

President's Corner

by Mary Frink



Mary Frink

Wow! That's all I can say. Wow! And thank you! 25 people came to help make streamers (the list of volunteers is on page 5)! It only took 1.5 hours to make 850 streamers. 400 orange, 250 pink, and 200 green. Two groups cut the streamer tape, one group cut the electrical tape, and two groups assembled. There were also some runners to count and put the streamers on hangers. Yard sticks and scissors were everywhere! It's so wonderful that people in the club are so willing to give up their time and talent to help out. The pizza party afterwards helped, I'm sure! Many thanks again to everyone who made what could have been a difficult task into a fun day.

Which brings me to the next subject, which is volunteers for the Springfield walk on June 11. The sign-up sheet is going to be at the soup walk in Holliston on March 30. We're going to need lots of help! The start and finish tables are much larger than we normally have and we're going to need extra people to help with things like directing people to parking areas.

If you aren't going to be at the soup walk, but would like to volunteer for Springfield, please contact Bea Hait at beateh1@aol.com or myself at mfwalks2010@verizon.net. We are still working on a date for the workers' walk and will let everyone know.

Now that the business is out of the way... Happy Spring! Of course, as I write this, the forecast is for rain and sleet followed by wind and cold, but that's spring in New England. The few actually spring-like days we've had so far have really whetted my appetite to get out of my house and go walk and explore somewhere. I've been reading in my local paper that there are some new paths off the bike trail by the Mystic River that have opened up and I can't wait to go see! There aren't any flowers or green grass yet, but I know they are out there ready to pop. The birds are back in the bushes outside my window, as gossipy sounding as ever. Are you ready to walk outside again? Hopefully I'll see you in Holliston!



Come Friends, Let's Walk

- ❖ Saturday, March 30 Day Event: Holliston, MA (Walk & Soup Social)
- ❖ Saturday, April 6 Group Walk: Lexington, MA 10:00 am
- ❖ Saturday, April 13 Group Walk: Kent, CT 9:00 am (CVVC)
- ❖ Saturday, April 13 Group Walk: Dryden, NY 10:00 am (FLVC)
- ❖ Monday, April 15 Group Walk: Concord, MA 8:00 am (Patriot's Day Parade)
- ❖ Saturday, April 27 Group Walk: Fall River, MA 10:00 am
- ❖ Saturday, May 4 Group Walk: Madison, CT 9:00 am (CVVC)

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.

Issue Highlights:

AVA Achievements – 2
New Danvers Route – 3
Bulletin Board – 4

AVA: Associates in Action – 5
Streamers! – 5
Bonewitz: Sharing the Load – 6

March Meeting Highlights – 7
Walk Coordinator Speaks – 8
Lowell Pictures – 8

AVA Achievement Awards (compiled from *The American Wanderer*)

Based on the IVV Event and Distance Award information in the March 2019 issue of TAW, **congratulations** are due to the following people:

Name	Events	Distance
Mary Saratora	450	
Nell Graham	475	
Andrew Schmidt	575	
Monica Hait	600	
Sheila McClellan	650	
Betty Green	900	
Michael Green	900	
Thomas Mongeon	1,150	
John McClellan		10,000 KM

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

President

Mary Frink, Everett
617-387-1577
mfwalks2010@verizon.net

Vice President

Keith Harlow, Blackstone
508-353-3336
krhguy13@yahoo.com

Secretary

Marianne Marshall, Waltham
781-899-5975
mrbwalker@verizon.net

Treasurer

Karen Plichta, Fall River
508-673-2374
karenp53@verizon.net

Activities Chairperson

Chris Lipson, Bedford
781-275-0464
c2lipson@msn.com

Email Contact

Paul Graveline, Andover
978-470-1971
k1yub@comcast.net

Membership Chairperson

Diane Peterson, Lowell
978-987-3064
di1258@gmail.com

Walk Coordinator

Beate Hait, Holliston
508-429-3564
beateh1@aol.com

Group Walk Coordinator OPEN-volunteer(s) needed

Equipment Managers

Keith & Dawn Harlow, Blackstone
krhguy13@yahoo.com

Trail Master

Ann Plichta, Fall River
508-673-6553
amplic@comcast.net

Assistant Trail Master

Karen Kolaczyk, Marlborough
508-481-7389
kkolaczyk@comcast.net

Print Newsletter Circulation

Ernie & Agnes Laviolette, Hudson
978-562-7023
ealavio@verizon.net

E-Newsletter Distribution

Margo Craven, Attleboro
magoo249@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor

