

President's Corner

We did it!!! Before I get into my summary of the convention, I want to give a HUGE thank you to everyone who volunteered to make this all happen. Every single minute of help everyone gave is SO appreciated! If you want more details of the convention (and to see all of my pictures!), please come to the August 5 meeting for my presentation.



Day 1 – Pre-convention – Portsmouth, NH

I have to admit that going to the start point, it felt weird just driving from my house to a convention walk! Then I got to the start point and that feeling turned completely around. There were so many people! It was also my first look at how start points were going to be set up with the convention signage. The walk was beautiful. The city loop went through some very New England seaside town sections and through the market square where a fiddler was playing. The park loop went out on a little island called Four Trees that has many more than four trees now!

Day 2 – Pre-convention – Danvers, MA

This was my first opportunity to volunteer. I met people from other clubs who were also volunteering and got to see some more of the behind the scenes workings. I loved the park where the walk started. There were so many things like a hidden mansion, community garden, and a petting farm. It was really interesting to walk around Danvers and see all of the

by Mary Frink



witch trial history that took place there. I had no idea! Once I was done, I headed off to Springfield to stay overnight so I could get an early start.



Day 3 – Pre-convention – Springfield, MA

It was a very early morning to meet the tent rental people and get the trail marking teams on their way. I got to the park around 6:45 AM and it was raining. The guys setting up the tent just went about it and put up what ended up being two small tents put together to make one big one. I was part of the 10K route trail marking team and we set off about 8:00 AM. By the time we were headed back to the start, the rain had let up and there were lots of people out walking! The rain didn't seem to deter people from coming. We had 426 walkers by the time registration closed and the sun even came out! I heard many good things from participants about the walk. Thank you again to Jan and Bob Varnon for being POCs! On to Albany!

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Come Friends, Let's Walk

- ❖ Saturday, June 29
Day Event:
Blackstone, MA
- ❖ Saturday, July 13
Day Event:
Montrose, PA
(FLRVC)
- ❖ Saturday, July 20
Group Walk:
Providence, RI
4:00 pm (Water/Fire)
- ❖ Saturday, July 27
Day Event:
Woodville, MA
(Club Picnic)
- ❖ Saturday, August 3
Group Walk:
Concord, MA
10:00 am
- ❖ Saturday, August 10
Group Walk:
Litchfield, CT
9:00 am (CVVC)

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.



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June Meeting Highlights

by Marianne Marshall

Meeting held Monday, June 3, 2019

- Group Walk Schedule to date:
 - Saturday, July 20, Providence, 4:00 pm
 - Saturday, Aug. 8, Concord, 10:00 am
 - Sunday, Oct. 13, Cheshire, 10:00 am
 - Friday, Nov. 29, #OptOutside groups
- **Ice Cream Parlor: 222 books** sold; **95 people** have completed the program.
- **Membership:** 193 total members
- **Publicity:** All publicity sent out for Blackstone and Woodville events.
- **Sunshine:** Get-well cards to Jean Clow, Joel Weddig, Walter Stowell, and Bill Hatch; sympathy card to Catherine Belanger; 1st Mother's Day card to Theresa Fox; 1st birthday card to Nick LaPointe.

Walk Coordinator:

- 2019 Traditional Events scheduled thus far:
 - Blackstone on June 29
 - Woodville on July 27 (Late Afternoon Picnic)
 - Lowell on September 14

- Malden in October/November?
- Pepperell/Ayer in autumn?
- Franklin on Dec. 7 (Cookie Walk)

AVA Topics

May Checkpoint:

- Online Start Box moving to "my.ava.org" soon and will now allow direct payment by credit card, eliminating need for PayPal account.
- Prices and shipping costs for AVA merchandise increasing in July.

AVA Officer Elections:

- Mary Frink, WnM's delegate to the 2019 Convention, authorized to vote for slate of announced unopposed candidates. If nominations are made from the floor, Mary is asked to use her best judgment and vote accordingly.

