

Please provide YOUR Newsletter Inputs—
Travel, Comment, Pictures, Topics
to Dan Barnett at
dnlcssb@aol.com

Upcoming walks this quarter:

October 3, 17 & 31, November 6-8, 21 & 27, December 5
& 19
See Page 5

MID-FLORIDA MILERS NEWSLETTER

Comments from the President

by Cathy Metherell, President

WAF 35, A walk through the history of Mid-Florida Milers walk locations part 2.

Walk Around Florida 35 is coming up Nov. 6-8. You can find information the event in this newsletter and on our club's website.

One thing I left out of my comments contained in the club's 3rd Quarter Newsletter about the history Mid-Florida Milers walk locations was how did the city of Orlando get its name. I checked with the history center, and it seems it is still somewhat of a mystery. Before it became Orlando the area was known as Jernigan named for the first permanent European settlers, cattlemen Isaac and Aaron Jernigan. Because of Aaron Jernigan's awful behavior as a lead for the local militia before the start of the Third Seminole War, the name was changed to Orlando. Jefferson Davis United States Secretary of War said Jernigan was a worse human than the Indians.

So where did the name for Orlando come from. There are several stories about the name. One is the area was named for Orlando Reeves who was acting as a sentinel for a company of soldiers who camped for a night on Sandy Lake near Carrier Dr. and Universal Blvd area. Orlando Reeves was thought to have been killed by Seminole Indians on the banks of Lake Eola. Another story is Judge Donald A. Cheney recounted that his father Judge John Moses Cheney said a gentleman named James Speer who admired Shakespeare named the city Orlando after a protagonist in Shakespeare's "As You Like it". It is believed Rosalind Avenue may be named for the heroine Rosalind in "As You Like it".

One day maybe we will all find out how the city became Orlando. Right now, I am going with the Shakespeare connection as Speer compared Orlando to the Forest of Arden in the West Midlands area of England.

Orlando and central Florida have had their share of negative publicity over the years. In the 1930s the Klan marched down Orange Ave. and then in 2016 we all remember the Pulse nightclub shooting. It was comforting to see the community come together to support the victims and their families after this tragedy.

There are many people that have called central Florida home over the years. Agriculture has played a big part in the area starting with cattle, citrus, strawberries, blueberries, tomatoes, and sod. The Apopka area is known as the Foliage capital of the world. People from Mexico and Central America live in western Orange County and have come here to work at the many farms and nurseries in the area. University of Central Florida, Rollins College and Full Sail University have attracted students from all over the world to study. Many of the tenets in the office buildings in Research Park near UCF work with the university. East Orlando, Sanford and Kissimmee are home to 500,000 plus Puerto Ricans of which many work in the service industry. Lake Nona, which has been referred to as Medical City with the VA Medical Center, Nemours Children's Hospital and medical research facilities located there. Many of the medical professionals in Orlando are from Africa, south Asia and the Middle East and live in Lake Nona, Hunters Creek, Dr. Phillips, Windermere and Bay Hill.

Traveling down I 4, going southwest, one comes upon the tourist area and as some say this area drives the central Florida economy. Orlando attorney Finley Hamilton knew the area would become a destination for tourists. Hilton Inn South which he owned was located near Sand Lake Road, I drive and I 4 in the area between a large McDonald's and the CoCo Key Resort. The first section of the road, was laid out by Hamilton so tourists could access his hotel which was opened in 1970 which was at the time in the middle of nowhere. I Drive is now 11.1 miles starting at Oak Ridge Road to World Center Dr., passing ICON Park. WonderWorks Orlando, Orange County Convention Center and SeaWorld Orlando. Another section of I drive runs from 535 to 192 passing Gaylord Plans Resort. International Drive Master Transit and Improvement District was created in 1992. The I Ride bus trolley system came from this organization. I Drive has been called the family version of the Las Vegas Strip.

