

## President's Corner by Mary Frink

Happy New Year! I hope you all had nice holidays. So far, the new year has not been too nice for walking. Congratulations to the nine hearty souls who walked in Boston on New Year's Day! Most of our walks are closed until April, but there are some open. Be safe while out walking. Wear lots of warm clothes and if you have any questions about the conditions of a walk route, contact the POC. Not all sidewalks are shoveled the same!

Looking ahead to what will hopefully be more favorable weather, the soup walk will be April 7 in Holliston. Beate Hait is the POC and she is looking for volunteers to staff the event! So far, the soup walk is the only day event we have confirmed for 2018 (though plans are in the works on two others) and we are eagerly seeking more. If you have ideas for a start point or an area you like to walk, please let me or Bea know. A start point needs to have parking for around 50 cars and bathrooms we can use! I know there are some walks being discussed, but you can never have too many ideas!

We are still looking for a Group Walk Coordinator. I know it can be a little

intimidating to think of following in Pat Damiani's footsteps! There is the possibility of having more than one person do the job if one person can't commit to the whole thing. If you are interested, please let me know.

Things are moving along with the planning for the 2019 AVA convention in Albany, NY. It seems like such a long ways away, but there is a lot to do. We are thinking of having our walk in Springfield at Forest Park. Many thanks to Jan and Bob Varnon for all of their hard work trying to find us a walk in Pioneer Valley or points west. The problem with quaint little historic towns is that they are little! Trying to find a place that can handle the numbers a convention could bring has been a daunting task.

It was great to see so many people at the After-Holiday Party on the 13th. It felt like it had been forever since we had seen each other. It was so nice to catch up with everyone. The weather held out! Actually, the morning was perfect walking weather (after the rain stopped). Who would have guessed 60 degrees in January! Keep walking and stay safe!

### Come Friends, Let's Walk

- ❖ *Wed., February 7  
Group Walk:  
Albany, NY  
Crossgates Mall  
10:00 am (ESCV)*
- ❖ *Sat., March 10  
Group Walk:  
Mystic, CT  
9:00 am (CVVC)*
- ❖ *Sat., March 17  
Group Walk:  
Saratoga Springs,  
NY 10:00 am  
(ESCV)*
- ❖ *Wed., March 21  
Group Walk:  
Schenectady, NY  
10:00 am (ESCV)*

*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. **Winter group walks subject to weather conditions.***



### Issue Highlights:

Changes to WnM YREs – 2	Bulletin Board – 4	Franklin Review: Delightful – 7
New Stamps, New Technique – 3	December Puzzle Answers – 5	AVA Achievements – 7
Volunteer(s) Needed for GWC – 3	Meeting Highlights – 6	Walk Coordinator Speaks – 8
	After-Holiday Party Recap – 6	Back Bay Group Walk Pictures – 8

# Hear Ye, Hear Ye

by Monica Hait

Several unexpected changes to our Year-Round Events have occurred since the 2018 YRE/SE Booklets (with orange covers) were printed and mailed last month. Please be sure to note these changes for any winter walking you plan to do, as well as for early spring.

## **Boston Freedom Trail YRE 18/Y0730 & Boston Back Bay YRE 18/Y1090**

With Faneuil Hall undergoing renovations, the National Park Service has a pop-up Visitor Center at 15 State Street, beside the Old State House. Our start box is at the pop-up State Street location. Faneuil Hall with the NPS Visitor Center is expected to reopen in April/May.

## **Providence YRE 18/Y1092**

Our start point, the Roger Williams National Memorial Visitor Center, is closed Mondays & Tuesdays from January to March.

## **Sandwich YRE 18/Y1035**

Due to the severe winter storm in early January that caused erosion of sand dunes and flooding of the salt marsh, access to the boardwalk and Town Neck Beach closed to the public as of Jan. 10, 2018. An alternate walk route is in place to circumvent this portion of the original route. We will update when the boardwalk has been repaired, which is hoped to be done prior to the summer season.

