

ESVA Board of Directors Meeting

January 26, 2023

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 and OPE Rep; Diane Howell Evans, Secretary; Chase Davis, Treasurer; Dennis Standridge, Eastern AC and LCV Rep; Lynn Blazek, Central AC and CWSS Rep; Sandi Severtsen, North West AC and SS and NWTT Rep; Tony Holt, Central Puget Sound AC; Pam Greig-Davis, South Puget Sound AC; Burt Paynter, Southwest AC; Sharon Moats, Regional Director and ITVC Rep; Ed Hainline, Deputy Regional Director; Bonnie Tucker (CVC Rep); Sue-Lon Weber (DVVA Rep); Mike Nagan (ECW Rep); Tess Sutton (EW Rep); Lisa Robertson (FSFW Rep); Diane Wagner (OTHG and TPVC Rep); Fran Carson (SVC Rep); and Dorothy Steedle (VUSAV Rep). Absent were Sherry Ogur, Challenge Committee Chair, and representatives for International Wanderers and Four Plus Foolhardy Folks.
- **Establishment of Quorum.** Diane Howell Evans declared a quorum was established.
- **Welcome to Members and Guests.** President Joe Blazek welcomed all in attendance.
- **Acceptance of October 1, 2022 BOD Meeting Minutes as written.** Diane Wagner made the motion to accept the minutes from the October 1st, 2022 BOD meeting as written. Mike Nagan seconded. Approved.
- **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Chase Davis reported for the 6 months ending as of December 31, 2022 total income was \$724.90 (Challenge Book sales and Club Member dues) and expenses were about about \$2,300 (Meetup renewal, Challenge Books, website maintenance, miscellaneous office items, Pathfinder donation and costs). The overall total was a loss of \$1,602 since July 1, 2022. There was a snafu with several check payments for Challenge Books which caused a slight delay in depositing additional income but checks will be clearing this month. See Attachment A for report.
- **VP's Report/Update on Walk Review Program.** Vice President Todd Oberlander reported 337 events need to be reviewed according to current rules which is about 50% of total events.
- **Challenge Committee Report.** Pam Greig-Davis, reporting for Sherry Ogur, shared that Challenge and Legacy Books sold in 2022 created revenue of \$1065. When comparing 2020 through 2023 income vs. expenses for the new challenge offered in each of those years each has shown a profit, even for Strolling Along the Rivers just introduced this year. The number of Challenge Books finished by participants to date include 35 Frontline Heroes and 14 On the Road Again. The Committee hasn't started exploring any new challenges yet as typically ideas are discussed during the summer months, firmed up in the fall and then produced by the Turkey Trot event. See Attachment B for report.
- **Area Coordinator Reports.**
 - **AC Dennis Standridge** (Eastern) – reported the Lilac City Volkssport Association has uploaded all 20 YRE/Seasonal events in the Spokane area to the OSB system with some also maintaining a PSB. Trying to do weekly walks but there has been snow on the ground with more coming!
 - **AC Lynn Blazek** (Central) – reported the Sun Striders club is doing well and they redid the Ellensburg YRE so it is now three 6K options rather than the usual 5/10K so walkers can group the trails different ways. Club has made a partial change to the Leavenworth downtown portion of the walk. The September Gold Creek (Hyak area) event offers a 5k trail on paved and packed soil terrain whereas the 10k trail continues farther up the Gold Creek hiking trail. The two new walks in Sitka AK and Selah WA as well as the 4 new biking events (Riverfront Bike Trail (Richland), Yakima Greenway Bike Trail (Yakima), Ferry County Bike Trail (Curlew Lake) and Apple Capital Loop Trail (E. Wenatchee) are all on the OSB.
 - **AC Sandi Severtsen** (North West) – reported on the following clubs:
Olympic Peninsula Explorers club has submitted their walks for the year to their club members, encouraging weekend road trips and lunch meetings. At this time, OPE is planning a traditional walk on Saturday, 10/7, during the Port Angeles Crab Fest. NorthWest Tulip Trekkers' President

Tom Wallace was re-elected as President for a second term. All NWTT walks are only online start boxes; they no longer have physical start boxes. The Surrey Trekkers have reached out to NWTT to have a Friendship Walk on August 12th. Surrey will schedule their Peace Arch walk on Saturday at 10:00 am and NWTT will schedule their walk in Blaine at 2:00 pm. Out of the 52 weeks in 2022, they had a MeetUp walk each week. Former members Tim and Cheryl Fisher were acknowledged for their many contributions throughout the years. In the club newsletter, the Wallaces included detail instructions on creating a my.ava.org account.

