

President's Corner by Mary Frink

Happy New Year! I hope you had a nice holiday season. I spent Christmas morning chasing after the cat, trying to keep her from eating the curling ribbon. Apparently it looks like spaghetti to her and is just as tasty! Even a catnip mouse couldn't distract her. At least she didn't pull the tree over or jump into it or anything like that. Someone sent me a link to YouTube videos showing cats doing just that and it did worry me!

I hope everyone got the message about the After-Holiday party postponement. It was a hard decision for me to make. The forecast varied depending on which radio or TV station you listened to. I didn't think there would be a problem getting to the party, but didn't want people getting into trouble on the way home. Did you hear about the weather related 20 car pile-up in Connecticut? When I saw that, I was very glad we didn't have the party. Luckily, our party has been rescheduled for January 28. Same time, same place! I hope you can all come! If you have any finished YRE challenge cards, don't forget to bring them so you can be in the drawing for a free 2017 membership! **If the weather causes us to cancel again, we will try to contact RSVPers by email/phone. You can also check the website or call any of the board members if you are not sure.**

The new year brings all kinds of new things for us! The Ice Cream Parlor special program Walk 'n Mass is sponsor-

ing officially started January 1. We've sold over 100 books so far and requests keep coming in! I will have them the day of the party, but will only be there for the meeting, not the party. If you want one, email me (mfwalks2010@verizon.net) and I will make sure to have one ready and waiting for you.

This is the last year for the Marathon challenge, as we are using the AVA special programs model to allow current participants a one-year grace period to complete the challenge. You get a much better appreciation for the Boston Marathon by walking parts of the route and I had lots of fun. I know it was hard to get all the walks in all the towns and many, many thanks to all the POCs and to Bea Hait for making the challenge happen. Do you have an idea for a new club challenge? It could be for one year like the "All the Old Familiar Places" YRE challenge or a multi-year endeavor like the Marathon challenge. We'll be taking a break from the YRE challenge this year, so we will have plenty of time to come up with a new challenging idea.

In June the biennial AVA convention is taking place in Billings, Montana. If you can attend, I highly recommend it. You meet walkers from all over the country and learn a lot about how AVA works. There is a lot of information available at AVA's website, ava.org. I have been to a few conventions now and found them all to be a lot of fun and educational as

Come Friends, Let's Walk

- ❖ *Saturday, Jan. 28
After-Holiday Party
Bedford, MA
9:30 club meeting
followed by
party at 11:30 am
[see page 2]*
- ❖ *Sunday, Jan. 29
Group Walk:
Sandwich 10:00 am*

*See club website for starting location details on these events. **Winter group walk schedule subject to weather, please contact POC to check on sidewalk clearing status. For group walks, please aim to arrive 15 minutes earlier to sign-in.***



well. If all goes according to plan, I should be there in Montana!

So many new and exciting things this year! If I don't see you at the meeting/party, hopefully I'll see you on the trail!

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After-Holiday Party Rescheduled

by Chris Lipson

Snow and storms interfered with our planning. Now you can set aside **Saturday, January 28** for our party & Yankee Swap. This will be the 4th year that we celebrate in our unique way by having a REGIFTING Yankee Swap. Anything that you received and aren't overjoyed to retain, here's your opportunity. The other twist is that the club is going to provide all the food, drinks, and paper goods. Of course we're asking our members to bring along (if they wish) a dessert to share with others.

The party will start at 11:30 am at St. Michael's Parish Center (90 Concord Road/Rt. 62) in Bedford. If you're planning to attend please let me know so we can arrange for enough space and food.

Contact Chris at 781-275-0464 or c2lipson@msn.com

If the weather causes us to cancel again, we will try to contact RSVPers by email/phone. You can also check the website or call any of the board members if you are not sure.

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In Memoriam: Sid Walker

by Monica Hait & Marianne Marshall

We were saddened to learn of Sidney Walker's passing, after suffering a second stroke, in early December at age 93. Sid was a very strong and determined individual and enjoyed an active life with family and friends. He even walked part of the Vineyard Haven route in 2007 after his first stroke, and continued to attend other walks as well. It was a pleasure to see Sid at our club picnic at Barre Falls Dam last summer. Our sincere condolences to the entire Walker family, particularly our fellow volksmarchers: wife Myrtle, daughter Nancy, and son-in-law David Gundersen.

