



# Madison Area Volkssport Association Newsletter



March-April 2024 [www.dairylandwalkers.com](http://www.dairylandwalkers.com) Vol 2024-02

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## Club Events

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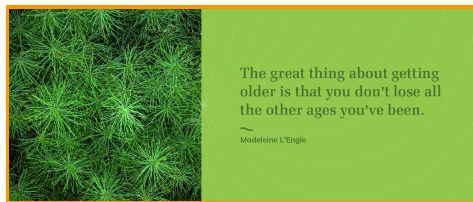
### March

- 13 (Weds) DLW Board Mtg.via Teams,  
6:00pm
- 16 (Sat) Pi Day Walk (see article)

### April

- 1 DLW Seasonal Walks Open!
- 1-7 Walking Week Walks (see article):
  - 4 (Thurs) Food & Forage Walk
  - 5 (Fri) East Side Walk
  - 6 (Sat) Quarry Park Walk
  - 7 (Sun) Monona Bay Walk
- 10 (Weds) DLW General Membership Mtg.  
6:30pm, location/format TBD

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## Specialty Days

### March

- 1: National Dadgum That's Good Day
- 2: National Read Across America  
(Dr. Seuss) Day  
National Old Stuff Day
- 3: National I Want You to Be Happy Day
- 5: National Cheese Doodle Day
- 9: National Get Over It Day
- 10: **Daylight Savings Day**
- 13: National Jewel Day
- 14: National Write Down Your Story Day
- 17: **St. Patrick's Day**
- 19: National Chocolate Caramel Day
- 21: National Memory Day
- 24: National Cocktail Day
- 28: National Something on a Stick Day
- 30: National Take a Walk in the Park Day

### April

- 1: **April Fool's Day**
- 2: National Reconciliation Day
- 3: National Walking Day
- 5: National Read a Roadmap Day
- 7: National No Housework Day  
National Beer Day
- 10: National Siblings Day
- 12: National Big Wind Day
- 14: National Look Up at the SkyDay
- 15: **National Tax Day**
- 18: National Exercise Day
- 20: Volunteer Recognition Day
- 22: **National Earth Day**
- 24: National Bucket List Day
- 27: National Tell a Story Day

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## Updates from POC's (Points of Contact)

### All Seasonal DW Events Begin April 1st

By Jerry Wilson

Our real Wisconsin walking weather begins April 1st, although many have been walking already. All our club walks will be open April 1st. Twelve year round events (left hand column) have been open since January 1, 2024. Now the remaining thirteen seasonal walks (right hand column) begin April 1st. Twenty-five events in all in 2024. Let's get out there walking! *Editor's Challenge: next to each walk is the total number of walkers in 2023—let's challenge ourselves to beat these numbers in 2024!*

#### Year-Round Walks:

- [DeForest](#): 69 2023 walkers
- [Madison - Arboretum](#): 51 2023 walkers
- [Madison - Capitol](#): 49 2023 walkers
- [Madison - Eastside](#): 60 2023 walkers
- [Madison - Monona Bay](#): No update
- [Madison - West Towne Mall](#): 59 2023 walkers
- [Middleton](#): 103 2023 walkers
- [Monona](#): 48 2023 walkers
- [Verona Walk](#): Added 2024



#### Seasonal Walks—see you April 1:

- [Appleton](#): 31 2023 walkers
- [Baraboo - Devils Lake State Park](#): 35 2023 walkers
- [Cedarburg](#): 32 2023 walkers
- [Eau Claire](#): 30 2023 walkers
- [Fond Du Lac](#): 31 2023 walkers
- [Janesville](#): 59 2023 walkers
- [La Crosse](#): 39 2023 walkers
- [Lake Geneva](#): 28 2023 walkers
- [Madison - Civil War](#): 93 2023 walkers
- [Madison - Picnic Point](#): 99 2023 walkers
- [Madison - West Side Parks](#): 169 2023 walkers
- [Milwaukee](#): 41 2023 walkers
- [Neenah](#): 36 2023 walkers
- [Oshkosh](#): 32 2023 walkers
- [Port Washington](#): 36 2023 walkers
- [Quincy Walk](#): Added 2024

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## **It's Pi Time!!**

By Don Suloff

Our annual Pie Walk is just around the corner and you'll want to make your reservations now. This is one of few walks that we conduct where we request reservations. This is necessary in order to properly order the pies for the post-walk indulgence!

On Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at the Middleton Public Library in Middleton for a guided 5K walk, followed by a slice of Hubbard Avenue Diner pie for each participant. The walk will depart the library at precisely 2:00 pm with all registration completed prior to that time. To reserve your piece of pie please contact Linda Abegglen by email or phone at least two days prior to the walk. Linda may be reached at 238-8891 or [linda.abegglen@gmail.com](mailto:linda.abegglen@gmail.com).

The fee for all participants will be \$6.00. Dairyland Walker Frequent Walker coupons may not be used for this walk. There will not be a separate sanction number for this walk - the stamp for the Middleton year-round walk will be used.

