

ESVA Board of Directors Meeting

September 30, 2017

The Barn in Winthrop, WA

1. **Call to Order:** President Sharon Moats called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.
2. **Welcome to Members and Guests:** Sharon introduced Katie Sell from the Interlaken Trailblazers and Todd Oberlander from the Olympic Peninsula Explorers.
3. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Lynn Blazek made a motion to accept the minutes as printed. Burt Paynter seconded the motion. The motion passed. Carolyn Warhol is filling in for Secretary Bonnie Tucker. Bonnie is in Australia.
4. **No correspondence** to report.
5. **President's Report:** In the interest of time, Sharon gave no report.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Cathy Greutert reported that as of 30 June, the account balances were: \$29,258.34 checking and \$25.75 savings for a total of \$29,284.09. The Net Income as of June 30 (the fourth quarter of the fiscal year) was -\$1,102.25. Our total bank balance is down from last quarter (\$30,360.59 on March 31, 2017) for a difference of \$1,076.50. This was expected. Of note: (1) the bank balance at the end of June 30, 2016 was \$32,312.03. Our bank balance was reduced by \$3,027.94 over the past fiscal year; (2) the bank balance as of September 28 is \$27,080.21 checking and \$25.75 savings, for a total of \$27,105.96; and (3) Cathy will prepare financial statements in October for the quarter that ends September 30, 2017.
7. **Area Coordinators' Reports**
 - a. **Eastern Region #1—Dennis Standridge:** Lilac City has 12-16 YREs per year. He reported the average attendance at YREs and traditional events and also spoke about the Centennial Trail bike YRE.
 - b. **Central Region #2—Lynn Blazek:** There are 2 new members in the Central WA Sun Striders. They will start using meetup.com next year and have extended some YREs into October for the convenience of walkers. The club will have the Iron Horse bike YRE one more year. There were no participants this year. Also they will have a YRE in Vantage in 2018.
 - c. **Northwest Region #3—Mike Zewe:** The Bothell YRE will be back in 2018 and will work around the construction areas. The Gardiner YRE will be set aside but there will be a new walk from the same start point. The Port Angeles area is gearing up for the NW Regional Conference and there will be a Whidbey Island Festival next year.
 - d. **Central Puget Sound Region #4—Dorman Batson:** No report.
 - e. **South Sound Region #5—Carolyn Warhol:** The Daffodil Valley club is doing a trip to Spokane. The Capitol club is having a Thursday traditional guided walk instead of a YRE.
 - f. **Southwest Region #7—Burt Paynter:** Overall YRE participation is down although group walks and Wednesday walks are still popular.
8. **Standing Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Challenge Committee—**Current challenge books can be ordered online.
 - b. **Audit Committee—Review of Previous Year Financials—Mike Nagan:** The financial records of ESVA for the last fiscal year have been examined by Mike Nagan. He reported that all looked good. *See accompanying letter.
 - c. **Webmaster—Jan Jarrell:** Jan reported that she could help with online registration for multi-day events.

9. **Continuing Business:**

- a. **YRE Periodic Review Report—Joe Blazek:** Joe reported that 25% of the YREs and Seasonals have been reviewed during the past year, July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. This was the goal. Two areas of the state that have had very few reviews done are the Southwest Washington area and the Northwest Washington area. A list of walks that have been reviewed are on the ESVA website. Joe would also like to be kept aware of any brand new YREs and any YREs that have had major route revisions.
- b. **AVA Convention 2017 Report—Joe Blazek:** Joe reported on the walks, business meetings, and elections of the recent AVA convention. The next convention will be in Albany, NY, June 9-16, 2019.
- c. **2018 Alaska Cruise—(POC) Elisabeth Wittenberg:** Nancy Wittenberg reported for Elisabeth that over 100 people have signed up for the cruise. Becoming part of the group will close on Oct. 28. There will be a T-shirt and an award. Nancy is setting up a route in Skagway.
- d. **NW Pathfinder Updates—**It was reported that there would be a meeting of the Pathfinder committee following this meeting.
- e. **NW Regional Conference—Mike Zewe:** Mike is looking for people to work on many committees for the conference, i.e. Communication, Catering, Volunteers, Registrar, and someone to contact local businesses and hotels.

10. **New Business:**

- a. **Nominations Committee (2018-2020 Officers):** Volunteers are needed.
- b. **Winter Walking Contest—Ed Hainline:** Again ESVA will have a winter walking contest as will the Oregon Trails State Volkssport Association. You will be able to walk events in AK, ID, OR, and WA. Each 10 walks completed will give you a chit for a chance at a prize. More info to follow.
- c. **AVA 401K Program—Tom Baltes:** Sharon Moats made a motion that ESVA provide funds to become a sponsor this new program. Burt Paynter seconded the motion. There was much discussion about this internet-based program that will operate through Walker Tracker. Walkers will log their Volkswalks by kilometers to earn awards for walking 401K. There will be a cost of \$24-\$28 to the participant. OTSVA has already pledged \$1,000. The motion to become a sponsor for the program's defined amount of \$1,000 to the 401K program passed. The sponsorship is only for one year. A decision will be made after 1 year to determine if the program will continue. ESVA is making a commitment for 1 year only.