Sound Steppers club members Tim Fisher, Cheryl Fisher, Neil Smith, Sherry Ogur, and Sandi Severtsen were awarded Certificates of Merit for a variety of services they have performed for volkssporting. YREs have been increased from 10 to 12 starting in 2023. They celebrated 18 years as a club

- **AC Tony Holt** (Central Puget Sound) – reported the Emerald City Wanderers’ New Year’s Eve/New Year’s Day event was successful and offered soup once again at the Finish. Their upcoming walks include a St. Patrick’s Day walk on 3/18 and an Easter walk on 4/8. The Interlaken club is doing their usual walks and doing just fine. Four+ Foolhardy Folks have a 3-day NW hiking weekend beginning on April 21st in Othello. Sea-Tac’s Milton event in March fell through and is now rescheduled for July. FS Family Wanderers have an upcoming walk in May. All clubs in this area are doing well.
- **AC Pam Greig-Davis** (South Sound) – reported on the following clubs:
 - Capitol Volkssport Club. The Salmon Run guided walk on October 15th in Tumwater had 75 participants and the Holiday walk on December 10th in Olympia had 95 participants. Upcoming events include: Westside Nature Trails in Olympia on 3/25 and the daffodils should be in bloom; Earth Day in Lacey on 4/29 as well as hosting the ESVA meetings at the event; NW Trek on 4/30 that is offering special group discounted tickets of \$15 and info will be posted on club website shortly; and Vance Creek Railriders (bike) event near Shelton on 7/22. This is a one-day event but the club will be sanctioning this as a seasonal for July through September. The weekly MeetUp walks are held on Mondays at 2 pm and on Thursdays at 10 am.
 - Daffodil Valley. Upcoming Valentine’s Day walk in Orting on February 11th will provide qualifiers the new Special Programs On the Road Again and Strolling Along the Rivers. Thirty club members completed the Bell Challenge and now the club is searching for “Sasquatch”. Weekly MeetUp walks are held on Mondays at 9:30 am and Wednesdays at 10 am.
 - Evergreen Wanderers. Club’s upcoming walk on April 15th is called the Tacoma vs. Ruston: Battle of Charm-n-Views and the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge seasonal opens March 1st.
 - Over-the-Hill Gang. Club has re-routed their Interurban Trail known as Rails, Rabbits, and Race Tracks. It follows the tracks of the old Seattle electric railway built in the early 1900s. They are also working towards having all their YRE events on the OSB.
 - NW Pathfinders. Club is “doing their thing” according to Chase.
- **AC Burt Paynter** (Southwest) – reported the Vancouver USA Volkssporters (VUSAV) have Wednesday walks all year long and are well attended due to club members Dick and Barbara Baker. Their October Halloween walk went through the Lincoln neighborhood with many outstanding Halloween decorations and had around 100 participants. They sponsored a Black Friday ‘Opt Out’ TGW walk the day after Thanksgiving which started at the Frenchman’s Bar on the Columbia River west of downtown Vancouver and had 50 participants. Walkers viewed hundreds of migratory Snow Geese and several Sandhill Cranes along the trail. VUSAV and the Columbia River Volksmarching Club (CRVC) joined forces to offer walks to close out 2022 (CRVC) and welcome in 2023 (VUSAC). There were 104 participants on New Year’s Day. On Jan 16th VUSAV sponsored a Martin Luther King TGW walk and had 67 participants. This month the club had a social event in Battleground at the NW Public House where everyone enjoyed good food and fellowship and was well attended. Upcoming events include a Fourth of July event and a walk during National Walking Week is in the plans. Vice President Dorothy Steedle has created a brochure listing all their 2023 YREs and is being distributed to all their PSBs.