Monica Hait, Holliston
footnotes.editor@gmail.com

Publicity Chairperson

Karen Kolaczyk, Marlborough
508-481-7389
kkolaczyk@comcast.net

Specialties Chairperson

Beate Hait, Holliston
508-429-3564
beateh1@aol.com

Sunshine Coordinator

Chris Lipson, Bedford
781-275-0464
c2lipson@msn.com

Historian

Dawn Harlow, Blackstone
dawnvt@yahoo.com

TAW Coordinator

Verna DeVine, Attleboro
508-399-8512
vernadvn@yahoo.com

Volunteer Awards

Marianne Marshall, Waltham
781-899-5975
mrbwalker@verizon.net

Facebook POC

Jack Suchodolski, Cumberland
suchodolskijack@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Bill Howe, Chelmsford
978-256-7370
bill.howe@bvhowe.com

Two Town Notes: New Danvers YRE Trail by Kathryn Piffat

The Danvers YRE 10km has a NEW TRAIL! During the Alternative Trail movement about ten or so years ago, I had created an “alternate” 10km trail for the Danvers YRE. The Danversport alternate trail has the same starting point (Peabody Institute Library), but almost no other overlap with the Historic Danvers 10km trail, and it is not identical to the old Danversport trail of the early 2000s. Almost immediately after it was finalized, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts decided to reengineer the two Route 128 interchanges on the alternate trail, closing all the sidewalks for a few years. As soon as they finished, I was just preparing to unveil the Danvers 20km-10km-6km walk when, naturally, one of the bridges on the walk had to be replaced. When that project was completed another bridge had to be replaced, so the poor “alternate” trail has languished.



Last autumn, however, the town finally decided to install a much-needed traffic light that has been promised since the mid-1970s (before we ever moved here...). This time it is the Historic Danvers 10km trail that was involved, so we dusted off the Danversport 10km trail. (This work is largely completed and should not affect the Pre-Convention Danvers walk.)

The new Danversport 10km trail does not include the historic sites of Danvers, but the 6km trail remains the same for those who are interested in history. Due to the upcoming Historic Danvers Pre-Convention Walk, the

Danversport 10km trail will be the Danvers YRE 10km route through the end of 2019 to avoid overlap.

In the 1700s, wharves built in Danversport were used for fishing and to ship goods and produce from the region to Salem Town and beyond, while the rivers powered mills and other industries. Danversport became semi-autonomous in 1772 and acted independently for 70 years until the coming of the railroads decreased the need for shipping. The area had been undergoing a revival, but was devastated in the Danversport Explosion, which occurred when a paint factory exploded just prior to Thanksgiving Day 2006. Residents united and have since rebuilt. The trail crosses the Porter and Crane Rivers with views of boats and waterfowl.



Left & right: Views from the new Danversport trail

Photos by Kathryn Piffat

Editor: Consider exploring this route and the other Two Town Walking Club YRE/SE on the North Shore this year!

Beverly
Danvers
Gloucester
Ipswich
Salem

Bulletin Board

Patriot's Day Parade

Concord, MA Group Walk

Monday, April 15, 2019
at 8:00 am

Please carpool if possible as parking is extremely limited around Concord on this day. Park away from the Rite Aid and businesses, NOT directly in front. Arrive on time! Group departs no later than 8:15 to arrive at North Bridge Visitor Center for bathrooms before North Bridge is closed to people.