Running parallel along I Drive is Universal Boulevard which starts at the Beachline 528 highway and goes north to Vineland Road. In 1982 after Disney World opened, Universal started making plans to open a theme park in Orlando. On June 7th, 1990, NBC Universal, also known as Universal Destinations and Experiences opened. Attraction themes were around movies, televisions and other aspects of the entertainment industry. The official name was Universal Studios Florida and other parks were added: Universal Islands of Adventure 1999, Universal Volcano Bay 2017 and Universal Epic Universe 2025.

In the 1980s former Disney Imagineer Peter Alexander worked with Steven Spielberg to develop a Back to the Future ride for the Orlando park. George Lucas said they would not be able to develop a ride to rival Stars Wars. Over the years both Disney and Universal have been in a competition to one up each other. In 1981, Disney worked to develop its backlot tour before Michael Eisner, former CEO of Disney, worked to make it a reality. The idea later became Disney-MGM Studios, now Disney Hollywood Studios. Universal accused Disney of borrowing ideas for its backlot tours.

Some of the first attractions were Kongfrontation and Jaws, with Back to the Future opening a year later due to obstacles in production. In the beginning, attractions were developed in collaboration with directors, producers and actors from movies like Men in Black, Alien Attack, Revenge of the Mummy and the Simpsons. Universal was originally designed as both theme park and production studios. Nickelodeon Studios began production in Florida before moving to California in 2005. Lots of commercials were filmed at Universal as well. John Landis was forced to finish filming the comedy Oscar in Florida after a fire at Universal Studios Hollywood. Filming in Florida became less desirable due to logistics, expenses and limited resources.

Wheel of Fortune was filmed for several days to promote the opening of Islands of Adventure. New attractions started putting guests at the center of the action. The Wizarding World of Harry Potter opened in 2010 and Dragon Alley opened in 2014.

When Universal opened to the tune of 631 million dollars, the ownership was spilt between 50% MCA Universal and 50% The Rank Organization. Seagrams, MCA Universal partnerred with The Rank Group formerly The Rank Organization for a \$2.5 billion expansion to turn the park into a resort and added Island of Adventure and City Walk. In 2000 the Rank Group sold its 50% share to Blackstone Capital Partners. In 2011 Blackstone sold it to NBC Universal which now has 100% ownership.

One thing I can say is I am grateful there is only one location in City Walk for Voodoo Doughnuts in central Florida.

From Universal one can take I 4 or Apopka Vineland Rd. and turn on to Hotel Plaza Blvd. to Disney Springs which opened March 22, 1975 as Lake Buena Vista Shopping Village. The complex has undergone several name changes over the years: 1997 Walk Disney World Village, 1989 Disney Village Marketplace, 1997 Downtown Disney and 2015 Disney Springs. The site is on 120 acres.

To compete with Church St. Station, under the management of Michael Eisner, they stated looking for ways to keep visitors from leaving the Wald Disney World property. Construction started on July 21, 1986, on what was to become Pleasure Island which opened May 1, 1989. The largest Disney store on the planet, World of Disney, opened on October 2, 1996. Work began on June 20, 1995, to turn Disney Village Market Place and Pleasure Island into Downtown Disney. On Sept 7, 1997, and Sept 15, 1997, the west Side opened with a 66-acre expansion. Additions of Cirque Du Soleil now known as La Nouba, Disney Quest, Mickey's Character store which became World of Disney, and expansion of AMC Pleasure Island Theater. Rainforest Cafe and Plant Hollywood were added at that time.

Planning began March 14, 2013, when Tom Staggs chairman of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts of what was to become Disney Springs with the addition of 150 new tenants and two parking garages (Lime and Orange). New bridges connecting Saratoga Springs resort were also added as well as bridges connecting The Landing to Marketplace, Springs Town Center and West Side. A new bus terminal was added with easy access to Buena Vista Drive and I 4. The new name Disney Springs took effect September 29, 2015, and the town Center opened May 15, 2016. The Grapefruit parking garage opened on the opposite side of Buena Vista Drive on April 19, 2019.

Due to Covid 19, all Disney parks in United States closed March 17, 2020 and reopened in phases on May 20, 2020. Other notable closings at the Florida parks were for a day or two due to hurricanes. Most notable was hurricane Charlie on August 13, 2004.

