

President's Corner

by Mary Frink

Hello Everyone! Happy New Year! I hope you had nice holidays. Have you given up on your New Year's resolutions yet? I don't make resolutions because it's too easy to get off track. I try to come up with a theme for the year or a direction I want to go in. For me, that is easier to stick to than a hard and fast resolution.

Have you ever wanted to go to New Mexico? Now is your chance! The AVA convention this year is being held in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend, so we are looking for someone else who would like to go and be the delegate for the club [WnM typically reimburses delegate's registration fee in part or full]. The **AVA convention dates are April 29-May 2, 2025**. There will also be walks before (April 26-28) and after (May 3-4) the convention. One of the walks will cross the border into Mexico and you will need a passport if you want to do that walk. The pre- and post-walks and events on the weekends before and after the convention dates are optional. As a delegate, you would be required to attend the two general sessions for club delegate duties. After the convention, the delegate should provide a summary report to the club.

I've always had a really good time at the conventions. There are always new things to see and do and you meet walkers from all over the country.



There are even people from other countries! Are you interested? If you are or if you have questions about what it's like to be a delegate or go to a convention, please contact me at mfwalks2010@verizon.net. There is also more information at ava.org/2025-convention **along with the registration details**. I can't wait to see your pictures and hear your stories!

Right now we only have one traditional day event walk for 2025, so here is my regular ask for start points for walks. This is our club's **40th anniversary year** and we'd really like to have more traditional walks. If you have a connection somewhere that would let us use their facility as a start point, please let anyone on the board know. We need somewhere that has parking for 20-30 cars and will let us set up tables and use the bathroom. It doesn't need to be fancy! Honestly, the start point is the hardest part. Once we have that, we can work out a walk route.

Please stay safe while out walking this time of year. Watch out for ice and cold!

Come Friends, Let's Walk

❖ To be alerted to newly scheduled group walks when weather allows, please contact

secretary@walknmass.org

to be added to WnM alert emails. Winter group walks are subject to weather conditions, and may be cancelled once forecasts become firm.

❖ *Saturday, March 8
Group Walk:
Hartford, CT
9:00 am (CVVC)*

❖ *Saturday, April 5
Day Event:
Holliston, MA
Soup Walk!*

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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Verna is 90!

by Joanne Izbicki

During the After-Holiday Party at Sudbury's Wayside Inn on Jan. 12, a little surprise celebration was held honoring Verna DeVine and her 90th birthday. Congratulations and cheers, Verna!

Happy Birthday



Joanne Izbicki

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Bulletin Board

Our next few club meetings—Monday, March 3 and Monday, April 6— will be led by our VP Keith Harlow, and decisions on locations for these meetings are pending. Each may be in person (Stop & Shop, 40 Franklin Village Drive, Franklin, MA 02038), via Zoom, or possibly hybrid offering both options. Please contact Keith (508-353-3336, krhguy13@yahoo.com) or see our March *Footnotes* for details.

Reminder: If you wish to help WnM by being our **Email Contact (Email POC)** person for sending out notices about upcoming walks, please advise Marianne at secretary@walknmass.org. And in the meantime, if you wish to be notified via email of upcoming walks, please send your email address to secretary@walknmass.org so a current list can be compiled for the new Email POC to utilize.

Next Club Meetings Monday, March 3 & Monday, April 6

6:30 pm

Locations/format
pending

Notice: for the **Providence, R.I.** walk which started January 1, the PSB start at the Roger Williams National Memorial Visitor Center is only open for winter season Wednesday-Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm.

Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club (CVVC) 2025 Group Walk Schedule

Group walks begin at 9am, please arrive 10-15 minutes early to register.

Saturday, March 8—Hartford, CT
Capitol Hotel, 440 Asylum St.

Saturday, April 12—Branford, CT
Willoughby Wallace Mem. Library,
146 Thimble Island Road

Saturday, May 3—East Greenwich, RI
Municipal Parking Lot,
Main St. opposite Melrose St.

Saturday, June 14—TBD

Saturday, Sept. 13—Wickford, RI
Town Dock Parking Lot, end of Main St.

Saturday, Oct. 18—Kent, CT [AT route]
AT Trailhead Kiosk, South Gate
88-90 River Road

Saturday, Nov. 8—Mystic, CT
Howard Johnson Inn,
253 Greenmanville Ave.

**Saturday, Dec. 13—
E.Thompson/Putnam, CT**
Airline St. Pk. Trail,
East Thompson Rd. at New Rd.

Newsletter Submissions to:
footnotes.editor@gmail.com
Deadline for next issue: Feb. 21st



Joel Weddig

At left: Joel & Susan Weddig visiting family in the Philippines and seeing the Chocolate Hills which turn brown in the dry season.

