



This Month's Walks & Events:

11/8, Saturday, Veterans Walk, 9:30-11:00 Registration at Concourse Hotel,
12:00 Finish (& stay for lunch) at Plaza Tavern

[add to calendar](#) 📅

11/12, Wednesday, 6:00-7:00, Dairyland Walkers Board meeting via Zoom,

Articles:

Veterans Walk Update, by Jerry Wilson

When walking the Veterans Weekend Walk on Saturday, November 8, the Monona Terrace Convention and Community Center will be hosting the Winter Art Fair Off the Square, Saturday beginning at 9:00am, ending at 5:00pm. The Fair is also offered on Sunday, November 9, 10:00am - 4:00pm. Cost: \$5.00 entry for over 12 years of age.

#OptOutside Arboretum Walk Friday, November 28, by Mary Liebig

Join the Dairyland Walkers as we Opt Outside to do the Arboretum walk as a group on Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, on November 28. We'll plan on meeting at the start point of the Arboretum Walk, Colectivo Coffee, located at 2530 Monroe St. in Madison at 9:45 a.m. to register for the walk and start walking at 10 a.m.

#OptOutside was started by REI in 2015 when they closed their stores on Black Friday, paid their 12,000 employees to spend time outside, and invited other Americans to join them. In 2016, the AVA: America's Walking Club joined the effort and has participated the last eight years. Although REI is no longer running this campaign, the AVA is still encouraging clubs to continue this initiative because of the success that clubs have had getting people to walk with us as well as the awareness it generates for the AVA.



Walking the AVA Ice Age Trail Segments in Fall, by Jerry Wilson

Walking some of the sixteen (16) AVA IAT segments during the Autumn is a great way to see some Fall colors as our leaves change. As a reminder: Please wear bright or neon colors on most of the walk routes, there are hunters out there too!

Sorrowful News, by Pam Wilson

Many of you will remember Bob and Jo Sparks, early members of the Dairyland Walkers. This update was sent by their daughter, Angie Sparks:

I wanted to let you know that our dad, Bob Sparks, passed away recently.

<https://www.cressfuneralservice.com/obituaries/robert-bob-sparks> He and our mom, Jo, were very active members of the Dairyland Walkers when they relocated from Dallas to Madison in 1996. Jo and Bob walked in all 50 states - not in 50 days as some do, but it was still an accomplishment!. AVA walks became a big part of our family. I designed the original Eastside Madison Historic walk with the walkbox at Monty's Blue Plate Diner.

Bob's number one priority had always been Jo's well-being. Bob insisted on continuing to live with Jo when it became clear she needed memory care support. This was challenging for him, to say the least.

Her dementia is moderately severe at this point. She's frail but still loves to sing, and she is kind and gracious. We don't know what she understands, but we believe she knows in her heart that he's no longer here. Such a love story. She hasn't asked about him.

I included three videos that feature Bob (at the end of the linked obituary). They capture his spirit in ways that I couldn't achieve with words.

Please share this with others in the walk club who may have known Jo or Bob.

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.

AVA Recent Mailings

[Checkpoint](#)

Meeting Minutes

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