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

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CHECKPOINT

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AVA SECRETARY - CECILIA MINER

CALL TO 2023 SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

I hereby notify all AVA National Officers, Regional Directors, State Organizations, and AVA Member Clubs of the February 24, 2023, American Volkssport Association Special Membership Meeting and invite you to participate.

The AVA will hold a Special Membership Meeting at the La Quinta Inn and Suites by Wyndham San Antonio Riverwalk, 303 Blum, San Antonio, Texas, on **Friday, February 24, 2023, from 1:30pm to 4:30pm**. The meeting is timed to occur between the closing of the 2023 Olympiad and the opening of the 2023 Texas Trail RoundUp International Marching League event. The purpose of the meeting is to hear greetings from local, national, and international dignitaries, to present the President's Awards, and to recognize those who have passed away since the 2021 Convention. In addition, any proposal(s) received for the 2025 Convention will be presented. There will be no voting at this Special Membership Meeting, so clubs do not need to appoint delegates.

This call satisfies the requirement in the AVA Bylaws to provide sixty days' notice of a Special Membership Meeting.

PRESIDENT/CEO - HENRY ROSALES

PLEASE SEND US NAMES FOR THE NECROLOGY LIST

Help us honor all our beloved Volkssporters who are no longer with us. Send the name, city, and state of individuals from May 2021 through December 31, 2022 to Karen at karen@ava.org by **January 15, 2023**. The Necrology will be presented during the Special Call Membership Meeting February 24, 2023, at 1:30pm.



2023 IVV OLYMPIAD AND IML TEXAS TRAIL ROUNDUP UPDATES

THE OLYMPIAD REGISTRATION CONTINUES!

Come and walk with Volkssporters from 38 States and 22 countries! It is not too late to register. The cost of registration for the full week of events is only \$170.00. Single day passes are \$30.00. (This price does not include the Margarita and Taco Trail Walk or the Friendship Celebration.)



To register go to: Home - [IVV Olympiad 2023](#)

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 half mile from the host hotel, La Quinta by Wyndham. The rates vary from \$104.00-\$259.00. To view these hotels [click here](#). If you encounter problems with your reservation, please call the hotel directly and advise them you are with the American Volkssport Association group or contact Henry at Henry@ava.org. These hotels have agreed to issue the AVA a rebate on room nights therefore, by staying at one of these hotels you are also supporting the AVA!

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.



RESERVE YOUR 2023 OLYMPIAD EXHIBIT TABLES NOW!

All AVA clubs are invited to host an exhibit table at the 2023 IVV Olympiad and IML Texas Trail Roundup Olympiad Village. The village will be open from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday, February 20 – Saturday, February 25, 2023. There is no fee for clubs who want to host an exhibit table. However, clubs are responsible for securing their merchandise each day. The tables will be in a location that will not be locked nightly due to exhibits being outdoors. A small storage area will be available. Exhibits will come with an 8-foot table and two chairs, no tablecloths.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - KAREN KAUFMAN, CHAIR

AVA IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

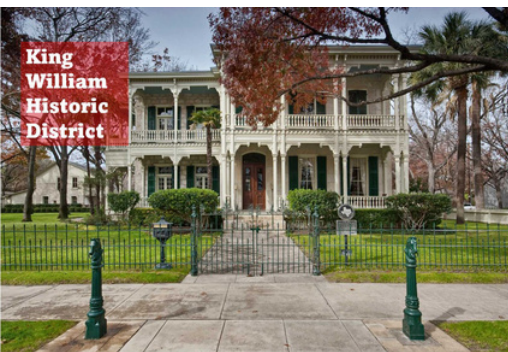
We are looking for open minded and progressive thinking members who see the way forward to the future of AVA membership at all levels. If interested, please send an email to membership@ava.org with your name, your Region (and Club), email, phone number (contact time AM, Aft, PM and time zone), to include a brief paragraph about yourself and why you are interested in joining the committee. Thank you!



PUBLICITY COMMITTEE - SUSAN FINE, CHAIR

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

We're excited that the local NBC television affiliate in San Antonio will be a media sponsor of the IVV Olympiad and AVA, promoting health through walking. They will provide interviews, promos, news stories and more, and will hopefully have their stories broadcast elsewhere through their sister stations. The IVV Olympiad is not only a once-in-a-lifetime event for many volkssporters, but also lets us promote our sport and the AVA to a new audience. We will post links on Facebook, from the station – WOAI – News4 San Antonio.



Another major publicity event is the King William Historic District Community Walk, a pre-Olympiad walk Sunday February 19th at 10am. For those who registered for the Olympiad, it is a bonus walk to join us that morning. We are inviting the community in San Antonio to learn about volkswalking, walk with people from around the country and the world, and discover our passion for this sport. Please join us, and talk about your experiences volkswalking with people who are new to our activity. More information will be posted on Facebook, and in future Checkpoints.

After the community walk, we want everyone to join us in the Parade of Flags, as we walk from the park to the opening ceremonies, with 40 flags represented from the various countries of the IVV. More info to follow..

Our goal of the Publicity Committee is promoting AVA and volkswalking, and the IVV Olympiad and IML Texas Trail Roundup are why we are concentrating on these events. If you have any ideas, please let us know.

HAPPIEST HOLIDAYS

May the holiday season fill your home with joy, your heart with love, and your life with laughter.











\$90,313.64 Raised!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE BIG GIVE 2022.

IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING, WE CELEBRATE AND GIVE THANKS!

December is here and the holidays are near. In addition to spreading love and cheer over the holidays, we should also take this opportunity to celebrate one another. During this holiday season, we want to celebrate YOU - our clubs, volunteers, members, partners, donors, family, and friends. We want to celebrate you and thank you for your love, dedication, support, and generosity shown to this organization. Some people only give back during the holidays, but you give from your heart all year long. You are the heart and sole of America's Walking Club.

