

**ESVA Board of Directors Meeting - Zoom
15 January 2022**

Call to Order

Joe Blazek, President, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Also in attendance were: Todd Oberlander (VP), Chase Davis (Treasurer), Dennis Standridge (Eastern AC), Lynn Blazek (Central AC), Sandi Severtsen (NW AC), Tony Holt (Central PS AC), Carolyn Warhol (SPS AC), Burt Paynter (SW AC), Elizabeth Rose (Capitol), Russ Kruse (CW Sun Striders), Sue-Lon Weibert (DVVA), Mike Nagan (Emerald City Wanderers), Tess Sutton (Evergreen Wanderers), Lisa Robertson (FS Family Wanderers), Sharon Moats (Interlaken), Dennis Standridge (LCVA), Sandi Severtsen (NW Tulip Trekkers & Sound Steppers), Todd Oberlander (OPE), Eleanor Borgardts (Pathfinder), Diane Wagner (Over-the-Hill Gang), Tom Baltes (Vancouver USA), RD Sharon Moats, DRD Ed Hainline, Challenge Committee Chair Sherry Ogur. A quorum was present. Absent were Diane Howell Evans (Secretary) and representatives from 4+ Foolhardy Folk, International Wanderers, and Sea-Tac.

Voted to accept the minutes of the Oct 9, 2021 meeting. Motion (Eleanor Borgardts), Second (Carolyn Warhol), Passed.

Treasurer's report was given by Chase Davis. Motion (Sandi Severtsen), Second (Todd Oberlander), Passed. About \$260 for the On the Road Again challenge has come in that didn't show because of holiday delays.

Vice President's report on Walk Review program: There are 580 events and 291 of those are up for review this year. Listed on the ESVA website under "Walk Review Program" are all new walks and those expiring in 2022.

Challenge Committee report: Sherry Ogur reported that 67 Front Line books have been sold and 35 On the Road Again books so far. She has contacted Mike Green at AVA about putting these on the drop-down box on the AVA list.

Area Coordinator reports:

Eastern (AC Dennis Standridge)

The LCVA is meeting at Tom's Coffee Shop with attendance about 15-20 each month. Bloomsday will be virtual AND in-person this year. Walks start at \$28 registration fee and are raised as it gets closer to the date (\$35, then \$50), so sign up soon if you are doing this. All meet-ups are cancelled through Jan 25 due to icy conditions. LCVA walks are now all on the on-line start box, but some are also physical boxes. They have a Guided Walk stamp now and the first use will be near Cheney on March 5.

Central (AC Lynn Blazek)

The CWSS were meeting in person, but last month was a Zoom meeting again. Two new seasonal walks will start April 1 in Cle Elum and South Cle Elum. The start box for both is at Suncadia in the box with the Roslyn and Suncadia walks. The Beverly Bridge section of the Palouse to Cascades Trail (was John Wayne Trail) will open this spring and we will announce this on the ESVA Facebook page. The club will have a club walk when that happens. This is a 6k addition to the Vantage walk.

Northwest (AC Sandi Severtsen)

Tulip Trekkers, President Tom Wallace. They have 19 YRE's sanctioned. 17 are PSB/OSB and 2 are OSB only (Coupeville and Oak Harbor). All group walks are posted on the website calendar, meet-up and their Facebook page. Three long-time YRE hosts are retiring from hosting. They were also board members and were instrumental in planning events. New members are interested in becoming hosts. Group walks have been well-attended; usually 10-20 people, however, walkers who stamp are a small percentage of the total.

Olympic Peninsula Explorers, Pres. Todd Oberlander - All OPE walks are now on OSB and many have PSB's. The New Years Day walk at Fort Warden didn't happen due to weather. OPE is planning a 2022 memorial walk for members Frances Johnson and Rose Horvath who passed away last year. In August, they will host a weekend event together with the 4+ Foolhardy Folk.

Sound Steppers, Pres. Sandi Severtsen - Their website was updated from the original post of 2007. The Thursday

morning walks have been emailed only for those members interested in walking at that time. The YRE's are being offered as group walks on one Saturday each month and posted on their website. They hope to encourage new walkers to join. Meetings are on Zoom until further notice. A Jeff Blossey memorial walk will be in Edmonds on May 21.

