

## President's Corner

Happy Fall! It's well documented that this is my favorite time of year. The colors, the scents, the festivals, I love all of it! I hope you are getting out to enjoy it too.

Now comes the commercial! I have written before about travels to the AVA convention and all of my adventures. My first one was in 2011 in Des Moines, Iowa. I went as part of a Walking Adventures tour that covered 6 states. The whole tour was interesting and fun! I learned a lot. I attended the convention sessions and learned about how it all worked. I think I was the alternate delegate. My next convention was in 2013 in Orlando, Florida. This was my first time as the delegate. I was again on a Walking Adventures tour as were several other Walk 'n Mass members which was great when I needed to get a second opinions on things that happened in the sessions. I've been the delegate for the conventions since then. It's always interesting and I've been to so many places I may not have gone otherwise.

by Mary Frink

The AVA convention next year will be in Las Cruces, New Mexico from Tuesday, April 29 to Friday, May 2, 2025. From what I have read, it should be a great convention with lots of scenic walks. There is even going to be one that crosses the Mexican border! If you are going to the convention and would like to be the delegate for Walk 'n Mass or would be willing to be the alternate delegate, please let me know. Why should I have all the fun? I'm bringing this up now because the convention is earlier than it usually is and hotels and registration are already being made available. If someone would like to go, I want to make sure they don't miss out on the best convention rates.

See you on the trail!



## Hello, New Members!

compiled by Diane Peterson

We are excited to welcome our newest club member:

- ◆ Pamela Agner of Maynard, MA

We are happy to have you join our club!



## Come Friends, Let's Walk

- ❖ *Sunday, Oct. 6*  
Group Walk:  
Bristol, RI  
2:00 pm
- ❖ *Saturday, Oct. 12*  
Group Walk/Bike:  
Sandwich, MA  
10:00 am  
*[Editor: details p. 4]*
- ❖ *Saturday, Oct. 19*  
Group Walk:  
Cheshire, MA  
11:00 am
- ❖ *Sunday, Oct. 20*  
Group Walk (map):  
Boston Freedom  
Trail or Back Bay  
sign-in 9-10:00 am
- ❖ *Saturday, Oct. 26*  
Group Walk:  
Windsor, CT  
9:00 am (CVVC)
- ❖ *Saturday, Oct. 26*  
Group Walk:  
Wellesley, MA  
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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# September Meeting Highlights

by Marianne Marshall

**Meeting held Sept. 9, 2024 in Franklin**

## Walk Coordinator:

- All 2024 year-round/seasonal events renewed for 2025 with exception of Sandwich Bike.
- Special Places (Boston), Sunday, Nov. 10, sign-in from 8-10am; map-guided. 10km groups at 8:45 and 10:00; 5km groups at 9:00 and 10:00.
- Need walks for 2025 to include in year's celebration of WnM's 40th anniversary.

## AVA News: August & Sept. Checkpoints

- AVA looking for members to serve on the AVA Nominating Committee to seek out people to run for AVA Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Finance Chair on the AVA Board.
- Registration for 2025 Biennial Convention in Las Cruces, NM targeted to begin late September. See [ava.org/2025-convention/](http://ava.org/2025-convention/)
- New AVA Special Programs being sought for January 1, 2026 program begin date.

## New Business:

**WnM elections** to be held **at October 7 meeting**. Anyone interested in learning more about the duties of the 4 elected offices (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) or running for a position, please contact a current officer.

Remaining **2024 club meetings** will be held at Stop & Shop in Franklin:

- Monday, **October 7**  
at 6:30 pm
- Monday, **November 4**  
at 6:30 pm
- Monday, **December 2**  
at 6:30 pm



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# Walk Coordinator Speaks

**Sunday, Nov. 10: The “Special Places” Volkswalk Route in Boston** – WNM member Carol Giesecke, who is also our Northeast Region Director, is bringing back this route that features special sights around Boston that are not included in either our Freedom Trail or Back Bay YRE routes – for example the walking path along the Esplanade and the Hatch Memorial Shell—the venue for concerts such as the Boston Pops on July 4.

On Nov. 10 you may walk on your own, following the written directions, and start anytime between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Or, you may choose to walk the 5km or 11km distances led by a group leader. The groups head out at 8:45 and 9:00 (11km and 5km, respectively) and also at 10:00 (both distances).

Street parking on Sunday is free. See the brochure that was distributed with the September *Footnotes* for driving directions. Questions? Contact Carol at carolclay101@gmail.com

**2025** – We will celebrate our club's 40th anniversary next year. The calendar of events is being planned now. Please contact me to suggest a location to include—either reviving a route we've done previously or someplace new.

