



CHECKPOINT

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PRESIDENT/CEO - HENRY ROSALES

2027 AVA CONVENTION HOTEL – UNIVERSITY PLAZA HOTEL, SPRINGFIELD, MO



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At University Plaza Hotel, an unbeatable location in downtown Springfield sets the scene for a place where warm hospitality feels more home-like than ever. From spacious guest rooms and suites that feature a long list of relaxing amenities to 150,000 sq. feet of versatile event space, the University Plaza Hotel offers comfort, convenience, and excitement—all wrapped up in one authentically midwestern package.

The AVA has secured the University Plaza Hotel as the host hotel for the 2027 Biennial Convention in Springfield, MO. The room rate is \$120/single or double, \$130/for a triple, and \$140 for a quad. The room rate includes breakfast for two people. Additional breakfast passes are available at \$10.00 per person. Parking is free!

Registration, convention workshops, the membership meeting, and the awards ceremony will be held at the hotel. The opening reception will take place across the street, within easy walking distance. Two of the three convention walks will also start at the hotel. Details for the third convention walk are still being finalized. If it does not start at the hotel, bus transportation will be provided from the University Plaza Hotel.

Reserve your rooms soon before it is too late because, with this great rate, rooms will go quickly. [Click here to book your rooms](#). Should you have problems booking online, call the hotel at (417) 864-7333 and advise them you are with the American Volkssport Association.

2028 IVV AMERICASPIAD AND IVV CONGRESS OF DELEGATES

The AVA will host the IVV Americaspiad in Rapid City, SD, June 9–11, 2028, and the IVV Congress of Delegates on June 8, 2028. Jerry Wilson and the AVA Convention Committee will lead the Americaspiad planning. If you are interested in joining the planning team, please contact Jerry Wilson at convention@ava.org.

The Americaspiad is like an Olympiad but on a smaller scale. It includes:

- an opening flag ceremony
- walking/hiking, cycling and swimming events; additional popular sports can be included
- a minimum 20k walk and 20k bike route will be included.
- a closing ceremony
- the event must be a minimum of 2 days

For more information on the 2028 IVV Americaspiad visit ava.org/americaspiad-2028/.

COMING SOON! NEW AVA MEMBER BENEFIT WITH VENUSTAS AND MEMBERDEALS

Venustas is an online merchandise store that sells heated apparel. AVA members will soon be able to purchase apparel from Venustas and enjoy \$30 off on their first purchase plus a \$10 gift card. MemberDeals is a company the AVA has partnered with to provide exclusive discounts for sporting events, entertainment events, theme parks, hotels, movies, and rental cars, but you must be an AVA member to access these discounts!

Check out our new membership benefits by [clicking here](#).

Members will have to log into their my.ava.org account and click on the MemberDeals link to take advantage of travel and entertainment deals.

Special thanks to Robert Buzolich, Roxie Weaver, Susan Budd, and all club members and volunteers for hosting the 2026 Mid-America Walking Weekend & Conference in conjunction with the AVA's 50th Anniversary. The number of participants was 275 total walkers for all events. This is amazing given the fact they also had to deal with a State of Emergency due to tornadoes! Congratulations to all!

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE - SUSAN FINE, CHAIR

PUBLICITY UPDATE

Kudos to the Mid-America region for a great event in Illinois and Indiana. When the tornado hit Charleston, IL, a few days before visitors were to walk there, clubs immediately changed the location to Mattoon, IL, to be sure everyone had a great experience during the weekend. It's what we do: we're flexible and we care that everyone has a great time during our walks. Great job Mid-America.



There are ten 50th Anniversary events to go... so please encourage your members to attend at least one in your area. Get info: <https://ava.org/50th-anniversary/>. There are also events that may not be "featured events", but are multi-day events clubs have worked hard to create. Please share with your members: <https://my.ava.org/find-a-fest.php> and support these clubs.

If you are attending the next 50th anniversary event in San Francisco July 24-25, the Bay Bandits have discovered some possible construction issues, so they are asking everyone to [pre-register](#) for the event by July 15, 2026. Please print the form, or contact Mary Bond: bondsf@gmail.com.