Disney Springs became a fictional town settled in mid 1800s by a cattle rancher who discovered the springs from which the town became what it is today. The design of the four areas of Disney Springs was made to look like Florida coastal towns like St Augustine, Coral Gables and Key West. The Market Place area was designed with the American Craftsman Style of 1930s, and a walkway was built between the Rainforest Cafe and the Lego Store. There is a carousel and event

stage in this area. The Landing area formerly Pleasure Island was built as the port and transportation hub with nautical-themed restaurants and a water ride. The Boathouse was originally called Empress Lilly named for Walt Disney's widow Lillian was a full-sized paddle steamer. The Town Center is the town business district with 1920s Spanish Revival architecture design. The West Side was the center exposition center. Think of it as Worlds Fairs of the past.

When you walk through Disney Springs, let your mind wander of times past and come up with your own story. What would you have been doing in a fictional cattle town that became a bustling city.

When leaving Disney Springs, the best way to get to Celebration without getting on I 4 is to take E. Buena Vista Dr. to World Dr and then turn left crossing over I 4 and then turning left onto Celebration Blvd. to Celebration Village.

Around the early 1990's, the Disney Development Company, the parent company to the Celebration Company, bought 4900 acres for \$2.5 billion from the southern portion of Reedy Creek Improvement District to create the town of Celebration. Walt Disney wanted to build a real city before theme parks. The name was chosen to evoke optimism of small-town life. Jacquelin T. Roberts and Robert A. M. Stern both winners of the Driehaus Prize for Architects, were chosen to develop a master plan. San Francisco firm EDAW now AECOW designed landscape, parks, trails and pathways throughout the town. Building designer Urban Design Associates came up with guidelines for the early 20th century architectural pattern look for the community. In the beginning, Celebration was not zoned for high density residences and 2001 was chosen as New Community of the year by Urban Land Institute. Community elements like street signs, retail signage, manhole covers, trail markers and home sales brochures were designed by graphic designer Michael Bierut.

As of now, Celebration is divided up into seven villages: Celebration Village downtown area on Lake Rianhard, West Village and Lake Evalyn, North Village just south of the 417-toll road. South Village area west of the catholic church, Aquila Reserve below Oak Shadows Road and Artisan

Park. Other areas are Celebration Blvd, where you will see office buildings, apartments, townhomes and Celebration High School. Some buildings in the area have an Art Deco look. Celebration Place on the north side of 417-toll road is home to a hospital, more office buildings and restaurants.

Michael Eisner had a keen interest in seeing the Disney vision of Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow (EPCOT) come to be in Celebration. Eisner encouraged economic and ethnic diversity among the residents. A lottery was used to choose owners of the first 350 homes and 123 apartments to prevent racial discrimination. There is no subsidized housing in Celebration, so Disney donated \$900,000 to Osceola County to help area residents buy a house below \$80,000 market value.

Disney followed its plans to divest control of the town in 2004 and there are still some Disney businesses located here.

One of the many benefits of Celebration are its 23 miles of nature trails with lovely scenery and wildlife you can see like birds and gators. Twice this year I have seen an entertaining group of river otters along the Lake Evalyn trail.

Stay tuned for Part 3 as I share more history of Mid-Florida Milers walk locations in central Florida and remote walks in south Florida. Hope to see you out on the trail.

Membership Report by Dave Piatt, Membership Chairperson

Editorial Note: Our friend and fellow walker, Dave is facing a significant health issue. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

For all of you who have renewed your club membership, we thank you for your continued support. For anyone who has not renewed, you can submit your renewal at any of our walks, or you can mail it to:

Mid- Florida Milers
P. O. Box 4575
Winter Park, FL 32793

Routes and Trails Topics by Dan Barnett, Routes and Trails

The quarter of October 1 through December 31 has many exciting volksmarching events planned. Included is one Traditional Event in Sanford. After the walk, we will enjoy German cuisine at Hollerbach's German Restaurant. Please consider joining us.