Our start/finish point will be in the meeting room of the library which is downstairs from the entrance lobby. The library requests that the parking lot behind the library (on the other side of the railroad tracks) be used for our meeting. [return to contents](#)

## **Walking Week**

By Don Suloff

The Dairyland Walkers will join clubs throughout the country in holding walks during the week of April 1 - 7, 2024. We will do a series of guided walks throughout the week, with specific information provided through the weekly club email. Some of the walks will use the Traveling Guided Event stamp and others will use the stamp associated with the walk. Planned are the following walks: Thursday, April 4. Food and Forage walk led by Jerry Wilson. Registration will be available starting at 3:30 with a guided walk beginning at 4 pm. Walk start point to be determined. Friday, April 5. Eastside walk led by Chris Flessert. Registration will be available starting a 1 pm with a guided walk beginning 1:30. Walk will begin at Monty's Blue Plate Diner. Saturday, April 6. Quarry Park Walk led by Don Suloff. Registration will be available starting at 1 pm with a guided walk beginning at 1:30. Walk will begin at the Rennebohm Park shelter. Sunday, April 7. Monona Bay Walk led by Patrick Jones. Registration will be available starting at 1 pm with a guided walk beginning at 1:30. Walk will begin at the Brittingham Park shelter. [return to contents](#)

## **2025 AVA Biennial Convention Location Decided by AVA Board**

By Jerry Wilson

The 2025 AVA Biennial Convention will be held in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The tentative dates will be April 28 - May 2. Added to these convention dates will be pre-convention events Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27, and post-convention events Saturday and Sunday May 3 and 4. National Office staff, Convention Committee members, nation-wide volunteers, local volunteers and local visitors bureau representatives are working to provide a great event! We want to see you in New Mexico in 2025! Hold these dates and travel dates.

Availability of the convention center and lodging rooms still need to be confirmed, but walkers should plan to be in Las Cruces Monday, April 28 - Friday, May 2, 2025. Those with vehicle transportation will find pre-convention and existing walk events, and after the convention post-convention and existing walks are plentiful. New Mexico and Texas have a lot to offer. [return to contents](#)

## Newsletter Participation Time!

By Pam Wilson

Have you ever been asked, "Why should I walk with AVA when I can go out my front door and take a walk?" It's a fair question, but if you are a Dairyland Walker you have figured out some good reasons for paying a fee and following a set of directions. The more I thought about this, the more ideas I had! My latest is...when I walk in a town I don't know, it is like I am getting a personal tour of the best of the town, from a proud resident! What are your reasons? [Take the 1-question survey](#) [return to contents](#)

## My Centurion Year

by Kevin Moore

The Centurion Achievement Challenge is a Special Program that challenges a walker to complete 100 events in a calendar year. In 2023, I completed Centurion for the third time.

My first walk of the year was New Year's Day, the South Carolina Capital Walk in Columbia. My last was on New Year's Eve in Parowan, Utah. In between, I walked 105 events in 29 states from Florida to Washington.

I love to travel and completing Centurion gave me an excuse to chase other Special Programs. I completed the Border Crossing Special program. Many of these border crossings were in the Washington / Oregon / Idaho area. None of them were in the upper Midwest. I completed Walking the USA A - Z, a program to walk in a city with a name starting with each letter of the alphabet. I completed this program for the second time, this time going through the alphabet in order just to make it more of a challenge. I completed the six books of the Walking with America's Veterans (I have since learned there are now 8 books). I'm almost finished with the Walking the United States, both the States and Capitals books, with only Hawaii left. I completed the 24 walks in the Dairyland Walkers VIP Program. Arizona, Utah and Nevada have Special Programs to complete a walk in each County Seat. I completed Arizona in 2022. I completed 10 of the Utah County seats in 2023 and hope to complete Utah and Nevada in 2024.

There were walks I loved for a variety of reasons. In Mobile, AL, I found myself unexpectedly on the sidelines of Mardi Gras parade. I walked through a snowstorm and six inches of new snow in Hastings, MN. I fell in love with Boise, ID after walking three walks in it's downtown parks. I loved completing walks on segments of the Ice Age Trail. One of my favorite walks was along the Missouri River in Atchison, KS. I'm an aviation buff and enjoyed finding the birthplace of Amelia Earhart. I was amazed to find a Veterans' Memorial a relic display from the USS Arizona.

There were walks that didn't go as expected. Big Springs State Park in Florida had been ravaged by a hurricane and parts of the route were closed due to storm damage but I was able to piece together a walk with road segments. The trail at Sinks Canyon in Lander, Wyoming was closed due to a rampaging moose who was chasing hikers. I had to shift my walk further up the canyon.

There were walks I disliked. Ft Walton Beach, FL sounded promising but in reality it was a slog through sand on a crowded beach. I looked forward to a walk in Billings, MT but a good section of the trail was along a crowded highway with no shoulder. It felt dangerous.

The worst were the walks that didn't happen for technical reasons. On two occasions, I drove hours to get to a walk only to find the Walk Box was unavailable. In one instance, the walk box was locked in the manager's office and the manager was on vacation. In another, the POC had pulled the box thinking the sanction had ended in October but the AVA web site had them listed through the end of the year. I'd like to advocate for the On-Line Walk Box.

