

Walk Thru History – And Let's Convene!

by Linda Morzillo

Following the three pre-walks in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Danvers, Massachusetts and Springfield, Massachusetts, convention-goers will gather for the 21st AVA Biennial Convention! The exact location is at the Red Lion Hotel at 205 Wolf Rd, Albany, New York 12205.

The Empire State Capital Volkssporters (ESCV), are extremely happy with this convenient location because of its easy accessibility to I-87, officially called The Adirondack Northway (do call it The Northway as we do), Albany International Airport (hotel provides a free shuttle), and many nearby local and chain restaurants (including one in the hotel), and shopping. People unable to secure a room at the Red Lion Hotel have several options within a short walking distance to the convention site. The 50+ restaurants on Wolf Road and adjacent roads offer a cuisine for every taste and budget.

The meeting rooms are plentiful and many scheduled workshops will be there to both expand your knowledge and augment your enjoyment. Among the rooms will be the **Silent Auction!** Some creative attendees are already thinking about and starting handmade projects that will be greatly admired and bid upon. Details on submitting items are/will soon be forthcoming on the convention website. It is definitely time to think about individual, club and regional donations.

Wolf Rd, just outside of the Albany city limits, is in the Town of Colonie, whose name is derived from the Dutch *Colonye*, was once a part of the Rensselaerwyck manor (established in 1630), and later the Town of Watervliet. Colonie, a rural part of Watervliet, became a political entity in 1895 when New York State proposed that the entire town become the city of Watervliet. Later, after World War II, a huge transformation began to take place. Many of us witnessed the two-mile long Wolf Road change character from rural to suburban; farms and woods gave way to commercial endeavors and apartments, especially after parts of the Northway opened starting in 1957.

There are 25 sites located in Colonie (the accent is on the last syllable), listed on the National Register of Historic Places. We are especially proud that the site of the first Shaker community, established in 1776, has been preserved as the Watervliet Shaker Historic District. The grave of Mother Ann Lee, founder of the Shakers, is along a Traditional Walk we stage on occasion. The Shakers live on through the many place names associated with this area of Colonie; two examples are Albany-Shaker Road and Shaker High School.

Colonie Crossings is one of ESCV's seasonal walks and the start point is very close to the hotel. On Tuesday night, June 11, 2019, a walking event is planned here along with other festivities. Further details will be shared at a future time. We plan to have the start point materials at the Red Lion Hotel for the duration of the convention.

Go to ESCV's website at www.escv.org and click on the Convention Website. One of the blue oval-shaped links is Hotel & Area. Besides looking at photos of the venue, do click on the two links that appear on the lower right side of that page. One is an excellent map and listing of hotels, restaurants, shopping and other services along Wolf Road. The other is the official welcome (with a 36-second long YouTube presentation), from the Albany County Convention & Visitors Bureau.