

## President's Corner by Mary Frink

Hooray! Spring is here! Okay, it's only here on the calendar. As March winds down in New England, anything can happen. However, I choose to think positively. Warm weather is coming and we will be able to go outside without several thousand layers of clothing! It can be hard to waddle through a 5km walk with all those clothes. My feet barely fit into my sneakers with all the socks I have on.

As you know, this is a convention year. However, you may not know that the Empire State Capital Volkssporters club in New York is putting in a bid for the 2019 convention. Their proposed theme is Walking Through History. Walk 'n Mass has agreed to help out and put on a pre-convention walk, likely on a Tuesday. We are looking at several locations, but can always use more ideas! We're trying to find somewhere in the western part of MA & near the Mass Pike as people would be heading to Albany for the convention right after our walk. If you have any ideas, let me know. You can talk to me at the Soup Walk on March 25. We need to give ESCV a general area where we are going to have the walk by the end of March so they can submit their proposal to AVA. The main issue we are encountering is sufficient places to park. Massachusetts has so many historic areas, but not a lot of them have parking for all the people a convention will attract as well as multiple tour buses.

I hope you are all coming to Hopkinton for our Soup Walk on the 25th! The first day event of the year is always special. This year we need your help! You may or may not know that AVA plans to have a mascot! At the last National Executive Council meeting it was decided that instead of just the NEC members picking, they would let the clubs decide at the convention. So, we need your vote! Below is a quick peek as to what they look like. I will have bigger versions posted at the Hopkinton walk and we will ask you to vote! I haven't figured out exactly how yet, but I will think of something!



### Come Friends, Let's Walk

- ❖ *Sunday, April 2*  
Group Walk:  
Boston Freedom Trail 10:00 am
- ❖ *Saturday, April 8*  
Group Walk:  
Wellesley, MA 10:00 am
- ❖ *Monday, April 17*  
Group Walk:  
Concord, MA  
(Patriot's Day Parade; **see page 4**)  
8:00 am
- ❖ *Saturday, April 22*  
Group Walk: Fall River, MA 10:00 am
- ❖ *Sunday, April 23*  
Day Event:  
Piermont, NY (VCWP)
- ❖ *Saturday, April 29*  
Group Walk:  
Clifton Park, NY 10:00 am (ESCV)
- ❖ *Saturday, May 6*  
Day Event: Historic Deerfield, MA

See club or AVA website for starting location details on these events. For group walks, please aim to arrive 15 minutes earlier to sign-in.

### Issue Highlights:

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# Reminder: Membership Renewal

by Chuck Lipson

This is a reminder that our new membership year starts 1 April. You received a membership renewal form in last month's *Footnotes*. Completing the form and sending it in with payment will ensure your continued membership in Walk 'n Mass 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 holiday party, soup walk, and picnics to name just a few. Please renew now so that you're not removed from our membership distribution of *Footnotes* or from the email notification list.



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## Trail Master's Diary: Deerfield

by Ann Plichta

Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club invites you to take a step back in time with 6km and 10km walks in historic Deerfield on May 6. Deerfield was first visited by English settlers in 1673 and was incorporated as a town in 1677. It was the site of many skirmishes throughout its early history. At the Battle of Bloody Brook in 1675, the Pocumtuck tribe destroyed the troops led by Captain Thomas Lathrop before being overtaken by reinforcements. In 1704, during Queen Anne's War, joint French and Indian forces attacked the town in the Raid on Deerfield, razing the settlement. Today, Historic Deerfield features 12 house museums from the 18th Century dedicated to the preservation of Deerfield and the history of the Connecticut River Valley with a focus on decorative arts. The district has been designated a National Historic Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Both walk routes begin in historic Deerfield's picnic area, traveling along picturesque Old Main Street, passing by the museums. Walkers will also visit the campus of Deerfield Academy, a private, coeducational college prep school, established in 1797. Notable alumni include King Abdullah of Jordan, several U.S. Representatives, and actor Matthew Fox. The routes also follow the

Channing Blake Footpath that goes alongside a working dairy farm and traverse open fields. Be sure to keep your eyes open. As POC Jan Varnon and I started walking in one of the fields, we spotted a pair of bald eagles overhead. The 6km route also takes walkers through the Deerfield Academy athletic fields.

The 10km route continues down a country road, passing by farm land that reflects the rural character of Deerfield. It continues on through a residential area, passing behind the Old Deerfield Country Store and Richardson's Candy before returning to historic Deerfield and the finish.

