCHEDULE!

July 2023 - May 2025 Local Preparation and Scheduling for 2025 Convention Activities Continuous Contact With National Office Staff and the Convention Committee (National Office Executive Director Approves and Signs All Convention Related Contracts)

If you have questions, please contact Henry Rosales at henry@ava.org or (210) 659-2112 or Jerry Wilson, Chair, Convention Committee at Convention@ava.org or (608) 695-6449 (leave a message)

SUPPORT OUR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS

NATIONAL EVENTS

Click images to go to
official website.

9th Annual Fall Volksmarch October 2, 2022



**21st Annual
US FreedomWalk Festival**
14 - 16 October 2022
— 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 to Arlington

WALKING ASSOCIATION OF KERRVILLE AMBULANCE

WCI

WALK WITH WCI FOR UKRAINE!

Peace for Ukraine Walk for Ukraine

Help Ukraine.Center
Voices of Children
The \$1K Project Foundation

FUNDRAISER WALK

Join us as we raise funds for our partners and for all the innocent victims involved in this war

For more information, visit:
<https://wci4ukraine.causevox.com/>

SOLAR ECLIPSE
APRIL 8, 2024
SAVE THE DATE

The Texas Hill Country will be one of the few places in North America in complete totality of the solar eclipse. Observers will see about 4 minutes and 29 seconds of totality!

The Randolph RoadRunners are planning
5 & 10 km walks
in Kerrville, Texas

COME WALK WITH US
www.randolphroadrunners.info

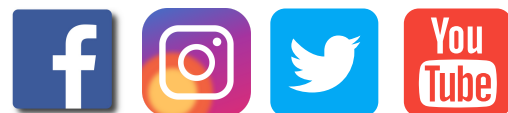
Checkpoint Available Via Email to All Club Members Who Request It

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](#).