

**ESVA Board of Directors Meeting**  
**October 1, 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 and OPE Rep; Diane Howell Evans, Secretary; Chase Davis, Treasurer and Pathfinder Rep; Dennis Standridge, Eastern AC and LCV Rep; Lynn Blazek, Central AC; Sandi Severtsen, North West AC and SS Rep; Pam Greig-Davis, South Puget Sound AC; Sharon Moats, Regional Director and ITVC Rep; Ed Hainline, Deputy Regional Director; Sherry Ogur, Challenge Committee Chair; Bonnie Tucker (CVC Rep); Russell Kruse (CWSS Rep); Sue-Lon Weber (DVVA Rep); Dorman Batson (ECW and FFFF Reps); Tess Sutton (EW Rep); Lisa Robertson (FSFW Rep); Tom Wallace (NWTT Rep); Diane Wagner (OTHG Rep); and Tom Baltes (VVC Rep). Guests included Nancy Wittenberg, AVA Board Chair; Michelle Roberts, FSFW; Clay Baulch, OPE; Elaine Kruse, OPE; and Shirley Lindberg, Past AVA President. Absent were Tony Holt, Central Puget Sound AC; Burt Paynter, Southwest AC and International Wanderers Rep.
- **Establishment of Quorum.** Diane Howell Evans declared a quorum was established.
- **Acceptance of April 23, 2022 BOD Meeting Minutes as written.** Diane Wagner made the motion to accept the minutes from the April 23, 2022 BOD meeting as written. Sue-Lon Weber seconded. Approved.
- **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Chase Davis reported total expenses for the 2022 fiscal year were about \$2900 and the ending June 30, 2022 checking and savings balance was \$13,932.71.
- **Report on Walk Review Program.** Vice President Todd Oberlander reported 72% of the YRE reviews have been completed at this point in time. But in January 2023, 55 YRE events will return to the walk review list to once again be reviewed. Need volunteers to review YREs for accuracy. All one needs to do is visit the ESVA web site and select the ESVA YRE Review tab for the review form, guidelines and a list of YREs needing review.
- **Area Coordinator Reports.**
  - **AC Dennis Standridge** (Eastern) – reported the Lilac City Volkssport Association is restarting their twice weekly group walks once again in October after being shut down for a period of time due to the summer heat and then smoke from forest fires.
  - **AC Lynn Blazek** (Central) – reported the Sun Striders club is adding 4 biking events and two walking events for 2023. The two walks are in Sitka AK and Selah WA. The new biking events include the following trails: Riverfront Bike Trail (Richland), Yakima Greenway Bike Trail (Yakima), Ferry County Bike Trail (Curlew Lake) and Apple Capital Loop Trail (E. Wenatchee). The club is hosting ACE-WG (AVA Community Event – Weekday Guided) walks on Thursday mornings which are successfully recruiting new club members.
  - **AC Sandi Severtsen** (North West) – reported on the following clubs:  
The Olympic Peninsula Explorers hosted a walk at Anderson Lake State Park during the NW Hiking Weekend with the 4+ Foolhardy Folks Club on August 19-21, 2022. Very nice walk by club and kudos to Todd Oberlander for ensuring all aspects of the OPE walk went smoothly.  
The Sound Steppers are hosting a new challenging walk in 2023 in Snohomish which starts at Lord Hill State Park. They are also adding two 6k distances to their 2023 YRE list.  
The NW Tulip Trekkers rotate walks weekly and the club will be having officer elections in November and all positions are open for candidates.
  - **AC Tony Holt** (Central Puget Sound) – Sharon Moats reported for Tony in his absence. Clubs in the area all seem to be healthy. Traditional events are well attended, although the numbers are not quite as high as last year. Probably a result last year of people anxious to get out of the house. YREs are doing well with new ones being developed. OSB gradually becoming more popular. Cooperation with outside organizations is becoming more difficult and a sudden withdrawal of permissions for an FS Family Wanderers event caused some last minute but successful alternate

planning by the club. A second Light Rail Challenge is in the works but the opening of all the Light Rail expansions has been delayed probably to the end of 2024.