- RD Report.** Sharon Moats reported on several items:

Winthrop Event – the event had 797 credit paid participants and the Silent Auction brought in \$1500 with \$750 donated to the Methow Trails Organization and \$750 to the Conservancy.

IVV Olympiad – NW region will have 2 display tables for brochures and flyers in the LaQuinta Hotel Lobby which do not need to be manned but will be available to the public 24 hours a day so please don't leave anything of value overnight. Since it is not manned if you walk by and see folks checking things out please stop and give them a pep talk about the great NW. The Canadian Vancouver Venturers are manning a checkpoint at one of the walks and will be promoting their September Vancouver Walkfest. Sharon has contacted the Volunteer Coordinator and asked if the NW could man a checkpoint and rotate coverage among the NW attendees when they are not walking. We could wear our Bend t-shirts to promote the upcoming NW September Salute to Central Oregon weekend in Bend. More info to follow on checkpoint. 70 people from the NW are registered.

New AVA Insurer – the annual quote from our 2022 Insurance company raised the 2023 rates significantly from last year so a new insurer was solicited and found. Coverage has been increased and there is a link available to the Certificate of Liability Insurance which Sharon will provide Diane Howell Evans to distribute to the clubs.

Regional Nominating Committee – Sharon will be contacting folks to solicit members for the regional nominating committee. Sharon and Ed have agreed to run again for a 2nd term.

Next Board Meeting – mid-April.
- Unfinished Business.**

 - Winter Walking Contest.** Ed Hainline reported contest is active with contest information, rules and walking log form on the ESVA website. Contest runs January 1st through March 31st with the drawing for prizes on 4/29 at the ESVA Annual BOD Meeting.
 - Pathfinder Issues.** Chase Davis reported the distribution handoff went smoothly thanks to Diane Wagner. Also, thanks to Pam Greig-Davis for helping put the labels on the copies as it took 6 hours. Hopefully faster in the future! Some subscribers have reported missing their Jan/Feb issue but any delay in receipt is due to USPS.
 - ESVA Website Use Survey Update.** Joe Blazek reported the survey comments received from the clubs were reviewed and resulted in several changes to the ESVA website: OSB Tutorials are on the Events page now; Sharon Moats updated the Pathfinder page; Joe, Sharon and Sherry Ogur updated the Challenge page; several never used items deleted from the For Clubs page. Joe recommended everyone check out the improved website as it contains good information.
- New Business.**

 - Correspondence.** Sharon Moats sent the new AVA Insurer's URL for the Certificate of Liability Insurance to Diane Howell Evans for distribution to Club Presidents as well as copied to the Chat section in Zoom for attendees to print.
 - Announcements.** Joe Blazek reminded all clubs to forward any officer updates to the AVA and Diane Howell Evans. Ed Hainline updated everyone on the Central Oregon Salute multi-event weekend scheduled for Sept 14-17, 2023, in Bend, OR. Hotel is the same one used in 2021 and a block of rooms for the event has been reserved. Please call during the day and use the Group Rate Code "Columbia River Volkssport Club or CRVC". If any issues with making your room reservation please contact Ed. In addition to the walks last time, which are pretty much the same, there are 2 new walks. In the past there was a walk to the river with rafting but this time the event is dependent on the water level and the club won't really know if it is a go until late August or early September. Weekend will also include 3 bikes and 1 swim. Club is using the same Senior Center as last time for Friday's Meet & Greet and Saturday's Banquet. Also, same caterer as last time. Brochure and registration info will be ready shortly. More information at April meetings.
 - Field Review of New/Revised ESVA Events for 2023.** Todd Oberlander discussed there were 40 events requiring review before Memorial Day but since many are seasonals the reviews can't begin until April. Volunteers signed up for 11 of the 40 at the meeting. Todd will send the

updated sign-up list to Diane Howell Evans to distribute with the meeting minutes. Clubs can discuss at their upcoming meetings and solicit volunteers. Joe explained we need to adjust the guidelines/requirements of the review program to determine a priority. Right now we have new 2023 events, those with no review since the beginning of the program and those that now need another review as it has been 5 years since the last review.