Volunteer Summary

Event Co-Chair: Barre Falls 7/17/99 and Westminster 5/18/02

Volunteer of the Month: January 2000

Start/Finish: Deerfield/Holyoke/Quabbin 8/14 & 8/15/99

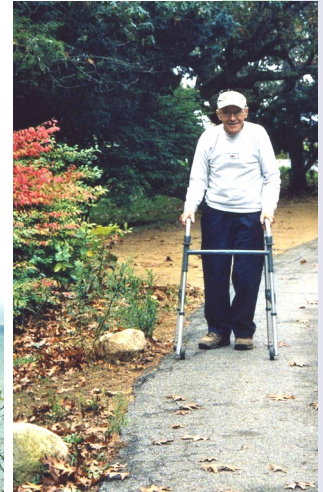
Trail Marking/Take Down: Elm Bank 4/6/96; Royalston 10/25/98; Attleboro 12/2/00; Hudson 5/8/01; Wayland 7/10/01; Gloucester 10/7/01; Acton NGW 5/14/02; Concord NGW 8/13/02; Marlborough NW 5/11/04; Leominster 10/23/04; Sudbury GW 3/19/05; Northfield 8/14/05; Devens 11/5/05

Check Point: Lexington 7/22/01; Forest Hills 8/4/02; Concord NGW 8/13/02; Hudson NW 7/12/05; Lexington NW 7/11/06; Hudson NW 8/14/07; Vineyard Haven 10/27/07; Westminster 5/30/09; Barre Falls Dam 8/24/13

Work Party: Tully Lake 5/30/98

Pre-Registration/Greeter/Picnic: Annisquam 10/8/00; Groton 10/1/00; Newton/Waltham 4/1/01

Trail Guide: Gloucester 10/7/01; Westminster 6/14/03 **(AT AGE 80!!)**; Bolton Wednesday walk 6/25/03



Left: Sid & Myrtle in Vineyard Haven;
Above: Walker² on the trail
Photos courtesy of Beate Hait

Membership Renewal Time Approaches by Chuck Lipson

This is a reminder that our membership year starts 1 April. You will receive a renewal membership form in next month's *Footnotes*. Completing the form and sending it in with payment will ensure your membership in Walk 'n Mass continues for the 2017-2018 season. Remember that club dues are \$15 per year for which there are many benefits in addition to

walking with a great group of people—the after-holiday party, soup walk, picnics, and so much more. Please renew promptly so that you're not removed from the membership distribution of *Footnotes* or from the email notification list.

Bulletin Board

NERD Nominations

Coinciding with the biennial AVA Convention, it's time to elect National Officers. I have volunteered to represent WnM on the Nominating Committee for Northeast Regional Director (NERD). Please let me know if you'd like to be considered or if you'd simply like more information about this role. The election will take place in the spring prior to the AVA National Convention this June.

Thanks!

Bea Hait (beateh1@aol.com or 508-429-3564)

Congratulations to
Leo Bourque
for finishing the
Marathon Challenge!

Next Club Meeting Saturday, Jan. 28

9:30 am (followed by
After-Holiday
luncheon & party)

St. Michael's Parish Center
90 Concord Road (Rt. 62)
Bedford, MA

Providence—Please Take Note

We recently learned that our YRE start point, the Roger Williams National Memorial Visitor Center, is **closed for the month of January** while new exhibits are installed. The Visitor Center will also be **closed Mondays & Tuesdays in February and March**. If you plan to walk in Providence during this time, please contact POC Mary Suchodolski at jibba411@verizon.net or check the NPS website for updates

www.nps.gov/rowi/index.htm

Newsletter Submissions to:

footnotes.editor@gmail.com

Deadline for next issue: February 21st

Did you #OptOutside on Black Friday? We had nice turnouts for our group walks in Fall River (left), Concord (below), and Shelburne Falls and look forward to making #OptOutside part of our walk plans again this year.