Both routes have an AVA rating of 1B. They are mostly flat, but each route contains one hill. Due to some unpaved surfaces and lack of sidewalks, they are unsuitable for wheelchairs, but are doable for strollers. No dogs are allowed on the footpath by the dairy farm.

Join Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club for 6km and 10km walks in historic Deerfield on May 6. While you're there, why not take some time to watch the film at the Deerfield Visitors' Center, tour the museums, or walk a nearby seasonal event in Greenfield and Shelburne Falls, MA, and Brattleboro, VT? Hope to see you on the trail!

## Deerfield Weekend: May 5, 6, & 7

by Monica Hait

There are several extra activities to enjoy along with our day event in **Historic Deerfield on Saturday, May 6**. We've scheduled group walks for our nearby seasonals in **Shelburne Falls (Friday, May 5 at noon)** and **Greenfield (Sunday, May 7 at 9:30 am)** and there are other walks in the vicinity to choose from as well if you want to continue exploring.

Take some time to check out the Historic Deerfield Visitors' Center and house museums, to truly experience this special place.

POC Jan Varnon has also coordinated a **buffet dinner at the historic Deerfield Inn** for Saturday night which is likely to be a highlight of the weekend. We need a headcount for the restaurant, so **dinner pre-registration by April 24 is required**. Please use the pre-registration form in the brochure.

We hope you will join us for a fun weekend in the Connecticut River Valley!

# Bulletin Board

Calling all Volkssporters!!  
Come to

## St. Augustine, Florida

For an AVA multi-event Weekend

### Walk Around Florida - WAF27!!

October 27, 28, 29 - 2017

Walk this beautiful, historic, picturesque city - the oldest settlement in the United States!



Look for Hotel & Registration Information in the coming weeks!  
For more information, contact John McClellan at:  
[johnmc82@cfl.rr.com](mailto:johnmc82@cfl.rr.com)

**AVA** America's Walking Club!  
Sponsored by the Happy Wanderers, Mid-Florida Milers & Suncoast Sandpipers

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

**Next Club Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 4**

6:30 pm

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

**20th AVA Biennial Convention**  
in Billings, Montana

**June 5-11, 2017**

<http://2017avaconvention.org>

Newsletter Submissions to:  
[footnotes.editor@gmail.com](mailto:footnotes.editor@gmail.com)  
Deadline for next issue: April 21st

**Walk 'n Mass Group Walks (April—June)**

Sunday, April 2	10:00 am
Boston Freedom Trail	
Saturday, April 8	10:00 am
Wellesley, MA	
Monday, April 17	8:00 am
Concord, MA	
Saturday, April 22	10:00 am
Fall River, MA	
Friday, May 5	12:00 pm
Shelburne Falls, MA	
Sunday, May 7	9:30 am
Greenfield, MA	
Sunday, June 4	10:00 am
Lexington, MA	
Saturday, June 10	10:00 am
Plymouth, MA	
Sunday, June 25	10:00 am
Bristol, RI	

**Concord, MA—Patriot's Day Parade Group Walk**  
**Monday, April 17 at 8:00 am**

Please park behind or beside Rite Aid, NOT in front.

Arrive on time! Group departs no later than 8:15 to arrive at North Bridge Visitor Center for bathrooms before North Bridge is closed to pedestrians.

# Word Search: NE Clubs

by Monica Hait

Find a key phrase from each of the 10 North East Region club names.

- Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club
- Empire State Capital Volkssporters
- Finger Lakes Volkssports Club
- NH Patriot Pathfinders
- Niagara Frontier Volkssport Club
- Southern Maine Volkssport Association
- Twin State Volkssport Association
- Two Town Walking Club
- Volkssport Club at West Point
- Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club

S C O N T R P M E P L O Y G R E  
S O U T H E R N M A I N E S N T  
O N E R O K L D P T H E S W O T  
A N I A G A R A F R O N T I E R  
N E S T P R L O K I E S A L M Y  
V C K L A T W O T O W N S U P E  
A T M I R L R T C T M L A Z I L  
R I C A P W E S T P O I N T R O  
N C E I S A D T H A M T O S E N  
S U L R S L N E H T G O R F S L  
S T A E F K I N G H T L L E T O  
E V W A L N A R A F E E R T A P  
T A M Z T M E T W I N S T A T E  
W L I D M A I P E N R L O N E C  
O L A N N S R L A D O R E T A P  
Q E M A I S Y E N E L P Q I T W  
S Y L O F I N G E R L A K E S L  
D A R N O R H Q O S E F R A O N