11. **Northwest Regional Director—Tom Baltes:** Tom presented a lot of information from the national level. Some of the information is as follows:

- The election for a deputy RD is happening now. Send in your club's vote.
- Sanctioning for YREs is done and over 1,900 were sanctioned.
- Tom attended an AVA orientation and training in San Antonio.
- AVA committee assignments were made. NW officers are on these committees— Tom on Training; Nancy Wittenberg has Funds Development; Bob Morrison will be with Audit/Finance; and Sam Korff will be on an Ad Hoc Committee for the Free Walker issue.
- IVV 50th anniversary is 22 May 2018.
- AVA voted to bid for the 2021 Olympiad to be held in Washington, D.C.
- AVA is looking at shifting their fiscal year to a calendar year.

Tom had also been asked to research several questions concerning our AVA insurance and what it would or would not cover when volkssport clubs and/or members become “creative” with routes, etc. Here are some basic premises Tom shared and questions with answers.

ESVA legal and operational questions. First, some basic premises:

1. We are a rules based program, but not rule bound, that is we try to be flexible.
2. One of the hallmarks of our program is consistency through well-developed written directions and maps.
3. Our current AVA President has encouraged RDs to help clubs find ways to do what they want, not put up barriers to innovate, grow and improve our program.
4. We’ve never been litigated, but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t exercise reasonable caution to limit risk to AVA, clubs, and club officers.

Workers walk—Club testing new route for Event or YR

Should all walkers sign waiver? Yes

Are clubs protected by insurance if they don’t? Maybe, but risk goes up

Are leaders protected if someone does not sign the waiver? Yes, if offered and not signed. Should ask that the individual not participate, as we cannot accept the liability of injury to them.

Normally I believe most clubs that have worker walks have the workers sign and stamp at the day of event and add additional distance if they walk it during the event. Is this correct? Workers must sign before they work. This would be literally correct to stamp on the day of the event. Pg 35, para 14 of AVA policy manual. I know that stamping often occurs for workers and some guests on the workers walk day. It is not strictly correct according to our rules, but I am not sure I can see the harm and would encourage a proposed change to the statement, unless it is required by IVV.

Walking a non-sanctioned route that starts at the YR Start:

Need guidance about legalities of this. From Henry’s response, as long as the Guide has a map, the event has been advertised and waivers have been signed then the insurance is in place. However, from a program standpoint, this should be a sanctioned Guided Walk. Nancy Wittenberg advises that this situation is exactly why the Traveling Guided Walk option was created. If the purpose is to explore new routes and is a limited group, then I would say the walk is okay if waivers are signed and the walk is advertised to the group as a route exploration.

How much difference from an Official Sanctioned Route to an “Alternate Route” before this route really becomes a “Sanctioned Guided Walk”—10%, 50%:

I don’t have a specific answer to this to refer to from our Policy Manual. I know individuals and groups vary routes at times for a variety of reasons, from boredom to time constraints to work along routes, etc. As walk owners, we should change our routes from year to year if possible to keep them fresh and enjoyable. I’d certainly say that a variance of 1/3rd is getting iffy and a half is too much. Again, look at the TGW stamp as a way to gain some freedom to walk alternate routes.

12. **Next ESVA Meeting:** The next ESVA meeting will be April 28, 2018 in Battleground. There will be a guided walk the evening before on April 27. Elections will be held at that meeting.
13. **Meeting adjourned** at 4:45 p.m.

Submitted by
Carolyn Warhol
Substitute for ESVA Secretary

September 26, 2017

Sharon Moats, President

Evergreen State Volkssport Association

Dear Madam President, Officers and Members of the Evergreen State Volkssport Association:

As requested, I examined the financial records of the Evergreen State Volkssport Association for the twelve months ended June 30, 2017, as provided to me by Cathy Greutert, ESVA Treasurer.

I reviewed all expenditures and receipts, reviewing all payees and finding them all usual and familiar. The check register matched the financial statements and bank statements. All transactions were included in the financial statements for the twelve months. And, the annual reports to the American Volkssport Association and the IRS were filed as required.

Your Treasurer was cooperative and provided all records promptly, and met with me to answer my questions. Based on this examination, in my opinion the financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, are accurate in all material respects and the supporting financial records for that period have been properly kept.

Michael P. Nagan

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