Carnival in Venice: November 1-3

Plan to join Walk Around Florida's Carnival walk events and socials in Venice, FL this November. Host hotel is Ramada's Hotel Venezia, call 941-308-7700 with code WALK AROUND FLORIDA for discount. Details on walks and social events to come, see: suncoastsandpipers.org

Next Club Meetings Monday, April 1 & Monday, May 6

6:30 pm

St. Michael's Parish Center
90 Concord Road (Rt. 62)
Bedford, MA

Please enter parking lot
from Liljegren Way

Do you have a memorable volksmarching story to share?

Email footnotes.editor@gmail.com
for publication consideration in a
future edition of **Footnotes**.

Autumn in Pennsylvania

The York White Rose Wanderers will celebrate their **35th Anniversary** with a weekend of walking on October 5 & 6. Start/Finish at **Naylor Wine Cellars** in Stewartstown, PA.

<https://sites.google.com/site/yorkwhiterosewanderers/>

Haunted Gettysburg Weekend—

November 8-10

4 walks and 1 swim, fabulous
Saturday dinner option

Hotel Reservations can be made at the Days Inn Gettysburg for rate of \$45.00 plus tax. Reservations must be made by Oct. 8, 2019. Call 717-334-0030 and request the York White Rose Wanderers rate.

<https://sites.google.com/site/yorkwhiterosewanderers/home/gettysburg-weekend>

Newsletter Submissions to:

footnotes.editor@gmail.com

Deadline for next issue: April 21st

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Thank you to those that have already provided me your 2019 membership renewal. I just want to remind you that the mailing address to return the form to Diane Peterson was updated on the bottom of the form. I will also be available for you to drop off forms with payment at the Holliston Soup Walk on March 30th.

—Diane Peterson, Membership Chairperson



AVA: Associates in Action

by Holly Pelking

Your Membership Committee has identified three areas of focus for your added value: **Access** to benefits; **Voice** in issues; and **Communication**.

During the convention in Albany, clubs will have an opportunity to vote on this new motion:

*"Each club that has a multiple of 10 active Associate/Lifetime Members [of AVA] will earn **one additional** vote on national issues for each 10 associates."*

For example: your club has membership of 50 people. Of those 50, 35 are Associate/Lifetime members [of AVA], your club will have three extra votes for the 35 associate members in addition to the single vote they already hold as a club.

Currently, because of our non-profit status 501 (3) (c), no individual associate member has a vote on certain national motions including the election of board members. However now your membership will be noted and your voice will influence that of your club in its vote.

If you are a member of more than one club, you will need to declare which club is your primary club. That will be the club that can count you as

their associate member for this benefit. Clubs will soon be able to submit online to AVA national office the names and associate membership numbers to qualify for the additional vote(s).

About Lifetime Memberships

As a result of this new motion, we are holding a membership drive effective now through the Albany Convention. After the convention, we may not be able to offer the Lifetime Association Memberships so, if you have thought of the savings you will have by going lifetime (and not having to worry that your membership has been paid), this is the time to go for it! See the application on [ava.org], and the price structures according to age range. You may send it in now or bring it to the AVA convention in June.

[Editor: This article appeared in the March 2019 issue of *The American Wanderer* and is reprinted here with permission.]



Streamers, Streamers, & Streamers!

Thanks to everyone who came on March 9 to assemble streamers for use at all the 2019 AVA Convention pre-, during, and post-convention walks.