Photo: Joanne Izbicki



Photo: Bev Lange

Do you have a volksmarching travel story to share? Send it to footnotes.editor@gmail.com for publication in a future edition of *Footnotes*.

November & December Meeting Highlights by Marianne Marshall

Meetings held November 1, 2016 & December 6, 2016

Secretary's Reports: November report accepted with one change; December report to be reviewed at January meeting

Treasurer's Reports: accepted as presented each month

Award nominations submitted to AVA prior to November 1 deadline

Walk Coordinator: Attendance at the end of 3rd quarter for year-round/seasonal walks down approximately 25% compared to Q3 2015 totals; club members comprised 64% of the total participants

2017 meeting schedule:

January, April, May, August, and December **in Bedford**

March, June, September, October, and November **in Franklin**

Meetings are held at 6:30 pm unless otherwise posted

VP position: Executive Council voted unanimously to accept Keith Harlow's offer to serve as Vice President—this completes WnM set of officers & keeps the Club in good standing with AVA

Group Walks: to be scheduled for the 1st quarter close to the date selected to try to minimize cancellation due to inclement weather/walking conditions

86 **Ice Cream Parlor** books sold; patches ordered

Trail Master: New 10km route measured for Providence, RI

AVA/IVV and regional news:

IVV passed two resolutions, details of which need to be implemented by AVA: (1) after completion of 600 events, record books can be turned in after either 50 or 100 events; (2) after completion of 10,000 km, record books can be turned in after either 1,000 km or 5,000 km

To fill the vacancy created by Betty Green moving out of the northeast area, Chris Mellen will serve as the **Northeast Regional Director** until the end of the term—June 3, 2017

AVA Achievement Awards (compiled from *American Wanderer*)

Congratulations to Monica who, unless I missed a name, is the only WnM member listed among the award achievers in the December 2016/January 2017 issue of *The American Wanderer*.

Name	Events	Distance
Monica Hait	550	

Did I overlook either your event or distance award? Please let me know so I can include it in the next issue of *Footnotes*.

-Marianne Marshall,
mrbwalker@verizon.net

Roser Park, St. Petersburg, FL

by Ted Wall



Well, the calendar has rolled over into 2017 and I hope all the Walk 'n Mass gang enjoyed a pleasant winter holiday season. I've been hiding out in Florida since Halloween but most of that time a nasty flu bug had laid me low. There **are** germs, even in paradise.

With the start of the VolksSouth season of 15 Wednesday walks coordinated with local AVA clubs in the greater Tampa Bay area, I felt strong enough to assay ten kilometers. I survived. And enjoyed a pleasant lunch with the group at the Hanger restaurant in St. Pete's Whitten Airport. This small general aviation facility claims to be the start of the first commercial (i.e. paid) airplane flight in America. On New Year's Day 1914 the mayor of St. Petersburg paid some \$400 for a 30-minute hop across Tampa Bay to a business meeting in Tampa. Just him and the pilot; not exactly like today.

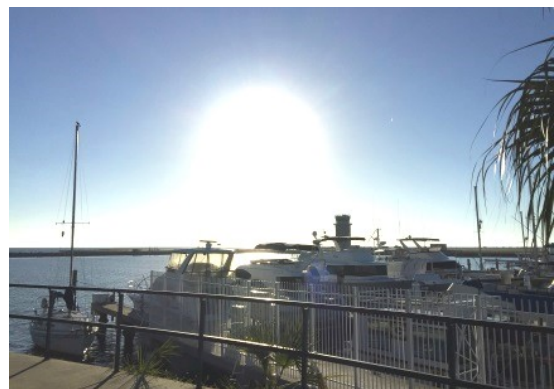
Whitten Airport sits across the street from the (Salvador) Dali Museum, well worth a visit any time. This month it hosts a traveling exhibit on early twentieth century artist Frida Kahlo (aka Mrs. Diego

Rivera) that Pauline very much wanted to see. In a pleasant garden rest area on the museum grounds sits a large banyan tree to which the museum has attached streamers, and to these visitors attach their colorful wristband admission passes when they are ready to leave. I played with the streamers just like any kitten.



