

President's Corner

Hello Everyone! What a wonderful vacation! The airports and flights were fine. There were no crazy people causing a ruckus by refusing to wear a mask. It was really nice to be able to spend time in person with my brother and sister-in-law. However, you probably want to hear about the AVA convention! Here we go!



My first convention event was the walk in Oconomowoc, WI on Sunday, June 27. This was the only walk I did where it rained. My father went to school nearby and this was the town where he and his friends would hang out, and he remembered some of it. Walking around thinking I was walking where he had also walked was great. It's a really pretty town. The route went all around the town, then Roosevelt Park (which is huge!) and around Lake Fowler. Did you know that the movie

by Mary Frink

the Wizard of Oz had its world premiere there on August 12, 1939? There are statues of the characters outside Town Hall as well as a yellow brick road. I don't know why it premiered there; the historical markers didn't say why.

I then turned tourist! I spent the rest of Sunday visiting the school my Dad attended. Monday I was in Spring Green, WI and did the tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright house, Taliesin. It is beautiful and I really recommend it. On Tuesday, I was going to find more Frank Lloyd Wright things to see, but it was thundering and pouring buckets, so I decided to head to Madison.

I checked into the hotel, registered for the convention, and picked up our new banner! AVA created banners for all interested clubs with the new AVA logo. Many thanks to Carol Giesecke for taking ours home with her. The banner is feather shaped and, even when collapsed, the frame is 3.5 feet tall! It would never have fit in my suitcase, but we got it into Carol's car, no problem.



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Come Friends, Let's Walk

- ❖ *Sunday, August 15*
Group Walk:
choice of Freedom Trail or Back Bay, Boston, MA 9:30 am
- ❖ *Saturday, Sept. 11*
Day Event:
Schenectady, NY
Fall Fests (ESCV)
- ❖ *Saturday, Sept. 11*
Group Walk:
Hartford, CT
9:00 am (CVVC)
- ❖ *Sunday, Sept. 12*
Group Walk:
Providence, RI
10:00 am

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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Maine Intro-Strolls

by Monica Hait & Denise Macaronas

The Southern Maine Volkssport Association is trying something different to encourage new folks to join. They have started hosting short, informal intro-strolls in interesting locations (often non-sanctioned trails) and encourage existing members to bring a friend or two. All are welcome. Upcoming plans include:

Wed., August 11 at Westbrook Riverbank Park

Meet at 5:45 pm for a 6 pm intro-stroll along the Presumpscot River. See the new fish ladder, the old Dana Warp Mill, and the site of the Westbrook ice disk of 2019! There is parking on Main St., in the park, and at the American Legion Hall. Plenty of places to eat before or after the walk. Pre-registration required so we know to expect you. Email walkinginmaine@yahoo.com OR text or leave a message at 207-245-8233.

Sat., August 21 at Eastern Trail Across Scarborough Marsh

Meet at 10 am by the Audubon building on Pine Point Rd. (Rt. 9). Parking is on the road. The intro-stroll will be along Pine Point Road to the Eastern Trail, crossing the marsh. Bring binoculars for some bird watching. There are several good seafood restaurants along Pine Point Road if you want lunch after the walk. Pre-registration required so we know to expect you. Email walkinginmaine@yahoo.com OR text or leave a message at 207-245-8233.

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President's Corner/AVA Convention Recap (cont.) by Mary Frink

Tuesday night was the Meet and Greet which was in 2 parts. The first part was food and mingling at the convention center. I met up with people I had seen at other conventions or on bus tours. It was supposed to be on the roof deck, but the rain moved us inside to a beautiful room with huge windows that faced the water. Then it was back to the hotel for dessert and a presentation about America's National Scenic Trails. Did you know that there are 2 that go through Massachusetts? I didn't even know there was such a thing as a National Scenic Trail! [Editor: the *New England Trail* and *Appalachian Trail* are the National Scenic Trails traversing parts of MA.]

Wednesday was the first actual day of the convention. The walk in the morning was



through a huge nature conservation area called Pheasant Branch Conservancy. The first part was through a wooded area with little bridges over water. At the bridges were also stepping stones you could use to cross the water. I saw a woman do it, but I wasn't as brave! Then we went through some small neighborhoods to another trail. That trail took us through wetlands, farm land, and back to the Conservancy. The last part of the walk was through a huge meadow.

After lunch, our new NERD, Wayne Knapp, had a regional meeting for all the delegates and anyone else from the region who was at the convention. We talked about ways to support each other as a region like more combined club weekends, having a regional

conference, and regional challenges. Then it was time for the first general meeting of all the delegates. There wasn't much business. There was the presentation of the candidates for the national offices, a presentation by the National Pediatric Cancer Foundation which is partnering with AVA, and the Vice Chair's report on fund raising for last year (over \$104,000).