- **AC Pam Greig-Davis** (South Sound) – reported on the following clubs:
  - Capitol Volkssport Club. Club is offering members a new Chinese Zodiac challenge program which began in April with one year to complete. Three members have already completed the challenge. The club's Sept 15<sup>th</sup> Amtrak trip to Portland to participate in the 5-T's walk was canceled due to an impending national railroad strike. Upcoming walks include the Salmon Run walk on October 15<sup>th</sup> in Tumwater and the Holiday walk on December 10<sup>th</sup> in Olympia. Weekly group walks are offered every Monday at 2 PM and every Thursday at 10 AM.
  - Daffodil Valley. Club has 2 remaining events in 2022 – the Color of Sunrise walk in Puyallup and the Friday after Thanksgiving "OptOutside" walk in Sumner. There will be 4 traditional walks in 2023 and all the club's YREs are now on the OSB. Club holds weekly walks on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 AM.
  - Evergreen Wanderers. Club's upcoming walk on October 8<sup>th</sup> follows trails in Swan Creek Park as well as the newest section of the Pipeline Trail and is rated 2C. Event starts at the Eastside Community Center in Tacoma.
  - Over-the-Hill Gang. Club is hosting its' first guided walking event since COVID on Wednesday, Oct 26<sup>th</sup>, in DuPont. Registration is 9:30 to 10:00 AM.
  - NW Pathfinders. Club is doing fine.
- **AC Burt Paynter** (Southwest) – Tom Baltes reported for Burt in his absence. The Vancouver USA Volkssport club has 141 members now and offers Wednesday and Thursday group walks. Several had to be canceled over the summer months due to the summer heat. Next 2022 event is the Halloween walk on Oct 29<sup>th</sup> and the first 2023 event is a Traveling Guided Walk on Martin Luther King Jr Day, January 16<sup>th</sup>. The club's merge with the All Weather Walkers is almost complete with only a few items to finish up. The city planted a tree in the club's honor due to their participation over the years with local trail cleanup.
- **Challenge Committee Report.** Sherry Ogur reported that the Washington State Challenges "Frontline Heroes" and "On the Road Again" record book sales are doing well. New Washington challenge beginning January 2023 is "Strolling Along the River" with 3 years to complete. ESVA web site listing all the Washington challenges has been updated so the format is consistent between all challenges.
- **RD and DRD Report.** Sharon Moats reported on several items:
  - The Anchorage Volkssport Club has new officers and they are now seeing the RD reports which were never shared with members in the past.
  - YRES – clubs need to sanction NEW YREs by the end of October in order to receive the event stamp on time. YRE walk instructions need to be entered by Dec 1<sup>st</sup> so the volunteer review can be completed in a timely manner. If you change a route or sanction a new YRE, please include an alert in the OSB for the event.
  - AVA Big Give – activity still available for donations until the end of October.
  - Multi-day Events – please let Sharon and Ed know the dates of the multi-day event so they can add it to the future event schedule.
  - IVV Olympiad - the early bird special pricing for the February IVV Olympiad is in effect until Oct 31<sup>st</sup> so walkers still have time to save some dollars.
  - AVA Convention Meeting in February 2023 – No elections will take place in February but they will be completed in June via a zoom meeting.
  - AVA Special Challenge Programs – new 2023 special programs include Lighthouses and "Par for the Course." The latter program is any walk that goes by a golf course or any outdoor exercise stations.
- **New Business.**
  - **Correspondence.** None
  - **Announcements.** Joe Blazek reminded all clubs to forward any officer updates to Diane, AVA and the Pathfinder. Ed Hainline updated everyone on the Central Oregon Salute multi-event weekend scheduled for Sept 14-17, 2023, in Bend, OR. Plans at this time include 9 walks, 2 bikes

and a swim. Same hotel for Start/Finish as last time but don't make any reservations at this time. Rafting trip may or may not be offered depending on water conditions closer to the event.

- **Winter Walk Challenge Contest 2023.** Joe Blazek informed the Board the cost of the 2023 Winter Walk Challenge was already included in the budget and Ed Hainline had agreed to continue as the challenge coordinator for 2023. Joe informed the Board the Executive Committee had discussed the current program and voted on several changes which needed the Board's agreement. Recommendations included:
  - Adding a fourth award category of \$25 for the 2024 challenge
  - Increasing the donation amount for challenge participation from \$1 to \$2 effective with the 2023 challenge
  - Change the awards from VISA gift cards to ESVA checks to eliminate the \$7 purchase fee for each gift card effective with the 2023 challenge

Tess Sutton made a motion to increase the participation from \$1 to \$2 for "non-stamping" donation, eliminate VISA cards for rewards, and in 2024 add a \$25 reward for fourth place.

Sherry Ogur seconded. Discussion ensued with an amendment to reword the motion to "replace VISA cards for rewards with an ESVA check or cash." for the rewards. Amendment accepted.

Motion passed as amended. Ed Hainline will edit the 2023 Winter Walk Challenge program rules with the approved 2023 changes. Notice was given that Oregon may or may not continue their Winter Walking Challenge for Oregon residents in 2023 and a decision will be made at the upcoming OTSVA meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Discussion occurred regarding whether WA should allow OR residents to participate in the WA Winter Walking challenge. Lynn Blazek moved to table any motion on Oregon's participation in the WA challenge until OTSVA's decision is known and then discuss at the Fall 2023 ESVA meeting, Motion seconded by Tess Sutton. Motion passed.

