

*Greetings fellow Volkssporters!*

Happy 2021! 2020 was quite a year but the Happy Wanderers have come through it and continue to promote a healthy and active lifestyle through walking, biking, and swimming. Despite suspending our group walk calendar from mid-March through May, we still finished the year with more than 2,500 total participants.

We are continuing to stay safe during this pandemic by observing some basic public health guidelines – wearing face masks, maintaining social distancing during events, and keeping our contacts and touches limited even when we assemble. Everyone misses the larger group après-(after) walk social activities (food & drinks), but we hope that these will return in 2021 as the vaccines are distributed and more Americans are protected. We will continue to keep everyone updated with e-mail, our social media sites (Facebook & Meetup) and our award-winning club website!

2020 was a significant year for *America's Walking Club*, with new partnerships and after 40 years, a new national office (we moved!) at – **1008 S Alamo St., San Antonio, TX 78219**

They are re-located and operating, so it is now OK to start sending your IVV books in again.

The AVA are now a national partner with *Element3 Health* (E3H), who promote health & wellness by assembling a network of physical fitness and social clubs as outlets for their members in Health Advantage programs. In 2021, we will start to see E3H members attending our events through a “silver sneakers – like” connection. E3H has around 1 million members in Florida, giving us the chance to meet new people and make our club even better!

In 2021, AVA has a new “virtual online program” with 4 quarterly challenges this year. If you were enrolled in the Appalachian Trail VOP last year, then you are automatically carried over – but you must re-register and pay \$ by the end of January! [American Volkssport Association \(ava.org\)](http://AmericanVolkssportAssociation(ava.org)) There's also a new AVA Special Program book “*Walking with America's Veterans*” for sale and our club has at least a dozen qualifiers for this “scavenger hunt” – come talk to me if you are interested!

Walk Around Florida (WAF30) is re-scheduled for 2021 – 5-7 November, so we will be back to planning this 5-event weekend very soon now. If you registered at the Plaza Hotel for last year, your reservation is still good this year – or you can register now! It takes at least 50 volunteers to run WAF30, and we will be training any club members who want to help on the kinds of things we will need your help on – at upcoming club meetings.

I want to thank our Executive Council, our team of dedicated volunteers, and you – our members, for sustaining the Happy Wanderers and making us stronger than ever!

*See you on the Trails!*

John McClellan, President