Central Puget Sound (AC Tony Holt)

The New Year's Eve and Day walks were down in walkers this year due to icy conditions. Clubs are meeting by Zoom. Upcoming walks are April 9 in Bow by the 4+ club; on April 16 an Easter walk is planned; August 16-21 will be events by 4+ and OPE; Sept 30-Oct 2 will be walks at Winthrop by the Interlaken Trailblazers.

South Sound (AC Carolyn Warhol)

Capitol Volkssport has a new President, Karen Younkins. Upcoming events are Wild & Woodsy on April 22-24; the Salmon walks and Olympia Christmas walks will become annuals; a Christmas walk in Aberdeen was enjoyed and will be done again next year. They are meeting by Zoom.

Over-the-Hill-Gang. The Auburn/White River walk now starts at the Big Nation Station (same address, new name). They have taken over some of 3rd Planet Volkssports walks. There will be an April 30 walk in Ruston. Rosemarie Hirsch is the new President.

Daffodil Valley. Meetings are going well at Bob's Burger's and Brews. Valentine walk will be on Feb 12 in Orting, it's not in the Pathfinder but is in AVA listings and has a "holiday" qualifier. April 2 will be a walk in Auburn. June 25 a walk on the Footlands Trail from Carbonado and which goes to two ghost towns.

Pathfinder club is doing fine putting out the newsletter.

South West (AC Burt Paynter)

All Weather Walkers are still deactivating and almost done. The last meeting will be January 25. Some of the events have been taken over by the Vancouver club.

Vancouver Volkssport is the last club in the area. The Long Beach walk is now on-line start box, but Burt will have a stamp and can work with anyone who can't or doesn't want to register on-line. So far, the club has planned 5 traditional events, 1 multi-day, and 3 traveling/guided walks for this year. Jan 17 will be a MLK Memorial walk; Apr 2 a Mural Walk (National Walking Weekend); May 14 will be an iris garden walk; March 4-6 will be a Coastal walking event in the Astoria area being planned by Tom and Louise Baltes.

Old & Unfinished Business:

Winter Walking Contest: Ed Hainline said it's all running smoothly. Encourage more walkers to join in! The drawing will be in April.

National Walking Week (April 1-8). Sharon Moats reminded us that this week is to introduce walking locally to new walkers, so clubs don't need to worry about overlap with other club's events for this week. Walks should be advertised locally as much as possible. If you have it posted on Meet-Up, note that it's "National Walking Week".

Pathfinder Club - A reminder to notify Chase Davis of walks and changes before the deadlines for publishing the Pathfinder (see most recent Pathfinder for deadline listings). He also needs the updates for Challenges for each walk to put into the Pathfinder. This information does not automatically come to him -- he needs the clubs to notify him!

NEW BUSINESS

General announcements: Please get all club officer and club mailing address updates to Diane Howell Evans (Secretary) and change them on the AVA club webpage. Also make sure that the Pathfinder (Chase Davis) is given any updates.

2022 events: There are 18 brand new events for 2022 and they need review soon so changes can be made if needed. Todd asked for volunteers to review these walks this spring. Volunteers: Aberdeen and both Tukwila (Carolyn Warhol), Cle Elum and South Cle Elum (Dennis Standridge), Everett (Sherry Ogur), Forks (Todd Oberlander), Oak

Harbor and Silverdale Newberry (Pam & Chase Davis), Port Ludlow (Sandi Severtsen), Renton and Sultan (Mike Nagan), Seattle (2-Sharon Moats), Spokane Fish Lake (Joe & Lynn - walk and bike), Vancouver (Burt).

Audit of ESVA Finances: Mike Nagan volunteered to do this with Chase Davis.

Budget Committee: We need to establish next year's budget. The Committee process was reviewed so volunteers would know what they would be responsible for. Committee: Chase Davis, Joe Blazek, Tom Baltes, Dennis Standridge, Diane Wagner. Chase will send the committee the current budget to use as a starting point.

