**Evergreen State Volkssport Association**

**Board of Directors Annual Meeting**

**April 13, 2019**

**Mt. Baker Community Club, Seattle, WA**

1. **Call to Order:** President Sharon Moats called the meeting to order at 9:11 am. She turned the meeting over to Tom Baltes, Regional Director. Tom called to order a Northwest Regional meeting. He explained that the region had been polled for nominees for the positions of NW Regional Director and Deputy NW Regional Director. Tom is the only nominee for NW Regional Director and Dennis Standridge is the only nominee for Deputy NW Regional Director. There were no further nominations from the floor and Tom passed around a sheet which listed all the clubs in the region. Club representatives were instructed that by signing the sheet they were casting a vote for Tom and Dennis for these positions. Tom adjourned the NW Regional meeting at 9:14 am.

2. **Winter Walking Contest Drawing**. Ed Hainline, representative of The Oregon Trail State Volkssport Association, held a drawing for the Washington Winners of the Winter Walking Contest. There were 33 Washington participants and 137 tickets submitted. First prize ($100 Visa gift card) went to Jean Ohl (Vancouver Walking Club); second prize ($75 Visa gift card) went to Tom Baltes (NW Regional Director); and third prize ($50 gift card) went to Lynn Blazek (Central Washington Sun Striders). Ed then awarded hand towels beautifully embroidered by Louise Baltes with the AVA Emblem to those who did the most walks. First prize went to Pat Elsberg (Vancouver Walking Club - 113 walks); second prize to Jan Paige (100 walks - FS Family Wanderers); and Chase Davis (80 walks - Capitol Volkssport Club).

3. **Welcome of Members and Guests**. Rick Shaffer, “Prime Minister” of Wallace, Idaho, wearing a tuxedo gave a presentation about the history as well as the activity and discount options in his town. He is working with Dennis Standridge on the Silver Valley walk and bike event in August. Sharon introduced Diane Evans who recently moved to Seabeck. She is a former Atlantic RD and AVA Vice-President. Since there is no volkssport presence in her area, she will start a meetup.com account for her area. She also has start point tables and umbrellas she’d like to give to clubs who would like them. Contact Diane at [devansava@aol.com](mailto:devansava@aol.com). 4. **Acceptance of Minutes:** There were no additions or corrections to the minutes for the meeting on October 27, 2018. The minutes were approved unanimously.

5. **Correspondence:** Sharon Moats read a letter from the AVA acknowledging ESVA’s 35th anniversary.

6. **Annual Report of the Officers**:

**President’s Report:** Sharon reported that she hopes we have made some progress this past year in sharing skills with more club members and clubs as we move forward in a more digital environment.

**Vice President’s Report**: Joe Blazek reported that the event review program has been successful in that 52% of Washington’s 563 walks have been reviewed.

**Secretary**: Holly Spaulding has been in this position only since July and had no report.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Cathy Greutert reported that over the past year, April 1, 2018, to March 31, 2019, the ESVA’s bank balance went from $27,637.64 to $23,454.16 for a net loss of $4,183.48. Our largest expenses over the past year were for *The Northwest Pathfinder*, the club’s website maintenance, the Northwest Regional Festival, and the Washington State Challenge book expenses. The Festival had income enough to pay for itself as well as a small profit. The Challenge books also generated income. The club now has a PayPal account. We use this to gather income from the Challenge books and we also used it for income from the Northwest Regional Festival. The ESVA stopped collecting the $.30 fee per walker effective July 1, 2016. Our bank balance at that time was $33,072.63. Over the past three- and three-quarter years, our balance has dropped by $9,618.47.

7. **Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Cathy Greutert reported as of March 31, 2019. Account balances are: $23,428.41 checking and $25.75 savings, for a total of $23,454.16. Of note: 1. $54.05 was paid to the Washington State Department of Revenue in January. This is tax on the sale of our Washington State Challenge booklets. As a reminder, please collect the city, state, and nine-digit zip code at the point of sale; 2. Our sole income for the past quarter, January through March, was $270 for Challenge books. Our expenses were more than that: $54.05 and $425 for the *Northwest Pathfinder* for a total net loss of $209.05 for the past quarter. This is indicated on the Income Statement; 3. A check for $500 was sent to the AVA in support of the Big Give. The check was cashed, but not in time to appear on the March bank statement on our financial records.