I would like to thank the AVA, Dairyland Walkers and all the people that make these events happen. We need more walks to give more people the opportunity to get outside. We need more Special Programs to help people find places they will love but ordinarily would never think to visit. Year 2023 was a good for me. I'm looking forward to my next Centurion.

Thank you for taking the time to read my story.

**Editor's Note: More of this please! Submit your walking story to [dairylandnews@gmail.com](mailto:dairylandnews@gmail.com)**

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## Tuesday Evening Walks are Back!

By Kristi Kenyon

We are reviving the Tuesday evening walking program! Join us in the greater Madison area for some summer evening walks.

The walks will be held on Tuesday evenings May through August, with the walks starting at 6 PM. Walk leaders will be at the meeting place by 5:30 PM. Please arrive by 5:45 PM to register.

These events use Year-Round walks, so Frequent Walker Coupons can be used and they qualify for the VIP Program.

Walk leaders will be leading the 5/6K walk. For those wishing to do the 10/11K, the group will start walking together and the walk leader will point out where to split off for the longer walk.

The events will be on posted on Facebook. Any discussion, changes, or cancellation will be posted on the event in Facebook.

There may be opportunities to dine or socialize after the walks. Watch the Facebook events for more information as the dates get closer.

Tues night	Walk	Meeting Place/Parking
1 <sup>st</sup>	DeForest	Meet at the Western Green Park parking lot, 417 Acker Pkwy, DeForest, WI
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Picnic Point	Meet at Parking Lot 130, 2003 University Bay Drive, Madison, WI (Circle Lot across from the entrance to Picnic Point) Free after 4:30 PM
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Verona	Meet at the Hometown Junction Park parking lot, W Railroad St, Verona, WI
4 <sup>th</sup>	Monona	Meet at the Monona City Hall, 5211 Schluter Rd, Monona, WI
5 <sup>th</sup> (July)	Capitol	Meet at the Concourse Hotel, behind the lobby stairs, 1 W Dayton St, Madison, WI. Parking available in the State Street Ramp across the street. Street parking is free after 6 PM.

We hope to see you on Tuesday evenings this summer! [return to contents](#)

## Club Milestones

By Doug Wiest

The next issue of The American Wanderer (TAW) will be the March or April edition, which was not received by the publication submission deadline for the March-April 2024 issue of the Dairyland Walkers newsletter. Milestones listed in the March or April 2024 TAW will be published in the May-June 2024 DLW newsletter. [return to contents](#)

*When you're 16, 30 seems ancient. When you're 30, 45 seems ancient. When you're 45, 60 seems ancient. When you're 60, nothing seems ancient.  
Helen Mirren*

## Stores Corner

By Kristi Kenyon

### 2023 VIP Finishers

Congratulations to 14 walkers that completed our Volkssport Incentive Program (VIP) for 2023!

The 2023 VIP goal was to complete any 12 of our 22 Year-Round/Seasonal walks. The reward for completion was any IVV/AVA achievement book of their choice (a \$6 value). As an added incentive, participants could choose to complete the program a second time to earn a second IVV/AVA achievement book, participating in the 10 walks not completed the first time. The program could be completed multiple times. Four walkers participated multiple times as denoted in parentheses behind their names.

#### **Completed all 22 walks**

Patrick Jones (6.5)  
June Quesnell  
Chris Flessert  
Samantha Stegura (4)  
Jerry Wilson (1.5)  
Pam Wilson (1.5)  
Kristina Kenyon  
Kevin Moore

#### **Completed 12 walks**

Curt Armstrong  
Mary Liebig  
Beth Halverson  
Jill Ruef  
Jackie Kittel  
Don Suloff

Great job everyone and thank you for supporting the Dairyland Walkers!

**New for 2024** - We now have 24 Year-Round and Seasonal walks, 12 in the greater Madison area, and 12 further away around the state. It's easier than ever to complete the first VIP book staying in the Madison area! The first book requires 12 walks, then the second book requires the remaining 12 walks. You may still complete the program multiple times. Pick up a 2024 VIP book at most events or contact me. 2024 Frequent Walker Coupons can be used for all 24 Year-Round and Seasonal walks. Coupons are \$30 for 10 coupons, a savings of \$1 per walk. We'd love to see more folks complete this program and earn free IVV/AVA achievement books!

Let me know of any questions you have about our Frequent Walker Coupons or our VIP program. [return to contents](#)

**Board Minutes 1/10/24**—pending approval: Click to [link](#) to the minutes. [return to contents](#)

**General Membership Minutes 2/14/24**—pending approval: Click to [link](#) to the minutes. [return to contents](#)

### **NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMITTAL DEADLINE**

Deadline: April 20  
for

May-June 2024 Newsletter

Use an **Article Specific Title** on the subject line,  
not merely "Jan.-February Newsletter Article" or "Next Newsletter",  
and send to DW Newsletter email address: [dairylandnews@gmail.com](mailto:dairylandnews@gmail.com)

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