ESVA repository for old events: Joe Blazek, Sharon Moats and Jan Jarrell put together an electronic repository for old walk directions so that clubs can store them for possible future updating and re-use. Club Presidents should collect any old walk directions they have and send either the paper copies or scan to PDF and send to Joe Blazek for placement in this repository.

ESVA Sponsorship of seasonal/year round events: Should this be allowed? There was discussion of this. Mike Nagan pointed out that ESVA used to sponsor events but the ESVA voted to not do this anymore because the clubs felt that ESVA was competing with the local clubs and their events. Suggestion that area clubs should be consulted before any sponsorships in the future. Tess suggested that ESVA could possibly do this for short time periods only for special reasons. Joe suggest ESVA could sponsor a YRE swim anywhere. Tom said involving swims brings in insurance issues, pool approvals, etc. and that most clubs had ended swims due to Covid concerns. Burt suggested that they should only happen in areas where no other walks are to prevent competition with clubs. Sherry asked for confirmation that this would be for YRE/Seasonals only (yes). Joe volunteered to put together a draft policy to be presented and voted on at the April Annual meeting. Mike noted that any policy would have to be approved by the Board by meeting or email.

Request for ESVA to sponsor a Regional Challenge: Nancy Wittenburg is requesting that the ESVA allow sponsorship of a Pacific Crest Trail challenge instead of going through AVA sponsorship which would require approval from each region; she would cover financial costs of the events and challenge. California might be part of this but it adds difficulties as it is in a different region. She is hoping to be able to get this in place before the regional conference as it has a PCT walk planned. She wants to add PCT events as it goes on. Discussion followed. After discussion, it was moved (Mike Nagan), seconded (Tom Baltes), and passed (all but one in favor) to approved the Pacific Crest Trail challenge that Nancy Wittenberg is proposing.

ESVA website survey: Joe wants to put out a survey sometime in the next 3 months or so about the ESVA website to see how clubs are using it and any ideas about changes.

By-Laws Changes: Joe reminded anyone wanting to make By-Law changes that it needs to be done soon. They must be drafted and circulated so that ESVA clubs can have them 30 days before the April meeting. Joe will be presenting two "housekeeping" by-laws changes (regarding e-meetings and an adding an RCW reference).

Area Coordinators will be elected/re-elected at the April meeting. In South Sound area, Carolyn Warhol will be off and Pam Davis on.

Olympiad: Sharon Moats noted that AVA is still working on the Olympiad in Texas for which volunteers will be needed. More information to come soon.

RD Report (Sharon Moats)

Sharon Moats reported that there had been issues with some Start Boxes.

She reminded us that at MyAVA that the walks can be edited with notes -- ie. a walk will end soon, or there will be a festival in the walk's area, or other things that might interest people to do the walk.

Clubs need to review their list of officers and club addresses to see if updating is needed on the AVA website.

The NW regional conference at Ashland, Oregon, is a "go". The conference hotel is booked up but there are many others in the area. The walks will also be in the on-line Start Box from June 12- Sept 30 so even those who can't make the conference can enjoy them. Ed noted that the event T-shirts are available for order now (pictures online). There will be a Winthrop event in late Sept/early Oct with the brochure coming out in the next couple of weeks, with registration starting in about May. Those planning to go may want to make reservations for accomodation now as it can have limited availability.

The Canadian clubs will have a multi-day event in Penticton, BC, at the end of May.

Sharon reminded us that only Year-Round and Seasonal Events can be in the online Start Box (OSB).

Tom Baltes added that the Vancouver USA club will have a Coastal Walk club event in the Astoria area March 4-6, all are invited to join them. If you are planning to go, please let him know so he can better plan for walk numbers.

Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting will be in Lacey on April 23 -- 3060 Willamette Dr, Lacey, in the Washington Association for Sheriffs and Police Chiefs conference room. This is during Olympia's Wild & Woodsy multi-walk event. The Executive Committee will meet at 1:00 pm and the ESVA Board of Directors will meet at 3:00 p.m. At the meeting, the fall meeting will be planned.

Meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Blazek
Substitute ESVA Secretary

Reviewed,

Joe Blazek
ESVA President