- **Audit of 2022 ESVA Finances.** Joe Blazek reported Bob Morrison accepted his request to work with Chase on the review of ESVA's 2022 finances as required by the ESVA Bylaws. Report of the review at the April meeting.
- **Update of Capital Assessment Committee on ESVA Budget Drawdown.** Todd Oberlander reported the committee is waiting on data to view the effect on the budget of the Pathfinder changes made at the fall meeting, Committee will discuss and submit proposal at the April meeting. Concern expressed if the possibility of any recommendation includes clubs paying walker fees that the clubs receive such notice well in advance of implementation.
- **Establishment of Budget Committee for Next Fiscal Year.** Joe Blazek discussed the current process for determining a new fiscal year budget and solicited volunteers for the committee. Volunteers include Joe Blazek, Chase Davis, Tess Sutton (alternate), Burt Paynter, Dennis Standridge, and Ed Hainline. See Attachment C for Budget Committee members and contact information.
- **Update of ESVA Sponsored Events.** Joe Blazek reported the 3 NW coast seasonal YRE beach walks approved at the fall EC Meeting are online and open on April 1st. He discussed his proposal at the recent EC Meeting of 3 additional seasonal YRE beach walks: Shi Shi Beach/Point of the Arches, Kalaloch, and Ruby Beach/Abby Island. These 3 would also be offered online and run April 1st through October 31st. EC approved the events and these additional events will be added to OSB by the end of the month. Joe stated his next task is to seek approval and add to the OSB a winter cross country ski and snowshoe along the Palouse to Cascades Trail. He contacted RoseMarie Hirsch with the Evergreen Wanderers as in the past they had offered a winter event out of South Cle Elum. RoseMarie told Joe the club is no longer doing that and there are no issues with the ESVA sponsoring an event in the Cle Elum area that could stretch from North Bend to Palouse on the Idaho border.
- **Bylaws/Standing Rules Changes to Reflect NW Pathfinder Connection.** Joe Blazek stated the ESVA Bylaws and Standing Rules do not contain any language regarding 2 ESVA representatives on the Pathfinder Board of Directors whereas it is stated in the Pathfinder Bylaws. Currently Sharon Moats is already one ESVA representative on the Pathfinder's BOD. Dennis Standridge nominated Pam Greig-Davis as the second ESVA representative to the Pathfinder's BOD and Pam accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations from the floor for second ESVA representative to the Pathfinder's BOD. Being none, nominations were closed and there was a call for a voice vote. Pam Greig-Davis was unanimously elected as the second ESVA Representative to the Pathfinder's BOD. Joe has drafted a change to the ESVA Standing Rules that will be presented to the Board at the Annual Meeting in April to vote on and codify ESVA's involvement with the Pathfinder Board.
- **Proposal for Changes to the Event Review Program Discussion.** Since we have already discussed in the meeting the lengthy list of events needing review and the current rule that once an event has been reviewed it returns to the list for another review 5 years later, Joe Blazek asked if people were in favor of not putting the once reviewed event back on the list unless there were significant changes somehow. Discussion opened for comments and suggestions. Concerns expressed regarding the definition of the term "significant" and the need to make route changes to keep the event interesting. Other concerns raised included the need to maintain reviews but perhaps change the frequency from 5 to 3 years. Suggestions included the use of a short postcard size feedback form for all walkers, not just event reviewers, which could be added to any physical start box or to OSB directions or to the ESVA website. General consensus was to prioritize the reviews going forward to first all 2023 new events, then those events that have never been

reviewed yet, followed by those events that need a second review 5 years later after the initial review. Plus, the review process should not be borne entirely by the ESVA BOD but publicized at club meetings and in club newsletters to solicit volunteers, as well as through the RD NW Regional Newsletter and the Pathfinder. Todd is willing to provide an updated sign-up list to any club before their meeting if asked. Joe thanked all for the great input and he and Todd will draft a proposal for changes to the Event Review Program for the April meetings.