Another event in July to celebrate our 50th takes us to Colorado Springs, CO July 28 - August 2, for 6 days of hikes and walks, plus meet and greet, and dinner. Called the Rocky Mountain Rendezvous, you will walk Garden of the Gods, Black Forest Regional Park, Paint Mines, Ute Pass Ramble, City of Gold Mines, and Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge. Get more info: <https://avaclubs.org/RMR/>.

SAVE THE DATE:

- June 28 – July 1, 2027 in Springfield, MO (July 26-July 4 with pre- and post-walks) for the 24th AVA Bi-Centennial Convention. We'll be updating the website with hotel links, registration, events and more. Get updates at ava.org/2027-convention
- June 9-11, 2028 in Rapid City, SD for the first ever Americaspiad international IVV event. Keep up to date at ava.org/americaspiad-2028

Remember to go through your best photos for the Starting Point Photo Contest, due by August 31, 2026. First place photo will be featured on the front of the 2027 Starting Point Book; second place will be on the back. [Get info here.](#)

CONVENTION COMMITTEE - JERRY WILSON, CHAIR

STARTING TO MEET AS A FULL COMMITTEE

Beginning in mid-July the full Convention Committee will start to meet on-line. Much work has been going on in the areas of:

- Contracting for Meeting and Social Rooms
- Establishing a Block of Lodging Rooms
- Registration System Development
- Walking Trail Development
- Creation of Initial FAQ (Frequently Asked Question) Elements
- Many of the Systems that Support All of the Above are Being

Put Into Place:

Committee members, especially those that sent in an "email of interest" to join or support the Committee in response to a past Checkpoint article, if you have not heard from me, please email us at Convention@AVA.org.



**AVA FINANCE DIRECTOR - ERIN GROSSO
COMMEMORATIVE CHALLENGE COIN FOR SALE**

Join us as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary and 40 years of partnership and walking with the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation.



We have been given a unique opportunity to offer a special Commemorative Challenge Coin featuring both milestones. This double-sided coin is available for \$10 and can be purchased by contacting Marian at marian@ava.org.

[Commemorative Coin Order Form](#)

**AVA SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR
- AMANDA JAUREGUI**

AVA FINANCE CHAIR - SETH WERNER

FINANCIAL HEALTH TIPS FOR LOCAL CLUBS

#10 Build a Reserve Fund—Even a Small One

From the Desk of the National Finance Chair

Keeping finances in order doesn't have to be complicated. These quick tips are designed to help your club stay organized and avoid common mistakes.

Your Safety Net

Emergencies happen. Start setting aside a small percentage of every donation until you have at least one month of expenses saved.

Quick Start Checklist:

- ✓ Decide on a reserve goal
- ✓ Open a separate savings account
- ✓ Transfer funds monthl

Resource: Building Operating Reserves – Nonprofit Finance Fund: <https://nff.org>

AMERICA'S WALKING CLUB
ESTABLISHED 1976

Save the Date for our Wednesday Webinar with

NATURAL GROCERS
good4u

We'll talk about the upcoming Big Give!

WEDNESDAY JULY 15TH, AT 7PM CDT.

CHECK OUT JUNE'S WEDNESDAY WEBINAR

We hope you will join us for this month's Wednesday Webinar on July 15th at 7pm CDT! We will have a speaker from AVA supporter and sponsor, Natural Grocers, talk to us about the importance of a combining a healthy walking life with healthy diet and what to look for when grocery shopping. We will also have AVA's own Samata Sanchez to give us updates on the Big Give and how our AVA Members can be part of our biggest fundraiser of the year. You can register here if you aren't already:

<http://bit.ly/4sOQEaK>

SAVE THE DATE

SMALL ACTS

The Big Give

BIG IMPACT

Join us for 24 hours of online giving! Starting from 6 PM - 6 PM

09/23 - 9/24

Join the movement that keeps you moving.

DON'T FORGET TO USE YOUR MEMBERDEALS PERKS THIS SUMMER!



America's Walking Club has partnered with MemberDeals to bring all of our AVA members an easy way to save on travel, tickets, and more! MemberDeals offers up to 60% discounts on theme parks, attractions, events, hotels, concerts, and so much more! Whether you're looking for something local or something out of town, check your MemberDeals account to see if there's a deal for you.

