

ESVA Board of Directors Annual Meeting

April 23, 2022

In-Person Meeting

- **Call to Order.** President Joe Blazek called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm PST. In attendance in addition to the president were: Todd Oberlander, Vice President; Diane Howell Evans, Secretary; Chase Davis, Treasurer; Dennis Standridge, Eastern AC; 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; Elizabeth Morrison (Capitol); Russell E. Kruse (CW Sun Striders); Sue-Lon Webert (DVVA); Tony Holt (Emerald City Wanderers); Tess Sutton (Evergreen Wanderers); Michelle Roberts (FS Family Wanderers); Sharon Moats (Interlaken); Dennis Standridge (LCVA); Todd Oberlander (OPE); Diane Wagner (OTHG); Sherry Ogur (Sound Steppers); Eleanor Borgardts (Pathfinder); Tom Baltes (Vancouver USA); Sharon Moats, Regional Director; Ed Hainline, Deputy Regional Director; Sherry Ogur, Challenge Committee Chair.
- **Establishment of Quorum.** Diane Howell Evans declared a quorum was established. Absent were representatives from Four Plus Foolhardy Folks, International Wanderers, NW Tulip Trekkers and Sea-Tac Volkssport Club.
- **Welcome to members and guests.** Joe welcomed Board of Director members in attendance as well as guests Ron and Pat Fox for joining our annual meeting. Joe expressed his thanks to the Capitol Volkssport Club for the meeting room and the great Wild & Woodsy walking weekend. Joe mentioned there was a box with volksmarching awards, stickers and other club/trail materials available for free to any club interested on a nearby table. Joe reminded those in attendance to complete the ESVA questionnaire as plans are to tabulate results by winter. There is already one small change from the questionnaires that will be incorporated into the web site.
- **Acceptance of January 15, 2022 BOD Meeting Minutes.** Eleanor Borgardts made a motion, seconded by Sherry Ogur, to approve the minutes of the January 15th BOD Meeting as written. Diane Evans indicated an e-mail was received from Rosemarie Hirsch to correct the minutes to show she was the new President of the Evergreen Wanderers not the misleading statement she was the new President of The Over-the-Hill Gang club. The amended minutes of the January 15th BOD Meeting were accepted.
- **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Chase Davis reported the sale of ESVA Challenge books totaled \$820. The budget is on track as expected with an estimate of \$11,000 bottom line at the end of June 2023. Monitoring of bottom line, as well as looking for any trends, might result in needed changes to budget. Joe to check bylaws to see if or when reevaluation of the downward ESVA budget trend is required.
- **Report on Walk Review Program.** Vice President Todd Oberlander reported there are 589 YRE/Seasonal events. As of 4/21/22, 259 events need to be reviewed. The review completion rate is currently 44%. There are 8 new YREs that need to be reviewed ASAP. If you are interested in reviewing a walk, please check out the ESVA web page for a list of YRE/Seasonal events needing a review. It was emphasized that a club can now review their own events if the club member doing the review was not part of the planning of the walk.
- **Challenge Committee Report.** Committee Chair Sherry Ogur reported the new 2022 "On the Road Again" Challenge shows 4 books being sold but there are many more sales. Once money from the club sales has been turned in an accurate count can be taken. Due to this weekend's Wild & Woodsy multi-day events and the upcoming multi-day events for the NW Regional Conference and Winthrop, it is expected book sales will pick up. Thirty-four Frontline Heroes Challenge books have been completed and covered the costs of the challenge. Income from the Legacy program totals \$377.00 so far.
- **Area Coordinator Reports.**
 - **AC Dennis Standridge** (Eastern) – reported the Lilac City Club has all their YRE/Seasonal events on OSB as well as a majority offering a PSB option also. Bloomsday 2022 In-Person May 1st event registration deadline is April 28th for the \$35 fee. After the 28th the in-person fee increases. Bloomsday 2022 Virtual registration deadline is May 8th with event completion any

time between April 28 – May 8. Virtual fee is \$35. AVA event stamp for Bloomsday event will be at the Perkins Restaurant from April 28 – May 3. The Start/Finish point (Tom Sawyer Coffee Shop) for Browne’s Addition closed so now only available on OSB but will have a PSB in place by May 15th. The Club is hosting a group walk on “The Trail of the Coeur d’Alenes” on Saturday, May 21, with 9:00 am registration at the Wallace Visitor Center and planned lunch afterwards.

