

President's Corner

by Mary Frink

Hello Everyone! I'm still coming out of my winter hibernation. I will have a lot for the next newsletter! Stay warm and be safe out there walking.

Welcome, New Members!

compiled by Diane Peterson

We are excited to welcome our newest club members:

- ◆ James, Isabella, and William Pete of Portsmouth, RI
- ◆ Kelly, Dennis, and Taylor Lyddy of Leominster, MA
- ◆ Sarah Boyer of Cambridge, MA

We look forward to seeing you on the trails!



Membership Reminder

by Diane Peterson



We sincerely hope that you will join us for another outstanding year of great walks and camaraderie with fellow walkers through Walk 'n Mass. You will then continue to receive the *Footnotes* newsletter providing you news and information about scheduled walks and events such as our upcoming Soup Social in April.

Come Friends, Let's Walk

- ❖ Saturday, March 9
Group Walk:
Putnam/
Thompson, CT
9:00 am (CVVC)
- ❖ Sunday, March 10
Group Walk:
Hyannis, MA
10:00 am
- ❖ Saturday, March 16
Group Walk:
Wellesley, MA
10:00 am
- ❖ Saturday, March 23
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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After-Holiday Luncheon Gathering Pictures



Bev Lange



Beate Hait



Bev Lange



Beate Hait

It was all smiles for those enjoying lunch & a Yankee Swap at the Wayside Inn in Sudbury on January 21.

Carol Giesecke—1st MA volkswalker to complete the RI County Challenge. Congrats, Carol!

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Northeast Region & AVA Board Update

by Carol Giesecke, NERD

The AVA Board met via Zoom on February 13, 2024. Here are some of the major points that may be of special interest to Walk 'N Mass members:

Convention Plans in the works for 2025! We had a presentation from the Tourist Bureau in Las Cruces, NM and it seems that they are excited to host us. The date range is April 24 – May 7, so it will be milder weather than it would be later in the season. One can fly into El Paso, which is about 45 miles away and several airlines serve that airport. There is also a very nice RV park nearby for those who would like to make the drive. There are plans for some interesting walks, including in the old section of Las Cruces (actually its own town) called Mesilla, the White Sands National Park (where one might see the nation's oldest foot prints), and a walk that will cross the border into Juarez, Mexico. It promises to be a delightful venue. The local club, the Sun Country Striders, will be helping to develop the walks. More on exact dates, activities, the venue, etc. will be forthcoming as they develop. Some details expected at the next AVA online seminar – Wed., February 21. As always, the link to sign up for an AVA seminar is in the latest *Checkpoint* and on the AVA website.

AVA Mobile Walk Application – AVA IT Committee member Jeff Giddings is meeting with software and hardware developers to develop a mobile app for AVA – this is still in development; more details will be coming at the May 14 Board meeting.

Operational Committee Updates

Publicity – TAW has been the main focus of their meetings; also updates to Walker Packets, see the February *Checkpoint* for more about the new TAW. AVA staff decided that AVA members can request TAW in hard copy for free for the first year, but after that there will be a charge for hard copies.

Membership – the next AVA online seminar, February 21 on Zoom at 8 PM ET, will feature information about a membership survey that we are all asked to complete before the end of March 2024.

Information and Technology – the legacy ESR has been phased out, and my.ava.org will be able to do more helpful things for clubs and club members.

2026 50th Anniversary of AVA – AVA President reminded Board that AVA will be 50 in 2026 and we should be considering how we want to celebrate this event. Do you have any ideas? Send them to Henry@ava.org

AVA Partnerships – AVA President is proud of partnerships that are developing with local, regional and national groups. These can be used to leverage more support for AVA functions and in-kind donations.

Northeast News: We had a very well-attended Northeast Zoom meeting in mid-January. Thanks to Mary Frink for hosting the meeting and even taking minutes! We learned about the evolution of Element 3 into Grouper. The partnership is still evolving, so stay tuned for more on how this will affect clubs.

The meeting also featured Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club (CVVC) members Carol and Lee West talking about the next Northeast multi-club gathering **September 6-8**. This will be a collaboration between CVVC, the Volkssport Club at West Point with the Friday night Meet and Greet to be held at the Germania of Poughkeepsie Volkssport Club headquarters. Details and registration materials will be forthcoming in early March. Thanks to the continued input and excellent guidance from Bea Hait on the planning of this event.

We are in the very early planning stages for a possible 2025 Lighthouse weekend with Two Town, Southern Maine, and Twin State clubs, tentatively. More news on this after we have a Zoom call, still to be planned, but hopefully very soon.

I will be attending the **Atlantic Regional Conference in Dover, DE on April 4-7**. Amazingly, the small but mighty First State Webfooters Club (where I really got involved with Volkssporting) based in Dover, DE, is hosting the meeting. I hope you will consider attending. Then I get to drive back to Clifton Park NY on Sunday, April 7, so I can ride the ESCV bus to Plattsburgh to walk and eat with ESCV members and see the Solar eclipse! I hope you all get a chance to see this spectacle.