To access MemberDeals, you will login into your [my.ava account](#), click on "My Awards," and you will see it under your awards. You will click on the button, and a whole plethora of deals is at your fingertips! This is our newest AVA Member perk, and we are happy to help you save big when you're looking for something fun to do.

Keep in mind, you must have an AVA Membership to access this perk. If you are not an AVA Member or need to renew, you can do [so here](#).

AVA WALK APP COMMITTEE - JEFFREY GIDDINGS, CHAIR

THE AVA WALK APP: WHERE WE'RE HEADED

For decades, AVA walks have started much the same way: a folder of printed directions, a map, and the trust that the route ahead was carefully laid out by a club volunteer who knows the ground. That tradition isn't going anywhere. But the way we carry it in our pockets is about to change.

AVA is building its first official mobile app — a walking companion for iPhone and Android that helps you find sanctioned walks, carry the directions in your pocket, and follow them even where there's no cell signal. Here's the vision, what we're aiming for, roughly when, and just as importantly, what the app will not be.

Built on what members told us

This isn't a guess about what walkers want. The app's direction draws on two things in equal measure: a 2026 research effort that gathered input from hundreds of members across 46 states — with in-depth interviews and hands-on testing of an early prototype — and the hard-won experience of the volunteers and staff who have organized AVA walks for decades. From the research, one finding stood out above all others: being able to navigate a walk, and having it keep working offline, is the single most important thing the app can do. That's where the work starts.

A guiding principle runs through all of it: include, don't force. Every digital feature is offered alongside the familiar way of doing things. Physical stamp books stay valid. Walk-up participation stays possible. Browsing walks is open to everyone — no account required just to look around. To download a route and follow it, you'll set up an account, which is also where you complete the liability waiver that AVA and clubs rely on to keep walkers protected. If you love the app, it's there. If you'd rather keep walking the way you always have, nothing changes for you.

What we're trying to achieve

The first version focuses on a handful of things done well:

Find walks easily. Search and filter AVA's thousands of sanctioned walks by location, date, difficulty, terrain, and accessibility — on a map or as a list.

Works where the trail is. Download a walk's directions and map before you leave cell coverage, and everything keeps working with no signal. Many of our best walks run through parks and river valleys where service drops out; the app is built for exactly that.

Paper if you want it. Directions download with a print option, so you can carry them the old-fashioned way.

Plain-language details. Terrain, parking, restrooms, and accessibility described in plain words — "flat paved path," not a terrain code.

Readable and usable by design. Large touch targets, screen-reader support, and font scaling, built for the way our membership actually reads a phone screen.

Optional tracking, for those who want it. The app will keep a digital tally of your walk events and distances, and let you record a walk's distance and time — entirely opt-in. It complements your stamp book; it never replaces it.

A welcome mat for new walkers. Non-members can browse and discover walks — an easy on-ramp for the many people already out walking who haven't yet joined a club.

A tentative timeline

This is early. Right now AVA is selecting the development team that will build the app, so the steps below are sequence, not promises.

First — the foundation. Walk search and filtering on a map, full offline mode, downloadable and printable directions, account creation with a one-time liability waiver for anyone downloading routes, stamp-book support, and accessibility. These have to work flawlessly before anything else is added.

Next — higher-value features. Richer walk details, links between each trail and the club that maintains it — including club locations and contact points — in-app event registration and payment, event messaging for weather or last-minute route changes, automatically published events, a cross-club calendar, community trail-condition reports, and opt-in GPS walk recording.

Later — nice-to-haves. Digital milestones and badges that complement stamp books, route ratings and reviews, and fitness-tracker integration.

Looking further ahead. A few capabilities aren't on the near-term list but remain goals as the app matures. Chief among them is GPS-prompted navigation — spoken or on-screen cues that call out your turns as you reach them, so you can keep your eyes on the trail. We'd love to have it as early as possible, ideally in the first release, though it may arrive in a later phase. Optional community features are another possibility down the road. How far and how fast we go here depends on how the early phases land.

We'd rather get it right than get it fast, and you'll hear more as each phase takes shape.

