

[Vice-]President's Corner

by Keith Harlow

Hello all, this is VP Keith filling in for Mary. It's been an interesting winter so far. Looks like we are almost to Spring, so let's get ready for some walking! I have actually managed to get out 8 times so far! We have group walks in March: Wellesley on March 1 and Newton on March 15. We also have 2 scheduled for April: Fall River on April 12 and Concord scheduled for Saturday the 19th. This is usually scheduled on Patriots' Day Monday, but this is the 250th anniversary year of the start of the American Revolution, so they decided to have the parade on the actual date, April 19, instead of the Monday holiday.

There is a lot going on this year. May 16 to the 18, there will be a tri-state weekend that is being put on by the Twin State, Two Town, and Southern Maine clubs. Lighthouses are the focus for the weekend. Hotel spaces are running out fast so get moving if you are planning to attend. Also, the AVA convention, based in Las Cruces, NM, is coming up fast: April 26 – May 4.

Finally, don't forget our annual Soup Walk is April 5 in Holliston. Did I mention that 2025 is also our 40th anniversary? Looking forward to upcoming events. Well, that's it for me. Hope you all make it safely to Spring!

Walk Fill-in-the-Blank

by Monica Hait

In celebration of the club's 40th anniversary, this puzzle uses location names (F, S, and V) of prior WnM events. Fill in the missing vowels to complete the place names.

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| • F__RH_V_N | • FR_NKL_N | • S__TH Y_RM__TH |
| • F_LL R_V_R | • S_L_M | • SPR_NGF__LD |
| • F_LM__TH | • S__G_S | • ST_N_H_M |
| • F_TCHB_RG | • S_X_NV_LL_ | • ST_W |
| • F_R_STH_LLS | • SC_SS_T | • ST_RBR_DG_ |
| • F_RT_D_MS | • SH_R_N | • S_DB_RY |
| • F_XB_R_ | • SH_LB_RN_ | • V_N_Y_RD |
| • FR_M_NGH_M | F_LLS | H_V_N |

Come Friends, Let's Walk

- ❖ Saturday, March 1
Group Walk:
Wellesley, MA
10:00 am
- ❖ Saturday, March 8
Group Walk:
Hartford, CT
9:00 am (CVVC)
- ❖ Sat., March 15
Group Walk:
Newton, MA
10:00 am
- ❖ Saturday, April 5
Day Event:
Holliston, MA
Soup Walk!
- ❖ Saturday, April 12
Group Walk:
Fall River 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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Providence Group Walk: Picture Time!

There were some special sights during the Providence, RI group walk on February 1 courtesy of the Lumina Festival. Keith rode a bike that played music and lit up! A large musical art installation in front of Providence City Hall also impressed.



Keith Harlow



Ann Plichta



Ann Plichta

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Tri-State Lighthouse Walking Event

by Denise Macarones

Welcome to AVA Northeast Region's
Tri-State Lighthouse Walking Event

May 16 - 18, 2025

Co-sponsored by Two Town Walking Club,
Twin State Volkssport Association, and
Southern Maine Volkssport Association

Website:

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

Inquiries: infotristate25@aol.com

Registrations are now being accepted; all forms must be received by **April 15**. Each participant must sign their own waiver form. Fees are as follows:

Registration: \$10

Walks Fees: \$4 each (Gloucester, MA on 5/16; Portsmouth, NH on 5/17; Cape Elizabeth, ME on 5/18)

Meet and Greet: \$15 on Friday, May 16 at Host Hotel: Microtel Inn and Suites by Wyndham, York, ME

Group Dinner: \$45 on Saturday, May 17 at The Weathervane, Kittery, ME

Please make checks out to Two Town Walking Club and mail to: TRI-STATE WALKING EVENT, c/o Joseph Piffat , 56 LedgeWood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923

Note: the host hotel is full but you can call directly as there may be cancellations, Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham, York, ME at 207-363-0800.