The day before we have our Hyannis Walk on Sunday, March 10, CVVC is planning to hold their Putnam and Thompson group walks on Saturday March 9. Because these two towns are close to the MA/RI borders, I was hoping that a number of Walk 'N Mass folks would be willing to join me on March 9, especially so we could have a picture for the next TAW of MA, CT and maybe RI walkers on the CT/MA/RI border. I think it will be a fun chance to visit each other too.

I hope you have lots of great opportunities to walk as winter slowly turns to spring and days lengthen.

Bulletin Board

Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club

**CVVC 2024 Group Walks
at 9:00 am unless noted**

March 9: Putnam/Thompson, CT

April 13: Wickford, RI

May 18: Mystic, CT

June 8: Branford, CT

Sept. 8: Kent Village, CT (NE Region
Weekend) at 10:00

Oct. 26: Windsor, CT

Nov. 9: Kent AT, CT

Dec. 14: East Greenwich, RI

AVA bus tour to Crazy Horse Memorial Volksmarch

May 30-June 3, 2024

Departs from San Antonio, Texas

See registration & trip details in the
February AVA *Checkpoint*

**Next Club Meeting
Monday, March 4**

6:30 pm

Stop & Shop

40 Franklin Village Drive
Franklin, MA 02038

*Up the stairs past
Customer Service Desk*

Upcoming Winter Group Walks

sign in 9:30 am, group walk at 10 am

(winter walking is subject to safe
weather and sidewalk conditions.

Please check with POC in advance if
you are unsure.)

February 2024

Sat., Feb. 24 Newton

March 2024

Sun., March 10 in Hyannis

Sat., March 16 in Wellesley

Sat., March 23 in Providence



Do **you** have a **most memorable walk** or **volksmarching travel 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: March 21st

Canadian Volkssport Federation Festival

Kingston, Ontario

May 24-26, 2024

Registration includes 5 event walks,
Meet & Greet, and Dinner

www.walks.ca



AVA Northeast Region: Hudson to Housatonic Flyer



AVA Northeast Region Event

September 6 ~ 8, 2024

HUDSON to HOUSATONIC
Walking Weekend

Hyde Park, NY
Fri.

Poughkeepsie, NY
Sat.

Kent, CT
Sun.

Chat and Chew Opportunities

Fri. eve. Meet & Greet - Germania of
Poughkeepsie's "Oktoberfest"

Sat. eve. Dinner – Poughkeepsie-area
Restaurant

More details later:

hudtohou@gmail.com

<https://nodegreen.com/hudtohou/>

Event Lodging

\$159/night Fri. & Sat.

Hampton Inn & Suites Poughkeepsie

2361 South Rd. (Rt. 9)

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/september2024weekendwalkinggroup/>

845-463-7500 Our Discount Code: WWG



Walk Coordinator Speaks

by Beate Hait

Barbara Kimball Memorial Walk and Soup Social in Hopkinton, Sat., April 6 – The AVA Celebrates National Walking Week in the first week of April, and we're delighted to launch our walking season during that week. Please plan to come to Hopkinton to walk and afterwards to join in the soup social. Contact Mary Frink to let her know if you'll be bringing a soup, appetizer, bread, or dessert to share. See details in the attached brochure.

Northeast Region Weekend – Fri-Sun. Sept. 6-8 – Hudson to Housatonic – A flyer is on page 5 with an overview of the events and activities on this weekend in Poughkeepsie and Hyde Park, New York and Kent, Connecticut. It's not too early to make hotel reservations – see info on page 5 or check the event website at nodegreen.com/hudtohou

A registration packet with all the details will be available on March 1. See my.ava.org > Find A ... > Multi-Day Events (Fests).

Participation fee for all walk participants – Most recently, the participation fee for walkers who participate in the IVV Achievement Program cost \$3. Of that fee, \$1.25 was sent

to AVA; \$1.75 remained with the club to cover event expenses. If a person walked for Free (did not get a "credit" stamp in the IVV Event and Distance Achievement books), no money was sent to AVA for that participant.

Starting on Jan. 1, 2024, the fee was increased to \$4 with \$2 to be remitted to AVA for EACH participant with \$2 remaining with the club.

WNM Club Member Benefit – A quick reminder (as you'll notice in the Membership Renewal Form included with this newsletter) that a benefit of WNM membership is a \$1 discount on the participation fee at Walk 'n Mass Year-round (YRE) or Seasonal (SE) Events. The Registration Logs in the Physical Walk Boxes have been updated to include this participation category. When group walks are scheduled for our YREs that use Online Start Box (i.e., Boston Freedom Trail and Back Bay, Cheshire, Oak Bluffs, and Provincetown), that \$1 discount will apply for club members in attendance.



Sandwich Group Photos:



On February 11, a happy dozen gathered to enjoy walking in Sandwich and posed in front of the impressive Sandwich Glass Museum.

Joanne spotted unique punny mailboxes along the route.



Joanne Izbicki