

President's Corner

by Mary Frink

Happy New Year and Happy (belated) Holidays! I hope you are well and were able to enjoy whichever holiday(s) you celebrate. As with everything else in 2020, Christmas was different for me and my family, but we still managed to celebrate and have some fun.

On to 2021! It does seem to be starting out the way 2020 ended, but I am trying to look ahead to the positives. There is a vaccine and it is starting to be distributed! It gives me hope that we will be able to get together soon and not have to worry so much. I miss our After-Holiday Party and I miss being able to see you all in person the way we used to. We do have a lot of group walks scheduled. Many thanks to Pat Damiani, Group Walk Coordinator, and all of the POCs for giving us so many options! We're doing things a little differently. There is window for people to sign in and you can walk with a group if you are comfortable with that or you can walk on your own. Masks and social distancing are still required, so it's a good chance to see people you don't usually see and still be safe. We are working on some day event walks for 2021. Stay tuned!

2021 is also an AVA convention year! I have written about my convention adventures before and I hope to be

able to do so again this year. If you are thinking about going and have any questions, please let me know. It is a lot of fun and you meet all kinds of people. The 2021 convention is going to be in Madison, Wisconsin, at the end of June/early July. There are 3 days of pre-convention walks, 3 days of the convention, and then 1 post-convention walk. It's been 10 years since I was last in Madison and I didn't even remember I'd been there! Diane Bucher reminded me. It was part of a Walking Adventures trip we took in 2011 combined with that year's convention in Des Moines, Iowa. We did a whirlwind tour of the northcentral states along with the convention and ended up in Madison. I hope to be able to do some more touristy things this year as well as the convention.

Just a reminder that if you finish your Ice Cream Parlor special program book, you can still send it to me for your patch. Technically, the program is over, but we are doing our own extension because the COVID restrictions significantly reduced walking time for many people. Besides, we are New Englanders! We eat ice cream all the time, even in the dead of winter. I'll have more information next month on how many people participated, how many finished, and other program details.

Come Friends, Let's Walk

- ❖ *Saturday, Jan. 30
Group Walk:
Sandwich, MA
Sign-in open:
10 am-Noon
Group walks at
10:30 am*
- ❖ *Sunday, Feb. 14
Group Walk:
Hyannis, MA
Sign-in open:
10 am-Noon
Group walks at
10:30 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. Winter walks are subject to weather; please watch for email blasts, check website, or contact POC if unsure.



Issue Highlights:

AVA Achievement Awards – 2

Dec. & Jan. Meeting Highlights – 3

Renewal Time! – 3

Bulletin Board – 4

Cryptogram Puzzle – 5

101st Birthday in Providence – 5

Walk Coordinator Speaks – 6

New Year's Day Pictures – 6

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

Based on the IVV Event and Distance Award information in the December 2020 issue of TAW, **congratulations** are due to the following people:

Name	Events	Distance
Diane Bucher	650, 700, and 750	6,500, 7,000, & 7,500 KM
Joanne Izbicki	850	10,000 KM
Bev Lange	100	1,000 KM
Alida Lupsiewicz	75	
Philip Lupsiewicz	75	

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



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December & January Meeting Highlights

by Marianne Marshall

Meetings held December 7, 2020 & January 4, 2021 via Zoom

Group Walks:

Extended sign-in available 10:00 am-12 noon;
group departs at 10:30 am

- Sat., Feb. 14, Hyannis
- Sat., Apr. 3, Bedford Bike Walk
- Sat., Apr. 24, Lexington Battle Road
- Sun., May 8, Bristol, RI
- Sat., Apr. 17; Mon., Apr. 19; Fri., June 18, Concord, MA (multiple dates confirmed after Jan. mtg)
- **Quincy:** anyone who walked Quincy in 2020 and did not get stamped, please contact Helen Tolbert so she can stamp insert cards.
- Please inform Pat Damiani if 4 or more people meet up for any of our YRE/SEs.

Ice Cream Parlor: 139 books completed

Specialties: Starting Point books received from AVA and mailed to those who pre-ordered.

Sunshine: Sympathy cards: Betty Foley on the loss of her brother, Frank; Verna DeVine on the loss of her sister, Alice; Dorothy Bagley on the loss of her husband, David. Get well card to Verna DeVine. Thinking-of-you card to Diane Bucher for ailing father.