- **AC Lynn Blazek** (Central) – reported the Sun Striders club has moved all remote YREs/Seasonals to the OSB due to the great driving distances to maintain the PSBs. Local area YREs/Seasonals within a reasonable driving distance will still utilize PSBs. New walks include Cle Elum and South Cle Elum. The Vantage Seasonal now offers 3 separate trails (7K, 3K and 6K) and you drive to 2 of the 3 trail start locations. Newest trail section is the Beverly Bridge 6K section. National Walking Week included a walk every day of the week and every time the 5-6 participants included new people.
- **AC Sandi Severtsen** (North West) – reported on the following clubs:
Olympic Peninsula Explorers (OPE) - Todd Oberlander. OPE has wonderful walks in Gardiner, Port Angeles, Port Townsend, Sequim, Silverdale, and Forks. Todd holds meetings for his club twice a year, the latest was on 4/16. OPE and 4+ Fool Hardy is holding a NW Hiking Weekend on August 19-21, 2022. Look for more info from Port Ludlow, WA. On trail walks, please keep cars locked and personal items well hidden. There have been lots of break-ins at trail heads.
Northwest Tulip Trekkers Club - Tom Wallace. Tulip Trekkers hosts one of their 19 walks each Saturday, inviting anyone to join via the Meet-Up site. They are looking for more walking hosts. Tom mentioned that the club has had scammers requesting money, and to not answer these emails. Members keep in touch with via weekend walks, and quarterly newsletters.
Sound Steppers - Sandi Severtsen. We have been successfully holding a Saturday walk, once a month. The weather has been perfect, and turn outs from meet-up are good. We average 2 new members each event. The next walk is May 21st in Edmonds. This walk is in memory of Jeff Blosssey, who was one of the founders of Sound Steppers. In person meetings started again.
- **AC Tony Holt** (Central Puget Sound) – reported the Four Plus Foolhardy Folks had 102 participants at the Bow event on April 9th and the Emerald City Wanderers had 110 participants at their Easter/Cherry Blossom UW walk. Upcoming events for the Central area include:
May 14th – F.S. Wanderers, Light Rail & Trail event
June 11th – memorial service for Preston Johnson who recently passed away. Preston was instrumental in the founding of volkssporting in the NW and the ESVA.
July 4th – Emerald City Wanderers, Discovery Park
August 19th – 21st – Four Plus Foolhardy Folks plus the Olympic Peninsula Explorers hosting a NW Hiking Weekend with several events plus local YREs.
Sept 30th – Oct 2nd – Interlaken Trailblazers, Winthrop multi-day events
- **AC Carolyn Warhol** (South Sound) – reported the clubs in the South Sound area during National Walking Week hosted walks on 6 of the 7 days. Club updates followed:
Daffodil Valley. Club is hosting a walk in Carbonado on June 25th and includes a Foothills Rails-to-Trails section. Longest distance is 13K which is past the High Bridge. The walk is highly recommended and worth the drive. Monthly trail cleanups continue.
Evergreen Wanderers. Club has the Tacoma - Ruston walk on April 30th. First traditional event after some time and Nancy and Buffy Wittenberg have assisted the club.
Capitol Volkssport Club. Wild & Woodsy multi-day event this weekend and walks and operations going well.
Over-the-Hill Gang. During National Walking Week the Club hosted a Wednesday morning walk and had 19 participants.
NW Pathfinders. Club has found a new printer for the NW Pathfinder Guide and Newsletter as the previous printer suddenly closed shop.
Other News. Carolyn is relinquishing her Area Coordinator position after serving 10 years on the Board. Appreciation for her time and devotion to the South Sound area clubs and the ESVA was

extended by all. Pamela Grieg Davis has agreed to fill the position.

