

## Executive Committee Annual Meeting

April 23, 2022

### In-Person Meeting

- **Call to Order.** President Joe Blazek called the meeting to order at 1:03 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; Sharon Moats, Regional Director; Ed Hainline, Deputy Regional Director; Sherry Ogur, Challenge Committee Chair; and guests Michelle Roberts (F.S. Family Wanderers) and Frank Dudfield (Canada).
- **Establishment of Quorum.** Diane Howell Evans declared a quorum was established.
- **Welcome to members and guests.** Joe welcomed EC members in attendance as well as guests Michelle Roberts and Frank Dudfield for joining our annual meeting. 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 and also desserts were available just outside the meeting room.
- **Acceptance of January 15, 2022 EC Meeting Minutes.** Lynn Blazek made a motion, seconded by Carolyn Warhol, to approve the minutes of the January 15<sup>th</sup> EC 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. Chase Davis made a motion, seconded by Sandi Severtsen, to approve the amended minutes of the January 15<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting.
- **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Chase Davis reported the sale of ESVA Challenge books totaled \$820. The budget is on track as expected with estimate of \$11,000 bottom line at the end of June 2023.
- **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.
- **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 1<sup>st</sup> event registration deadline is April 28<sup>th</sup> for the \$35 fee. After the 28<sup>th</sup> the in-person fee increases. Bloomsday 2022 Virtual registration deadline is May 8<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>. Club hosting group walks on the Coeur d'Alene trail in May so check out info on MeetUp or the club calendar on their web site.
  - **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 Blossy, 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 9<sup>th</sup> and the Emerald City Wanderers had 110 participants at their Easter/Cherry Blossom UW walk. Upcoming events for the Central area include:  
May 14<sup>th</sup> – F.S. Wanderers, Light Rail & Trail event  
June 11<sup>th</sup> – memorial service for Preston Johnson who recently passed away. Preston was instrumental in the founding of volkssporting in the NW and the ESVA.  
July 4<sup>th</sup> – Emerald City Wanderers, Discovery Park  
August 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> – Four Plus Foolhardy Folks plus the Olympic Peninsula Explorers hosting a NW Hiking Weekend with several events plus local YREs.  
Sept 30<sup>th</sup> – Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> – 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup>. 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 Greig-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 14<sup>th</sup> and the July 4<sup>th</sup> 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. Also, few went over 100 walks for the 3 months and the drawing will be done at the upcoming Board of Directors meeting.
- **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.** Sharon Moats birthday is today and all sang 'Happy Birthday' to her.
- **Finance and Budget Committee.** Treasurer Chase Davis commented 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.
- **Audit of ESVA Finances.** Joe Blazek reported Mike Nagan performed the audit of the ESVA financial records for the year ending in December 31, 2021. Mike met with Chase Davis and found the ESVA records and accounts in good order and found no reason for concern. Mike forwarded a formal letter with his findings and comments to Secretary Diane Evans for the records. Comment was made that annual audits should be performed each November for the calendar year.
- **ESVA YRE Sponsorship of YRE/Seasonal Events Discussion.** Joe Blazek introduced a new policy of the ESVA sponsoring a YRE or Seasonal event in areas of Washington where there are limited or no walking events sponsored by a Washington club or sponsoring non-walking events 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. Discussion followed regarding the various types of events and Sharon Moats, NW RD, will check with AVA Headquarters and their attorneys regarding swimming events. It was agreed to present the proposed new policy as discussed to the Board of Directors.
- **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. All agreed with the proposed change.
- **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. All agreed with the proposed change.
- **Election Discussion of EC Officers for 7/1/22 – 6/30/24 Term.** All current officers agreed to serve another term and the 4 EC officers will be elected at the following BOD meeting with the Area Coordinators elected by their respective area clubs immediately after the BOD meeting.

- **Other.** None
- **RD Report.** – Sharon Moats, NW RD, discussed the 2024 NW Regional Conference would be held in Idaho and the Lilac City Club has about 10-15 members who have expressed an interested in volunteering to help the Idaho club host the conference. Sharon mentioned that clubs need to meet the AVA requirement of holding an annual meeting during their fiscal year so be sure to schedule and include the term “annual” in their meeting minutes. Sharon will be presenting anniversary certificates to clubs during the BOD meeting as well as discussing the new sanctioning system.
- **Recognition.** Joe Blazek thanked the Capitol Volkssport Club for the meeting location and lunch as well as the great Wild & Woodsy events. Joe reminded people to visit the ESVA web site and participate in the site questionnaire.
- **Next EC and BOD Meetings.**
  - **Next ESVA EC Meeting** – need a place holder in July for an EC meeting via Zoom in case there is a need to discuss any issues. Todd suggested Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm PST. All agreed.
  - **Fall and Winter Meetings** – schedule at upcoming BOD meeting.
- **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 pm PST.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Howell Evans  
ESVA Secretary

Reviewed:

Joe Blazek  
ESVA President