What the app will not do

Being clear about the boundaries matters as much as the promises:

- It won't replace what we use now — PSB, OSB, ESR. Event sanctioning, physical and online start boxes, record books, and award credit all continue to work the way they do today. (The app will, however, track your walk events and distances for those who wish to — see above.)
- It won't make you create an account just to browse. Looking at walks is open to everyone.
- It won't replace your stamp book. Digital tracking is additive and optional; paper stays valid, always.
- It won't turn walking into a competition. No leaderboards, no public rankings, no competitive tracking.
- It won't track or sell your personal data. The app collects only what it needs to do its job, and your information is never sold.

Get involved

This is being built for the whole AVA community, and your input already shaped it. The work of turning our paper trail guides into digital routes is now beginning in a pair of pilot regions, and it will open to more clubs as the app grows. Comments, criticisms, and suggestions are welcome at jhgiddings@ava.org. To stay informed, watch for updates here in Checkpoint and The American Wanderer as each phase takes shape.

ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST - MARIAN DEVAUL

AVA 50TH ANNIVERSARY STICKERS

To help celebrate the AVA's 50th Anniversary, we have a limited supply of commemorative 50th Anniversary stickers available to support your event promotion.

These stickers may be used however they work best for your event. A few fun ideas:

- Add them to flyers, postcards, or walk directions
- Include them in registration materials or welcome packets
- Hand them out to walkers as a keepsake
- Display them at your registration table to highlight your event's connection to our 50th Anniversary celebration

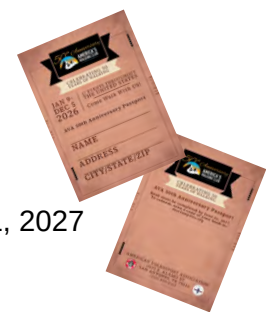


They're a simple way to add a little extra sparkle and help spread the word about your event being part of this milestone year. If you are interested in receiving the stickers, please e-mail marian@ava.org.

CELEBRATE AVA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY! [Order Form](#)

In honor of this milestone, participating clubs will host 2026 Signature Events across the country. Join the celebration with the 50th Anniversary Passport Book Challenge—featuring 17 special event signature walks.

- Collect a unique sticker at each walk for your passport book.
- Complete at least 8 signature events of the passport book to earn a commemorative t-shirt.
- Complete 100% of the passport book to receive a commemorative t-shirt and an AVA tote bag!
- Program runs from 1-1-26 to 12-31-26
- Submit completed books for redemption to same address, or scan to marian@ava.org by June 31, 2027
- For more information on the walks, please visit ava.org



The cost of the books are \$15.00 each plus \$1.50 for shipping and handling. Mail form along with payment to AVA, 1032 S. Alamo St., San Antonio, TX, 78210 or email form to Marian@ava.org and call with credit card information.

CLUB DUES

Just a quick reminder that Annual Club Dues for the 2026–2027 fiscal year were invoiced on July 1, 2026. The yearly dues remain at \$75.00 and are due within 30 days of receiving the invoice.

Thank you for your continued support!

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 6-30-26, it is time to file your 990 E-Postcard, Annual Financial Report (AFR), and update your club officers. The reports can be filed after July 1, 2026, but before the November 15, 2026 deadline. 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.

2027 STARTING POINT BOOKS - PRE-ORDER NOW! [Order Form](#)

It's time to pre-order your 2027 Starting Point Book. The deadline is no later than midnight, September 30, 2026. The price of the books are \$35.00 each, plus a shipping and handling charge. Form may be mailed to AVA, 1032 S. Alamo St, San Antonio, TX 78210, or place your order by emailing the form to Marian@ava.org.

MID AMERICA REGIONAL DIRECTOR – BOB BUZOLICH**ARE YA'LL READY TO WALK INTO HISTORY?? MID-AMERICA REGION OFFERS A SIGNATURE PR ACTIVITY FOR THE AVA 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

Fun, Fitness and Friendship are high on the list for the planning the 2026 Mackinac Bridge Walk. So, why delay finalizing your plans for this much anticipated activity to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of America's Walking Club.

Registration for all walking events is handled through the Online Start Box. Pre-registration for all anniversary celebratory activities is required and has a suspense date of August 7. Any pre-registrations received after August 7 will be returned. So, you need to act now, if you do not want to miss out.

