

President's Corner

AVA holds a convention every 2 years. You may remember my write-up from the convention in 2021 in Madison, WI. Hopefully you remember everything from the 2019 Albany convention! With the Olympiad happening in Texas in February, the AVA convention was held differently this year. It was held in 2 parts with the first part at the Olympiad and the second part held virtually a few weeks ago. I wasn't able to attend the Olympiad, but I was a delegate to the virtual general meeting and I'd like to pass along how it went.

Since this was the first time AVA did this virtually, it took about 20 minutes to get people set up. Registered delegates were emailed a code to be entered when voting started, and some people hadn't gotten their credentials email or couldn't find it. After the meeting was called to order, there was an overview of the Zoom meeting rules, like keeping yourself muted and asking questions in the chat. All of the items in the agenda were numbered, so it was easy to reference which thing you wanted to ask a question about. Next was a test of the voting system. There was some confusion and the test had to be run twice. Without the credentials, delegates wouldn't be able to vote in anything official.

After the voting test, a few poll questions were presented. Anyone attending the meeting could answer those questions; you didn't have to be a delegate. Some of the questions: Do you prefer the Online Start Box (OSB) or a physical box? If you had a more direct say in how AVA was run, would you become an AVA member? Do you prefer the paper or electronic version of

by Mary Frink

The American Wanderer? If AVA had an app for OSB and directions would you pay a fee to use it? They went too fast through the answers to show how people voted. I'm hoping they have a recap in the next Checkpoint. It would be interesting to see what people thought.

Next were the reports from the AVA Board on everything since the last convention. The first was from the Board Chair. Operationally, everything was pretty much about the Olympiad and the Texas Trail Roundup held last February. AVA has officially joined IVV Americas and Oceania. The current members are Canada, Brazil, Australia, and the USA. Two vice presidents on the IVV Americas board are from the US. AVA now has a calendar for policy review, so they don't get as far behind as they were before. AVA is looking for board members at large. These are people who are not necessarily volkssporters but who have skills AVA can benefit from.

The second report was from the Finance Chair. There was an audit in December 2022 for the 2021 finances and they received a clean opinion. There was a loss in 2022, mostly due to expenses for the Olympiad. Then a consultant also went over the financial scorecard for AVA. It looked okay for the most part, with a few areas needing improvements.

The next report was from the AVA Executive Director. He talked about the Olympiad. There were roughly 1400 participants! When he said that, all I could think of was the walk we did in Springfield for the 2019 Albany convention. We didn't have near

Come Friends, Let's Walk

- ❖ *Saturday, July 1
Group Walk:
Concord, MA
10:00 am*
- ❖ *Saturday, July 1
Guided Walk:
Schoharie, NY
10:00 am (ESCV)*
- ❖ *Saturday, July 8
Day Event:
Whitney Point, NY
Group Option:
11:00 am (FLRVC)*
- ❖ *Saturday, Aug. 19
Group Walk:
Providence, RI
3:00 pm
(Water/Fire)*

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



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President's Corner (continued)

by Mary Frink

that number of people and it was crazy! There was a net loss, but it was about what they expected. He went over lessons learned and said that he would recommend doing it again.

Next was the IVV Americas and Oceania report. The board were the ones who voted for AVA to join. They want to make a continental association with Canada and create a regional Olympiad that would be held every 2 years. After that was the presentation of the Trailblazer Award and the Distinguished Achievement Award. The guy who was the MC did a fantastic job!

Then came the election of officers for the new session. There was one candidate for each office and they all gave a speech. With no contested offices, the vote was done by acclamation, so in the end, we didn't need all the official voting stuff!

The presentation by the Convention Chair was interesting. They have no proposals for the 2025 convention.

However, someone had the idea of doing an East Coast cruise with walks in the ports of call and other things on board the ship. That could be fun!

Last were the comments and questions from the delegates that were read from the chat and answered by the person responsible for the referenced agenda item. Then the meeting was done! They pretty much kept to the 3 hours they had scheduled. AVA said they would post things from the meeting, so if I learn anything else, I will pass it on.

I'm of two minds about having a virtual general meeting. Without travel, the cost and time spent is a lot less. I don't know if more people took part but hope that more clubs were able to vote for themselves than by proxy. But I do miss going to a new place and exploring. Maybe if they start the regional Olympiad, it will work the way it did this year with part in person and part virtual.