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# New Stamps, New Technique

by David Bonewitz, AVA President

Effective January 1, 2018, all AVA events will be using new stamps which provide more information in our books. This is a great step forward for AVA, but with every improvement/change comes the need to adjust and these new stamps are no exception. Please be aware that you need to be careful how you use the new stamps. In particular, with the old stamps we all tended to press the stamp deeply into the ink pad and then press the stamp very hard on our books, rocking and rolling the stamp to account for any uneven slugs in the stamp. With the new stamps, this technique could well result in a solid black mark since the new stamps do not have letters/numbers as deep as the old stamps, and most stamps have smaller letters with less space between the letters. The suggested procedure for the new stamps is to ink the stamp lightly and do a trial stamp on a piece of paper (e.g., the walk directions) to ascertain imprint quality. You may determine that the stamp has too much ink and have to repeat this process to determine the correct amount of force to ink the stamp as well as

the correct amount of force to use to get a good imprint before stamping your book. The type of ink pad in use at each event can dramatically impact the amount of force needed; gel ink pads are recommended for best outcome.

It is critical that all Volkssporters get the word on changing how they stamp their books. While this is a very positive step forward for AVA, it won't take but one botched stamp in a book to sour that participant on this as an improvement.

Thanks to Bob Schmick (Maryland Volkssport Assoc., President) for pointing out this "black line" issue and Atlantic Regional Director, Mike Green, for bringing it to my attention. Thanks also to Chris Zegelin for developing this new improved stamp, to Hector Hernandez for learning how to operate the new stamp cutting equipment and getting all these new stamps produced, and the rest of the folks in the office for working together to get the stamps shipped out to clubs.



*Example of old style imprint (top, 17) and new stamp style imprint (bottom, 2018). New stamps now include location detail and tighter spacing.*

## We Need You to Volunteer!

by Monica Hait

Walk 'n Mass is seeking a volunteer or two to fill our Group Walk Coordinator (GWC) position. If two people wish to share the duties by working in tandem, we would be happy to have Co-GWCs. The primary responsibility of the GWC role is to schedule group walks of WnM's Year-Round & Seasonal Events throughout the year.

By working with the various walk POCs, the GWC develops the group walk schedule and communicates it for publicizing via our club's news outlets.

While the GWC is not required to attend every single group walk, they should ensure a leader (walk POC or other club member) is present to help streamline sign-in if the GWC is not available to attend.

The GWC position has a large impact on the club's activity calendar. To express interest in this position, or to get further information, please contact Mary Frink at [mfwalks2010@verizon.net](mailto:mfwalks2010@verizon.net) or come to a club meeting or walk.

# Bulletin Board

## Keystone State Volkssport Association Fall Foliage Festival in State College, PA

Friday, Oct. 19–Sunday, Oct. 21

4 walk events plus additional  
seasonal events in area

Extras: Friday night Pizza Party,  
Saturday night Meet & Greet

Host hotel: Super 8 State College  
and special rate available until  
Aug. 30; for reservations call  
800-635-1177 and ask for  
"Keystone State Volkssport  
Association" rate

## AVA Atlantic Region Conference

March 16-18 in Loudoun County, Virginia

3 walks, 1 bike, 1 swim – pre-register by March 2

Meet & Greet Dinner on Friday and Banquet Dinner  
on Saturday

[www.mdvolks.org/Atlantic/default.htm](http://www.mdvolks.org/Atlantic/default.htm)

## Next Club Meeting Tuesday, March 6

6:30 pm

Stop & Shop  
40 Franklin Village Drive  
Franklin, MA 02038

Up the stairs past  
Customer Service Desk

## SAVE 15% AT RED ROOF INN!\*

Through the Red Roof Plus+ Discount program the AVA will receive 5% of all room revenues when you book at a Red Roof Inn using the Volume Plus Number (623002) and you also save!

Save 15% nationwide or receive a special rate at specific Inns. Discount is valid until June 30, 2018.

USE VP#623002 WHEN BOOKING TO RECEIVE THE DISCOUNT!

\*MAY NOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER DISCOUNTS OR OFFERS.

[https://www.redroof.com/deals/partner/American\\_Volkssport\\_Association](https://www.redroof.com/deals/partner/American_Volkssport_Association)



Mama and her ducklings were sporting some nicely knitted gear as we passed by on January 1.



