

ESVA Board of Directors Annual Meeting

4 June 2016

I Call to order at 1:00

II Welcome to Dennis Standridge's wife, Debbie, and to Jan Schmidt, FS Family Wanderer rep filling in for Lisa Robertson.

III Minutes were accepted.

IV No correspondence to report.

V President's Report. Mike Nagan thanked for the opportunity to be President and encouraged us to keep striving for improvement. Don't wait for AVA, but make it work on the local level. ESVA, in turn, thanks Mike for his four years of leadership as President.

VI Treasurer's Report. Cathy Greutert began by thanking the Sound Steppers for a great event and delicious lunch on a beautiful day. She reported 31 March balances of \$32,083.40 in checking and \$25.75 in savings, for a total of \$32,109.15. Net income for the first three quarters of the fiscal year is \$837.10. ESVA is under budget for Traditional Event and YRE income, for a difference of \$606.43.

VII Area Coordinators' Reports

- a. Eastern Region, #1—Dennis Standridge reported that the start point for the Centennial Trail Walk and Bike has moved to Auntie's Book Store in Spokane. Several YRE's with low attendance are slated to go away, though Nancy Wittenberg mentioned they might be good candidates for online start boxes. She reminded us that we cannot do an early close on events listed in the Starting Point.
- b. Central Region, #2—Joe Blazek reported 2 New Walker Packets sold at the Pasco event. The next ESVA meeting will be held in Yakima on 22 Oct. The Central WA Sun Striders are working on an event for Lake Wenatchee next summer.
- c. Northwest Region, #3—Jeff Blossey absent, Dissolution of the Kitsap Volkssporters on 30 June is the sad news from this region.
- d. West Central North Region, #4—Diane Hildebrand absent because of a death in the family. Individuals from the region reported the following upcoming events: 4 July—map walk on Seattle's Beacon Hill; Labor Day Weekend Walk at Seattle U; 24 Sept FS Family Wanderers invite walkers to Shoreline.
- e. South Sound Region, #5—Carolyn Warhol reported that the Key Peninsula Lions are returning to Penrose Point State Park to hold an old favorite on 9 July; 27 Aug. the Daffodils invite us to Eatonville. Plan to do two neighboring events on 1 Oct, one in Roy, the other at JBLM. 18-20 Feb 2017 Seabreeze in Ocean Shores is coming. Don't forget to make your hotel reservations. Capitol recently held a successful "Walk-Together" event for Girl Scouts through the Capitol Campus and around Capitol Lake. CVC will continue working with the Girl Scouts, inviting them to the Olympia Holiday Walk and other upcoming walks with kid appeal.

- f. West Central South Region, #6—Dorman Batson invited us to DuPont on 21 Aug. Be sure to plan on the NW Hiking Weekend at Greenwater the weekend before the NW Regional Conference. The 4+ Foolhardy Folks have been doing Tuesday group walks, which have brought in new members.
- g. Southwest Region, #7—Burt Paynter invited us to Washougal on 25 June and to Vancouver for the 4th of July. The Border Crossers and Vancouver USA have both joined IVV-Americas. There is a new partnership between Kaiser Permanente and Vancouver USA for “prescription walks”. Next weekend there will be a health fair where doctors will have a booth next to the Vancouver USA Volkssport Club. Doctors will write prescriptions for people to walk, and the club will provide the walks. Vancouver USA has also adopted a trail, which they are helping to maintain. Weekly evening walks have been successful, with three people attending in response to newspaper advertising and others from Meetup.

VIII Standing Committee Reports

- a. Challenges—no report
- b. Nominations and Election—The following candidates were elected:
Sharon Moats for President; Joe Blazek for Vice President; Bonnie Tucker for Secretary;
Cathy Greutert for Treasurer.

IX Unfinished Business

- a. YRE Periodic Review Policy-- Burt Paynter presented an overview of his and Dorman Batson's program to review YRE and Seasonal Event Directions. A Review Committee, composed of the ESVA Vice President and the Area Coordinators, would be established to manage the review process. After implementation of the program, ESVA would send the operating procedure document to all the clubs, requesting they forward YRE and Seasonal directions to their AC, who would forward the directions to the committee. The committee would develop the review schedule, concentrating on new and substantially modified events the first year. This would be a rolling process to review all walks over three to four years. A recommended review form and guidelines for route directions were presented. The goal would be to work with the clubs, making positive suggestions, which would result in uniformity of format, clarity, and brevity. All directions would be accompanied by easy-to-read maps. The policy was approved, with thanks given to Burt and Dorman.

X New Business

- a. 2016-17 Budget—Cathy Greutert reported that the proposed budget was designed to draw down the reserves. For the next two years, in lieu of the \$.30 fee/credit walker, clubs will be charged an annual flat fee of \$25.00. This change will take effect 1 July, so there is still the fourth quarter report with fees to submit to finish the current fiscal year. There are tentative plans for two Board meetings next year, with a possible third meeting for social or training purposes.