The event brochure for this activity is attached to the public facing Electronic Sanction Request (ESR) for The Bridge Walk. The brochure provides full information for pre-registration. You may access the ESR by using the following link:

<https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?sn=131664>

If you believe The Bridge will be the only walking event, think again. The Mid-America Regional Director has a special walking event planned, which will entice your lust for thrills and adventure in Northern Michigan. Keep your eyes open for an additional short-term seasonal event opening on September 7 with a group guided walk.

As may be the case for an activity such as The Mackinac Bridge Walk and the Anniversary Celebration, volunteers are critical to support the activity and its goals. Volunteer sign up is now available through Signup Genius for the 2026 Mackinac Bridge Walk. I am still in need of ten volunteers to assist with staffing the Ambassador Booth. The information at Signup Genius has been recently updated with respect to perks for the volunteers, to include when the volunteers may wish to do The Bridge Walk and lunch for the volunteers. The link to Signup Genius is provided below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050549A9AF2AABFC1-63034982-2026>

Hoping to see many, many Volkspporters in Mackinaw City attracting attention to the activities of America's Walking Club.

Please direct questions to Bob Buzolich, the Mid-America Regional Director, via email to ma_rd@ava.org or to sonofbuzz@prodigy.net.

EXPERIENCE THE AUBURN, CORD & DUESENBERG FESTIVAL. WITH THE THREE RIVERS STROLLERS. ON YOUR WAY TO THE MACKINAC BRIDGE WALK

The Three Rivers Strollers continues its annual Auburn, Cord & Duesenberg (ACD) walking event in Auburn, Indiana, on Saturday, September 5, which you may well pass on your way to the AVA featured 50th Anniversary Event at the 2026 Mackinac Bridge Walk.

The event can only be described as fantastic, as it is orchestrated with the town's annual Auburn, Cord & Duesenberg (ACD) festival, which celebrates Auburn's history as a major producer of the finest cars ever manufactured in the United States. Along the routes you will encounter and experience the pride of Auburn, as it is displayed in the downtown area, neighborhoods and museums.

The Three Rivers Strollers is active member of America's Walking Club, which is also known as the American Volkssport Association.

This walk may be started anytime between 8 am (EDT) to 11 am September 5, 2026, from the Start/Finish Point in Rieke Park, 1800 North Indiana Avenue, Auburn Indiana 64706. Registration for all participants is \$4.

For additional details on this event, which should not be missed, please use the following link:

<https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?sn=132096>

To learn more about walking events hosted by members of America's Walking Club, contact Liz Winsley via email at lizardw13@gmail.com, or visit the website for America's Walking Club at <https://my.ava.org>.

The Three Rivers Strollers look forward to welcoming everyone on their way to the 2026 Mackinac Bridge Walk.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION COMMITTEE – KAREN KAUFMAN, CHAIR

WRITTEN BY KEN JOHNSON, IN COLLABORATION WITH CHRISTOPHER BEGNOCHE, MEMBERS

This is the first of a series of articles on the work of the Awards Committee, and its administration of The AVA Recognition Awards Program. This month features the Hall of Fame Award. The AVA Awards Committee is responsible for the development, implementation, and management of awards for clubs, individuals and organizations through the Board of Directors and CEO (Henry Rosales). These awards honor individuals and organizations, both within and outside the AVA for service, deeds, and accomplishments that have advanced the ideals and aspirations of volkssporting in the United States. Awards for national service are typically presented at the Biennial Convention. Regional recognition awards are presented by the Regional Director at regional, state or club events. Paid employees of the AVA do not qualify for the AVA Recognition Awards Program unless they are being recognized for serving in a volunteer capacity. AVA Board Officers, Directors and Deputy Directors are not eligible for the national recognition awards while serving in those positions.