**Northeast Region Walking Weekend – Hudson to Housatonic – in review** – Many thanks to Carol and Lee West (Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club), Andrew and Carol Schmidt (Volkssport Club at West Point) and Carol Giesecke, NERD, for executing a wonderful weekend of walking in Poughkeepsie, NY and Kent, CT with many opportunities for socializing—both on walk routes and at dinner-time gatherings. While 30+ attendees were from Empire State Capital Volkssporters and Walk 'n Mass was well represented with 8+, it was remarkable that one-third of the 98 attendees were from outside the region. It was wonderful to see people I hadn't



seen in a while and to meet new volkswalkers.

The weekend

Kathy Mack

by Beate Hait

started on Friday, Sept. 6, with a walk in Hyde Park, NY, featuring the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. After walking, Eileen Skinner and I went to the visitor center to watch the film about FDR. That evening, the lively Meet & Greet took place at Germania of Poughkeepsie's Oktoberfest, where I had the opportunity to wear my dirndl.

On Saturday folks gathered for a walk that included the Walkway Over the Hudson in Poughkeepsie; a little bit of misty weather did not deter participation. The 11K route returned over the Mid-Hudson "singing" bridge, and I heard that Carol Giesecke got into the spirit and danced along with the music.

That afternoon, I traveled back to Hyde Park to tour Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill home, which was built in 1925 two miles from "the big house." The dinner gathering that evening was attended by 70 volkswalkers. Bob McDougall (CVVC) presented an informative and engaging overview of regional statistics that included a photo compilation of all the Northeast Region Directors to date.

For Sunday's event it was east to Kent, CT where the walk started in Kent's quaint downtown and continued along the Housatonic River. The out-and-back route along the river afforded opportunities to greet fellow walkers.

Please plan on joining the fun at the next NE Region event May 16-18, 2025: Lighthouse Tri-State Weekend being planned by Southern Maine Volkssport Association, Two Town Walking Club and Twin State Volkssport Association. The host hotel is Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham, York, ME with walks in Gloucester, MA, Portsmouth, NH and Cape Elizabeth, ME.



Kathy Mack



Leslie Stone



Leslie Stone



Seen it?



Ann Plichta

# Bulletin Board

## October 12: Sandwich Bike/Walk Along the Canal

Sign in for Sandwich Canal Group Bike/Walk on Saturday, October 12 will be at the regular YRE/SE Sandwich start point: Stop & Shop Customer Service Desk. The driving directions to Canal trailhead are included with walk/bike route directions. Please arrive to register ahead of the planned 10am walk/bike start.

Did you know that AVA offers (mostly) monthly webinars covering assorted topics? These are typically on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8pm ET. An archive of past webinar recordings is also at [ava.org/monthly-webinar/](http://ava.org/monthly-webinar/)



### Next Club Meeting Monday, Oct. 7

6:30 pm

Stop & Shop  
40 Franklin Village Drive  
Franklin, MA 02038

Up the stairs past  
Customer Service Desk

### Additional Upcoming Walks

Sat., Oct. 12—Augusta, ME  
GW 11:00 am

Sun., Oct. 20—Boston, MA  
MG Freedom Trail or Back Bay  
on-site registration 9-10

Sat., Oct. 26—Windsor, CT  
GW 9:00 am

Sat., Nov. 2—Provincetown, MA  
MG on-site registration 10-Noon

Sat., Nov. 9—Kent, CT Appalachian Trail  
GW 9:00 am

Sat., Nov. 23—Plymouth, MA (parade)  
GW time TBD, 5km as group, 10km on  
own

Fri., Nov. 29—Fall River, MA  
GW 10:00 am

Sat., Nov. 30—Concord, MA  
GW 10:00 am

Sat., Dec. 14—  
East Greenwich, RI  
GW 9:00 am

GW = group walk  
MG = map-guided

### Newsletter Submissions to:

[footnotes.editor@gmail.com](mailto:footnotes.editor@gmail.com)

Deadline for next issue: Oct. 21st

SMVA invites you to a **6km group walk and picnic** at their YRE in **Augusta, ME on Saturday, October 12**. Meet in the Viles Arboretum parking lot at 10:45, group walk begins at 11:00. Please bring your own picnic lunch/snacks, water, and a folding chair if you like.

RSVP to Denise at [walkinginmaine@yahoo.com](mailto:walkinginmaine@yahoo.com) or phone 207-245-8233. Online registration in advance via OSB or physical sign-in when you arrive. Viles Arboretum, 153 Hospital Street, Augusta, ME 04330

More event details:  
<https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?sn=126419>