8. **Area Coordinators’ Reports**

a. **Eastern Region:** The Bloomsday walk will be May 5 this year. The Silver Valley event in Wallace, Idaho, August 24 and 25 will have five events. Rick Shaffer, the “Prime Minister” of Wallace owns the Wallace Inn and has a block of rooms available for $125 a night. Details will be in *The Pathfinder*, the Lilac City Volkssport Association website, the ESVA Facebook page and ESVA website.

b. **Central Region:** Lynn Blazek reported that her area gained four members last month with two regular walkers who haven’t joined yet. The Central Washington Sun Striders have started doing a 5K walk before meetings. They have also started a regular Thursday walk which has eight weekly walkers. The Sun Striders developed both a bike and a walk in support of the Winthrop Roundup in September. There is no longer a walk box at the Starbucks in Ellensburg. All Ellensburg walks start at the Best Western Plus Hotel In Ellensburg.

c. **Northwest Region:** Bob Payton reported that the Tulip Trekkers’ Guemes Island traditional event had 128 walkers - 77 credit walkers and 48 free walkers. Twenty-eight walkers signed up to walk to the top of Guemes Mountain during the walk. Two new walker packets were sold. Proceeds from this walk will go to the SIDS Foundation in honor of Fred and Sharon Fisher. The Olympic Peninsula Explorers have partnered with the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe for a traditional event in Port Townsend June 29. Bob reports that placing a donation jar next to the registration sheet increases donations. His area has also been using “flash walks”. This is an impromptu announcement by someone that they want to do a walk and inviting others to join them. The Interlaken Trailblazers’ new walk will go through Meydenbauer Park. The Interlaken Trailblazer’s have been transferred from the jurisdiction of the Northwest Area Coordinator to the jurisdiction of Mike Nagen, the Central Puget Sound Area Coordinator.

d. **Central Puget Sound Region:** Mike Nagen reported on the events taking place in his area in the next several months including the NW Hiking Weekend in Bellingham hosted by the Four Plus Foolhardy Fools. The FS Family Wanderers are working on details for a traditional event. They now have a scheduled Thursday walk. They don’t publish their schedule electronically, but you can contact them for a Thursday walk schedule.

e. **South Sound Region:** Carolyn Warhol reported on the events in her area April through August.

f. **Southwest Region:** Burt Paynter reported on the events taking place in his area April through August. The Vancouver club will walk as a group in a parade in Hazel Dell this summer to raise awareness of our walking organization.

9. **Standing Committee Reports**

a. **Financial Review:** Burt Paynter reported that the audit is complete and that the ESVA financial records are in good standing.

b. **Challenge Committee**: Lynn Blazek reported that we are making money on the Rail Station Challenge Patches and the challenge is going well. The Challenge Committee is looking for more members or a chair.

c. **Regional Publicity Committee**: Bob Hall and Bob Payton gave a presentation about the checklists they have developed to help clubs publicize their group and their activities. The *Checklist for Club Publicity* *through One-on-One Member Contacts* and the *Checklist for Publicizing a Traditional Event* are attached along with their complete Power Point presentation.

10. **Unfinished Business**

a. **Status of YR Review Program:** Vice President, Joe Blazek, reported that 52% of the 563 walks in Washington have been reviewed. Only a few people are doing all the reviews and participation by more people is desired. Joe discussed trends he has observed in many walk reviews that seem to reoccur regularly that need attention by the clubs in order to meet trailmaster standards. He asked attendees to let him know whether or not they are finding that his comments on the reviews are helpful.

b. **ESVA Winthrop Fall Walking Roundup September 20-22, 2019:** Sharon Moats reported that Thursday, September 19, there will be a walk on the way to Winthrop in the North Cascades. May 15- 19 will be a working weekend for clubs in Winthrop. There will be a loop of walks between Bend, Oregon, and Winthrop for those who are attending the events in both locations.

11. **New Business**

A. **2018-2019 Approval of Budget**: Cathy Greutert reported that the Finance Committee worked together to develop next year’s proposed budget. A motion was made from the Executive Committee to accept the proposed budget. The proposed budget was accepted unanimously.

12. **Regional Director’s Report**

a. Tom Baltes presented Sue Opp, Vice President and acting President of the Daffodil Volkssport Club, with a Commendable Service Award.

b. The annual BIG Give fundraising month is going well and $75,000 has been raised to date.

c. Event participation has increased from 2018 mostly due to YRE’s. Tom would like to see more traditional events taking place.

d. The free walker vs paid walker issue will not be on the conference agenda. Regions will be allowed to find a solution to this issue. An OTSVA and ESVA committee is needed to decide how to approach this issue region wide.

13. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

14. **Next ESVA Meeting:** Winthrop, WA, September 21, 2019

Submitted by Holly Spaulding

ESVA Secretary