- **Pacific Crest Trail YRE/Seasonal walks/hikes info.** Nancy Wittenberg discussed the PCT Special Program and provided a list of those AVA events that qualify for the program in the states of WA, OR and CA. Nancy attended the IVV Congress in Kehl Germany. The 2025 Olympiad will be in Finland and they will offer a canoe event. There is interest in allowing individual countries to sponsor event types unique to their country. Nancy is interested in adding a "Hike" type to our standard walk, bike, and swim types and would like input from walkers on what makes a "hike" different from a "walk." Suggestions included type of trail (natural, technical) and elevation gains. Comments can be e-mailed to Nancy at [Chair@ava.org](mailto:Chair@ava.org). Prior to arriving in Winthrop Nancy attended the Retired Public Employee Council of Washington Conference in Wenatchee. The organization includes retired state, county, city and local government employees totaling 11,500 employees across the state in 30 Chapters. Nancy hosted an AVA exhibit table at the conference and several Chapters expressed interest in having a presentation to their members on the AVA. The Chapters will contact Nancy for a volunteer to speak at a Chapter meeting.
- **YRE/Seasonal Events for 2023 – new, changed or dropped.** Todd Oberlander discussed the need for volunteers to review new and changed 2023 YRE/Seasonal events. Sharon Moats will forward a list to Todd once all the 2023 YREs/Seasonals events are sanctioned. Todd will review the list by the end of March and then forward to Diane Howell Evans the list of those events which need to be reviewed and Diane will forward to the Club Presidents to assign to volunteers.
- **Update of ESVA Budget Drawdown.** Joe Blazek stated the current ESVA account balance is \$13, 932.71 and projections at the current expenditure levels forecast in 4.8 years we will run out of money. EC discussed the need to start now not later to determine a bottom line and develop a drawdown strategy. A Capital Assessment Committee was recommended and seeks volunteers. This committee can meet via zoom and e-mail. Volunteers include: Todd Oberlander (Chair), Tess Sutton, Pam Greig-Davis, Chase Davis, Joe Blazek, and Dennis Standridge. See Attachment A for Capital Assessment Committee members and contact information.
- **ESVA Sponsored YRE/Seasonal Sanctioned Events.** Joe Blazek discussed his proposal to the EC of 3 possible ocean beach walking trails in the Forks WA area that the ESVA could sanction

as seasonal events to offer a variety of walks across the state, attract new people to our sport, assist in the 39 County Challenge as well as any future challenge programs. These events would not compete with any member club events in the area and would be offered through the OSB. The 3 beach walks are Cape Alava/Sand Point; Rialto Beach/Hole in the Wall; and Second/Third Beach. The EC approved and Joe will work on this winter.

- **Pathfinder Issues.** Chase Davis discussed the unexpected change of publication printers and the resulting change in fees per issue. ESVA and OTSVA fund the publications each WA and OR club receives for their club (6 bi-monthly issues per year) and for each traditional event they sponsor (10 issues). The Pathfinder Club met before the BOD meeting and decided to create a pdf version of only the Pathfinder's monthly event listing for the ESVA, OTSVA and clubs. There will also be a QR (Quick Response) code so those receiving the pdf version can point to an online version of the monthly event listing. Dorm Batson made a motion that each club receives one bi-monthly issue of The Pathfinder and each traditional event receives 5 copies effective with the Jan/Feb 2023 issue. Dennis Standridge seconded. Motion passed. The cost of producing the Pathfinder has increased and the club is losing money on the issues funded by the ESVA and OTSVA. Last run cost \$2.12 per issue whereas the funding from the two state associations is \$1.65 per issue. Lisa Robertson made a motion the ESVA pay the same issue rate as the club member subscription issue rate effective with the Nov/Dec 2022 issue. Tom Baltes seconded. Motion passed.
- **Delegates for San Antonio TX.** Joe Blazek discussed the AVA General Membership Meeting to be held in conjunction with the IVV Olympiad and Texas Trail Roundup (IML) in February 2023 in San Antonio. No National Board elections will be held in February but since the meeting agenda is still an unknown at this time, there might be a possible need for a delegate. Joe asked for a show of hands of those attending the Feb events in San Antonio and if anyone would volunteer to serve as delegate. Diane Howell Evans volunteered. Dennis Standridge made a motion to appoint Diane as the ESVA delegate. Tess Sutton seconded. Motion passed.
- **Other.** None.
- **Next EC and BOD Meetings.**
  - **Next ESVA Meetings** – EC zoom meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 7:00 PM PST. BOD zoom meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 7:00 PM PST.
  - **Spring Annual Meetings** – EC and BOD meetings on April 29, 2023, at Capitol Volkssport Club's event in Lacey WA at the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs building (same location as club's 2022 Wild and Woodsy event). Time TBD.
- **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm PST.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Howell Evans  
ESVA Secretary

Reviewed:

Joe Blazek  
ESVA President

## Attachment A

### Capital Assessment Committee Member Contact Information

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>e-Mail</b>
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Pam Greig-Davis	(360)790-9733	greigenterprises@msn.com
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