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open, volunteer needed!
[see page 5]

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Volkssporting creates Serenity and Sociability by Eileen Anderson

The Walk 'n Mass Cape Cod weekend proved to live up to this title and featured terrific walks. We considered varying degrees of weather and planned our walks accordingly. Many people arrived early and explored other parts of the Cape, whether it was biking the canal trail or doing the Sandwich YRE. Some ambitious volkssporters enjoyed the Plymouth volkswalk on the way down to the Cape.

On Friday, May 19 my husband and I entered the Comfort Inn in Hyannis. A very good choice for the event. The hotel offered lovely, comfortable rooms and provided various breakfast choices, all you could eat to walk off. A lovely pool was available for those wishing to swim laps before or following the walks. As we checked in we noticed Bea Hait setting up the "meet and greet" room. There that night we found Monica Hait with several Walk 'n Mass members seated at the check in table eager to welcome people to this serene and social environment.

Various types of pizza, vegetable platters, chips, cookies, and drinks were offered and there were many walkers to meet and greet. We enjoyed engaging with Leslie Murphy Stone and Fred Sheets (Floridians) who explained auto-train travel to us, Carol and Lee West, our fellow CVVC people, and Wayne Knapp and Kathy Mack from Albany among others. So good to meet people we knew from Facebook in person.

Saturday started out sunny but quickly became cloudy with rain starting at noon, just as weather.com promised. Many of us opted to do the Provincetown walk, some at the designated group time and some earlier to beat the rain. Provincetown showed off many different



styled houses, stores, and people walking various breeds of dogs. Peter and I started off on our own, and a few fellow walkers caught up to us. Four of us were wearing shirts from "Bea Hait's Catalogue." Provincetown also boasts nice harbors, monuments, hills and, of course, restaurants. Many escaped the rain, but Peter and I walked back in the rain.

The dinner was held in the beautiful Yarmouth House offering delicious food and socialization opportunities. Mary Frink (WnM president) and Wayne Knapp (NERD) gave enjoyable presentations. It was



Walking in Provincetown

great to welcome Carol Geisecke as the new NERD (Eileen Skinner the new deputy RD was not in attendance). It was an honor to be included with Carol and Lee West for CVVC's anniversary award.

Sunday started off drizzly but cleared up as I began the traditional Hyannis walk along beautiful residential neighborhoods and the Yarmouth harbor. Joe Piffat and his wife, Barbara, caught up with me. We joyfully finished the walk together. I also had the pleasure of meeting their daughter, Kathryn. All from the Two Town club.

Of course I purchased a shirt from "Bea Hait's Catalogue." I own several items of clothes from there. Comes highly recommended. Exchanging ideas with other clubs was a bonus of this event.



Bea and Eileen at Hyannis HQ

Photos courtesy of Eileen Anderson

Bulletin Board

For the term effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025,

- **Carol Giesecke** of Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club has been elected **NE Regional Director**, and

- **Eileen Skinner** of Empire State Capital Volkssport Club has been elected **NE Deputy Regional Director**.

Congrats!!!

Walk Around Florida 32: October 27-29 2023

Pack your sunglasses & your walking shoes, and come to Florida this October for WAF 32.

Learn more: happywanderersfl.org

<https://www.facebook.com/WalkaroundFlorida32>



Next Club Meeting Monday, August 7

6:30 pm

Stop & Shop
40 Franklin Village Drive
Franklin, MA 02038

Up the stairs past
Customer Service Desk

Columbia River Volkssport Club's **Salute to Central Oregon** brings you the opportunity to hike ancient volcanic wonders, circle glassy lakes, and take in some of Oregon's most spectacular sights. **September 14-17**
www.walking4fun.org/central-oregon-2023.html

Fall Foliage Festival of Walks in State College PA, Thursday through Sunday, October 5-8, 2023

The Festival, comprising 5 AVA events - with walks ranging from 5K to 21K - is sponsored by the Susquehanna Rovers and the Keystone State Volkssport Association, with assistance from the Pennsylvania Volkssport Clubs.

Hotel reservations are available at the Super 8 State College, at \$109.00 (plus tax) per night, for up to 4 people, and includes a continental breakfast. Call 814-237-8005 and make your reservations by August 14. (Note: Wait until the end of the automated menu for the front desk to answer, then request the "Keystone State Volkssport Association" rate.)