January 1 Group Walk Photos

Some rain fell, but that didn't stop our annual welcoming of the new year with a group walk of the Boston Back Bay YRE route. Ice sculptures from Boston's First Night were enjoyed as well as the duckling parade festooned with winter gear.



Bob Marshall



Beate Holt



Bob Marshall



Bob Marshall

Do you have a volksmarching travel story to share?

Send it to footnotes.editor@gmail.com for possible publication in a future edition of **Footnotes**.

December & January Meeting Highlights by Marianne Marshall

Meetings held Dec. 2, 2024 & Jan. 6, 2025

Walk Coordinator:

- Soup walk in Holliston on April 5. Contact Bea if you can help with food coordination.
- Need walks and award suggestions for 2025, WnM 40th anniversary year. If you have ideas, want help in putting a new walk together, or resurrect a walk done previously, contact Bea Hait.
- Club & Bristol patches purchased.
- WnM yearly/seasonal booklets mailed to members.
- Tri-State weekend May 16-18, 2025. Rooms can be booked at Microtel Inn & Suites, York, Maine (207-536-5382). Be sure to mention room is in conjunction with Volkssport.
- Overall participation in YRE/SE for 2024 down considerably from 2023.
- Carol Giesecke plans to have regular group walks of Boston YRE routes.

AVA News:

November Checkpoint

- Details of voting privileges, delegates, alternates, proxies, and responsibilities for the 2025 AVA 23rd Biennial Convention in Las Cruces, NM.
- New AVA Special Programs for 2025: Grain Elevators and Walking with the Wild Things.

December Checkpoint

- AVA Lifetime Membership sunsets March 31, 2025. All current Lifetime Members and anyone who signs up before March 31 will retain their Lifetime membership.
- First AVA fundraising cruise will include pre-cruise walks and activities celebrating veterans. Cruise from New Orleans to the Western Caribbean from Nov. 15-22, 2025.
- Appalachian Trail (AT) Special Program: AT trails in Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina damaged by Hurricane Helene should be open by this spring. New POC for this program is Susan Noonan (susan.noonan@gmail.com) and runs through December 31, 2029.
- Nominations for Board Officer positions to be voted on at Biennial Convention are: Chair, Carl Cordes; Vice Chair, Ed McCabe; Finance Chair, Chris Mellen; Secretary, Leslie Stone.

Upcoming Meetings:

Next club meetings are on March 3 and April 7. VP Keith Harlow to chair these meetings and will be held either by Zoom or at the Stop & Shop in Franklin.

AVA Fundraising Cruise: Price Drop News Flash

7-DAY WESTERN CARIBBEAN NOV 15-22, 2025

- New Orleans, Louisiana
- Cozumel, Mexico
- Harvest Caye, Belize
- Roatan (Bay Islands), Honduras
- Costa Maya, Mexico
- New Orleans, Louisiana



"Walk With America's Veterans"
An America's Walking Club Special Program

6 - IVV SANCTION WALKS
CANJUN SHRIMP BOIL
MEET & GREET

NEW PRICES & DEPOSIT DEADLINE

- Inside Cabin (IA) **\$763.50 pp***
- Balcony (BA) **\$1023.05 pp***
- Club Balcony (MB) **\$1077.05 pp***
- Deposit - **\$125 pp NLT March 13, 2025**
- *Prices based on Double-Occupancy
- Includes: Cabin Fare, Govt Taxes & Port Fees
- **Military Discount & Cruise First Promotion**

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AVA Northeast Region
May 16-18, 2025



Host Hotel: MICROTEL INN & SUITES BY WYNDHAM, 6 Market Place Drive, York, ME 03909; 207-363-0800. Hotel reservation deadline: March 15, 2025. Contact hotel by phone or email to microtelgroups@gmail.com to make your reservation. Mention the name "VOLKSSPORT" to access the block of rooms.