Northeast Regional Director (NERD):

- Unopposed candidate Chris Mellen will serve again as NERD (his second and, therefore, last term) while Andrew Schmidt has agreed to take on the Deputy NERD role.

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Trail Master's Diary: Woodville

by Ann Plichta

As I write this, the weather has not been very summerlike. Too many cloudy, dreary days. Hopefully, the summer weather will be here soon and we'll all be planning outdoor activities such as heading to the beach or going on a picnic. Speaking of picnics, the Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club invites you to join us for our Club Picnic in Woodville on July 27. Enjoy a 5km or 10km walk through the village of Woodville and around Lake Whitehall. Then relax & enjoy a picnic with your fellow walkers.

Woodville is a quaint village in the town of Hopkinton. It is named after the Wood family. In the early 1700s John Wood bought 300 acres of land and operated a sawmill. He then became one of the town's first selectmen. In the early to mid-1800s, Woodville was known for its industry, including cotton, shoe, boot, and livery factories. The rise of industry in the area led to a huge growth in the number of homes in the area. You can still see many of the farmhouses, brick homes, and workers' cottages from that time in Woodville. It was established as an historic district in 2005, & includes 97 properties.

Both the 5km and 10km walk routes pass through the village center, including the fire station and post office before heading to scenic Winter Street. The business at #17 is Bulldog Fire & Emergency Apparatus. Since the 1930s this plot of land has housed firetruck industry businesses. The route continues through residential neighborhoods, passes by Lake Whitehall, then enters more neighborhoods. Walkers will go by the Sanctuary at Woodville and American Legion War Memorial before heading to the finish and picnic for 5km walkers and the checkpoint for the 10km walkers.

The second loop of the 10km route starts out on Winter Street before heading to a wooded path along Lake Whitehall. In the early 1800s it was believed that the water flowing from the cedar swamp to Lake Whitehall contained healing powers due to iron, sulfur, and magnesium being found in the springs. A resort hotel sprang up, attracting visitors from all over to drink or bathe in the water. Boston seized Lake Whitehall as a reservoir and forced the factories along the shore to close or move. A massive fire in 1909 destroyed most of the remaining industry. A state park was created in 1947 when Boston removed the lake from its drinking water supply. Today, it is used for recreation with hiking trails, boating ramps, and fishing. Enjoy the walk through the woods with beautiful views of the lake before heading through Evergreen Cemetery and residential neighborhoods to the finish and picnic time!

The 5km route has an AVA rating of 2A. It is on paved routes with moderate inclines, making it difficult for baby strollers. The 10km route has an AVA rating of 2C due to the natural path through the woods with routes and rocks, making it unsuitable for baby strollers. Neither route is suitable for wheelchairs.

Come enjoy the summer weather with Walk 'n Mass in Woodville on July 27. Walk the 5km or 10km route, then stay to enjoy good food and company at the Club Picnic. Hope to see you on the trail!



Annual Club Picnic at 5:00 pm, Saturday, July 27 in Woodville, MA

Following the walk, please join in the festive, late afternoon picnic and share in delicious foods prepared by fellow walk participants. All are welcome!

If you would like to contribute, bring a main course, salad, or dessert to share. Contact Chris Lipson at 781-275-0464 or c2lipson@msn.com to inform her of your tasty dish. Paper products and water will be provided. Other beverages may be purchased inside at the bar.

Bulletin Board

Did you miss out on getting a **2019 AVA Convention t-shirt**? Well, there are a few left in assorted sizes that ESCV is selling for \$10 each plus \$5 shipping. Please **contact Teresa Kennedy** to inquire about available sizes.