Dinner involved another walk and it was so much fun! They designed a walk that took you by all kinds of local breweries and distilleries and provided restaurant suggestions. It was called a "Food and Beverage Forage." I walked with all different people depending on where I got lost (I did quite a bit on this walk). I ended up at a meadery for a drink and met up with a pair of women from the convention who were also there for a drink. We were having fun together, so we decided to go to one of the restaurants for dinner, but it was packed. The bartender at the meadery had recommended an Irish pub, so we went there and it was fabulous! What a great idea for a walk!

On Thursday was the Capitol walk. We started at the convention center where the Mayor of Madison gave a speech. Turns out, we were the first convention hosted in Madison since the pandemic started! We then walked



through the convention center to the bike path out back which gave a marvelous view of the beautiful windows. From there, we walked all around Monona Bay. There were some beautiful, and I'm sure expensive, houses. We also walked on some trails and bike paths through parks and neighborhoods. We ended up on a really long causeway that took us back to the city and the hotel. Then it

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Bulletin Board



Ann Plichta

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Fall River (photo at left) was officially dedicated in May 2021, and POC Ann Plichta reports this new sight on the 10km seasonal walk route is quite impressive. Be sure to check it out next time you walk Fall River! If only partaking in the 6km route, the memorial is just a short drive from our start/finish at Battleship Cove.

Newsletter Submissions to:

footnotes.editor@gmail.com

Deadline for next issue: August 25th

**Next Club Meeting
Saturday, Aug. 7**

10:00 am

*the Harlows' backyard
32 Bellingham Road*

Blackstone, MA

Add these autumn WnM Group Walks to your calendars!

September 2021

Providence – Sunday, September 12 – Sign in 9:30 Group Walk 10:00

Newton – Saturday, September 18 – Sign in 9:30 Group Walk 10:00

Sandwich – Saturday, September 25 – Sign in 9:30 Group Walk 10:00

October 2021

Hyannis – Sunday, October 17 – Sign in 9:30 Group Walk 10:00

Wellesley – Saturday, October 23 – Sign in 9:30 Group Walk 10:00

November 2021

Provincetown – Saturday, November 6 – Sign in 10:00 – 12:00 Group Walk 10:30 (rain date Saturday, Nov. 13)



Carol Glesecke

Keith's Tuesday walk adventure was in Ipswich on July 20 and a nice group turned up to walk (photo at left). A memorable sight was this mural where the artist was working on touch-ups.

President's Corner/AVA Convention Recap (cont.) by Mary Frink

was time for lunch and workshops. The first workshop I went to was on Element3 Health, which is a new partner with AVA. The next 2 talks had to do with the Ice Age Trail, which is a National Scenic Trail in Wisconsin that follows the edge of where the glaciers were. The first talk covered the geology of the trail and the second was about the trail itself. The last workshop was a bit of a surprise. I walked into the room and the slide on the screen said "Bottom's Up: A Toast to Wisconsin's Historic Bars and Breweries." Not what I was expecting at all! It turned out to be extremely interesting. I don't drink beer, so I wasn't even thinking about Wisconsin's link to beer!

Thursday night was the big gala dinner. There was a wonderful male choir that sang during the cocktail hour. The dinner was pretty much what all awards dinners are like – serve one course, have a speaker, serve another course, give out some awards, etc. The speaker was an author who had written books covering everyday things that we never think about, like how does the mail actually get from one place to another and what are squirrels all about. He said that adults sometimes have to go out with a child's sense of wonder about the world to really see things. After dessert and the last awards, there was more music. The band was good, but they were loud and it was late, so I headed back to the hotel. The Capitol building was lit up and looked like it was glowing against the night sky.

Friday's walk wasn't a circle. We took a bus to the Olbrich Botanical Gardens and walked back to the hotel from there. It was absolutely



beautiful! There were fountains and statues and a small pagoda as well as beautiful flowers and plants. There was a tower you could go up in and see all around. I wished I had more time there, but only the first kilometer was in the garden. Once you finished there, you still had 9 more Ks to go! Heading back to the city, we walked through neighborhoods with lovely yards. I think the botanical garden inspired them! We also walked another trail system along Lake Mendota. This section was on the opposite side of the city from the convention center, so it was all new things to see. I had just enough time to grab lunch before I took my tour of the convention center. It had been designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, but he didn't live to see it built and it changed a little from his original design. The exterior is his design, but the inside was changed to make it more functional and convention friendly.