- **Other.** Dennis Standridge announced the passing of Geri O'Dell on Nov 21, 2022. She was one of the club founders and a past area coordinator and a very good friend to the club. Sharon Moats announced any club doing a walk of an event only in the OSB just let her know and she can print off labels for you or help you with the printing yourself.
- **Next EC and BOD Meetings.**
 - **Next ESVA Meetings – Spring Annual Meetings:** EC and BOD meetings on April 29, 2023, at Capitol Volkssport Club's event. Address is Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs, 3060 Willamette Drive NE, Suite 200, Lacey WA 98516. EC meeting at 1:00 PM and BOD meeting at 2:00 PM.
- **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm PST.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Howell Evans
ESVA Secretary

Reviewed:

Joe Blazek
ESVA President

ESVA income statement

7/1/2022 through 12/31/2022

1/26/2023

Date	Num	Description
INCOME		
Challenge Book Sales		
39 Counties		
11/20/2022	DEP	Deposit Wells
Frontline Heroes		
9/25/2022	DEP	Deposit Chase check for
10/30/2022	DEP	Deposit
12/23/2022	DEP	S Deposit
Legacy		
10/6/2022	DEP	S Deposit
11/22/2022	DEP	Deposit Morgan
On The Road Again		
9/21/2022	EFT	Deposit through PayPal
10/16/2022	DEP	Deposit
Rivers		
10/6/2022	DEP	S Deposit
12/1/2022	DEP	Deposit Ogur check
12/23/2022	DEP	S Deposit
12/31/2022	DEP	Deposit Sanders
12/31/2022	DEP	Deposit Nelson
12/31/2022	DEP	Deposit Witzel (deposit re
12/31/2022	DEP	Deposit Westcott (deposi
Club Member Dues		
7/19/2022	DEP	Deposit Pathfinder
7/28/2022	DEP	Deposit Four Plus Foolha
7/28/2022	DEP	Deposit Olympic Peninsu
7/28/2022	DEP	Deposit Daffodil Valley
7/28/2022	DEP	Deposit Vancouver USA
8/24/2022	DEP	Deposit Capitol Volksspo
8/24/2022	DEP	Deposit Central Washing
8/24/2022	DEP	Deposit F.S. Family Wan
8/24/2022	DEP	Deposit Interlaken Trailbl
8/24/2022	DEP	Deposit The Over The Hi
8/24/2022	DEP	Deposit International Wa
9/25/2022	DEP	Deposit Evergreen Wand

ESVA income statement

7/1/2022 through 12/31/2022

1/26/2023

Date	Num	Description	
EXPENSES			
Advertising & Marketing			
10/14/2022	EFT	Meetup	6 month renewal
Challenge Book Costs			
Rivers			
7/15/2022	EFT	Emblematics	patches
9/10/2022	6096	Sharon Moats	cardstock
9/18/2022	6097	Pathfinder Volkssport Club Of The NW	ad for Pathfinder
12/31/2022	6100	Sharon Moats	cardstock
Donations Made			
11/17/2022	6098	Pathfinder Volkssport Club Of The NW	as voted by membe
Miscellaneous Expenses			
7/5/2022	6092	Jan Jarrell	Website maintenanc
7/20/2022	EFT	USPS	stamps
8/18/2022	6093	American Volkssport Association	annual club fee
9/4/2022	6094	Awards Unlimited	name badge
Pathfinder Newsletters			
9/4/2022	6095	Pathfinder Volkssport Club Of The NW	Sep-Oct 2022
11/17/2022	6099	Pathfinder Volkssport Club Of The NW	Nov/Dec 2022

Attachment B

Attachment C

Budget Committee Member Contact Information

Name	Phone	e-Mail
Joe Blazek	(509)899-6535	joemblazek1@gmail.com
Chase Davis	(360)584-6446	esvatreasurer@gmail.com
Tess Sutton (alternate)	(253)380-6261	Tess2@juno.com
Burt Paynter	(360) 891-9411	walkeriii@comcast.net
Dennis Standridge	(509)220-9739	dstand@centurylink.net
Ed Hainline	(360)921-1909	opahainline@gmail.com