Bob Marshall

## Newsletter Submissions to:

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

Deadline for next issue: Feb. 21st

## Northwest Hiking Weekend

April 20-22, 2018

Washington state's "dry side" provides spring walking adventures unlike anywhere else. Join the Four Plus Foolhardy Folks to explore the **Desert Wetlands**. Three hikes will allow you to explore the channeled scablands; towering basalt cliffs with fantastic formations, lakes, creeks and ponds, sage and grasslands.

More at: [www.fourplushikers.weebly.com](http://www.fourplushikers.weebly.com)

# December Puzzle Answers

WnM Sudoku  
by Joanne Izbicki

N	A	L	M	W	S	S	K	A
W	M	S	A	K	S	L	N	A
A	K	S	L	N	A	W	M	S
K	S	A	W	A	N	S	L	M
M	A	N	S	S	L	K	A	W
S	L	W	K	A	M	A	S	N
L	W	A	A	M	K	N	S	S
S	N	M	S	L	W	A	A	K
A	S	K	N	S	A	M	W	L

Wintry Word Puzzle  
by Monica Hait

		1. C	A	N	D	L		2. E			3. S	4. C	A	R	5. F				
								L				R			I				
6. D	U	C	K							7. F	I	R	E	W	O	R	K	S	
E					8. C							A				S			
9. C	O	M	M	O	N			10. C				11. M	12. I	T	T	E	13. N		
O					P			O				C						E	
R		14. H	O	L	I	D	A	Y				I						W	
A					E			T		15. B	A	C	K	16. B	A	Y			
T					17. Y	E	W			O		L		O		E			
I		18. S			P			19. W		S		E		20. W	R	A	P		
O		21. C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	E							R		
N		U			A			E		O		22. F	I	23. R				24. J	
		25. G	L	A	Z	E		A		N				I				A	
			P		A			T						26. B	E	A	N		
27. H	A	T						H						B				U	
		U								28. W		29. I		O				A	
	30. P	R	U	D	E	N	T	I	A	L	C	E	N	31. T	E	R			
		E							L		E				R		Y		
		32. S	N	O	33. W	F	L	A	K	E	S				O				
						I							34. K	I	T	T	E	35. N	
			36. C	A	N	E						A						I	
				O		T			37. V	38. E	S	T	S					G	
	39. G	L	O	V	E	S			A		E								H
						K			R			40. S	P	I	R	I	T		

## December & January Meeting Highlights by Marianne Marshall

### **Meetings held Tuesday, December 5, 2017 & Saturday, January 13, 2018**

- New AVA accounting/invoicing procedure to start in January 2018.
- New Group Walk Coordinator(s) needed. Please contact Mary Frink.
- **Ice Cream Parlor: 193 books sold; 41 people** have completed the program
- **Sunshine:** Get well card sent to Diane Bucher

#### **Walk Coordinator:**

- Soup walk in Holliston, April 7, at the First Congregational Church (note: this is a nut-free facility).
- Driving/walking directions for WnM Appalachian event in Cheshire ready to be posted online. Need PayPal & OLSB account to sign up for this event.
- Providence: Start/Finish at Roger Williams National Memorial Visitor Center closed on Mondays and Tuesdays through the end of March.
- Boston: Walks to start at old location at 15 State Street while renovations being done at Faneuil Hall (anticipate Boston National Historic Park Visitor Center will not be back in Faneuil Hall until after May).

- New stamps for all events—better than old uneven “slug” stamp—may want to try on paper before stamping in book.
- Potential walks being considered by the Harlows—Blackstone and return to Milford.
- Jan Varnon working to establish WnM event in Forest Park, Springfield, as a dry run this year for next year’s pre-convention walk

#### **AVA December & January Checkpoint news:**

- Year-round events in Mississippi are now online.
- National Executive Council Meeting Jan 19-21.

#### **Albany Convention 2019 (Empire State Capital Volkssporters host club):**

- Plans underway for a walk in Albany to support a charity that provides support to Veterans on the afternoon of the day WnM morning pre-convention walk being held.
- WnM asked to make streamers for all Convention-related walks.
- List of equipment items needed for Convention walks being circulated for clubs to provide items as possible (need to deliver and pick up to first and last walks, respectively).
- ESCV looking for ten members from local NE clubs to be available for each walk to unload, set up, and re-load truck of event supplies.