Various other hotels are available in the area including:

- Towne Lyne Motel (Ogunquit, ME), 207-646-2955
- Anchorage Inn (York, ME), 207-363-5112
- Coachman Inn (Kittery, ME), 207-439-4434

Think Spring - Think Lighthouses (and so much more!) in northern New England!

Hope to see you there!



AVA Northeast Region
May 16-18, 2025



Tri-State Lighthouse Walking Event



• **Gloucester,
Massachusetts**

• **Portsmouth,
New Hampshire**

• **Cape Elizabeth,
Maine**

Bulletin Board

SAVE THE DATE:

June 7, 2025

We'll be having a day event in Weston, MA on Sat., June 7 this year. More details to come next month.

The Strider program was a walk referral participation program sponsored by AVA partner, Grouper. The walk fees for these participants were paid by Grouper and the AVA reimbursed clubs \$2.00 for these participants. This program has been discontinued effective January 2, 2025. Strider participants must now pay for all fees to include walks, awards, park fees, and special events fees.

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

6:30 pm

Stop & Shop
40 Franklin Village Drive
Franklin, MA 02038

Up the stairs past
Customer Service Desk

Congratulations to our **Northeast Regional Director, Carol Giesecke**, and **Deputy Director, Eileen Skinner**, on their recent reelections for a 2nd consecutive 2-year term. Thanks for your continued service, and our appreciation to the Northeast Region nominating committee for their work as well.

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**.

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

Last call for AVA Lifetime Membership; Sunsetting March 31, 2025

Many years ago, AVA Lifetime Membership was one of the best deals in town for members and the AVA. However, due to lack of interest, sustainability, and restructuring of our membership programs, the Lifetime Membership program will sunset March 31, 2025.

All Lifetime Members and those who sign up before March 31, 2025, will retain their current Lifetime Membership benefits in perpetuity. There is still time to sign up for a Lifetime Membership to take advantage of the convention discount. For more information, please contact Marian at marian@ava.org.



Richard Allen



Long-time Walk 'n Mass member



Richard Allen, 80, died on January 25, 2025. Rich was a consistent participant at day events and at group walks, proudly wearing a Walk 'n Mass cap and often stopping to take a closer look at something along the trail. In June 2019, he answered the call to help staff a checkpoint at the AVA pre-convention walk in Springfield, MA that had 426 participants.

Rich's wife Angela writes: "As you may know, he had Alzheimer's disease, which was diagnosed in 2015. Rich loved being a member of the Walk 'n Mass group. He enjoyed the walks in so many different cities and states, reading plaques, looking at interesting architecture, and learning about new places. He also liked the camaraderie of being with the members of the group. He convinced my brother, Tom, to go on volksmarches, and when Tom had trouble walking, I joined Rich on many of the walks. Although I was not the walker that Rich was, I especially liked meeting and talking with the members, and going to lunches with all of you, too. I want to thank you for all the work that you and the others do to keep Walk 'n Mass going, because it gave him such joy to be a member."

Sincere condolences to the Allen family.

Upper Left: Rich in Poland Spring, 2008.

Lower Left: Rich and Angela at checkpoint in Springfield, June 11, 2019.

Betty Green

We were stunned to learn of the death of Betty Green, 72, on February 5, 2025, following a brief illness. Betty served as AVA's Northeast Regional Director from 2015 to 2017. She and her husband, Mike, attended many of our events—even traveling back to New England after they moved from New York to Pennsylvania. We were pleased to have them join us in Provincetown, MA in May 2015, and in Shelburne Falls, MA on October 11, 2015. I was delighted to share their company again most recently at the Hud-to-Hou Northeast Weekend in Poughkeepsie, NY in September 2024.

Last year, Betty spearheaded the AVA Special Program A-MAZE-ing Labyrinths. Three of our YR/S events qualify for that program (Boston, Newton, and Wellesley). And, our Holliston route on April 5 also features a labyrinth. We will think of Betty especially as we walk those events.