WAF 35 will take place 6-8 November in Bradenton, Florida. Registration is now open. Here is the [WAF 35 Flyer link](#) and the [Registration link](#). The volunteer sign up is on our club website.

I hope to see you at all of our great walks this quarter.

MFM Club Officers/Committees

President	Cathy Metherell
Vice President	Paul Erickson
Secretary	Sharon Axelrod
Treasurer	Dan Barnett
Newsletter	Dan Barnett
Membership	Dave Piatt
Publicity	Veronica Palacios
Routes and Trails	Dan Barnett
Operations Support	John Hunter/Tom Carter
YRE Coordinator	Jenny Thomas
Volunteer Coordinator	Sharon Axelrod
Website	Dave Piatt

NOTE: Reminder, in October through our walks in April, our registration times will be 8:30 – 9:00am except for the Disney Springs and The Villages walks.

Walk Information

Q4 Mid-Florida Milers Walks		
3 Oct	Lake Sumter, The Villages	9:00-9:30 am
17 Oct	Sanford, Hollerbach's	8:30-9:00 am
31 Oct	Celebration #2, Starbucks	8:30-9:00 am
6-8 Nov	WAF 35, Bradenton	Various
21 Nov	Spanish Springs, The Villages	9:00-9:30 am
27 Nov	International Drive, City Express Hotel by Marriott	8:30-9:00 am
5 Dec	Disney Springs, Orange Garage	8:45-9:15am
19 Dec	Winter Springs, Amtrak Station	8:30-9:00am

DATE	Q4 Other Florida Upcoming Traditional Events	REGISTER
3 Oct	First Coast Trail Forgers, Jacksonville, 1195 San Marco Blvd, Jacksonville, 7/10K walk	Register 7:30am, walk at 8:00am
24 Oct	First Coast Trail Forgers, Boone Park, 3730 Park St, Jacksonville, 5/11K walk	Register: 7:30am, walk 8:00am
6-8 Nov	Suncoast Sandpipers, Happy Wanderers and Mid-Florida Milers, Plam Coast area, WAF 35, four walks and I swim	Various, see WAF35 Flier
27 Nov	Happy Wanderers, Gemini Springs Park, 37 Dirksen Drive, DeBary, 5/10K walk.	Register 9:00-10:30am
5 Dec	First Coast Trail Forgers, University of North Florida, 12000 Alumni Dr, UBF, Jacksonville, 5/10K walk.	Register 8:30am, walk at 9:00am
	For information on other group walks in Central Florida, please visit (click on) the below club's websites or Facebook pages	
	Happy Wanderers Happy Wanderers Walking Club Webpage Happy Wanderers Facebook Page	
	First Coast Trail Forgers First Coast Trail Forgers Walking Club Webpage	
	Suncoast Sandpipers Suncoast Sandpipers Webpage Suncoast Sandpipers Facebook Page	

MFM Member Milestone Achievements			
Name	City	Events	Distance
Dan Barnett	Merritt Island	2300	
Cathy Metherell	Orlando	900	7500
Sharon Predham	Leesburg		17000
Courtesy The American Wanderer, Sep 2026			

<u>YRE Walk</u>	<u>YRE Walk Monitor</u>	<u>YRE Walk Sponsor</u>
Celebration #1	Howard Daughtrey	Jenny Thomas
Celebration #2	Howard Daughtrey	Veronica Palacios
Maitland	Tom Carter	Rosemary/Ron Barna
Orlando Downtown	JoAnne Cross	Paul Erickson
Orlando North	John Hunter	John Hunter
Orlando South	JoAnne Cross	Sharon Axelrod
Orlando I-Drive	Paul Erickson	JoAnne Cross
Orlando Disney Springs	Paul Erickson	Letty/Bob Zook
Orlando Universal	Paul Erickson	JoAnne Cross
The Villages - Lake Sumter Lndg	Jan Van Vlack	None
The Villages - Spanish Springs	Jan Van Vlack	None
Winter Park	Michael Kirchner	Howard Daughtrey
Delray Beach	Online	Dan/Nancy Barnett
Ft Lauderdale	Online	None
Key West	Online	Sharon Predham
Miami Beach	Online	Cathy Metherell
West Palm Beach	Online	Dan/Nancy Barnett

Note: We renewed our club's YRE for the next fiscal year. We truly appreciate the above individual's sponsoring the respective walks. If you are inclined to renew your sponsorship and haven't done so, please provide \$40 for each walk at one of our next walks or send payment to Mid-Florida Milers, PO Box 4575, Winter Park, FL 32793. Thank you!!

