**Evergreen State Volkssport Association**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**September 21, 2019**

**The Barn, Winthrop, WA**

1. **Call to Order:** President Sharon Moats called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. She welcomed members and guests, and introduced Shirley Lindberg, a guest from Idaho.

2. **Acceptance of Minutes:** There were no additions or corrections to the minutes for the meeting on April 13, 2019. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. **Correspondence:** Sharon Moats read a fine notice from the Department of Fish and Wildlife for $150. The Pipe Canyon walk near Winthrop is on Department of Fish and Wildlife land. A commercial permit is required if an event is to be held on Fish and Wildlife land. Sharon will email to clubs the rules regarding use of Fish and Wildlife land in walk events. The ESVA will pay the fine and for walkers who received tickets at the Pipe Canyon parking lot during the Walkers Roundup at Winthrop.

5. **AVA Convention** Delegate Sharon Moats reported that all motions passed at the convention in Albany, New York. The conference was a positive experience with good meetings and walks.

6. **Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Cathy Greutert reported that the June 30, 2019, account balances are: $21,210.01 checking and $25.75 savings, for a total of $21,235.76. The Net Income as of June 30, 2019, (end of the fiscal year) was -$6,510.43. This is due to the amount of income received for the Northwest Regional Conference in the previous fiscal year, $3,767.67, and therefore not shown on the books for this year. We reduced our bank balance considerably over the fiscal year. We started in July 2018 with $27,746.19 and ended with $21,235.76. Our largest expense was for the Northwest Regional Conference, followed by our two donations (The Big Give and The Peninsula Coalition) and finally, the *Northwest Pathfinder*. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, we sold 54 Historic Train Station challenge books, 15 Whiskey-Vino-Brew challenge books and 11 WA State County books for a total of 80 booklets.

8. **Area Coordinators’ Reports**

a. **Eastern Region:** AC Dennis Standridge reported that the weekend event in Wallace, Idaho, was a success. There were 74 participants including 50 participants from Western Washington. The Christmas walk has been taken off the schedule for the Lilac City Volkssport Club. The Bloomsday event has had dwindling participation the past several years and may not be on the schedule next year.

b. **Central Region:** AC Lynn Blazek reported that the Central Washington Sun Striders’ website is closed. During the winter months, club meetings are held at noon rather than in the evenings due to weather conditions. Meetings rotate among three eastern Washington cities. The walk every Thursday continues to gain walkers. The Suncadia walk and the Roslyn walk will be transferring from the Daffodil Valley Volkssport Club to the Central Washington Sun Striders at the end of the year. Ritzville will have an online start box beginning next year. A new YR/SE is being planned for Republic in Ferry County. The walk will feature the historic town, fossil dig and the Golden Tiger Trail. The new Republic walk is a seasonal walk which begins April 1, 2020, and will be available in the online start box. The Four Plus Foolhardy Folks will continue with their walks on Sherman Pass.

c. **Northwest Region:** Bob Payton reported that the Tulip Trekkers will hold two traditional events this fall. The Tulip Trekkers are also planning a walk event for April 25, 2020, in Bellingham. The ESVA Annual Meeting will be held at this event. Todd Oberlander, President of the Olympic Peninsula Explorers, reported that the Chetzemoka Interpretive Trail in Port Townsend will be a YRE in 2020.

d. **Central Puget Sound Region:** Mike Nagan reported that clubs in his region are getting help with complying with the recommendations of the walk reviews. His goal is to have all YRE’s in compliance by the end of the year. Green Lake and Angle Lake walks are open after a short closure. The Northgate walks are closed due to closure of the Northgate Mall. The Four Plus Foolhardy Folks will do an event in July of 2020 near Teanaway. The flowers will be in bloom that time of year. The Emerald City Wanderers will be asking for help with the New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day walks.

e. **South Sound Region:** Carolyn Warhol reported that the Evergreen Wanderers are working on a new event walk in Gig Harbor. The Capitol Volkssport Club has a new start point for their Christmas Walk. The Daffodil Valley Volkssport Club will be hosting an #OptOutside event again this year in Sumner. The Over the Hill Gang will be holding meetings in the afternoon during the winter months. The Key Peninsula Volkssport Club has folded.

f. **Southwest Region:** Burt Paynter reported that the Squirrel Fest Walk was successful and fun. The Border Crossers, All Weather Walkers, and Vancouver USA Volkssport Club have been doing collaborative walks. September 28 there will be a Talk Like a Pirate Walk hosted by the Vancouver USA Volkssport Club.

9. **Standing Committee Reports**

a. **Financial Review:** Treasurer, Cathy Greutert, asked for volunteers for the Finance Committee to review the budget and make comments and suggestions. Sharon Moats said the Meet.up groups cost will increase to $20. This increased expense needs to be included in the budget. In May of 2016 the ESVA Standing Rules were modified to change the ESVA Fee Schedule for Clubs. The ESVA removed the $.30 per credit walker fee and added yearly $25 annual dues for clubs. The intent was to give some financial relief to clubs and draw down our large reserves to an amount more in line with our non-profit status. The ESVA Standing rules required a review be done beginning in even numbered years to status where we are on this draw down. The motion was made to revise Section II – Fees of the ESVA Standing Rules to read, “All clubs in Washington State will pay ESVA $25.00 per year commencing 7/1/2016 (due in 90 days). Each year as the budget planning is done the Executive Committee will review this provision. If change is necessary the full Board will vote at the annual meeting”. The motion passed unanimously.

b. **Challenge Committee**: Chair, Lynn Blazek, will step down from the Chair position at the end of 2019 although she will remain on the committee. A job description for the Challenge Committee Chair will be emailed to the ESVA distribution list. A new Rails-to-Trails challenge is pending approval.

c. **Regional Publicity Committee**: Holly Spaulding reported on the results of the Olympia Harbor Days Walkabout in Olympia on Labor Day Weekend in conjunction with the annual Olympia Harbor Days Festival.

10. **Unfinished Business**

a. **Status of YR Review Program:** Joe Blazek reported that 341 of 567 (60%) walks have been reviewed. A report is forthcoming to AC’s letting them know which of their walks have been reviewed. Our state has the best directions in the country due to our reviews and box tenders’ complying with recommendations from the reviews. The northern and southern walks need more reviews.

11. **New Business**

A. **Nominating Committee:** Nominating Committee Chair Mike Nagan is seeking committee members. Election for all board positions is next spring.

B. **Winter Walking Contest:** Ed Hainline will chair this contest. He proposed incenting participants by giving them a ticket for the drawing for the first ten walks. Then they get another ticket for completing the next four walks (instead of completing another ten walks). After fourteen walks, tickets are given after increments of ten walks are completed. The board voted unanimously in favor of the plan. Ed then asked for approval to charge all participants $1 for participating, $3 for those walking for credit. The board unanimously approved of this policy. The Winter Walking Contest begins January 1, 2020.

12. **Regional Director’s Report:** Tom Baltes gave a report on the recommendations of the NW Region Committee on Free Walker Reduction. He will email a motion to the ESVA for review and electronic voting.

13. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.

14. **Next ESVA Meeting:** April 25, Bellingham, WA. Details TBA.

Submitted by Holly Spaulding

ESVA Secretary