## March Meeting Highlights

**Meeting held March 7, 2017**

**Upcoming Group Walks:** Boston Freedom Trail, Sunday, April 2 at 10:00 am

Wellesley, Saturday, April 8 at 10:00 am

Concord, Monday, April 17 at 8:00 am  
(roads close early)

Fall River, Saturday, April 22 at 10:00 am

Lexington Battle Road, Sunday, June 4 at 10:00 am

Plymouth, Saturday, June 10 at 10:00 am

Bristol, Sunday, June 25 at 10:00 am

Group walks for Hyannis and Quincy to be scheduled

146 books for the **Ice Cream Parlor** program have been sold

**Suggested new specialty items** were a zippered jacket with hood or a long-sleeve t-shirt

WnM schedule of day events thus far:

**May 6**—Deerfield      **June 24**—Brookline

**July 29**—Colt State Park, Bristol, RI (Picnic)

**October 14**—Milford

**December 3**—Bedford (if a start facility can be arranged)

by Marianne Marshall

Two Town Walking Club will have a walk in Rockport on **August 5**

Following votes passed:

- \$50 to AVA to be used at their discretion for the Silent Auction at the Convention or general purposes
- \$50 to the Big Give, annual fundraiser, for donation to AVA
- \$300 to Mary Frink, WnM delegate to the 2017 AVA Convention

**Empire State Capital Volkssporters (ESCV)** is submitting a bid for the **2019 AVA convention**. WnM agreed to provide one pre-convention walk.

Since no new candidate for **Northeast Regional Director (NERD)** has been identified, and Chris Mellen is willing to continue in this position, the Nominating Committee was asked to focus on seeking a Deputy RD.

WnM members are encouraged to review the write-ups of **nominees running for an AVA national office** (see TAW Feb/Mar 2017). WnM will vote at the April 4 meeting so Mary Frink, delegate, is informed to cast our vote at the AVA convention.

# Walk Coordinator Speaks

by Beate Hait

**Day Events** – The 2017 schedule is still evolving.

**Confirmed dates** include:

Sat., **March 25** – Hopkinton, MA – Walk & Soup Social

Sat., **May 6** – Deerfield, MA – Historic Deerfield Weekend

Sat., **June 24** – Brookline, MA

Sat., **July 29** – Colt State Park, Bristol, RI – Walk & Club Picnic

Sat., **Oct. 14** – Milford, MA

If you still need Hopkinton or Brookline to complete your Marathon Challenge, see dates above.

Waiting for confirmations for Bedford, Malden, Provincetown, Sudbury, West Roxbury. It's possible that one or more of these locations gets moved to 2018. It's not too early to start planning walks for next year!

**Seasonal Events** – Our 11 seasonal walks and 2 seasonal bikes join the 7 YREs available for your enjoyment starting in April. Please do your part to participate in these events to increase the participation totals for each one in 2017.

## Providence Pictures:

The new Federal Hill section on the 10km route offers some lovely sights and delicious smells.

*Photos by Monica Hait & Jack Suchodolski*



2016 Participation Summary for our YREs & SEs

2016 YRE/SE Name	A Award	B Award	\$3 Credit Walkers	WnM Members paying \$2	Free	Total Participation
Bedford Bike	0	0	6	18	3	27
Boston-Back Bay	0	0	32	43	8	83
Boston-Freedom Trail	7	0	47	64	12	130
Boston and Beyond	0	0	6	1	0	7
Bristol	0	0	15	41	9	65
Concord	5	1	33	21	14	74
Greenfield	0	0	7	30	3	40
Fall River	0	0	6	18	14	38
Hyannis	0	0	13	17	5	29
Lexington	0	0	10	25	7	42
Lowell	10	0	14	28	10	62
Newport	6	2	30	4	7	49
Newton	1	0	11	40	4	56
Plymouth	0	0	8	36	16	60
Providence	6	1	36	27	17	87
Quincy	0	1	7	9	4	21
Sandwich - Bike	0	0	1	16	0	17
Sandwich - Walk	0	0	17	28	9	54
Shelburne Falls	0	1	5	29	2	37
Wellesley	0	0	8	25	2	35
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>1,013</b>