AVA WALKING FESTIVAL AND CONVENTION SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI JUNE 29 – JULY 2, 2027 WITH PRE- AND POST-WALKS JUNE 26 – JULY 4 by Susan Fine

Join us in Springfield, Missouri for the AVA Biennial Walking Festival and Convention, June 29 – July 2, 2027. Springfield is known as the "Birthplace of Route 66", because the famous highway was officially named in Springfield. The city is also known as the "Queen City of the Ozarks" since it was the primary economic, transportation, and cultural hub in Southwest Missouri.

The host hotel is the University Plaza Hotel in downtown Springfield, a beautiful hotel that will accommodate registration, convention workshops, membership meetings, and awards ceremony. AVA has a special room rate of \$120 single/double, or \$130 for a triple, and \$140 for a quad. The prices include breakfast for two people, with additional breakfast passes of \$10 per person. Parking is free. We

encourage you to book your rooms now using the hotel link, or call 417-864-7333 and ask for the special rate for American Volkssport Association. NOTE: if you are told there are no rooms available, call AVA office – they will ask for more rooms with the special rate.

Walks in beautiful downtown Springfield, the Springfield Botanical Gardens, campus of Missouri State, and more are almost completed, and we will have details in the December TAW. Swimming and biking events are also planned, with more details to come.

Pre-walks will occur in Bentonville, Arkansas June 26-28. Bentonville is best known as the birthplace and global headquarters of Walmart. Walks will include the beautiful downtown square, and the original five and dime Walmart store that Sam Walton opened. Another walk is the world-renowned Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and its many acres of outdoor trails, all founded by Alice Walton.

Driving from Bentonville toward Springfield, we will also have walks in Branson, Missouri, a popular family entertainment location. We'll confirm the details to give you plenty of time to walk downtown and/or a local state park. From there, you drive about 45 miles to Springfield.

Post-walks are being planned now. Look for details on AVA Facebook, and in the December TAW.

Registration for the AVA Biennial Walking Festival and Convention will open in October/November. Get updated information on the convention website.

We hope you **SAVE THE DATE** and plan to join us for as many days as you can June 29 – July 2, 2027 in Springfield, Missouri for Fun – Fitness – Friendship!



WELCOME TO
SPRINGFIELD
MISSOURI

Route 66

Email us at convention@ava.org

Save the Date!
America's Walking Club
2027 Biennial Convention
and Walkfest
June 29 – July 2, 2027
Springfield, MO, USA
Pre-walks June 26-28, 2027
Post-walks July 3-4, 2027

AMERICA'S WALKING CLUB
— ESTABLISHED 1976 —

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

Come Walk WITH US!

2027 AVA CONVENTION HOTEL BOOK TODAY UNIVERSITY PLAZA HOTEL, SPRINGFIELD, MO

There are still plenty of rooms at the University Plaza Hotel which is the host hotel for the AVA's 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!



Reserve your rooms soon before it is too late because with this great rate rooms will go quickly. Use the following link: [University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center](#) Should you have problems booking online, call the hotel at (417) 864-7333 and advise them you are with the American Volkssport Association.

PUBLICITY by Susan Fine, AVA Publicity Committee Chair

The Boston 50th Anniversary celebration for AVA was a huge success with a total of 194 participants at Castle Island and 24 states represented.



There are 7 'signature' events left to celebrate AVA's 50th anniversary. Next up is Astoria, Oregon Sept 24-27, with ["Walking in the Footsteps of Lewis and Clark"](#). Pre-registration ends Sept 17 for the socials/dinner, but walkup is available starting Sept 24.