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

Newsletter Submissions to:

footnotes.editor@gmail.com

Deadline for next issue: July 21st

US Freedom Walk Festival: Oct. 20-22 in Arlington, VA

Three days of walks will take you to the Pentagon, Air Force Memorial, Washington DC, Arlington National Cemetery, along the Potomac River, and more. This IML event is one of two in the United States...it's a great way to meet volkswalkers from around the world. Get more information and register at: www.usfreedomwalk.org



June Meeting Highlights

by Marianne Marshall

Meeting held June 5, 2023 in Franklin

Cape Cod Weekend: THANK YOU ALL—workers and attendees. Eighty-one people from 10 states participated.

AVA Awards:

Seven awards handed out:

- Meritorious Service: Margo Craven, Patricia Damiani, Verna DeVine, and Carol Giesecke
- Certificates of Appreciation: Newton Free Library, Stop & Shop in Sandwich, and the Wellesley Free Library

Walk Coordinator:

- Yearly/Seasonal POCs need to advise Bea if they wish to continue in 2024.
- Yearly/Seasonal events show lower attendance overall since pre-COVID.
- Keith Harlow planning a walk in Milford on Saturday, October 14.

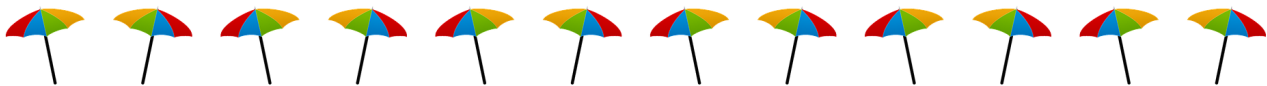
AVA News:

- WnM in good standing for voting at the June AVA meeting; Mary Frink has received her voting credentials
- WnM meeting attendees unanimously approved the uncontested slate of candidates for AVA office: Nancy Wittenberg, Board Chair; John McClellan, Vice-Chair; Ed McCabe, Finance Chair; Leslie Stone, Secretary

New Business:

Upcoming club meetings:

- Monday, August 7 at 6:30 pm, Stop & Shop, Franklin, 2nd floor meeting room
- Monday, September 11 at 6:30 pm, Stop & Shop, Franklin, 2nd floor meeting room



Activities Chairperson Duties

from Marianne Marshall

Walk 'n Mass is still looking for an Activities Chairperson. Perhaps you are that person but don't know it because you don't know what the job entails. There are three basic activities:

- Find and make arrangements for meeting locations OR ask someone else to do so
- Schedule and arrange for speakers for general membership meetings

- Coordinate special functions such as the club's after-holiday party and annual picnic

Interested? Please let a club officer know if you wish to explore volunteering for this position.

HELLO!

Welcome, New Members!

compiled by Diane Peterson

We are delighted to welcome our newest club members:

Susan Marine of Lowell, MA

Susanne Laundry and Rita Tosches of Mashpee, MA

Lalitha Raghavan of Northboro, MA

Jill, Hailey, & Mark Pedersen of Marion, MA

We look forward to seeing you on the trails!

Oak Bluffs Revisited

by Beate Hait

After moving to Holliston in 1992, I was delighted to discover Walk 'n Mass, which gave my family opportunities to explore Massachusetts and environs one step at a time. I was especially excited because there were seasonal walks in Oak Bluffs and Edgartown—with a volksbike connecting those two Martha's Vineyard towns.

Before these seasonal events ended in 1994, Phil, our three daughters and I enjoyed a vacation based in Oak Bluffs. We were enthralled by the colorful gingerbread cottages in the Camp Meeting area of Oak Bluffs, and the girls took several spins on the carousel, reaching for the brass ring. In Edgartown, we marveled at the pagoda tree, still thriving after being planted in 1837.

Taking part in the Massachusetts County program, with a commitment from the club to have a weekend event twice in each of the 14 counties in Massachusetts over the 5-year duration of the program (1999–2003), we again traveled to the Vineyard, which comprises Dukes County.

With the Northeast Region Cape Weekend scheduled for May 2023, I thought it'd be an opportune time to revive a volkswalk on the Vineyard. Rick and Pat Almeida eagerly accepted the challenge to check the prior route in Oak Bluffs and make adjustments as needed. Not surprisingly, changes were necessary. The route directions and maps were updated, and the sanction request for this April through September seasonal event was submitted.

So, on the Monday after the Cape Weekend this past May, with route directions from the Online Start Box in hand, I happily joined Carol Giesecke, Monica Hait, Beverly Lange, and

Denise Macaronas on the Steamship Authority ferry from Woods Hole to Oak Bluffs.