The most prestigious award is the AVA Hall of Fame Award. The AVA may induct individuals into the AVA Hall of Fame who have given at least ten years of service to the AVA at the national, state, and local level and have made exceptional contributions to volkssporting that have affected several AVA regions. This is the AVA's highest award and typically given to recognize a lifetime of service. It may not be presented at each convention depending on the nomination status. However, more than one award may be presented at convention. In 2015, seven Hall of Famers were inducted. To date, there have been thirty-one honorees. To be eligible for Hall of Fame, the nominee should have previously received the Distinguished Achievement Award. One can only be named to the Hall of Fame once. The award is recognized by plaque, certificate, pin and patch. The first Hall of Fame Award was presented to the Rev. Mr. Kenn Knopp in 1985. Knopp is considered the founder of volkssporting in the United States as well as the developer and first publisher of the American Wanderer.

If you wish to nominate someone for a Hall of Fame Award, submit the form to your Regional Director. Your Regional Director and any member from the Awards Committee may help with questions concerning the awards and the process.

Below are links to the nomination form and checklist; and the recognition awards policy in the AVA manual:

Form 302 and Checklist: https://cb.ava.org/Clubs_Only/2025_Forms/Form_302_rev_01_2025.pdf

AVA Policy Manual, Recognition Awards, pages 1-4:

https://cb.ava.org/Operations_Policies/Rev_04_25_23/Recognition_Awards_rev_04_25_23.pdf

DEADLINES for NATIONAL AWARD SUBMITTALS and REGIONAL AWARDS RECIPIENT LIST

December 1, 2026 is the deadline for submittal to the committee for national nominations. The committee will review nominations and submit recommendations of nominees who have met the award criteria to the Board at the first meeting in 2027.

Submittal of Regional awards for the 2027 Awards Book should be submitted by or on February 28, 2027 to be included in the publication.

WHERE TO SEND NOMINATIONS

When sending national nominations for consideration and Regional award list of recipients for the 2027 Awards book, please use the awards@ava.org email address.

Next month: Distinguished Achievement Award and more about the committee

IT COMMITTEE - MIKE GREEN, CHAIR

YEAR ROUND AND SEASONAL EVENT RENEWALS FOR 2026

The renewal of 2026 Year Round and Seasonal events (YRE/SEs) for 2027 was enabled on June 1st, 2026. Clubs are expected to complete the renewal of their 2026 YRE/SEs as well as any new YRE/SEs for 2027 by 8/31/2026.

NOTE: Clubs should **NOT** use the "New event - copy previous" feature in the Edit/New "NEW EVENTS TO BE COMPLETED" section to renew YRE/SEs.

On June 1st, the my.ava.org system copied the current (published) event information of each club's sanctioned 2026 YRE/SEs into the Edit/New event buffer. These copied events are listed in the "**EVENT RENEWALS**" section of the club's **Edit/New** page (found via the club's home page, then clicking on the "**Sanctions**" tab, then the "Edit/New" tab).

Any unpublished or unapproved changes to 2026 YRE/SEs were **NOT** included in the event information copied on June 1st. The club's home page contains a "Edit/New Sanctioning Summary" table providing a count of events needing to be published or approved. Any club YRE/SEs listed in the Edit/New "**EDITING CURRENT SANCTIONS**" section may have unpublished/unapproved changes. Clicking on the "Review" button, for a listed event, displays all event information with change bars indicating what changes are still pending. Clicking on the displayed "Publish (make public)" or "Req Approval" button near the top of the Review page will apply changes to the 2026 event only (after RD approval if needed).

After June 1st, you may import any published/approved changes in a 2026 YRE/SE to the corresponding 2026 YRE/SE pending renewal for 2027 by clicking on renewal's "**Reload 2026**" button. Note, reloading the 2026 event will overwrite any changes made to the corresponding 2026 pending renewal event.

On June 1st, all published 2026 YRE/SE information was copied into 2027 pending renewal events (including the 2026 PPSF setting) with the following exceptions:

1. The event year was changed to 2027.
2. Special Programs (SPs), that "expire" 12/31/2026, were removed. (The SP expiration date is the date after which the SP POC will no longer officially accept completed SP books, as indicated on the current SPs web page, <https://cb.ava.org/specprog.php>)
3. The requested number of stamps for each renewal was set to 1 for PSB and PSB/OSB events and 0 for OSB events. (The previous year's stamp request number is ignored. The first stamp for any event type is always free.)