518-852-8798 or forty6er3k@aol.com

As the **Online Start Box** moves from the California site to its new AVA home at **my.ava.org**, it will be unavailable for several days beginning June 24. The new my.ava.org platform will be live on **July 1**. Your previous login/password and walk activities will all transfer over. Timeframe for completing events will now be ~30 days to align with AVA reporting protocols. Credit cards will be accepted rather than PayPal.

Save the Date: August 17

SMVA is celebrating **Snowy Egret Day** with a walk starting at Scarborough Marsh Nature Center, 92 Pine Point Road, **Scarborough, Maine**

Next Club Meeting Monday, August 5

6:30 pm

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

Newsletter Submissions to:
footnotes.editor@gmail.com
Deadline for next issue: July 27th

If you attended the 21st AVA Convention in Albany, NY, please visit the convention website to provide your feedback via the **AVA Biennial Convention Survey**. This feedback is vital to AVA in planning future conventions. **Response is requested by July 1.**

<http://walkescv.org/ava2019convention/welcome.html>

WnM Coupons dated 8/11/19

Don't let your WnM coupon(s) dated 8/11/19 go unused. These coupons are each worth \$5 at the Specialties Table and may be used at the **Blackstone** event on Saturday, June 29. If you don't cash it in at Blackstone, coupons will still be valid at our annual picnic in **Woodville** on Saturday, July 27. Come to one or both of these walks and enjoy the event as well as whatever you can find at the Specialties Table that piques your interest.

—Marianne Marshall, Volunteer Awards

AVA Convention Election Results

National Officers:

President	David Bonewitz
Vice-President	Nancy Wittenberg
Treasurer	Chase Davis
Secretary	Cecilia Miner

Motions:

Motion 1 – Change the AVA Fiscal Year to a Calendar Year - **passed**
Motion 2 – Change Committee Structure - **passed**
Motion 3 - Add up to Three At-Large Members to the Board - **passed**

2021 Convention Location:

Madison, Wisconsin



Reminder: our July 20 group walk in Providence at 4 pm has Water/Fire afterwards & coincides with the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing.

President's Corner (continued)

by Mary Frink

Day 4 – Convention – Albany, NY



The first actual convention day! Today's walk was in Cohoes and Waterford.

It started near an amazing waterfall, went along part of the Erie Canal, and ended with a perimeter walk around Peebles Island where we saw a bald eagle! I went to a workshop about all the technology changes that are coming to AVA, then to the General Membership meeting. We got to try the new electronic voting machines (which look like very tiny remote controls) when we approved the agenda for the meeting. It took some tweaking, but we did it eventually! The candidates for office all ran unopposed, so a voice vote was taken to elect them. There was also a check presentation from the Convention Committee to Operation At Ease, a charity which provides service dogs to veterans. Some national officers, like the treasurer, presented reports to the group. Then it was off to the Meet & Greet which was baseball themed with ballpark food such as hot dogs and big pretzels and a baseball trivia game (which I was terrible at). Of course I wore my Red Sox shirt!

Day 5 – Convention – Albany, NY

Today's walk was in Saratoga National Historic Park and Schuylerville. It was a set up differently than most walks in that you took a bus to a section of the park, did a short walk, got back on the bus, went to a different location, did a short walk, and so on



until we got to Schuylerville which comprised the majority of the 10K walk. I got the same feeling at Saratoga Park that I do at Minuteman National Historic Park. You can almost see and hear the battles that took place there. Schuylerville took us down by the Old Champlain Canal to the Erie Canal to the finish where the buses picked us up. I went to a workshop on stress management and then had some time to take a nap and get ready for the evening. There was a President's Reception given by AVA President, David Bonewitz, which was pretty much a cocktail hour with appetizers and cash bar. Then there was a terrific musical

performance by a local duo, Trish Miller and John Kirk. They talked about the history of the songs they played and Trish even did some clog dancing. At intermission, there was dessert!