Next to the Dali stands the Mahaffey Theater, mostly a music venue, where we plan to watch the Shen Yun dancers in a few weeks. Further up the bayfront walkway bordering a series of marinas is a view of several high-rise hotel and condominium buildings that highlight the redevelopment activity that has taken place in this city over the past couple of decades.

Much of the walk passes through residential and academic neighborhoods, pleasant but neither scenic nor historic. I'll just close with a view of the sunrise over Tampa Bay. In a few weeks, we'll visit the northern part of St. Petersburg.



Thank you, Attleboro volunteers!

by Margo Craven

Another year has gone by and here we are looking forward to spring again. The Attleboro walk at the La Salette Shrine seems like a distant memory now. The over 300,000 lights at the Shrine have been turned off once again. (It takes the Shrine's volunteers about 1 1/2 months to take down the Christmas displays.)

I want to thank the following volunteers who made the walk possible. *Start:* Verna DeVine, Monica Hait and Nancy Estrella. *Finish:* Dolores Vaz, Emily Goyette and Verna DeVine. *Checkpoints:* Pat Graeben, John Ekstrom, Nancy Estrella, Betty Ekstrom and Joanne Izbicki. *Specialties:* Bea Hait. *Trail marking:* John Christiansen, Marianne Marshall, Joanne Izbicki, Don Bolin and Jack Fernandes. *Trail take down:* Bev Lange, Keith Harlow, Ann Plichta and Karen Plichta.

After much thought and discussion, a decision was made at the last WnM board meeting to hold the Attleboro walk every 2 years instead of annually. So the next Attleboro walk will take place in 2018. See you there!



Above: Verna DeVine and Monica Hait get organized at the Start table

Photo: Beate Hait



Above: What a delightful surprise! Mike & Pam Medolo squeezed Attleboro into their New England visit from faraway Alaska. Margo & Bea were thrilled to see them again.

Photo: Beate Hait



Above: The lights at La Salette

Photo: Margo Craven



Left: Checkpoint monitors Joanne Izbicki and Betty Ekstrom greet Mike & Pam Medolo and Monica Hait at the Industrial Museum

Photo: Beate Hait



Above: A decorative bunch of holiday carolers camped out in a local front yard

Photo: Mike Medolo

Walk Coordinator Speaks

by Beate Hait

Traditional events recap for 2016

2016 Events	A Award	B Award	Credit	Free	TOTAL
Norwood, MA 4/16 Soup Walk	0	0	55	24	79
Ashland, MA 6/11	22	0	25	14	61
Hubbardston, MA 7/23 Picnic	0	0	27	13	40
New Bedford, MA 8/27	12	0	22	15	49
Lowell, MA 10/1	15	0	22	17	54
Milford, MA 10/29	0	2	40	14	56
Framingham, MA 11/12	0	1	33	13	47
Attleboro, MA 12/3	9	0	26	12	47

Traditional events in 2017 – Hopkinton (March 25) and Brookline (June 24) are the only firm locations to date. Others in the planning stages include Colt State Park, Medford, Old Deerfield, Provincetown, Sudbury and West Roxbury.

Save the Date – Saturday, March 25. While the annual club Soup Walk will again take place in Hopkinton, we have a **new** start point, St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Wood Street (Rt. 135), enabling POC Bev Lange to show us some parts of her childhood hometown that we haven't walked previously. The 10km route includes new neighborhoods and Water Fresh Farm Marketplace, where vegetables are grown hydroponically, and they also have an ice cream silo!

Year-round Events – Six events opened in January: three in Boston (Freedom Trail, Back Bay and Boston & Beyond), Lowell, Newton, and Sandwich. You may walk these routes whenever it fits your schedule: ask for the Walk Box at the start; fill out the Registration Log, take a Start Card and written directions, and stamp your books and leave the completed envelope when done. Group walks of these events are also scheduled, which gives you an opportunity to walk with others. In case of inclement/unsafe snow/ice conditions, check with the POC if a scheduled group walk will take place. Contact info can be found on the club website and on www.ava.org.

Top left: New Year's group walkers posing on stairs at State House



Photo: Bob Marshall

Top right: Frog ice sculpture

Pictures:



Photo: Monica Hait

Below: Some festive, knitted winter gear adorns the duckling statues



Photo: Bob Marshall