Walk Coordinator:

- Devens—44 participants.
- Thanks to donations, the three 2020 traditional events (Holliston, Tiverton, and Devens) ended in the black.
- WnM year-round/seasonal event booklets mailed out.

Right: what a WnM Zoom meeting looks like (screenshot from December meeting, featuring some holiday attire)

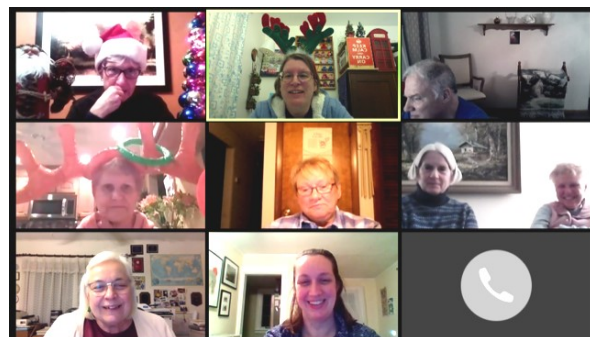
- Boston Back Bay, Boston Freedom Trail, Providence, Provincetown, and Cheshire offer online registration through AVA Online Start Box only.
- Pawtucket walk planned for June 12, 2021.
- Potential walk in Devens on Sat., May 15.
- Interest in resurrecting Boston Special Places route as a day event. Carol Giesecke to be POC.

AVA News:

- AVA has a full slate of candidates for National Officers.
- New address for AVA: 1008 S. Alamo Street, San Antonio, TX 78210.
- Updated draft of AVA Bylaws with changes/corrections expected and will be reviewed at WnM's February meeting; club votes on Bylaws must be received by AVA by March 12.

New Business:

- **Monday, February 1** club meeting via Zoom, **at 6:30 pm**. Please contact Mary Frink if you wish to receive meeting link and attend.
- Chris Mellen, terming out as NERD, expected to form a nominating committee for this position. Election occurs prior to AVA Convention.



Mary Frink

Membership Renewal Time!

by Diane Peterson

The new club membership year is close upon us. Remember that club dues are \$15 per year. Walk 'n Mass offers the opportunity to explore the outdoors & meet with people, and hopefully soon we will be able to gather for events such as our soup walk and picnics. A renewal form is included with this newsletter for your convenience.



Bulletin Board

AVA Officer Candidates for Election at 2021 Convention

President: Nancy Wittenberg, Puyallup, Washington (currently serving as VP)

Vice-President: Susan Medlin, San Antonio, Texas (currently serving as DRD of SW)

Secretary: Cecilia Miner, Woodbridge, Virginia (incumbent)

Treasurer: Ed McCabe, Dripping Springs, Texas

Be Aware: Exit Renumbering

As MA & RI are starting to renumber exits along many highways per federal mandate, you may find things look different than how directions are described in our 2021 YRE/SE booklet. Watch signs closely as old exit numbers will also be noted on signage, and please have patience as you navigate highways during this ongoing project.

Next Club Meetings Monday, February 1 Monday, March 1

6:30 pm

Virtual Meetings via Zoom

Contact Mary at
mfwalks2010@verizon.net

to RSVP and receive
meeting details

Virtual Online Program 2021:

New theme every quarter!!!

http://cb.ava.org/2021_VOP.php

Qtr 1: Kindness Around the Globe

Qtr 2: National Parks of America

Qtr 3: Global Cuisine

Qtr 4: Get Fit on Route 66

Some 2020 AVA HQ Accomplishments

- Answered an estimated 25,000 phone calls, emails and in-person visits by clubs and Associates
- Processed over 5,000 IVV Achievement Program books!
- Renewed/enrolled over 3,000 AVA Associate members
- Secured \$63,360 in stimulus funds to stabilize AVA operations during pandemic
- Produced & delivered 2,721 event stamps
- Assisted 68 clubs changing their fiscal year with IRS or filing their 990 EZ
 - Raised \$104,000 through our annual fundraising drive, SA Big Give
 - Responded to the pandemic with safety guidelines and new virtual programs
 - Formalized a new national partnership with Element3 Health, with the potential to generate thousands of new participants in 2021 and beyond
 - Started relocating our offices to a highly-visible walking community that better reflects our image

These things and many more are value-added, the strength of having a National Organization at our backs every day!