- **AC Burt Paynter** (Southwest) – reported the Vancouver Volkssporters club along with Oregon clubs hosted a walk every day of National Walking Week. One of the walks called the “Mural Walk” had 120 participants and also had a guide describing the murals which all resulted in a 2 page article about the walk in the Clark County newspaper. A Portland walk, led by Dick Baker, resulted in a TV cameo about volkssporting. Both provided great publicity for our organization and clubs. In the beginning of March a coastal travel trip was led by Tom Baltes and resulted in an estimated 250 tallied walks of WA and OR YRES/SEASONALS. Upcoming walks include the Iris Garden/Salmon Creek Trail on May 14th and the July 4th walk in Vancouver is one of the initial walks ever hosted by the club. The All Weather Walkers club which disbanded has now been fully assimilated into the Vancouver Volkssporters club.
- **Ongoing and Unfinished Business.**
 - **Winter Walking Contest.** Ed Hainline reported the Washington participation in the contest increased from 21 in 2021 to 33 in 2022. Of the 33 total for 2022, 6 were first time walkers. Todd did the drawing for the VISA Cards since Joe was a participant in the contest. The winners were: \$100 Visa Card – Tom Baltes, Camas; \$75 Visa Card – Chase Davis, Lacey; and \$50 Visa Card – Cheryl Snodgrass, Vancouver. The Tea Towel winners (most walks completed) were: Gold Tea Towel - Jan Paige, Federal Way (122 walks); Silver Tea Towel – Cheryl Snodgrass, Vancouver (81 walks); and Bronze Tea Towel – Karen Younkins, Olympia (59 walks). Tom and Louise Baltes completed many walks during the contest (121 former and 113 latter) and graciously declined the award of the tea towel so others could enjoy Louise’s beautiful work. Ed recommended the continuation of the contest for winter 2023. General consensus was to keep the contest. No vote needed at this time.
 - **Pathfinder Issues.** Chase Davis reported the Pathfinder printer sold the building and they learned of the situation by verbal notice from an employee with the printer. Pam Greig-Davis researched printing vendors and found a new printer. The new vendor will print as many copies as we want rather than the current minimum run of 1000 copies per order. Bottom line is the cost is about the same for fewer copies but there is the possibility of saving money on printing due to the walking season and number of walks. Which means less pages per run as well as any decrease in the number of copies needed due to subscription base or extra unused copies. Current need is 850 copies per run.
- **New Business.**
 - **Correspondence.** None
 - **Announcements.** None
 - **Finance and Budget Committee.** Treasurer Chase Davis commented in the FY23 proposed Operating Budget he removed the Club Support line item of \$500 from the ESVA 2023 budget as it was never used. Web hosting is \$300 for 2 years support and FY22 is already paid but it will need to be increased for the next fiscal year. Funds for the Winter Walking Challenge 2023 have been included in the budget. Projected Income is \$1,625 with projected Expenses of \$5,275, resulting in a loss of \$3,650 which will need to be withdrawn from Net Assets. Diane Wagner made a motion, seconded by Tess Sutton, to approve the budget. The motion passed.
 - **Audit of ESVA Finances.** Joe Blazek reported Mike Nagan performed the audit of the ESVA financial records for the year ending December 31, 2021. Mike met with Chase Davis and found the ESVA records and accounts in good order and found no reason for concern. Joe read the formal audit letter with the results and findings from Mike which he had sent to Secretary Diane Evans for the records. *See accompanying letter. Comment was made that annual audits should be performed each November for the calendar year and members should be ready if called on to participate in the audits.
 - **ESVA YRE Sponsorship of YRE/Seasonal Events Discussion.** Joe Blazek submitted a draft of a new policy allowing the ESVA to sponsor a YRE or Seasonal event in areas of Washington

where there are limited or no walking events sponsored by a Washington club or sponsor a non-walking event such as swims, bikes, snowshoeing and Xcountry skiing. This new policy would attract new people to our sport by offering a variety of events across the state; assist with the current 39 Counties Challenge Program as well as future challenge Programs; but also be cognizant of not directly competing with any ESVA club events. Joe suggested the example of an ESVA sponsored swimming event where people register and swim at their local YMCA or community pool. Tess Sutton made a motion, seconded by Dennis Standridge, to approve the proposed policy. Discussion followed regarding the potential for increased revenue, similar events sponsored by the Oregon State Association, need for discussion with any local clubs to see if they wanted first chance to sponsor the event, possibility of new events on the way to multi-day events in other parts of the State or region, assistance with difficult challenges like A to Z, and point-to-point bicycling events. Motion passed. Next step is for Sharon Moats, NW RD, to check with AVA Headquarters and their attorneys regarding swimming events.