If you are able to attend ALL 17 featured 50th anniversary events, let us know. We want to start keeping track, and have a group photo at the last event in Helen, GA December 5. Email me: publicity@ava.org.

Planning is coming along for the [2027 AVA Biennial Walking Festival and Convention](#) is June 29-July 2 (with pre- and post-walks, June 26 – July 4), in Springfield, MO.

The host hotel is the [University Plaza Hotel](#) in downtown Springfield, a beautiful hotel that will accommodate registration, convention workshops, membership meetings, and awards ceremony. AVA has a special room rate of \$120 single/double, or \$130 for a triple, and \$140 for a quad. The prices include breakfast for two people, with additional breakfast passes of \$10 per person. Parking is free. We encourage you to book your rooms now using the hotel link, or call 417-864-7333 and ask for the special rate for American Volkssport Association. NOTE: if you are told there are no rooms available, call AVA office – Henry will ask for more rooms with the special rate.

Walks in beautiful downtown Springfield, the Springfield Botanical Gardens, campus of Missouri State, and more are almost completed, and we will have details in the December TAW. Swimming and biking events are also planned, with more details to come.

We also hope you'll attend the pre-walks, too, in Bentonville, Arkansas June 26-28. Bentonville is best known as the birthplace and global headquarters of Walmart. It's also known as the "Mountain Biking Capital of the World." The featured walk Saturday June 26 is the beautiful downtown square, where Sam Walton opened his first five and dime. Sunday June 27, the featured walk is the world-renowned Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and its many acres of outdoor trails and sculptures, all founded by Alice Walton. Monday June 28, you have the option to walk the WalMart world-headquarters with its blend of natural landscapes and mass-timber architecture. Or you can head north to Branson, Missouri, where you can walk downtown Branson and/or choose Table Rock State Park (some people may do both walks Monday). Springfield is about 45 miles away from Branson. We know you will enjoy these pre-walks, blending beautiful small town charm with outdoor nature. There are several hotels in Bentonville and Rogers, AR, or you can stay in Springfield, and drive each day. More info to come on all the walks. Keep up-to-date at <https://ava.org/2027-convention/>.

There are [14 multi-day events](#) listed for the rest of 2026, from September through December. This is fantastic! Please support these clubs who have the energy and time into creating great walks for all of us. If you're having a multi event, don't forget to input your information into the multi event page so we can help promote them.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE by John McClellan, AVA Member

It's Nominating Season Again!



With the 24th Biennial Convention in Springfield, MO from 28 June – 1 July 2027 comes the bi-annual election of officers for America's Walking Club. That process starts not less than 9 months before the regular membership meeting at the Biennial, with the formation of a Nominating Committee. I hope that all national AVA members in good standing will consider serving on a nominating committee, or - running for one of the offices available.

We are seeking at least 3 and not more than 10 volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee for the next AVA Board. I'd like to include broad geographic representation from across AVA's 10 regions, from across AVA's 10 regions, if possible. SE Region and AT Region are already represented, but committee members from any of the 8 remaining regions would be welcome. This is light duty – with some emails and likely only a couple of meetings that we'll conduct online between now and April 2027. No member of the Nominating Committee may accept nomination for a National Office. If a committee member does choose to run for National Office, such candidate's membership on the Nominating Committee shall terminate, and the Board of Directors shall immediately elect a replacement. (4.06) b.

Any member of AVA in good-standing may submit names for nomination to national offices to the Nominating Committee. The Committee's task is to follow the path laid out by our Bylaws to find candidates for the offices of Board Chair, Vice-Chair, Finance Chair and Board Secretary. National Officers serve up to two terms (consecutively) of two years each term. Of the 4 people currently holding those positions, three incumbents may choose to run for a second term and only one position (our Board Secretary) is "termed-out" and will need a new officer.

Current AVA Board members, including Regional Directors (RD) and Deputies (DRD), are not eligible for service on the Nominating Committee. Per Bylaws - 6.06 a., each RD will appoint their own Committee to nominate candidates for Regional Director in that Region – also starting 9 months prior to the regular membership meeting. Likewise, no member of the region’s Nominating Committee may accept nomination for Regional Director.

