

Executive Committee Meeting

May 27, 2021

Zoom Meeting

- **Call to Order.** President Joe Blazek called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm PST. In attendance in addition to the president were: Todd Oberlander, Vice President; Diane Howell Evans, Acting Secretary; Chase Davis, Treasurer; Lynn Blazek, Central AC; Sandi Severtsen, North West AC; Tony Holt, Central Puget Sound AC; Carolyn Warhol, South Puget Sound AC; Burt Paynter, Southwest AC; Tom Baltes, NW Regional Director; Sherry Ogur, Challenge Committee Chair; Ed Hainline, OTSVA Vice President; and Sharon Moats. Dennis Standridge, Eastern AC, was unable to attend due to unexpected power outage.
- **Acceptance of March 4, 2021 EC Meeting Minutes.** Carolyn Warhol made a motion, seconded by Sandi Severtsen, to approve the minutes of the March 4th EC Meeting as written. The motion carried.
- **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Chase Davis reported that for the first four months of 2021 expenses exceeded income by \$649.00. Total income of \$470 for the period was due to the sale of Challenge Books and expenses of \$1,119.00 included \$98.00 for MeetUp costs, \$347.00 for Frontline Heroes Challenge book production costs, \$479.00 for Pathfinder Newsletter costs, and \$196.00 for GoDaddy Website 3 year renewal costs. Balance as of April 30, 2021 was \$16,814. Since April 30 there have been additional challenge books sold and postage stamps purchased.
- **Report on Walk Review Program.** Vice President Todd Oberlander reported there are 568 YRE/Seasonal events at the end of the first 5 year review cycle. As of 5/27/21, 123 have not been reviewed or are in need of a new review due to significant changes or revisions. The review rate is currently just shy of 79%. In June the early reviews will start to age out plus 3 new YRE/seasonal walks will be added. Another 27 walks will be added throughout the remainder of 2021 which will lower the review completion rate.
- **Challenge Committee Report.** Committee Chair Sherry Ogur reported the new Frontline Heroes Challenge began May 1st, 2021 and 39 books have been sold so far thus covering the cost of the challenge patches. Committee worked with AVA to have the challenge listed under "My Books" on the OSB website as well as with Chase to include in The Pathfinder. Recommended that clubs review their walks and add the new challenge to those walk descriptions that offer qualifiers for the challenge. The group of challenges that make up "Taking a Walk Down Memory Lane" has been popular and 52 assorted books have been sold for those challenges offered prior to 2014. Clubs also need to review the challenges for their events listed on the AVA event web page and in The Pathfinder to ensure the list is correct especially if they changed the walk route.
- **Area Coordinator Reports.**
 - **AC Lynn Blazek (Central)** – reported that by March most of the club's walking group members were vaccinated so the thought is the June club meeting will be in person plus a walk. The new Yakima seasonal event now has a street named after a Medal of Honor recipient. Ohanapecosh will have an online start box plus a physical start box when and if the Visitor Center opens plus the event will now be offered through the end of September. Tom Baltes commented that remote events benefited from the OSB as the start and finish dates of the event could be increased to a longer period of time. In October there will be a club 6K walk along the John Wayne Trail which will cross the newly renovated Beverly Bridge due to open this September.
 - **AC Sandi Severtsen (North West)** – reported clubs are starting to feel more normal due to vaccinations and state Covid guidelines opening back up for group walks and are happily surprised at the turnout. Sound Steppers had their second event for the year at Silver Firs in Everett on May 8th with over 93 walkers attending. They continue to have their Thursday walks advertised via Walking Volkssport NW. They just had elections and are ready for another year of adventures. Their next event is July 24th in Everett. The Olympic Peninsula Explorers restarted their walks in March and have picked up a few new members. All their walks are now OSB and

PSB. Their group walks are on Saturdays and interested parties need to sign in on their website for invites to their walks. Their next sanctioned event is August 29th in Fort Flagler. The Tulip Trekkers have all 18 YREs on OSB and PSB. Club currently has 106 members. Group walks are on Tuesdays and Saturdays and most YRE hosts are vaccinated. Walks are found on MeetUp NW Tulip Trekkers and their website. Their next sanction event is August 7th in Bellingham.