John McClellan, SERD (and former WnM President) via Facebook

Newsletter Submissions to:

footnotes.editor@gmail.com

Deadline for next issue: February 21st

New address for AVA HQ:

1008 S. Alamo Street
San Antonio, TX 78210

Do you have a favorite volksmarching story to share? Did something especially memorable happen on a walk?

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

Cryptogram Puzzle

by Joanne Izbicki

Can you crack this cipher to reveal a quote from a Danish philosopher?

To solve, replace each letter with a different letter. Hints: A = R and F = W

J K X E N J U U, M X W X C U X B N H X D A M N B R A N
C X F J U T. N E N A H M J H R F J U T V H B N U O R W C X
J B C J C N X O F N U U - K N R W P J W M F J U T J F J H
O A X V N E N A H R U U W N B B. R Q J E N F J U T N M
V H B N U O R W C X V H K N B C C Q X D P Q C B, J W M R
T W X F X O W X C Q X D P Q C B X K D A M N W B X V N
C Q J C X W N L J W W X C F J U T J F J H O A X V R C.

-- B X A N W T R N A T N P J J A M

Providence Friends Birthday

by Karen Plichta

An article in the November 24, 2020 edition of the *Providence Journal* caught my attention as it celebrated Manuel Pedroso, owner of Friends Market which is a checkpoint on our Providence YRE.

I had no idea Mr. Pedroso turned 101 years old! I wonder if that might be a first for us as well as AVA to have a checkpoint staffed by a centenarian.

I've always enjoyed going into his store. It was a real treasure hunt, but he knew exactly what he had and where it was located.

Two pleasant memories I have of him: first, I learned he really enjoys eating at a Portuguese restaurant in Fall River called Beira Alta. Surprisingly it's just a 10 minute walk up the street from me, but I'd never eaten there when he mentioned it. So two years ago

when my aunt was visiting from Florida, she and I plus two friends went to eat there.

My other story is that he sold the Blessed Mother statue of Our Lady of Fatima. Fatima is in Portugal so she's a very Portuguese Blessed Mother with a crown on her head. But if you picked up a statue to buy, she wasn't wearing her crown. He'd go in back and get one for her instead. Don't know why he did that but he did.

Does anyone else have memories of visiting the Friends Market store and Mr. Pedroso?

You can read about his birthday parade at:

<https://www.providencejournal.com/story/news/local/2020/11/23/101-years-old-portuguese-store-owner-feted-parade/6343423002/>

Walk Coordinator Speaks

by Beate Hait

Devens, MA—Walkers who came to the event in November 2020 and many club members who couldn't make it last fall, asked us to visit Devens again. So, on May 15 (Armed Forces Day) we're returning to Devens, MA. The walk starts at Fort Devens Museum, 94 Jackson Road. Please plan some extra time to explore the museum, which houses items from World War I through Vietnam. The 5K and 11K routes are totally separate, so if you want to walk a longer distance, here's your opportunity. If you'd like to help staff this event, please contact me. We will continue to comply with pandemic safety protocols; face coverings are required.

Boston-Special Places—Carol Giesecke and Marianne Marshall are resurrecting the route last offered in 2013. The route explores some of Boston's lesser known gems that are not seen on either the Boston Freedom Trail or Back Bay Year Round Events. We'll do it as a map-guided day event with a 2-hour start window and a designated time for those who want to walk in a group. Stay tuned for the date and details.

Group Walks—The club is now trying an extended start window for certain group walks (as first done in Provincetown last fall). You can come, sign in, get books stamped, and go walk at your own pace if you don't want to walk as a group. You can put this date on your calendar and make it a point to walk on that day. The choice to walk in a group or not is totally up to you.

We need to have more club members walk our YRE/SEs. Ask yourself, When was the last time I walked in ____? This blank can be filled in by **21 locations** – where our club hosts routes that can be walked on your own.

Many of our YRE/SE events won't be available until April, but **seven of them are open now** (Boston Back Bay, Boston Freedom Trail, Hyannis, Lowell, Newton, Providence, and Sandwich).

Won't you make it a priority to come out and walk these events—especially on scheduled "group" walk days when a club member will be present to greet you?—for your own health and the financial health of our club.

New Year's Day Pictures:



Bob Marshall

Our annual group walk in Boston looked a little different this year, but the weather cooperated and the ducklings were appropriately sweated. Can you name anyone in our socially-distanced group photos?



Bob Marshall



Bob Marshall