



This Month's Walks & Events:

8/13, Weds, Club Picnic/Walk/Meeting

Lakeview Park, 6300 Mendota Ave, Middleton, WI 53562

5:00 5K walk, 6:00 Potluck & Meeting (please bring dish to pass & own beverage)

[Add to calendar](#) 

Articles:

Getting Maps and Directions to our 25 Year-round and Seasonal Events, by Mary Liebig

Have you wondered how you can venture out on your own and walk the 25 year-round and seasonal Dairyland Walkers events? Where are the maps and directions located?

Maps and directions are in a "Walk Box". The Walk Box contains a Registration Log where you must sign the Amateur Athletic Waiver and Release of Liability. It costs \$4 to walk each event. \$2 stays with the Dairyland Walkers and \$2 goes to the National Office of AVA- America's Walking Club. Both groups are non-profits. The fee can be put in the pre-addressed envelope provided and mailed to that address. For those keeping track of their events in an AVA book, there is a stamp located in the "Walk Box".

Here are a couple pictures of a Walk Box



Now the next question you must be asking is where can I find the Walk Box in the businesses listed? Do I ask at the counter or is it tucked away somewhere else?

I have compiled a list of the locations of our 25 Walk Boxes. Click on this [link](#) to discover the walk box locations.

Using the On-Line Start Box (OSB) - It Looks More Difficult Than it Is!, by Jerry Wilson

I was asked to write-up some "easy" steps for Dairyland Walkers to use the OSB for AVA events. With the helpful direction of Mike Green, AVA IT Committee Chair, here are some starting steps. First you might want to look through the OSB "Tutorial" on MY.AVA.org. This can be reached [here](#). This on-line page looks a bit intimidating, but taken in "chunks" [my word], a walker should be able to locate a desired event, register, pay for, obtain start point location information, download walk directions and maps, and later record completion of the walking event, allowing the downloading and printing of insert cards showing stamps for all completed OSB events for your AVA Achievement books.

I have written step-by-step directions that will hopefully add clarity. Find them [here](#). [Use it a few times and things flow nicely!] My personal comments are in brackets []. If others have helpful hints please share them in a future article, or an amended version of this article.

Here's what's on the radar, gathered by Jerry Wilson

These upcoming race events may affect walking the Madison Eastside Walk and the east-end of the Capital Walk and Monona Bay Walk:

Ride the Drive is back on Sunday, August 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.! This free, family-friendly event opens the streets to biking, walking, and play—completely car-free—along John Nolen Drive and Williamson Street. It's a one-of-a-kind day to stroll, roll, pedal, or glide your way through miles of activity-filled streets, connecting community parks and neighborhood fun.

Rockin Brews Marathon | Saturday, Aug. 30: Anticipated [affected streets](#) include portions of Spaight St, Rutledge St, Morrison St, Yahara Pl, and Lakeland Ave.

Ironman 70.3 | Saturday, Sept. 6: Anticipated [affected streets](#) include portions of Spaight St, Orton Park, Rutledge St, Morrison St, Yahara Pl, and Lakeland Ave.

Madison Marathon | Sunday, November 10 | 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Anticipated [affected streets](#) include portions of Lakeland Ave, Dunning St, Yahara Pl, Thornton Ave and the Yahara River Bike Path.

30th Anniversary Walk, by Don Suloff

The first walk in Madison was actually established by Joan and Susan Sanders of the Iowa Club following a request by the American Volkssport Association (AVA) desiring a walk in Madison as part of the walking state capitols program. Joan probably was

instrumental in encouraging Tom Doyle to establish a Madison Club. She paid for the Club's start-up costs, the AVA fees for our first walk, and served as mentor to the Club once it had been established. Susan attended school in Madison and monitored the initial Madison walk box.

On July 24, 1995, the Madison Area Volkssport Association (better known as the Dairyland Walkers) was granted a charter by the AVA.

While still in the formative stage of existence, the Dairyland Walkers (although that name was not adopted until later in the year) hosted our first walk on September 9, 1995. The walk was planned by Tom Doyle, Joan Sanders, Bonnie Hamer, and Barb Borde. Designated as the "44 th General Hospital Volksmarch" , the walk occurred coincidental with a reunion of the 44 th General Hospital Unit (the Unit) in Madison, of which Tom Doyle was a part. Over 220 walkers participated in this event, with many attached to the Unit. Given the newness of the Madison Club, the Cedarburg Club was the official sponsor of the walk (the Cedarburg Club was the first recognized club in Wisconsin). The walk included Vilas Park and Zoo, Edgewood College, and a portion of Monona Bay.

The next club walk was in May 1966 at Picnic Point. This walk was mapped by Jo Sparks and Barb Borde, an award designed by Susan Sanders, and publicity and walk registration (mostly done in advance of the walk) handled by Bonnie Hammer. Charter club members were Barb Borde, Tom and June Doyle, Bonnie Hamer, Mike Roy, Bob and Jo Sparks, and Jerry and Pam Wilson. Bill Klosner and Jim McMillan of the Unit may have also been charter members. The first club meeting was held October 2, 1995, with an agenda including solicitation of charter members, election of officers, formation of committees, and deciding on a club name. The first officers were Tom Doyle as president, June Doyle as treasurer, and Bob Sparks as treasurer.

Thanks to the foresight of that group, we are now actively walking throughout the state and country. We have sponsored hundreds of traditional walks and dozens of year-round and seasonal walks. The club has had five presidents: Tom Doyle, Jerry and Pam Wilson, Tom and LaVonne McCrill, Liz Odgren, and Doug Wiest.

AVA Celebrates 50th Year Anniversary in 2026, By Jerry Wilson

In 2026 AVA will become 50!

Historic dates shared by the AVA National Office:

AVA was incorporated on April 20, 1976

The first Volkssmarch was held on June 9, 1976 in Fredericksburg, TX.

Membership Update, By Mary Liebig, Membership Coordinator

Please welcome the following members who have joined our group since our last newsletter:

Vicki Hokanson, Sun Prairie, WI

Vanessa & Shawn Chapla, Madison WI

AVA Recent Mailings

[Checkpoint](#)

Meeting Minutes

Pending board approval, here is the [link](#) to minutes from the most recent club board or membership meeting.

AVA's Mailing Address, by Kristi Kenyon

In October 2024, AVA moved their headquarters to 1032 S Alamo St, San Antonio, TX 78210. When you are sending in your books, make sure to use this new address. Kristi Kenyon has stickers with the new address that can be affixed over the old one on your books so you'll have the right information once your book is complete. Find Kristi at an upcoming event.