Clubs may also choose to mark any listed renewal as "Do Not Renew". Clubs should either request approval or mark as "Do Not Renew" each 2026 pending renewal for 2027 event by the 8/31/2026 deadline.

or an event the club chooses to renew, a club manager should click on the listed renewal's "**Edit**" button. Then inspect/update the information displayed on the Edit page by clicking on each of the "Sanction Tiles" buttons near the top of the page. In particular, the club should consider possibly checking off (or unchecking) "Request event be PPSF", adjusting the number of requested stamps, and adding any applicable/new Specials Programs (SPs) starting in 2027.

Note, this year, the future SPs webpage, <https://cb.ava.org/futureprog.php> will **not** be populated with 2027 SP descriptions nor the 2027 SPs available for application to 2027 events until **after** the June 5th AVA Board meeting. During this meeting, the AVA Programs Committee will present the proposed new SPs for 2027 for board approval.

New YRE/SEs for 2027 should also be submitted for approval before August 31st, 2026, to assure their inclusion in the 2027 Starting Point book. Clubs may use the Edit/New page features in the "NEW EVENTS TO BE COMPLETED" and "RESURRECT AN OLD YRE / SEASONAL" sections to create new YRE/SEs as described via the "Help" button on the Edit/New page.

Please contact Mike Green, mikeginf@gmail.com, if you have any questions.

** If you create a new 2026 YRE/SE, a corresponding renewal is NOT automatically created for 2027 once the 2026 event is RD approved.

Should want a new 2026 YRE/SE renewed for 2027, contact hector@ava.org and supply the 6 digit Event ID City, State, and Event name for the 2026 YRE/SE.

IT SPECIALIST - HECTOR HERNANDEZ

YEAR ROUND EVENT RENEWALS

The Year Round Event (YRE) renewal process will begin June 1, 2026 and will end August 31, 2026.

To start the process, Clubs should go to their "Sanctions" tab, "Edit/New" tab and then to the "Event Renewal" section, where they will find a list of all of their 2026 YRE/SEs ready to be edited and reviewed for 2027.

On the renewal's review page, they will have the option to request approval or indicate the YRE/SE will not be renewed for 2027. **Clubs should NOT use the "Copy" feature in the "New Events to be Completed" section to sanction an existing 2026 YRE/SE for 2027.**

Regional Directors must review and approve all events by September 15, 2026 in order to get them into the 2027 Starting Point book. Any approvals after the 15th do not guarantee a section in the 2027 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 2027 you can submit those events anytime.



2027 STARTING POINT PHOTO CONTEST

So many years, so many photos, so many posts. Which of those photos captured the best memories? Share those captured memories with AVA by submitting photos of the "People", "Places" or "Things" you've encountered on your journey to the Starting Point 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 2027 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, 2026. 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, 2025 – August 31, 2026. For more information contact Hector at hector@ava.org.

[Click here for Photo Contest Rules](#)

FACEBOOK CLUB AND EVENT POST

East Tennessee Wanderers



Saint Louis Walkers



Gateway Milers



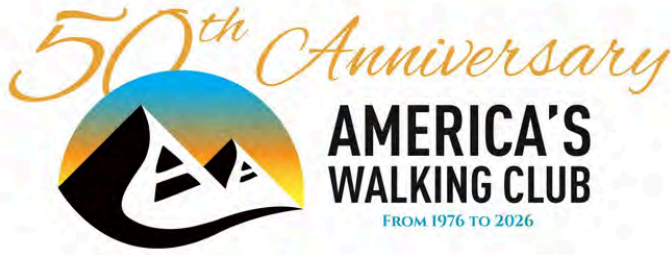
Happy Wanderers



Walking Adventures International's Canadian Walking Festival Tour



NATIONAL EVENTS



[Click here to go to 50th Anniversary Page](#)

Come and join us for the 25th US FreedomWalk
16-18 October 2026




www.USFreedomWalk.org

Walk Arlington

AMERICAN WALKING CLUB

AMERICA'S WALKING CLUB

Volksmarching at its Best

An International Walking Experience

13th Annual Fall Volksmarch
September 27, 2026



50th Anniversary

AMERICA'S WALKING CLUB
FROM 1976 TO 2026
AVA.ORG

Celebrating 50 Years of Walking

Come Walk WITH US!



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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