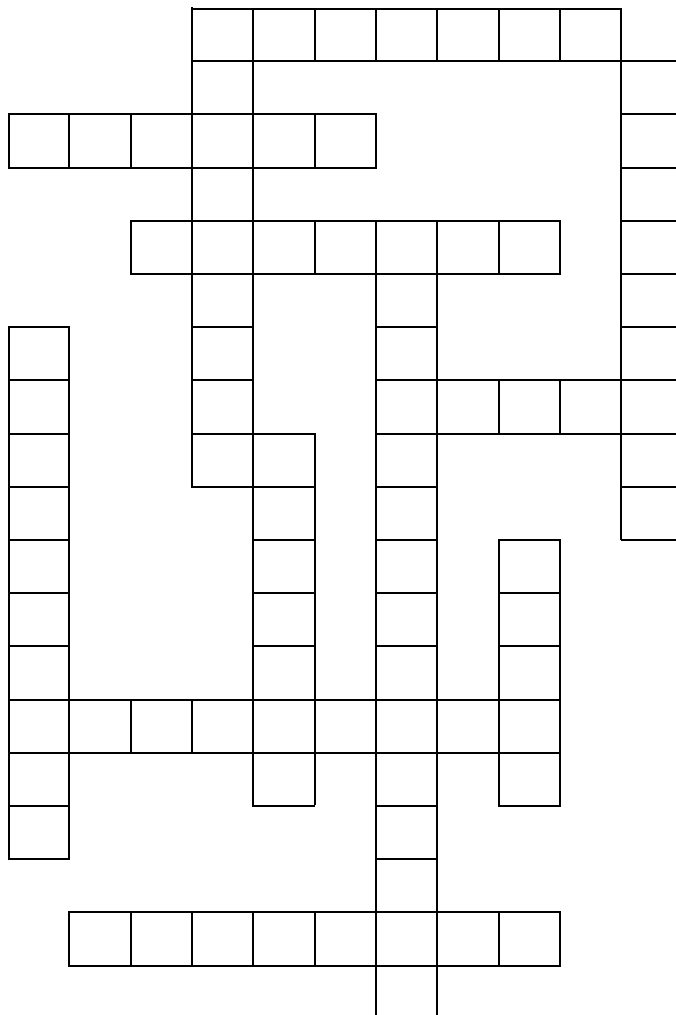
Tri-State Lighthouse Walking Event



- Gloucester, Massachusetts
- Portsmouth, New Hampshire
- Cape Elizabeth, Maine

More Info:

www.walkescv.org/25NEWeekend/home.html



Word Crossing Puzzle

by Monica Hait

In celebration of the club's 40th anniversary, this puzzle uses location names (A and O) of prior WnM events. Determine where each walk location should be placed so all can fit. Pay attention to intersecting letters when placing names. All horizontal start at left, all vertical start at top.

- Acton (5)
- Amesbury (8)
- Amherst (7)
- Annisquam (9)
- Arlington (9)
- Arnold Arboretum (15)
- Ashland (7)
- Assonet (7)
- Attleboro (9)
- Auburndale (10)
- Onset (5)
- Orange (6)

Walk Coordinator Speaks

by Beate Hait

Year-Round Events – In the first three months of the year, eight walk routes sponsored by WnM are available for your enjoyment: Boston (Freedom Trail and Back Bay), Hyannis, Lowell, Newton, Sandwich, Wellesley, and Providence. Check the club website or look for emails with info on group walks scheduled in these locations if you'd like to walk with other club members – or mark this date for a specific location on your calendar so you have a goal to do that walk on that day!

Both Boston walks use the Online Start Box (OSB) registration method. However, when a group walk/map-guided walk for either of the Boston walks is planned, participants may register in person at the designated gathering/start location and then either walk with the group or take the written directions and walk on your own. Why not “play tourist” on one of those days? Walk & stop along the route to explore things that pique your interest.

Walk and Soup Social in Holliston, Sat. April 5 – Looking forward to seeing many of you at our first traditional event in 2025. After walking, share camaraderie while eating soups, breads, snacks and desserts brought by fellow participants. In early March I'll be making calls to staff the Trail Marking and Trail Take-down crews and the Start, Finish, Checkpoint, and Specialties tables.

As you'll see in the event brochure included with this newsletter, I am the designated person to contact to make a list of what food items people will be bringing. The day of the event, I'll also need volunteers to help set up the tables, organize where food is being placed, and stir the soups in the crock pots!

Feel free to contact me to let me know how you'd like to help – would be one less call for me to make!

Traditional 2025 Events – As you know, traditional events are those held on a specific day with a 3-hour start window, staffing, and the trail routes marked with ribbons and arrows.

Please contact me if you have a suggestion for where we could schedule a walk this year. We especially need a location and date for the annual picnic walk in August—or make it a Potluck-and-Pie walk in the fall, as happened in prior years.



Group Pictures:

Left & middle: a hearty bunch braved wet weather for the Plymouth Thanksgiving Parade and group walk on Nov. 23, 2024.

Right: on Nov. 30, with better clear weather, turnout at the Concord group walk exceeded expectations!