Denise Macaronas



Monica Hait

The two loops of this walk route start and end at the ferry landing. We opted for the 6K Cottages Loop, which passes the beach and Ocean Park with the gazebo (our start point in 2002) and the bed-and-breakfast on Seaview Avenue that was the start point when my family first walked in Oak Bluffs in 1993. Sea breezes,

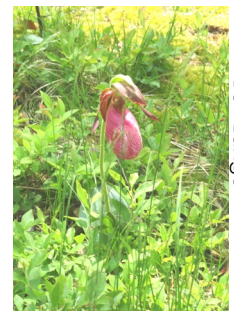


Bev Lange

sunshine, so many small parks throughout residential areas, a path along a nature trail, colorful gingerbread cottages in the Camp Meeting area, opulent houses along Ocean



Monica Hait



Bev Lange

Avenue, the bustle of retail stores and restaurants on Circuit Avenue, and the historic carousel—these are the sights we enjoyed on our walk. Then it was time for lunch at the Chowder Company (across the street from the carousel) before the 1:15 ferry back to the mainland. A great way to end a busy and enjoyable walking weekend.

Monica lamented that we missed one thing: eating Mad Martha's Ice Cream. I know what will be first on our list when we return (soon?) to Martha's Vineyard.

Denise Macaronas



Cape Weekend Photos - Walks

Sandwich: Glass Town signs; partial boardwalk across the marsh; sculpture outside Glass Museum



Monica Hait



Monica Hait



Monica Hait

Hyannis: ocean view; turkeys seen strolling down the street; walkers enjoying the special weekend route



Eileen Anderson



Bev Lange



Monica Hait

Hyannis: meeting the Kilwins Moose during Hyannis Open Streets



Bev Lange

Oak Bluffs: campground cottages



Bevte Hait



Bevte Hait

AVA Achievement Awards (compiled from TAW)

Based on the IVV Event and Distance Award information provided in the June 2023 issue of *The American Wanderer*, **congratulations** are due to the following people:

Name	Events	Distance
Carol Giesecke	325	2,000 km
Jack Suchodolski	475	
Mary Saratora	525, 550	6,000 km
Mary Suchodolski	575	6,000 km
Betty Green	1400	
Michael Green	1400	

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

-Marianne Marshall,
secretary@walknmass.org

Walk Coordinator Speaks

by Beate Hait

Where will we have our 400th day event? – In November 1985 in Concord, Mass., Walk 'N Mass held its first event. In July 2023, we are four events away from the club's 400th event. Where will that milestone traditional event take place?

Is there a certain route you'd like to revisit? Or a location that you would have liked to explore but another commitment kept you away? Are you familiar with a particular area of Rhode Island that would be good for a volkswalk and would support the RI County Challenge (see details at right)? Would you like to see multi-event weekend opportunities or should we concentrate on events on a single weekend day? Do you know of an annual festival or special event that would provide "something extra to do" in addition to walking a volkswalk route? Please contact me by phone, text, or email with your thoughts on the above questions.

A list of where, when, and how many participants we had was compiled by former trail master, club historian, and newsletter editor, Jeannette Dosé, and I have been updating that list since 2011. If you would like to see this list (available in MS Word or PDF), you have only to ask.

Rhode Island County Challenge – co-sponsored by Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club (CVVC) & Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club.

Participating in one volkswalk in each of Rhode Island's five counties (Bristol, Kent, Newport, Providence, Washington) is all it takes. Will YOU complete the challenge?

There is one seasonal or year-round event available in each of the five RI counties. Three are sponsored by WnM (Bristol, Newport and Providence), and two are sponsored by CVVC (East Greenwich in Kent County and Block Island in Washington County). While Providence is available all year, the other four are available from April through December. Group walks of these events will also be scheduled, so keep an eye out if you'd like to walk with others.

It is hoped that in 2024 and 2025 we'll also schedule a few day events in Rhode Island – especially one in Washington County, since getting to Block Island takes a bit more effort than just driving to a start point. If you have a suggestion of a great Rhode Island walk location, please speak up!

Challenge books may be purchased through me at traditional events, by mail, or by arrangement for delivery at a group walk.

Group Walk Pictures:

*Below: Fall River group walkers were all smiles on June 10, 2023
At right: interesting trees and other sights enjoyed in East Greenwich, RI on May 27*



Joanne Izbicki



Beate Hait



Bev Lange