Day 6 – Convention – Albany, NY

Today's walk was in the city of Albany. So much great architecture. My favorite was a plaza surrounded by modern buildings including one shaped like an egg that turned out to be a theater. There was an enormous reflecting pool in the middle of the plaza with sculptures all over the place. I wandered around there for a bit taking it all in before heading on. After the check-point, the walk went through some very moving war memorials where I met up with another walker. There was some construction and we couldn't go the way the directions wanted us to, so we figured out another way and ended up spending the rest of the walk together. That's one of the great things about volksmarching! At the General Membership meeting, there was a presentation from AVA's new publicity company, Mass Media, then we tested the voting machines again. After that was the presentation from the club proposing to host the next convention. We're going to Madison, Wisconsin in 2021! Then we voted on the 3 motions [Editor: results on Page 4], the new Executive Board was introduced, and convention business was over. The farewell dinner was a little different this year. Awards were given during dinner that they usually hand out at the General Membership meeting. Walk 'n Mass won second place for our Year Round booklet & third place for our 2017 Sudbury event brochure. Congratulations Monica!



Day 7 – Post-convention – Cooperstown, NY

Cooperstown was not what I expected at all. I thought anywhere that housed the Baseball Hall of Fame would be a city, but it really was a small town! We started through the town (passing the Hall of Fame) and then walked past a really long golf course, the Farmers' Museum, to end at the Fenimore Art Museum before heading back towards town. We then walked down by the water, through some beautiful neighborhoods and back to the start. I stayed in Cooperstown for the afternoon to go to the Art Museum & Hall of Fame, then drove back to Albany for another night before heading for home. All in all a great convention!



Convention Photos: Pre-Convention Walks

418 walkers

Portsmouth



Linda Morzillo



Photos courtesy of Beate Hait unless otherwise noted

409 walkers

Danvers



Monica Hait



Joanne Izbicki

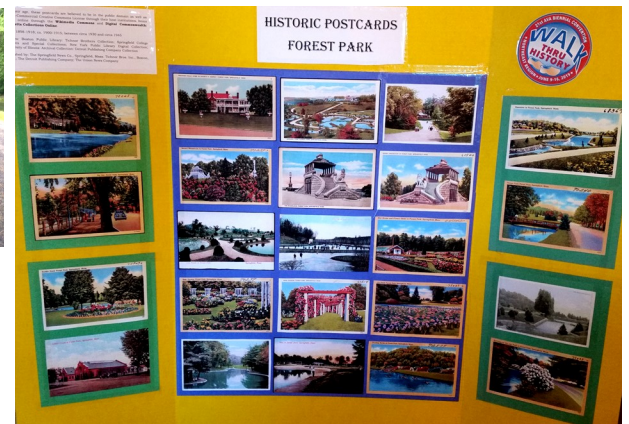


426 walkers

Springfield



Linda Morzillo



Above: historic Forest Park postcards display by Monica Hait

Convention Photos: Familiar Faces in NY Places



Eileen Skinner

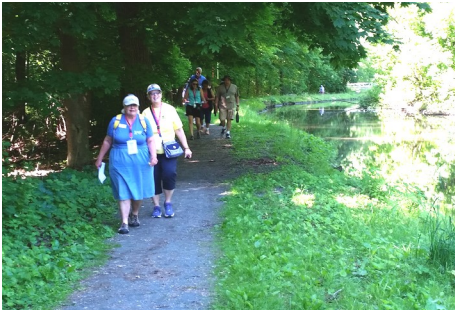


Eileen Anderson



Mary Fink

Above the branded frame offered a great photo op for those wishing to do so. **Left:** members of the ESCV convention committee: Larry Godshalk, Eileen Skinner, and Co-Chair Teresa Kennedy. **Middle:** Connecticut club members in Albany: Lee and Carol West and Eileen and Peter Anderson. **Right:** WnM's Ann Plichta and her cousin Karen Plichta



Monica Hait



If you'd like to share your favorite convention photos, email them to footnotes.editor@gmail.com for the next issue



Photos courtesy of Beate Hait unless otherwise noted

Eileen Anderson



Monica Hait



Ann Plichta

Lots of Sal the Mule iconography at the Cohoes/Waterford walk!



