



CHECKPOINT

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*HAPPY
ST. PATRICK'S
DAY*



PRESIDENT/CEO - HENRY ROSALES

IMPORTANT DEADLINES FOR APRIL 29TH, 2025, BOARD MEETING AND THE APRIL 30TH AND MAY 2ND, 2025, REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING

March 15, 2025 – (45 days before the Regular Membership meeting)

- Deadline date for clubs to be in “good standing” in order to be eligible to vote during the Regular Membership meeting this April. If you are not sure your club is in good standing, contact Erin at erin@ava.org
- Credentialing forms must be postmarked or emailed to the National Office by this date.
- Officer's, Regional Director's, and Committee biennial reports are due at AVA National Office. Reports will be published in the convention program (300-word limit please). The report should include regional highlights and challenges and any other information the Regional Director and Committee Chairs would like to share with our members.

March 31, 2025 (30 days before the Regular Membership meeting)

- Final list of agenda items for the Regular Membership and Board meeting sent to AVA Clubs and Regional Directors.
- Officer, Board Member, and Committee reports and all supplemental documents for the April Board Meeting and Regular Membership meeting are due at AVA National Office.

March 31, 2025 (30 days before the Regular Membership meeting)

- Final list of agenda items for the Regular Membership and Board meeting sent to AVA Clubs and Regional Directors.
- Officer, Board Member, and Committee reports and all supplemental documents for the April Board Meeting and Regular Membership meeting are due at AVA National Office.

April 9, 2025 (21 days before meeting)

- Meeting information package for General Membership and Board meeting emailed to members.

[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, April 29, 2025, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The AVA Regular Membership meeting is Wednesday, April 30, 2025, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Friday, May 2, 2025, 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

All meetings will be held at the Las Cruces Convention Center. Room # to be announced.

Las Cruces Convention Center
680 East University Avenue
Las Cruces, NM 88001
(575) 526-0100

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VOTING DURING THE REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The AVA National office is working on an electronic voting application for the Regular Membership meeting during the convention. Once the system has been tested, the AVA will host a couple of webinars on how to use the application prior to the convention. Dates and times of the webinars will be emailed to all club POC's and Delegates and posted on the AVA website. During the convention, members can also stop by the Tech Bar for assistance and a tutorial on how this voting application works. It is critical that all Delegates, Proxies, and Alternates, include their names and email addresses on the Credentialing forms submitted to the National office so instructions and user codes can be emailed to them. More information will be emailed to all club POC's and Delegates as it becomes available. This will be a very simple application that is easy to use.

NEW BOARD MEMBER AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR ORIENTATION DURING CONVENTION

There will be a ninety-minute orientation for all new and return Board Members and Deputy Directors on Friday, May 2, 2025, immediately after the General Membership Meeting at the Convention Center (meeting room to be announced).

AVA STATE ASSOCIATION AND REGIONAL MEETINGS DURING CONVENTION

Although there will be no "scheduled" State Association and Regional Meetings during the convention, a meeting location will be reserved at the convention center in case you would like to meet. We encourage Regions and State Associations to meet as time permits.

PUBLICITY CONTEST SUSPENDED FOR 2025 CONVENTION

Unfortunately, there will be no Photo or other publicity contests for the 2025 Convention. This is a temporary measure to allow the AVA and Publicity Committee time to reinvent this vital component of our conventions. We will be back in 2027 with something more exciting and engaging!

Calling All Regions!

Purchase an information table.

For the reduced price of \$20, 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. Roundup in Texas, Walking Around Florida, etc., give out candy to people who stop by your table, make friends, good conversation, etc.

AVA WEDNESDAYS WEBINARS – MARCH 19, 2025, AT 7:00 P.M. CENTRAL

The next AVA online seminar will be Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 7:00-8:00 pm Central. The registration link is on the AVA website, or you can [click here](#) to pre-register for the event. If asked for a passcode, the passcode is AVA.

Special Guest Host: Erin Grosso, AVA Finance Director

March online webinar presenters include:

Jerry Wilson, Chair of AVA Conventions, and members of the Convention Committee

2025 AVA Biennial Convention, Las Cruces, NM

If you plan to attend the 2025 Biennial Convention, this is one webinar you will not want to miss! Tune in for the latest updates on walks, registration, workshops, silent auction, socials, logistics, and the AVA membership meeting.