Then it was time for the general meeting. This was where most of the AVA convention business happened. Delegates (including me) got electronic voting machines and spent some time testing them. Then there were a series of short speeches from various sponsors who had been at the convention. We then did a voice vote for the new board members since they all ran uncontested; we didn't have to use the machines. Then the Board Chair gave his "State of AVA" speech and talked about where he thought AVA was headed and a bit about the IVV Olympiad in 2023. Then we were supposed to vote on the motion to change the terms of office for the national board positions from 2 years to 4 years. The man who put forth the motion got up to talk about it and he went off on a tirade about how the board didn't support it and told everyone to not support it without giving him a chance to talk to the board first and defend/explain it. There was a bit of back and forth between the man and the Chair and in the end, the man withdrew his motion.

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I felt really bad for him. He was really upset and felt that he hadn't been given his due. I wish he hadn't withdrawn the motion so the delegates could have gotten an opportunity to discuss it.

Then there was a recess followed by a Zoom presentation by the IVV President. It was 4 pm in Madison, so it must have been really late in Italy! [Editor: Italy is 7 hours ahead of Central Time, so it was 11 pm in Italy.] After he talked, the Olympiad committee shared some plans for the 2023 IVV Olympiad in San Antonio. There isn't going to be an AVA convention per se in 2023. Instead there is going to be a meeting at the Olympiad and then a virtual meeting for AVA in June to take care of the business end. It will be interesting to see how that all works out. The new board members, regional directors, and deputy regional directors were then presented to the group and we were all done! The convention was officially over. There was a reception at the hotel Friday night with a DJ and appetizers. I went for a bit and said my goodbyes to the people who were leaving early the next morning.

Saturday was the last event of the convention, the walk through the University of Wisconsin campus. It's huge! I decided to do the 6K instead of the 10K because I had to check out of the hotel by 11 am. I don't feel like I missed anything because I'm convinced



that even the 10K wouldn't show you everything! I can't imagine being a student at a school that big. I'm sure I would get lost all the time. It is a beautiful campus. We walked through quite a few quads and passed by the football stadium. I did the little side trip to their botanical garden which was very pretty with a koi pond in the middle. Then it was back through the city, some of which we went through on Friday, and back to the hotel. It was a great walk to end the convention with. I spent the night in Milwaukee and flew home on the 4th.

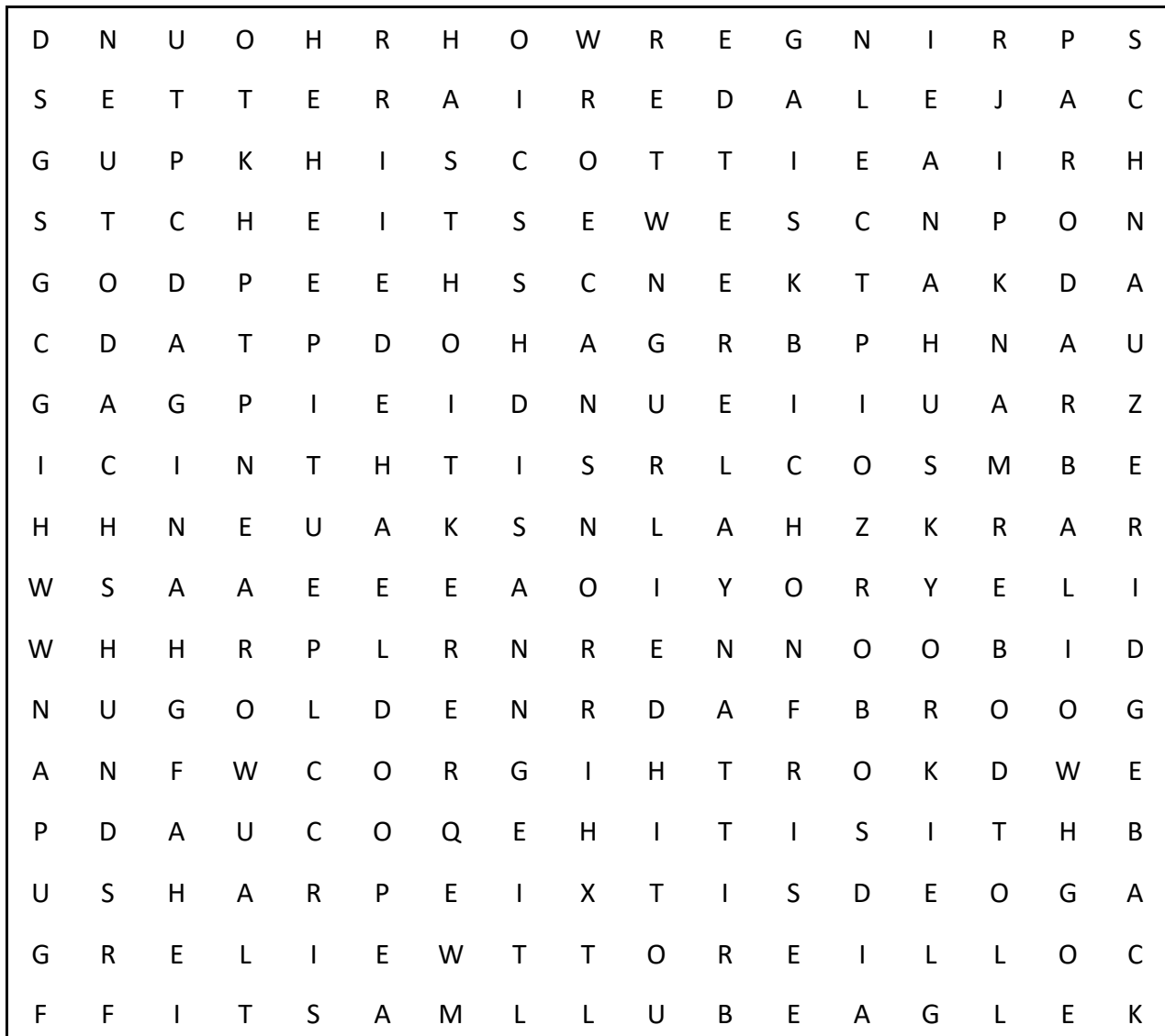
I had so much fun and met so many people! I highly recommend going to such conventions if you get the chance. I will be giving a presentation about this convention at the club meeting on August 7 if you want more details. I can also tell you all about it the next time I see you!