Per paragraph 4.04 of the AVA Bylaws, the qualifications for National Board Officers are:

- (a) Elected National Officers must reside within the geographic jurisdiction of the AVA, excluding overseas military or diplomatic addresses.
- (b) If an elected National Officer establishes a permanent residence outside the geographic jurisdiction of the Corporation during the term of office, the Executive Committee shall immediately declare the office vacant and the Board of Directors will fill the position by following Section 4.07 of this Article.
- (c) A person who is considered “not in good standing” with the Corporation shall not be eligible to be an elected National Officer. A person “not in good standing” is defined as an individual with a debt, obligation or liability to the Corporation that has been delinquent for five months. A debt, obligation or liability shall be considered delinquent if it has not been settled within thirty days of the date it was due.
- (d) No person may hold more than one National Office at the same time.
- (e) No person may hold a National Office and serve as a Regional Director at the same time.
- (f) No person may serve more than two consecutive two-year terms in the same position as a National Officer.

IVV AMERICAS & OCEANIA by John McClellan, US Delagate to IVV A&O



Since 2013, IVV-Americas & Oceania (IVV A&O) has been one of three hemispheric associations within the International Federation of Popular Sports (IVV) – governing volkssporting with national associations and clubs in over 40 countries around the world. The other two continental bodies are IVV-Asia and IVV Europe. Member Countries of IVV A&O currently include Australia, Brazil, Canada and the United States.

America’s Walking Club joined IVV A&O in (2021), and discussions about New Zealand joining IVV A&O are ongoing. Diana Marshall of Australia is the IVV A&O President, with Tim Minor & Nancy Wittenberg (both AVA) as 2 of the 3 Vice Presidents along with

Manfred Koestlmaier of Canada. Treasurer Michelle Demers and Secretary Mary Wright are also from Canada.

The mission of IVV-Americas & Oceania is to promote non-competitive popular sports such as walking, cycling, swimming, and other leisure activities that encourage lifelong participation, health, and community engagement. IVV A&O fosters and celebrates popular sports across its region, supporting member organizations in organizing international events, sharing best practices, and inspiring

participation from people of all ages and backgrounds. It emphasizes lifelong activity, cultural exchange, and community building through these sports.

For more details on each of the upcoming 2027 Special Programs check out the AVA Future Special Programs website at: cb.ava.org/futureprog.php

After reviewing the information for each of the new 2027 Special Programs, clubs should consider if any of their YRE/Seasonal walks they are renewing for 2027 have qualifiers for these new special programs and update the sanction as needed.

Walk IVV Americas is a permanent Special Program sponsored by IVV-Americas & Oceania to promote volkssports in the Americas and Oceania. Collect 20 IVV stamps from any sanctioned IVV Event held in Canada, USA, Central or South America, the Caribbean or Oceania (South Pacific Australia) Contact: info@ivv-ao.org



After the success of the first Oceaniapiad international walking festival (con-current with the IML Aussie Peace Walks) in Australia earlier this year, America's Walking Club will be hosting the first Americaspiad festival from 9-11 June 2028 in Rapid City, SD (including the Crazy Horse spring volksmarch.) We'll also be hosting the bi-annual meeting of the IVV Congress just prior to the festival. Stay tuned for updates on the 2028 Americaspiad!!

ZINES: A CREATIVE, GRASSROOTS TOOL FOR CLUB PUBLICITY 2027 by Jeanne Stokes, South East Regional Director

Zines—short for fanzines or magazines—have long been part of underground art and literary culture. These small, handmade booklets blend creativity, personal expression, and practical information. Low-cost, informal, and easy to customize, zines offer a unique, personal way to share ideas.

Recently, Carolyn Ranieri, Publicity/Social Media Chair for First Coast Trail Forgers in Jacksonville, FL, discovered zines at a local library. Her find is a reminder that this analog medium still thrives and presents a fresh opportunity for clubs to rethink how they share their identity and events with the public.