Join us on an exclusive presentation on the International Walk by Representatives from Visit El Paso and Visit Juarez.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP SUNSETTING MARCH 31, 2025

Many years ago, AVA Lifetime Membership was one of the best deals in town for members and the AVA. However, due to lack of interest, sustainability, and restructuring of our membership programs, the Lifetime Membership program will sunset March 31, 2025.

All Lifetime Members and those who sign up before March 31, 2025, will retain their current Lifetime Membership benefits in perpetuity. There is still time to sign up for a Lifetime Membership to take advantage of the convention discount. For more information, please contact Marian at marian@ava.org.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - BOB BUZOLICH, CHAIR

CANDIDATES FOR AVA NATIONAL OFFICE

We have one candidate for each of the AVA National Officer positions for the term of office from May 2, 2025, to the close of the 2027 General Membership at which National Officers are elected.

The candidates are:



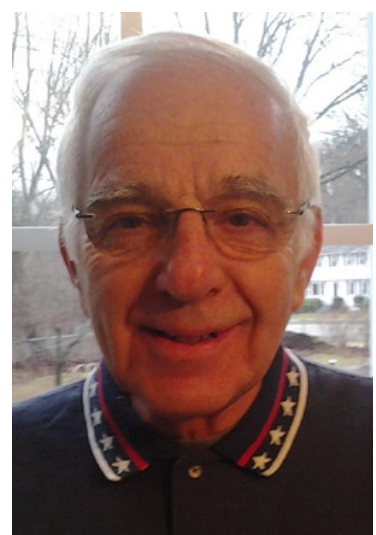
Chairperson: Carl Cordes from North Las Vegas, Nevada



Vice Chairperson: Ed McCabe from Dripping Springs, Texas



Secretary: Leslie Stone from Ormond Beach, Florida



Finance Chair: Chris Mellen from Tyngsboro, Massachusetts

In accordance with paragraph 4.06(e) of the Bylaws, nominations from the floor are not allowed.

Per paragraph 4.06(d), “the National Officers shall be elected at large by secret ballot at the regular membership meeting.”

However, per paragraph 4.06(f) of the Bylaws, “Where only one candidate for a National Office has been nominated, no ballots shall be cast by the Members, and the Chair shall call for a voice vote of the Members.”

During the first session of the General Membership meeting on Wednesday, April 30, the four nominees, following introduction by the Nominating Committee, will be allowed six minutes to address the Members present at the General Membership Meeting per the meeting agenda.

During the second session of the General Membership meeting on Friday, May 2, the election of the nominees shall occur per the meeting agenda.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE - JERRY WILSON, CHAIR

2025 AVA BIENNIAL CONVENTION – ODDS AND ENDS

Reserving a Booth or Table for the Convention – Contact Henry at henry@ava.org

Erin or Marian will later invoice regional directors, state associations, and local clubs for the \$20 fee, along with the higher vendor price.

**Doing the International Walk, April 30, Things to Bring to the Bus
(Walk Directions will be handed out in El Paso as you unload.)**

1. Your Passport (As Carl Malden would say: "Don't leave home, without it!") (Also, don't leave it in your lodging room, or vehicle!)
2. Exact Change: 50 cents to cross into Mexico, and 40 cents to cross back into the US.
3. A Water Bottle, Refillable
4. Head Cover

Departing for Each Walk:

1. Head Cover
2. Refillable Water Bottle
3. Sunscreen
4. Walk Directions: Loaded to your phone, or hard copy handed out as buses load, or from the walk directions table in the Convention Center

Silent Auction Donations

Please consider bringing along, or sending to the Las Cruces Convention Center (c/o AVA) a Silent Auction item, basket, etc. Hint: Gift cards for nationwide providers are easy to pack for coming to Las Cruces, and for the top bidder to transport home. Donations directly to the AVA are welcome too!

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE - SUSAN FINE, CHAIR

REGISTRATION FOR DRAWING

Register by April 1, 2025 for the chance to win \$100 off the [AVA convention registration](#), April 29 – May 3 in Las Cruces, NM (with pre- and post-walks, the dates are April 26 – May 4).