- **AC Tony Holt** (Central Puget Sound) – reported in the past year several traditional and self-guided events were held. They were well attended with typically from 80-200 people. It seems people are eager to walk if given the opportunity and they don't have to travel too far. Most clubs have been meeting via Zoom. A couple of clubs have not been meeting at all as far as I have been able to determine. Interlaken Trailblazers is planning to meet in person this coming Saturday (May 29) now that in-person meeting restrictions are finally being lifted. We all look forward to resuming normal activities and meetings.
- **AC Carolyn Warhol** (South Sound) – reported the Capitol Volkssport Club (CVC) is planning a multi-day event in the South Sound area April 22-24, 2022. Pam Davis is chairing the committee. They have had a couple of Zoom meetings and have a good start on their planning. CVC has started their summer Tuesday night walks and advertising their group walks on MeetUp.com again. Julie Heath is acting president as no one has stepped forward to become president yet. The Daffodil Valley Volkssport Association (DVVA) has several traditional walks in the works. One will be in the town of Tehaleh in July, another in Enumclaw in August will be 3 days long and the route will view the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall Exhibit, and the last walk will be on the Foothills Trail between Wilkerson and Carbonado in September. There is also hope to have an event to celebrate their 35th club anniversary. DVVA has also started advertising group walks on MeetUp.com. Evergreen Wanderers Vice President, Jerry Williams, passed away after an ongoing battle with cancer. He was an integral part of the club doing all the sanctioning, route development, direction writing, etc. The club held a meeting to divide up his duties. All their YREs use physical start boxes and they will need assistance setting up online start boxes for the events. At the moment there is not a Vice President but the club will continue to be active. The Over-the-Hill Gang (OTHG) has yet to meet since Covid-19 started. Working with them to become active again. There had been hopes to do their annual Dupont Trails Day walk in June but there was not much cooperation from the City of Dupont. The club's YREs are operational. The NW Pathfinder Club President Chase Davis has had a few Zoom meetings with their board to conduct necessary business and Chase continues to put together the NW Pathfinder publication although a few more traditional walks would be nice to fill the pages.
- **AC Burt Paynter** (Southwest) – reported the area clubs are slowly increasing their group walks as vaccines became available. The two clubs are alternating one YRE from each club as they coordinate a Wednesday Walking program. Experiencing increasing participation in the program and by summer they expect to return to a program using most of their YREs in the Portland/Vancouver metro area. They both are looking toward future traditional events in a cautious way. The Vancouver USA Volkssporters will host their annual July 4th traditional event but this year it will be a map walk rather than a walk with trail markings. The All Weather Walkers will host a walk in Woodland on September 25th.
- **New Business.**
 - **2021-2022 Draft Budget Review** – 2022 draft budget discussed and Chase reported there was an additional annual fee due to the Lacey Department of Revenue's requirement for the ESVA to have a business license since the Treasurer's address is now in Lacey. The total cost of \$44.00 includes \$25.00 for the license and a \$19.00 administration fee. Discussion held regarding a future change of Treasurer's address to possibly Ellensburg to avoid the fee. Joe to check if Ellensburg would require a business license. Discussion also held regarding the continuation of the Winter Walking Challenge next winter. 23 Washington walkers participated in this winter's challenge. Opinions varied from challenge was motivation to get out and walk when maybe they would have normally stayed home to "been there, done that" to maybe retire for a year. Decision

made to leave in budget and discuss at June BOD meeting for club input.

- **Selection of Delegate/Alternate Delegate/Proxy for National Convention** – Carolyn Warhol made a motion, seconded by Chase Davis, to appoint Joe Blazek as AVA Convention Delegate. The motion carried. Carolyn Warhol made a motion, seconded by Chase Davis, to appoint Sharon Moats as AVA Convention Alternate Delegate. The motion carried.
- **ESVA Club Information Table at AVA National Convention** – discussion held regarding club brochures for information table at AVA National Convention. Several clubs bringing event brochures/flyers and old medals. Tom Baltes has reserved a table (\$10 for table/\$20 for table with skirting) that we can use for WA club information. Carolyn is bringing an easel which can also be used to hold information.
- **Correspondence** – None
- **Announcements:**
 - **Salute to Oregon in Bend OR (Sept 16-19, 2021)** – Ed Hainline, OTSVA Vice President, reported the Columbia River Volkssport Club (CRVC) is still working on trails and there will be some changes of venue due to new permit regulations/daily trail access limits. Rain is desperately needed for the rafting trip. The 13 walking/3 biking events will be accessible to complete September 12 - September 30 and directions will be online at the CRVC website. Banquet still on for Saturday evening.
 - **NW Regional Convention in Ashland OR (June 16-19, 2022)** – Tom Baltes, NW Regional Director, reported the new hotel venue, The Ashland Hills Hotel and Suites, offers great rooms for attendees and facilities for the multi-day event. The Medford walk directions have been adjusted since the original convention hotel closed down and participants will now need to drive to the walk start/finish. Event will be promoted at the AVA National Convention and interested participants are encouraged to make hotel reservations using group ID.
 - **Tom Baltes, NW Regional Director Report** - Recommended people check out a recent Facebook post regarding OSB vs. PSB. Suggested clubs consider adopting OSB for YREs/Seasonals. Reminded club delegates to review the AVA motion to extend the term of office from 2 years to 4 years for National Officers, Regional Directors and Deputy Regional Directors. Reported there will most likely be another “At-large” Board Member position as the AVA was approached by a person asking to serve on the AVA Board. Person is well qualified and would benefit our mission. Recommended clubs take advantage of the free feather banner offer with new logo as it is a semi-freebie and can be picked up at convention. Discussed the possibility of working with any local biking groups to stimulate more business. Clubs might consider creating such a group if no local group available. Reported Washington is doing great in preventing club closures and emphasized Area Coordinators keep working closely with their clubs. Reported that Oregon lost club member Sally Ross and there will be a memorial walk on June 19th in Eugene OR. Congratulated ESVA on great job. Tom stated he has enjoyed working with the WA clubs and will still be active in the walking community after his term is completed in June.
 - **Other** – Joe mentioned the new 2022 AVA challenges will include Rails to Trails and City Halls/Town Halls
 - **Next ESVA EC and BOD Meetings** – in person (hopefully) in the North Bend area on Saturday, October 9, 2021. Venue may possibly be Community Center and Sharon Moats is confirming location.
 - **ESVA Annual 2022 BOD Meeting** – The Capitol Volkssport Club extended an invitation to the ESVA to hold their annual meeting during CVC’s multi-day event scheduled on April 22-24, 2022, in Lacey.
- **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Howell Evans
Acting ESVA Secretary