Miriam Boucher
Margo Craven
Verna DeVine
Betty Ekstrom
Nancy Estrella
Mary Frink
Beate Hait
Monica Hait
Sandra Hall
Ann Harrer
Joanne Izbicki
Karen Kolaczyk
Bev Lange
Joe LaPointe

Agnes Laviolette
Ernie Laviolette
Marianne Marshall
Ruth Medeiros
Jean Morrissey
Diane Peterson
Ann Plichta
Karen Plichta
Deb Redfield
David Robertson
Sue Robertson

Photos by Monica Hait



Sharing the Load

by David Bonewitz, AVA President

In the last issue of TAW [December 2018/January 2019], I made some observations about free walkers. I was told to expect lots of fire and brimstone responses. To my surprise I only received one response, but it was an important one. Heinz Johnson, former AVA President, advised that the "Free walker category was intended to entice walkers to buy record books after taking part in a few events. It was never intended to be open ended for anyone." Heinz's full response is in the February *Checkpoint* [Ed: available at ava.org].

The Free Walker Study Committee spent the last year and a half diving into this topic; trying to find an equitable solution. The committee made a recommendation at the January board meeting that the issue be put to a vote by the membership at convention to retain or eliminate free walkers, rather than have the board make the decision on behalf of the clubs.

As I stated in my previous article on this subject, this is clearly a hot-button topic. While the issue is about money, it is also about the perception of fairness. When a club conducts a sanctioned event, AVA insurance provides coverage. This insurance is a direct expense of event participation and one of the most expensive aspects of our business. The participation fees play a major role in paying for that insurance, which means that free walkers benefit from the insurance coverage without paying their fair share. Admittedly we have confused things when we associate the participation fee with credit or stamping books. The participation fee fundamentally does not go to the cost of the IVV Achievement program, which is primarily funded by the purchase of books. All participants benefit from AVA insurance, but all participants aren't helping to pay for that insurance.

Without a doubt, allowing free walkers can be a good recruiting tool, and there are times when an event is held at a location where a club can't charge a fee. So, having the option to have free walkers is a good thing. However, we hear the stories of the free walkers making a donation to the club in a tip jar, a portion of which may or may not make its way to the AVA national office. This means that those walkers were benefitting

from the services provided by the AVA national office while not sharing in covering the cost. Even if it weren't about the money, from a standpoint of fairness we need everyone who benefits from the events to share in the cost of conducting them.

I spend about the same amount for a coffee at Dunkin (and way more if I go to Starbucks) as I do to participate in an AVA event with a local club. Then there are friends who are into race events and spend \$25-\$100 and more for one of those events. Now, I'm not trying to compare events, but trying to put the amount of money into perspective. I have a hard time picturing that paying one's fair share for an event will break the bank for anyone.

An informal vote of the board at the January meeting showed that a motion to eliminate free walkers would pass, and there was a consensus that a vote by the membership at convention would probably pass as well. However, after further discussion, the board voted to defer this vote and spend some time seeing if we could reduce the extent of free walkers, while not mandating an elimination of this feature.

We appreciate everyone's participation in AVA events and acknowledge the generous donations that some are making now in-lieu-of no free walkers. However, we need at a minimum to bring the free walker class back to what it was likely intended. Free walkers make sense at times for occasional use, for marketing/publicity purposes, for special events (e.g., all veterans walk free on Veteran's Day) and where the venue requires a free option. The problem appears to be an overuse of the free walker option to the point that data indicates a loss of revenue to AVA of more than \$20,000 a year.

So, what do you think about this subject? I'd like to hear from you. Please send your thoughts to me at president@ava.org

[Editor: This article by AVA President David Bonewitz appeared in the March 2019 issue of *The American Wanderer* and is reprinted here with permission.]

March Meeting Highlights

by Marianne Marshall

Meeting held Monday, March 4, 2019

- Thank you from AVA for being 2nd club to contribute to Big Give
- Group Walk Schedule to date:
 - Saturday, April 6, Lexington, 10:00 am
 - Saturday, April 27, Fall River, 10:00 am
 - Sunday, Oct. 13, Cheshire, 10:00 am
 - Friday, Nov. 29, #OptOutside groups
- **Ice Cream Parlor: 220 books** sold; **85 people** have completed the program. Books may be purchased through 12/31/19; books must be completed by 12/31/20.
- **Membership:** 115 singles plus 27 couples plus 8 organizations
- Monica Hait has selected potential items to submit to AVA's Publicity Contest