We extend sincere condolences to Mike and his entire family.



Top Right: Betty presenting AVA milestone award for the WnM 30th club anniversary to Margo in Shelburne Falls, MA on Oct. 11, 2015.



Middle & Lower Right: Betty at a group walk in Hyannis, May 2015.



*Walk photos courtesy of Beate Hait
Portrait of Rich courtesy of Angela Allen*

Walk Coordinator Speaks

Walk and Soup Social in Holliston, Sat., April 5

– 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 Holliston to walk and to join in the soup social afterwards. If you'll be bringing a soup, appetizer, bread or dessert to share, please let me know. Our start point is a **nut-free facility**, so no nut ingredients, please. The quilt made by Myrtle Walker that showcases some of the award patches from her volkswalk adventures around the world will be on display.

The Rail Trail Loop of this walk goes past Rita's Labyrinth (www.ritaslabyrinth.com), which qualifies it for the AVA Special Program: A-MAZE-ing Labyrinths. That special program was started by Betty Green. Please join me in thinking of Betty as you pass by/walk this labyrinth.

Northeast Region Weekend – Fri–Sun., May 16-18 – Lighthouse Weekend

– See page 3 for details and get a registration packet from their website

(www.walkescv.org/25NEWeekend/home.html). Registration is due April 15, 2025.

Lowell YRE Start Point temporarily relocated

– The Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center is closed for renovation until June 2025. The Walk Box is now at the Boott Cotton Mills Museum, 115 John Street, Lowell. Since that location is on the current "Rivers & Canals" loop, the walk directions will not change. Those doing 5K should walk the Rivers & Canals Loop. Those doing 10K should start with Rivers & Canals, transition to Pawtucket Falls Loop when arriving at the original start point at 246 Market St., and then pick up Rivers & Canals again to return to Boott Mills.

There is a city garage at 75 John Street, or park for free at the HCID parking garage at 350 Dutton Street and walk 1/2 mile to Boott Mills for parking validation during museum

by Beate Hait

open hours. For complete driving directions, see updated brochure at walknmass.org

Year-Round Events (YREs) and Seasonal Events (SEs)

– Have you ever wondered about costs for a club to host a YR or S event? The basic sanction fee is \$20. It is an additional \$5 for each quarter of the year that the event is active. For example, our Oak Bluffs SE is active in only two quarters, so we pay an additional \$10 toward that sanction fee. This formula makes the total sanction fee for YREs \$40. And there are costs for the brochure, route directions, and supplies for the Walk Box, etc. – it all adds up. We need participants to offset the costs of these events!

It is troubling that the total walk participation at our YR and S events is on a downward trend. In 2023 total participants numbered 803; in 2024 it was 519. Quite the difference from a high of 1,252 in 2019.

As you are aware, since Jan. 1, 2024, there is a participation fee of \$4 per person. Of this amount, \$2 is remitted to AVA with \$2 remaining with the club. One benefit of club membership—with the goal of encouraging our members to walk our YRE and SEs—is a \$1 discount at WnM YREs and SEs. The Registration Logs in the PSB include this category. When group walks are scheduled for our YREs and SEs that use OSB (i.e., Boston Freedom Trail and Back Bay, Cheshire, Oak Bluffs, and Provincetown), you should register in person to apply the \$1 discount.

Let's all make an effort to turn around that downward participation trend. There are eight WnM YREs available now: Boston Back Bay, Boston Freedom Trail, Hyannis, Lowell, Newton, Sandwich, Wellesley, and Providence. On April 1, ten SEs join the lineup: Cheshire, Concord, Fall River, Oak Bluffs, Plymouth, Provincetown, Quincy, Roslindale, Bristol, and Newport. Refer to the brochure booklet that was mailed to all club members in December or check the club website for details.