## Regifting Party Fun

by Monica Hait

Despite heavy rains the day before, the club's After-Holiday Party was held January 13 and over 25 people attended. After a delightful luncheon spread, Activities Chairperson Chris Lipson introduced a twist to our usual Regifting Yankee Swap rules. Rather than opening an item & then choosing whether to swap for a previously opened gift, this year each person had to decide whether to open a gift or steal a previously opened item. While slightly controversial, everyone followed the new rules. One item stolen multiple times was a movie trivia game that ended up in Joanne Izbicki's hands. After the swap was complete, she indulged others interested in the game by reading questions for an impromptu movie trivia challenge.



# In Review: Franklin Cookie Walk, Delightful by Dawn Harlow

Our December 2 walk in Franklin had 66 total walkers and loads of delicious cookies. We got a lot of compliments on our quaint little church and the walk with 4 loops offering opportunities to taste cookies after each. Many collected bags of a variety of cookies to take home to share with family and friends, and some recipes were shared via email for the holidays. It was a mild weather day, great for walking; visiting the Franklin historical museum next door was an added attraction many enjoyed. It was lovely to see our walking family before the holidays and our long hibernation from walking due to winter cold and inclement weather.

There were lots of helpful hands to staff the walk tables and mark/unmark the trails. Thanks to volunteers: Agnes & Ernie Laviolette, Sandy Hall, Sandra Barber, Marianne Marshall, Joanne Izbicki, Pat Graeben, Donna Gay, Monica Hait, Jean Morrissey, Pat & Rick Almeida, Bev Lange, Beate Hait, Jack Fernandes, Diane Bucher, Mary & Jack Suchodolski, Ann Plichta, Karen Plichta, Margo Craven, and Keith Harlow.



Dawn Harlow



Dawn Harlow

Left: Fancy club name cookies made by Dawn

Above: Just one table of the cookie buffet



Bev Lange

Above: Gazebo on the Franklin town common with wonderful wreath decorations

Below: The Piffats shared a photo calendar from Helen Purcell that brought many smiles, oohs, and aahs.



Bev Lange

## AVA Achievement Awards (compiled from American Wanderer)

Congratulations to the following people on their achievements as shown:

Name	Events	Distance
Richard Allen	50, 75, 100	
Patricia Damiani		8,000 KM
Cynthia Gray	450	
Joanne Izbicki	500, 525	
Kathryn Piffat	500	
Doug Reynolds	850	
Jacqueline Reynolds	850	

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

-Marianne Marshall,  
mrbwalker@verizon.net

# Walk Coordinator Speaks

by Beate Hait

**Franklin, MA** — We extend a big Thank You to Dawn Harlow, who was Point of Contact for the Cookie Walk in Franklin on December 2, 2017. There were lots of fine-tasting cookies enjoyed by the 66 walk participants on that brisk, sunny day. See wrap-up article by Dawn on page 7.

**Slow Walking Pace Walking Companions** — One of our club members who would very much like to walk in the company of others has a slow walking pace. If YOUR walking pace has slowed over the years, or if you noticed that your pace is just naturally slower than average and you would like to walk with others, please contact me with your permission to share your contact information with other like-paced-walkers. It will then be up to these individuals to contact one another and coordinate meeting at a designated time and place.

**Walk Events in 2018** — Progress! Yes! Please mark your calendars with the following three planned walk locations and dates.

Saturday, **April 7** – Holliston, MA – Soup Walk

Saturday, **June 16** – Blackstone, MA

Saturday, **October 20** – Milford, MA

We would very much like to have **at least four additional walks**, including a location for a **picnic walk**. Please contact me with ideas!

## Boston New Year's Day Pictures:

*Nine brave folk bundled up in single-digit cold to start 2018, and each walked as far along the route as they wanted or could endure. The First Night ice sculptures in Copley Plaza were in pristine condition.*



Bob Marshall



Bob Marshall



Beate Hait



Beate Hait



Beate Hait