- **ESVA Bylaws Change RCW Reference Discussion (Motion #1).** Joe Blazek proposed a “housekeeping change” to add “Revised Code of Washington” references (RCW 24.03, 24.03A and 24.06) to the ESVA Bylaws which provide additional information on the state laws that apply to ESVA’s nonprofit status. Carolyn Warhol made a motion, seconded by Burt Paynter, to approve the proposed policy. Discussion occurred with Sue-Lon Webert making a motion to amend the Bylaws change to also change the word “Constitutions” to “Certificate of Formation.” Carolyn Warhol made a motion to accept the amendment to the original motion which was seconded by Tess Sutton. With no further discussion the motion passed.
- **ESVA Bylaws Change Electronic Meetings Discussion (Motion #2).** Joe Blazek proposed a minor change to the ESVA Bylaws, Article 12.01, to add the language “electronic media” to reflect the current reality of ESVA meetings being conducted via zoom due to the pandemic and travel restrictions. The priority is in-person EC and BOD meetings but our new reality going forward needs to include zoom or hybrid meetings. Eleanor Borgardts made a motion, seconded by Burt Paynter, to approve the change to the Bylaws. Discussion ensued regarding the appropriate terminology to use for all future electronic meetings – zoom, hybrid, mixed media, etc. Motion passed.
- **Election Discussion of EC Officers for 7/1/22 – 6/30/24 Term.** Encumbent officers agreed to another term. With no additional nominations from the floor all 4 officers were re-elected for another term: President, Joe Blazek; VP – Todd Oberlander; Secretary – Diane Howell Evans; and Treasurer – Chase Davis. The Area Coordinators will be elected by their respective area clubs in attendance immediately after this meeting.
- **Other.** Tom Baltes reminded attendees the pre-registration deadline for the upcoming June NW Regional Conference is June 1st and brochures are available on the table at the back of the meeting room. There is a group going down to Ashland to renew relationships established since 2019. Clubs are invited to bring their club feathers to the conference to put on display in the hotel. A Silent Auction will be included and clubs are asked to submit an item to the auction as a percentage of the income will be donated back to the community for their support of the conference. Highly recommended to bring club brochures to promote walking. Tom also believes that the success of the recent coastal traveling trip is one of the new ways of doing business.
- **RD Report. Sharon Moats, NW RD.**
 - Sharon presented Club Anniversary Certificates to the following clubs: Evergreen Wanderers, first club in WA – 40 years; Sea-Tac Volkssport Club – 40 years; Northwest Tulip Trekkers – 35 years; All Weather Walkers, now part of the Vancouver USA Volkssporters Club – 30 years; The Over-the-Hill Gang Volkssport Club – 30 years; International Wanderers – 30 years; Treasure Valley Volkssports (Idaho) – 30 years.
 - Sharon discussed the next NW Regional Conference in 2024 would be held in Idaho and the Lilac City Club has about 10-15 members who have expressed an interest in volunteering to help the Idaho club host the conference.

- Sharon mentioned clubs need to meet the AVA active non-profit requirement of holding an annual meeting during their fiscal year so be sure to schedule and include the term “annual” in their meeting minutes. Every club has to have at least the Secretary officer position filled to be considered official.
- Sharon recommended that clubs attend events hosted by other clubs and get to know the club and their members. Traditional events are getting harder and harder to host so a road trip by another club to support the host club efforts would be appreciated and beneficial to all.
- Sharon pointed out there is a complimentary booklet “Walk the Cascade Loop to Winthrop 2022” to challenge yourself along the scenic loop to Winthrop. They can be found on the table at the back of the meeting room.
- Sharon described the issues and features of the new on-line sanctioning system. Transfer issue is currently being reviewed and new features include the “cloning” option for multi-day events, management privileges to print reports back 4 years, how-to videos, and ability to copy and update. Sharon recommended any directions on maps be tested. Sharon and Tom Baltes are available for help in entering sanctions.
- **Recognition.** Joe Blazek recognized Carolyn Warhol’s 10 years of service as South Puget Sound Area Coordinator and wished her well on her future walking journeys. Joe thanked the Capitol Volkssport Club for the meeting location and their officers, event chairs and trailmasters for the great Wild & Woodsy weekend and the club’s team spirit as hosts.
- **Next EC and BOD Meetings.**
 - **Fall and Winter Meetings** – Winthrop Event: EC meeting on Friday, September 30th, at 4 PM and BOD meeting on Saturday, October 1st, at 3 PM. Both meetings in the Red Barn, upstairs area.
- **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 pm PST.
- **Area Coordinator Meeting to Elect new AC’s.** The following Area Coordinators were elected by their area club representatives:

Eastern AC – Dennis Standridge	Central AC – Lynn Blazek
Northwest AC – Sandi Severtsen	Central Puget Sound AC – Tony Holt
South Sound AC – Pam Greig-Davis	Southwest AC – Burt Paynter

Area Coordinator elections concluded at 4:50 pm PST.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Howell Evans
ESVA Secretary

Reviewed:

Joe Blazek
ESVA President