

DON'T EXPECT THE USUAL AT THE 2019 AVA WALKING THRU HISTORY CONVENTION

by Lea Darling

Okay, we have the typical convention hotel, but the Red Lion Hotel will surprise you with a unique serpentine shaped swimming pool. The hotel parking lot is so **huge** that you can park your campers and motorhomes there. Sorry, but there are no services for hook up and definitely-no tents. You tenters will have to find a tenting site i.e. Moreau State Park.

Sure, we have the normal 3 convention walks, but we have added a new caveat with bussing **all walkers** to the Starting Points and returning **all walkers** back to the hotel each day of convention walks. Simple reason being, **very limited parking** in the areas of each of our walks. Not to worry, even if you are driving a car or renting one, please leave the drive to and from the walks up to **us**.

Our premier walk at the Saratoga National Historical Park , where the Saratoga Battles led to the "Turning Point of the American Revolution," will be a linear walk. Yes, we have done these before, but not as we will be presenting ours. The bus will drop you off at the start point and you will walk to where the bus is, get back on the bus and driven to the next point of interest, walk to the next stop and get back on the bus to head to the next walking point, etc. to the end. This will be a little longer than usual walk with much to see, experience, contemplate, and hopefully come to realize the sacrifice our Revolutionary men, women and children of the day endured to bring us to our present day **freedoms**.

Not your typical workshops will emphasize interesting AVA subjects to help clubs learn how to keep our clubs strong and vibrant in this day and age and, other fun (yes I did say FUN) and important topics. The convention selections will deal primarily with some of the amazing historical happenings in New York State.

Some unexpected social happenings beginning on Tuesday evening after dinner on your own, we will be having a **fun** 5k walk in a beautiful park just a short walk from the hotel for those walkers who want a stretch after being on a plane, train, bus, or car. You will also be able to help (if you want) our convention pick for our not-for- profit fundraiser. More to come on this subject as things get firmed up. It has been the AVA custom for most of the convention clubs to show appreciation to their host city by making a donation to a local not-for-profit and we will continue this nice gesture. After the walk you will be able to buy, for a small fee, Ice Cream Cones and visit with some of your walking friends before the hectic days of convention commence!

It has been the AVA custom for most of the convention clubs to show appreciation to their host city by making a donation to a local not-for-profit and we will continue this nice gesture. In another article as we get closer to convention, I will share some of the other surprises we have for socials and the closing banquet.

Don't be surprised if you see Henry Hudson, Casey at the Bat, or Sal the Mule as you progress through some of the exciting days of convention.