The Tulip Trekkers asked if there were money available for publicity (i.e. newspaper ad) for a specific event. They were told to draw up a proposal for consideration as a pilot test. Diane Wagner mentioned that a good source for partnering and PR is the Wellness Committee of

different municipalities. They belong to the Association of Washington Cities and are looking for healthy activities to promote.

- b. Bylaw Amendments-- Sharon Moats proposed an extensive array of changes for the By-laws, including the following: removing President and Vice President from NW Pathfinder Committee, adding Vice-Presidential responsibility for leading the selection of State meeting locations, redefined responsibilities of Area Coordinators, added club reporting at the annual meeting, revised ESVA Meetings to 2/year, revised Executive Committee Meetings to 4/year. Language regarding dissolution of ESVA was added, as it had fallen out sometime over the years.
Following the Executive Committee's recommendation, the Board approved the changes.
- c. Standing Rules Amendments—Sharon reviewed the proposed Standing Rules changes: club reporting at meetings, vice-president and executive committee responsible for planning times and places for meetings, ESVA responsible for meeting facility costs (optional lunch), \$25.00 annual flat fee for clubs to replace \$.30 fee/credit walkers for the next two years. Following the Executive Committee's recommendation, the Board also approved the changes to the Standing Rules. Mike Nagan reminded us that Standing Rules may be changed at any meeting, but Bylaw amendments must be done only at annual meetings.

XI IVV-Americas Meeting—Bob Morrison reported on the meeting held at the recent Canadian Volkssport Federation. The first clubs to join are five in Washington State: Capitol Volkssport Club, Daffodil Valley Volkssport Association, the Border Crossers, Vancouver USA, and the Emerald City Wandereers. Mike Nagan is the only individual member. Brainstorming focused on sanctioning rights, electronic start box, sanctioning walks in the Caribbean, and who should be president.

XII Regional Director's Report—Nancy Wittenberg praised the ESVA for forward thinking and thanked all for participating in the Big Give, which passed the AVA \$50,000 goal. Successful fundraising is one of the criteria examined by foundations before giving grants, making this so important to the future of AVA. YRE renewal for next year began 1 June. Tom Baltes will be in charge of this. Before submitting data, be sure the dates are correct and that phone numbers are listed without hyphens. Per participant sanctioning in place of regular sanctioning is a perfect solution for the attendance YRE's. The club pays \$1.00 to AVA for each walker, whether credit or free. Next year there will be only two AVA Programs (challenges)—Ice Cream Parlors and Underground RR. The Ports of Call Program is moving with Sharon Streitt to Olympic Peninsula Explorers from the Kitsap Club, which is deactivating. Most of the Kitsap YRE's have been adopted by other clubs, but three remain unclaimed for the rest of the year—Port Gamble, Bainbridge Island, and Poulsbo. If no one else will take them, Nancy will care for them. Next year they'll become part of an electronic start box. If there's an online start box, there can't be a physical start box. The NW Regional Conference will need volunteers; soon Nancy will put information on the conference website. The next NEC meeting will be held in Fredericksburg, TX, along with the 40th anniversary of the first volkswalk in the U.S. Among other issues, the NEC will discuss a proposal of raising credit fees to \$4.00/walk. Nancy's personal feeling is that the days of the free walker are coming to an end. The AVA Strategic Plan has been partially adopted. The NEC agrees on the direction to go, but hasn't adopted any specific ways to get there. Nancy supports the Girl Scout "Walk-Together"

program. If clubs have walks that would specifically appeal to children and families (Northwest Trek, Holiday Lights, Halloween, etc), get them listed in the Girl Scout Go-Guide.

XIII The meeting was adjourned at 3:00, and then the election of Area coordinators was held.

The newly defined areas and their coordinators follow:

Area 1, Eastern: Lilac City Volkssport Assoc—**Dennis Standridge, AC**

Area 2, Central: Central Washington Sun Striders—**Lynn Blacek, AC**

Area 3, Northwest—Olympic Peninsula Explorers, NW Tulip Trekkers, Sound Steppers, Interlaken, Volkssport USA—**Mike Zewe, AC**

Area 4, Central Puget Sound—Emerald City, FS Family Wanderers, 4+, Sea-Tac, Third Planet—**Dorman Batson, AC**

Area 5, South Sound—Capitol, Daffodil, Evergreen Wanderers, Key Peninsula Lions, Over-the-Hill-Gang, Pathfinder Club of the Northwest—**Carolyn Warhol, AC**

Area 6, Southwest—All Weather Walkers, Border Crossers, International Wanderers, Vancouver USA—**Burt Paynter, AC**

Submitted by

Bonnie Tucker
ESVA Secretary