Congratulations!

To our new Northeast Regional Director Wayne Knapp
(primary club Empire State) and new
Northeast Deputy Regional Director Carol Giesecke
(primary club WnM).

Dog Days of Summer Word Search

by Joanne Izbicki



- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Afghan | Dachshund | Ridgeback |
| Airedale | Doberman | Rottweiler |
| Beagle | Golden | Saint Bernard |
| Bichon Frise | Great Dane | Schnauzer |
| Borzoi | Greyhound | Scottie |
| Boxer | Hound | Setter |
| Brittany | Husky | Shar Pei |
| Bullmastiff | Jack Russell | Sheepdog |
| Cairn | Labrador | Springer |
| Chihuahua | Papillon | Westie |
| Cocker | Pekingese | Whippet |
| Collie | Poodle | Yorkie |
| Corgi | Pug | |

The Dog Days of Summer describes the most oppressive period of summer, between July 3rd and August 11th each year. Technically it has nothing to do with dogs (hot dogs or dog dogs) but references the period when the Sun occupies the same region of the sky as Sirius (The Dog Star), the brightest star visible from any part of Earth and part of the constellation Canis Major, the Greater Dog. This puzzle simply references dog dogs.

Walk Coordinator Speaks

by Beate Hait

Planning for the 2022 Walk & Soup Social – It was ten days before our scheduled Soup Walk in Hopkinton, MA on March 28, 2020 when the emergency pandemic order forced the cancellation of that event. A recent call to our planned start point revealed that they will be opening the hall to the public next year, so we can proceed with rescheduling that event. Question: Are we ready to conduct the social/soup-sharing part of this event as in the past, or should we make some “pandemic safe” modifications? This will be a topic of discussion at the club’s August meeting. Please share your opinion and suggestions with me, Mary, or any club officer—or plan to attend the meeting to share your thoughts in person.

Event Participation – It will come as no surprise that pandemic protocols hindered the club’s ability to conduct as many traditional day events as we typically do in the course of a year. Even now, with things “opening up,” we have only ONE traditional day event scheduled between now and the end of the year.

Take a look at the Group Walk schedule. There are often two or three scheduled each month. It is NOT required that you walk with the group. I encourage you to use these dates as a goal to walk those year-round and seasonal events on that day.

Upcoming Walk 'n Mass Day Event:

Sat., Oct. 9 – Turners Falls, MA

Make it a Walking Weekend! A short drive west of Turners Falls are Greenfield (4 miles; approx. 9 minutes) and Shelburne Falls (15 miles; approx. 22 minutes) where you can enjoy WnM seasonal events.

Also, Twin State Volkssport Association will hold a group walk of their Middlebury, VT seasonal event on **Sunday, Oct. 10 at 10:00 am**. Register through Online Start Box or in-person the day of the event. Additional details to be forthcoming.



Picture Time!

Some of the Plymouth group walkers in June chose to lunch at the Lobster Hut before finishing the walk route. L-R: Carol Ann Dorer, Marianne Marshall, Ann Plichta, Bev Lange, Priya Ahluwalia, Beate Hait, and Margo Craven.

[Editor: 3-year-old Priya continues to enjoy telling the story of when she ate at Lobster Hut. The accuracy of the retelling often fluctuates, but she loved it!]



Joanne Izbicki