Monica Hait x 3

Walk Coordinator Speaks

by Beate Hait

Springfield, MA in review – Tuesday, June 11 started out drizzly but the sun was shining by 11:00 for the 426 people (!!!) who registered for this AVA Pre-convention walking event. Included in that total were passengers on three tour buses: Iowa Volkssport, Tater Tours, and Walking Adventures. (The Walking Adventures itinerary included some of our YREs/SEs in the week following the convention.)

While POC Jan Varnon directed traffic, Bob Varnon set up directional signs in strategic locations on the 5K and 10K walk routes, Wayne Knapp and Kathy Mack (members of ESCV and the convention committee) erected the signage at the start/finish. It was getting a little crowded under that 20' x 40' tent with walkers from around the country mingling while the setup of tables for the start and finish, water & snack stations, information on volkswalking and Forest Park history, and specialties was being finalized, and volunteers located their assigned positions. Finally, Monica Hait shouted, "Everyone who is not volunteering please move out of the tent so we can get set up!" That elicited a few chuckles and people complied, allowing the setup to be completed without further delay.

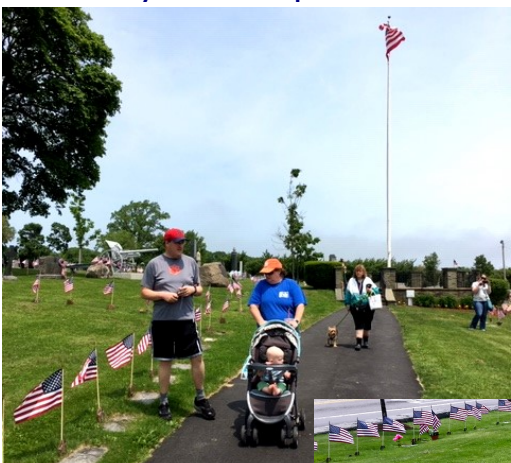
It was a very sociable atmosphere under the tent and nice to see many participants making use of the chair groupings while they shared stories of

walking escapades, sipped water and munched on snacks. Our specialties table was quite active with souvenir purchases of club shirts, book covers, pins, and 50-states/51-capitals shirts.

At this event we had participants from 38 states and three other countries (Canada, UK, Germany). We heard nothing but positive comments about our friendly volunteers, lovely trail, superb directions and trail markings, interesting and colorful historical information, and plentiful water and snacks.

Huge thanks to POCs Jan & Bob Varnon and fellow club members as well as AVA members from Florida, Iowa, New York, and Washington who worked shifts: Mary Frink, Dawn and Keith Harlow, Bill Howe, John and Carolyn Warhol, Don Bolin, John Christiansen, Cindy Gray, Carol Giesecke, Sharon Stumpf, Charlie Conway, Barbara and Joe Piffat, Bev Lange, Joe LaPointe, Marianne and Bob Marshall, Verna DeVine, Pat Graeben, Karen Kolaczyk, Linda Perrotto, Paul Kelly, Angela and Rich Allen, Betty and John Ekstrom, Mike Lanpher, Polly Meltzer, Margo Craven, Joanne Izbicki, Diane Peterson, Carol and Jerry Raposa, Peggy Doane, Monica and Beate Hait, Ann and Karen Plichta, Dorman Batson, Wayne Knapp, Kathy Mack. Thanks also to ESCV's Barbara Kolapakka for the use of her canopy, table, and chairs at a checkpoint.

Quincy Group Walk Pictures:



Deb Redfield



Monica Hait



Monica Hait



Deb Redfield

June 1 was a beautiful day to walk in Quincy, and everyone enjoyed Abigail's gardens, the decorated cemetery, and pedestrian plaza.