In the spirit of giving, we also want to give a special thank you to each and every one of our 2022 donors. Whether you have given throughout the year or given during the Big Give individual donor campaign, your donations make an impact. In fact, throughout the past few days, Big Give donations have kept coming in, and as a result, we have now reached and surpassed our \$90,000 goal. An impressive \$90,313.64 was raised by our donors! Your thoughtfulness and generosity never cease to amaze us.

Please stay tuned for more Big Give updates and announcements as we work through sorting all of the Big Give donor data. The winner of the Regional Challenge for this year will be announced soon. Don't miss it!



WINNERS OF A 2023 STARTING POINT BOOK (6 WINNERS; OPEN TO INDIVIDUAL DONORS ONLY):

- Judith Weigel
- Diane McFarland
- Heidi Schurr
- Michael Hermes
- Nancy Patrick
- Peter Anderson

WINNERS OF A FREE REGISTRATION TO THE 23RD AVA BIENNIAL CONVENTION (2 WINNERS; OPEN TO CLUBS ONLY):

- New Braunfels Marsch-Und Wandergruppe
- Tecumseh Trailblazers

WINNERS OF A VIP PASS TO THE 2023 IIV OLYMPIAD OR IML (5 WINNERS; OPEN TO INDIVIDUAL & CLUB DONORS OF \$100+ ONLY/INCLUDES ENTRANCE TO ALL SPORTING EVENTS FOR EITHER THE OLYMPIAD OR IML, THE MARGARITA AND TACO TRAIL WALK, AND THE FRIENDSHIP CELEBRATION)

- Mercella Lucas – Olympiad Sporting Events and Special Events VIP Pass
- First Coast Trail Forgers Walking Club – Olympiad Sporting Events and Special Events VIP Pass
- Thunder Mountain Trekkers – IML Sporting Events and Special Events VIP Pass
- Don Ramirez -IML Sporting Events and Special Events VIP Pass
- Jerry Perkins – IML Sporting Events and Special Events VIP Pass

PRIZES ARE NON TRANSFERRABLE

ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST - MARIAN DEVAUL

2023 CENTURION ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE

The 2023 program begins January 1, 2023. You must be an AVA Associate Member (annual or lifetime) to participate in the Challenge. Eligible participants may register for the 2023 Challenge between October 1, 2022 and September 30, 2023 using the official registration form. Please mail forms to AVA, 1008 S. Alamo St, San Antonio, TX 78210, or e-mail to marian@ava.org.

[Click here for Centurion form.](#)

STARTING POINT BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR SALE NOW

If you pre-ordered a 2023 Starting Point book, they were shipped Monday, December 5.

If you did not pre-order a book, we still have books available for sale at a cost of \$30.00 plus shipping and handling. For purchase, please e-mail marian@ava.org, or call 210-659-2112.

IT SPECIALIST - HECTOR HERNANDEZ

STAMPS UPDATE

The 2023 stamps have processed and sent December 6, 2023. If you are missing any stamps or have any questions please contact Hector@ava.org.

OPTOUTSIDE

Special thanks to the 6 returning Clubs and the 4 new Clubs who opted to promote a healthy lifestyle the day after Thanksgiving by hosting a walking event with their many volunteers! We appreciate your support of our mission.

Buffalo Pathfinders

Dairyland Walkers

Freestate Happy Wanderers

First State Webfooters

Georgia Walkers

Hoosier Hikers

Low Desert Roadrunners

Randolph Roadrunners Volkssport Club

Thunder Mountain Trekkers

Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club

CONVENTION COMMITTEE - JERRY WILSON, CHAIR

HOSTING THE 2025 AVA BIENNIAL CONVENTION – EXTENDED TIME TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS!

The American Volkssport Association (AVA), America's Walking Club is extending the deadline to submit a proposal to host the 2025 Biennial Convention. Contact us now! The new and final deadline is **March 1st, 2023**.

Those considering submitting proposals need to contact AVA and develop a proposal. The Convention Committee and National Office members will provide assistance where possible.

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

Sixth Martin Luther King Day Weekend
First Coast Trail Forgers Walking Club

Friday - Monday
Jan 13 - 16, 2023



FERNANDINA BEACH, FL - 5 WALKS OVER 4 DAYS



Save the Dates for

WALKFEST VANCOUVER

September 22-24, 2023

3 Days of Beautiful Walks
Including Walks in
World Famous Stanley Park
and on
The World's Longest Seawall

Three Hour Harbour Cruise
Including Onboard Banquet

Hosted by
Vancouver 'Venturers Volkssport Club

www.vancouverventurers.com
www.facebook.com/groups/vancouverventurers



NATIONAL EVENTS

Click images to go to
official website.

37th Annual Spring Volksmarch June 3, 2023

11th Annual Fall
Volksmarch
October 1, 2023



INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

where to be in '24
où être en 24



Join us May 24-26, 2024 for
a walk through history in Canada's
First Capital and surrounding areas.
Registration includes 5 Event Walks,
a Meet & Greet, and a Dinner.

Rejoignez-nous les 24-26 mai 2024
pour une marche à travers l'histoire
dans la première capitale du Canada
et les environs. L'inscription comprend
5 marches événementielles, un
Meet & Greet et un dîner.

**SOLAR
ECLIPSE**

APRIL 8, 2024
SAVE THE DATE

World Walking Week
is 1-7 April, 2024

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
starting at 13:32.

The Texas Volkssport Association is planning
5 & 10 km walks
in the Texas Hill Country

COME WALK WITH US
www.walktexas.org



AMERICA'S
WALKING CLUB
Volksmarching at its Best



Walk
Arlington

An International Walking Experience

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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