Walk Coordinator:

- 2019 Traditional Events scheduled thus far:
 - Holliston on March 30 (Soup Walk)
 - Springfield on June 11 (pre-convention walk)
 - Blackstone in June/July
 - Woodville in July/August (Club Picnic)
 - Lowell on September 14
 - Franklin on Dec. 7 (Cookie Walk)

- Participation at year-round/seasonal walks is way down—need to think about another incentive program to encourage members

AVA Topics:

- February 2019 *Checkpoint*:
 - Continuation of free-walker category is a hot topic in AVA
- Report from Northeast Regional Director of Board Meeting in January included incorrect statement: "Every club in the Northeast agreed to no free walkers ...". WnM had opposed this and provided reasoning to NERD

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

- WnM plans to provide items to Silent Auction in MA/New England themed bag—suggestions?
- Mary Frink will be WnM's delegate; Bea Hait will serve as alternate
- Only streamers and signage will be provided through convention channels; WnM will have to provide all other items for Springfield including tent, extra chairs, tables, etc.
- Volunteers needed to support all 3 pre-convention walks
- WnM to prepare a Springfield brochure

Boston Group Walk, March 10

by Monica Hait

The forecasted winter weather conditions caused us to cancel our planned group walk. Despite our best efforts to get the word out, at least one person did decide to go and walk Boston's Freedom Trail on Sunday, March 10. Congrats, Carol, you've proved your hardiness and shown up more seasoned New Englanders by continuing to get out and walk. Hope you had some fun!

Photo by Carol Giesecke



Walk Coordinator Speaks

by Beate Hait

Traditional Day Events – The schedule for 2019 currently looks like this:

Sat., **March 30** – Holliston, MA – Walk and Soup Social

Tues., **June 11** – Springfield, MA – Forest Hill Park – AVA Convention

Late July – Woodville, MA – Walk & Club Picnic

July? Aug.? – Blackstone, MA

Sat., **Sept. 14** – Lowell, MA

Oct.? Nov.? – Medford, MA

Sat., **Dec. 7** – Franklin, MA – Cookie Walk

AVA Biennial Convention – Enclosed with this newsletter is a flyer showcasing the three pre-convention walks “in our neck of the woods” before the walks in the Albany area begin on Wednesday, June 12 and the post-convention walks in Cooperstown (June 15) and Buffalo (June 16), NY. Details on those events are available in the 10-page booklet available for download from the 2019 Convention page on www.ava.org. (I’ll also have a few copies printed and available at our March 30 event in Holliston.) Day-of registration may be done as usual at all of these traditional day events. Fee is \$3 per participant (no “free” category). Award patches, if desired, are an additional \$6.00.

Our event in **Springfield on Tuesday, June 11**: Please note that there is a new access gate for Forest Park. The main gate on Sumner Ave. is under construction, so we will be **using the gate on Trafton Road**. This update is noted on the enclosed flyer, and there is a map included in our brochure available on the WnM website. I expect AVA convention materials to be updated shortly.

WnM Seasonal Events – April 1 is the start date for 11 seasonal walks and 2 seasonal bikes; April 20 is the start date in Quincy (that start point doesn’t open until then). New this year are award patches for four Seasonal walks and one YRE. We hope you’ll be anxious to add these patches that were designed by Johanna Henning (Shelburne Falls), Liz Ahluwalia (Quincy and Boston YRE), and Monica Hait (Plymouth and Bristol) to your volkswalk award collection.

Group Walks – See page 1 of this newsletter for dates of group walks in April. Scheduling for May and beyond will be forthcoming. POCs of SEs and YREs – this is a reminder to contact Bea with your preferred dates!

Pictures: Slipping & Sliding in Lowell

Lowell on February 23 had clear walk surfaces in sun-exposed areas while protected spots were occasionally more treacherous. All 6 adults & 1 child in the group made it back to cars safely.



Beate Hait