10 second place prizes including

- Free convention patch
- \$15 off the AVA program merchandise
- AVA insulated tumbler
- AVA ballcap

Drawing will be held the week of April 7. Winners receive their prizes at the AVA convention (grand prize winner will be refunded \$100 for their registration). [Register now!](#)

Rules:

All people aged 18+ who register for the 2025 AVA Biennial Convention through April 1, 2025, are eligible to win. Registration includes either the full-package of 9 days, or the 5-day package. A random drawing will take place the week of April 7, and all winners will be contacted by email. Prizes may be received at the convention. The Grand Prize of \$100 off registration will be refunded to your credit card listed on your registration. Second place prizes are: three prizes of free convention patch; three prizes of \$15 off the AVA program merchandise; two prizes of AVA tumbler; two prizes of AVA ballcap.



PUBLICITY UPDATE

Win \$100 off your registration for the [AVA Convention](#). Register by April 1, 2025, either the 9-day package or the 5-day package, and one person will get \$100 off their registration. Ten second-place winners receive one of various prizes, including AVA tumbler, \$15 off Free convention patch, \$15 AVA program merchandise, or an AVA ballcap. Winners will be contacted the week of April 7th by email. [Register now](#).

Las Cruces and southern New Mexico are an exciting area for walking, food, friendship, and history. This will be a great walking festival, and we hope you can attend. Please forward this Checkpoint to your club members and encourage them to register. What's to do in the area? Besides the 9 walks available, there are several YREs, mountain villages, wonderful cuisine, art and history museums... we could go on and on. The committee has worked hard to give you a taste of the Southwest.

The walks May 1-4 will also be part of National Walking Month. All walks in May will be promoted. We encourage you to have a group walk or traditional event sometime in May after the convention, in your area. [Fill out the form](#) to include your walk in our promotional efforts National Walking Month also ties in with the patch we create each May for National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. It's a great time for you to order patches for your walking event. Order forms for the patches will be available in April.

There are several multi-day events this spring. Please encourage members to attend, and support the hard work clubs are doing to create great walking weekends:

- March 8-9 – [Tx Volkssport Assoc](#) – Junction, TX
- April 10-11 – [Ozark Hill Hikers 2 new counties](#) – Clarksville and Ozark, Arkansas
- April 12-13 – [Indiana Spring Fling](#) – Madison, Indiana
- April 26-May 4 – [AVA Biennial Convention](#) – Las Cruces, NM
- May 5-8 – [NW Counties in New Mexico](#) – Gallup, Farmington and more, NM
- May 7-11 – [Huffin & Puffin on High Plains of Kansas](#) – Dodge City, Cimarron and more, KS
- May 16-18 – [Tri-State Lighthouse Weekend](#) – NH, ME, MA
- May 23-26 – [Triangle of Fire](#) – Port Townsend, WA



DID YOU KNOW LAS CRUCES:

- Was voted one of the best places to live and retire (Forbes 2024)
- Is listed as one of the best-performing cities (2024: MilkenInstitute.org)
- Was voted as 11 Best Ale Trails in the U.S. (Seeker)
- From mountains to desert, Las Cruces is filled with natural wonders for outdoor fun
- It's Farmer's Market is ranked one of the top-rated in the U.S. (America's Farmland Trust)
- Boasts 320 days of sunshine each year, and is 3,900 feet about sea level
- Is the midpoint between Los Angeles and Dallas
- Is home to New Mexico State University with over 21,000 students
- The area has a huge business in the Space field: with SpacePort America, the world's first commercial space sport; national solar observatory near Cloudcroft, NM; space murals; New Mexico Museum of Space History in Alamogordo, NM (all in driving distance). And of course, White Sands Missile Range (not open to the public, as it's an active military base), where Oppenheimer launched the first atom bomb.
- Will have its annual ¡Mira! Las Cruces downtown festival Saturday April 26 after our pre-walk event
- Will have its Cinco de Mayo festival in historic Mesilla Saturday May 3 after our post-walk event (plus there is a YRE in Mesilla).

LESLIE STONE - AVA BOARD SECRETARY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TELLERS AND CREDENTIALING

The AVA Secretary is looking for volunteers to serve as Tellers and in Credentialing.

What are tellers you ask? Tellers will assist in vote counting during the AVA's Biennial Convention in Las Cruces. Tellers would need to be available during the business meetings.

What is Credentialing? Credentialing is the process of confirming the delegates, alternates, and proxies, representing each club at the convention and providing them with their credentials to be able to vote in the business meetings. Credentialing also determines if a quorum has been met. Credentialing takes place at various times, such as during convention registration and immediately prior to business meetings. Voting delegates and alternates cannot be Tellers.