To enlarge, click on this link: [Zine_for_AVA.jpeg \(2550×3549\)](#)

WALK AROUND FLORIDA 35: THE PARK ODYSSEY CONTINUES by Alice Lawrence, John McClellan, Cathy Metherell

After completing the first leg of the Park Odyssey with a walk in Oscar Scherer State Park on Nov. 6, participants continue on Nov. 7 with walks in national and county parks. Both walks will start at Robinson Preserve Pavilion 1 and run concurrently, with start times from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please finish by 5 p.m.

From the start, the walk to De Soto National Memorial winds through the neighboring Palma Sola Botanical Park, which features rare palms, fruit trees, and a butterfly garden arranged around three lakes. From there, walkers follow a boulevard shaded by estate palms to Riverview Pointe Preserve. Located along the Manatee River, the preserve highlights Florida wildlife and vegetation, includes an optional beach stop, and leads to two historic monuments. The first is the striking Memorial Cross, erected in 1995 to honor the priests and friars who accompanied the 16th-century expedition. The second is the Holy Eucharist Monument, which includes reliefs of a Mass and a Baptism, as well as a 20-foot obelisk carved with symbols of the Holy Trinity. This monument marks the entrance to the trails of De Soto National Memorial, where signs describe Hernando de Soto's 1539 landing and the first extensive European exploration of what is now the southern United States. From there, the Odyssey route returns to the pavilion finish.



Robinson Preserve Boardwalk
by Sheila McClellan

The county walk travels through Robinson Preserve, home to coastal grasslands, marshes, and mangrove habitats. These ecosystems offer opportunities to spot roseate spoonbills, wood storks, white pelicans, bald eagles, and a wide variety of native plants. Both the 5K and 10K routes visit the recently built Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology (NEST), where walkers can try a rope walkway. The longer route continues to a 40-foot observation tower with views of four counties and five bodies of water. The preserve is a strong example of restoration, transforming land once affected by invasive species, disrupted tidal flows, and fallow farmland into a thriving natural treasure.

On Nov. 8, our Park Odyssey concludes in Bradenton with the Sandpipers' Year Round Event on the Bradenton Riverwalk, a linear city park with a paved trail, public art, and waterfront views of the Manatee River. The route also includes a stop at the Village of the Arts, a vibrant creative community housed in cottages from the 1920s and 1930s. Consider taking home a unique piece of Florida artwork as a memorable souvenir.

WAF35 Hotel and Registration Updates. The Quality Inn Bradenton-Sarasota North no longer has rooms available at the WAF35 rate. Discounted rooms have been set aside at the nearby Super 8, just two blocks away; contact pipers@tampabay.rr.com for details. Only a few A Awards remain, so mail your registration form soon if you want the mug. We recommend signing up for the Saturday ham sub lunch or bringing your own meal in a cooler. Although several restaurants are nearby, leaving could cost you your convenient parking spot. Registration information will be used to create a mailing list for the WAF35 newsletter, which will provide walk updates, restaurant recommendations, and details about social activities. The first edition is expected around Oct. 10. We have not chosen a newsletter name yet, so please send us your ideas!

Pictures Q3 2026

These are from the Q3 events that I took or were provided to me. I urge those that carry cameras (i.e., smartphones) to take and submit pictures of our events and email them to me at dnlcssb@aol.com. Thank You!

18 July at Winter Park



Registration



Registration



Mr Rogers Statue



Sharon, Tom, Jenny



Jenny, Sharon at Rollins College

1 August at Celebration #1



Bernadette, Tom, Michael



Tom with new walker Eileen



Paul, Eileen, Sharon met a walker and his dogs

15 August at Black Hammock Trailhead



John, Tom



Cathy, Jenny, Sharon



Paul



Tom, John



Michael, Bernadette



Larry, Nancy and their Dog



Dan, Carmen, Cheryl



Carmen, Cheryl

29 August at **Universal**



Jenny, John,
Sharon,
Bernadette



Indira, Charmaine, Alston, Lorenzo



Voodoo Donuts



5 September at **Maitland**



19 September at **Orlando Downtown**