Both these positions are necessary for conducting business at the AVA Biennial Convention. Tellers and Credentialing work with the AVA Secretary to ensure that everyone who is eligible to vote is able to and that all votes are counted accurately.

The Business Meetings are tentatively scheduled for:

- Wednesday April 30, 2025, from 3:30 P.M. through 5:30 P.M.
- Friday May 2, 2025, 2:30 P.M. through 4:30 P.M.

Credentialing is tentatively scheduled for:

- Tuesday April 29, 2025, from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
- Wednesday April 30, 2025, from 1:00 P.M. to 3:15 P.M.
- Friday May 2, 2025, from 1:00 P.M. to 2:15 P.M.

If you are interested in serving as a Teller or in Credentialing, please email Leslie Stone at Secretary@ava.org. Please advise which position(s) and time(s) you would be interested in serving.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST - MARIAN DEVAUL

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, 2025. Please submit a copy of your filings to marian@ava.org.

May 15th, 2025 – 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.

Note: Financials for clubs with a fiscal year ending 6-30-24 are not due until November 15, 2025

2025 DELEGATE SELECTION AND PROXY DESIGNATION (AVA FORM 500)

The 2025 Delegate Selection and Proxy Designation (AVA Form 500) has been e-mailed to club POC's. Please complete the form, ensure all required signatures are obtained, and retain a copy for your records. Submit the executed form to AVA for credentialing at the Convention. The form must be postmarked or emailed no later than March 15, 2025. If the deadline for returning this form to the National Office is missed, the form must accompany the Delegate, Alternate, or Proxy to the Credentials Booth at the Convention. The form should be mailed or e-mailed to:

American Volkssport Association, Inc.
Attn: Marian DeVaul
1032 S. Alamo Street
San Antonio, TX 78210

email: marian@ava.org

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 March 15, 2025.

[Click here for Credentialing FORM 500](#)

AVA CONVENTION APRIL 29-MAY 2, 2025

The 2025 Biennial Convention Registration is open! Special thanks to Jeff Giddings, Atlantic Regional Director, who has worked many hours creating and editing the registration system for the AVA.

Registrants have the option to pay online or send a check to the AVA. Should you need help registering or have questions about payments, please contact Marian at marian@ava.org or feel free to call the office at 210-659-2112.

[Click here to register online.](#)



IT SPECIALIST - HECTOR HERNANDEZ

NATIONAL WALKING MONTH

We are now on our first year of the National Walking Month campaign. Last year we had 27 participating Clubs and 65 events. If your Club would like to participate this year and would like us to promote your event on social media and the AVA website, please click the logo for link and fill out the form by April 26. To help promote your events I am updating our pre-made certificates, event logo, event flyers, and social media banners. You can find these marketing tools at the bottom of the National Walking Month page by [clicking here](#). Updates should be done by March 14, 2025. Images to help promote your event are encouraged. Don't forget to send out a local press release for your event and ask local officials to issue a Proclamation in support of National Walk Week. You can find templates of these forms on the AVA home page. For more information on National Walking Month go to ava.org.



INTERNATIONAL & NATIONAL EVENTS

BRITISH WALKING FEDERATION SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

CLICK TO VIEW PDF

Las Cruces New Mexico

Save the Date!
AVA: America's Walking Club 2025 Biennial Convention
 April 29-May 2, 2025
 Las Cruces, NM
The Real New Mexico
 3 Cities, 3 States,
 Two Countries

Come Walk WITH US!

For more information and registration visit AVA.org or call (210) 659-2112

Come and join us for the 24th US FreedomWalk
 17-19 October 2025

Walk Arlington USFreedomWalk.org
 An International Walking Experience

39th Annual Spring Volksmarch
 June 7, 2025

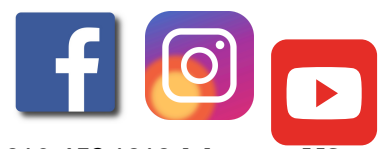
TRI-STATE LIGHTHOUSE WALKING EVENT
 MAY 16-18, 2025
 Massachusetts / New Hampshire / Maine

Contact infotristate25@aol.com or visit [25NEWeekend](https://www.walkescv.org/25NEWeekend/home.html) or <https://www.walkescv.org/25NEWeekend/home.html>

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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