

Executive Committee Meeting
January 24, 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; Diane Howell Evans, Secretary; Chase Davis, Treasurer; Lynn Blazek, Central AC; Sandi Severtsen, North West AC; Tony Holt, Central Puget Sound AC; Pam Greig-Davis, South Puget Sound AC; Burt Paynter, Southwest AC; Sharon Moats, Regional Director; and Ed Hainline, Deputy Regional Director. Absent were Dennis Standridge, Eastern AC; and Sherry Ogur, Challenge Committee Coordinator.
- **Establishment of Quorum.** Diane Howell Evans declared a quorum was established.
- **Welcome to members and guests.** Joe Blazek welcomed EC members and additional attendees in attendance.
- **Acceptance of September 30, 2022 EC Meeting Minutes as written.** Chase Davis made the motion to accept the minutes from the September 30, 2022 EC meeting as written. Lynn Blazek seconded. Approved.
- **Treasurer's Report.** Chase Davis reported as of January 24, 2023 the ESVA account balance is \$12,581.40 which is a decrease of approximately \$1,400 from the reported September balance. There has been a delay in depositing Challenge book income as checks have been erroneously made out to Pam Greig-Davis rather than the ESVA which resulted in Pam cashing the checks and then replacing with a cashier's check to the ESVA. Issue has been resolved with pay to info updated on both the ESVA website and the new 2023 Challenge books.
- **Report on Walk Review Program.** Vice President Todd Oberlander reported as of this past weekend there are 633 events of which 337 need to be reviewed. Of the 337, there are 202 events which are new or have never been reviewed. We need to solicit volunteers to review walks and not just rely on the ESVA BOD to complete all the reviews.
- **Challenge Committee Report.** Pam Greig-Davis, reporting for Sherry Ogur, indicated 35 individuals have already completed their Frontline Heroes Challenge book. Between 30-40 new 2023 Strolling Along the Rivers Challenge books have been purchased at local events as well as in Oregon. Joe Blazek added that he and Sherry had re-vamped and updated the ESVA Challenge web page to add new info and remove outdated info.
- **Area Coordinator Reports.**
 - **AC Dennis Standridge** (Eastern) – No report due to absence.
 - **AC Lynn Blazek** (Central) – reported the Sun Striders are holding their weekly walks in the area and throughout the winter. Thursday walks are on schedule with only 3-4 canceled due to weather and ice. Club is working on the September 9th Gold Creek event near the Hyak exit on I-90. Sandi Severtsen stated she had done a snowshoe on the area hiking trail and it is a beautiful location.
 - **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 with no opposition (per his e-mail). 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 Years Eve and New Years Day events were fine and soup was offered once again for the first time in 3 years. Sea-Tac’s March Milton event fell through and has been rescheduled for July. Emerald City club has in-person meetings at a restaurant while the other area clubs hold their club meetings via Zoom.
- **AC Pam Greig-Davis** (South Sound) – reported on the following clubs:
 - Capitol Volkssport Club. The Salmon Run walk on October 15th in Tumwater had 75 participants; and the Holiday walk on December 10th in Olympia had 95 participants. The Holiday event’s Start/Finish, Harbor House, will be used again for the 2023 Holiday walk. Upcoming events include: Westside Nature Trails in Olympia on 3/25; Earth Day in Lacey on 4/29; NW Trek on 4/30; and Vance Creek Railriders event in Shelton on 7/22. The weekly MeetUp walks are held on Mondays at 2 pm and on Thursdays at 10 am.
 - Daffodil Valley. Upcoming Valentines Day walk in Orting on February 11th will provide qualifiers for several Special Programs such as Walking with Veterans, On the Road Again and Strolling Along the Rivers. The club’s Bell Challenge is finished and the new Challenge is searching for a likeness of “Sasquatch” on any sanctioned walk or bike event. 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. Working towards having their events on the OSB.
 - NW Pathfinders. Club is “doing its thing” according to Chase.
- **AC Burt Paynter** (Southwest) – reported the Vancouver USA Volkssporters (VUSAV) club has been fairly busy this past fall and winter. Their Wednesday walks are well attended due to club members Dick and Barbara Baker. Their Saturday before Halloween walk went through the Lincoln neighborhood with many Halloween decorations. They sponsored a Black Friday ‘Opt Out’ walk the day after Thanksgiving which started at the Frenchman’s Bar on the Columbia River west of downtown Vancouver. Participants viewed many Snow Geese and 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). On Jan 16th VUSAV sponsored a Martin Luther King walk. The club has also, since merging with the All Weather Walkers, made several significant philanthropic donations to the AVA as well as to the WA Rails-to-Trails organization and invested in a CD. Vice President Dorothy Steedle has created a brochure listing all their 2023 YREs.
- **RD Report**. Sharon Moats reported the NW so far still had the greatest registration for the Olympiad. Club Articles of Incorporation need to be reviewed to ensure they are in agreement with State laws. Please refer to the RD Newsletter #14 sent out in September for information on Non-profit law changes. Clubs who are using the OSB need to review their walk information and update if needed. The 2024 Northwest Conference in Idaho will include assistance from the Lilac City Club but will still need additional volunteers. Question asked was whether the Lilac City Club was incorporated in Idaho. Since Dennis was not on the call no answer was provided. Advance notice given there will be future AVA discussions of fee changes.
- **Unfinished Business**.
 - **Winter Walking Contest**. Ed Hainline reminded everyone the drawing for prizes will be on April 29th at the ESVA Annual Board of Directors Meeting.
 - **Pathfinder Issues**. Chase Davis reported there was only a difference of 100 copies in the recent printing and cost to the ESVA. Cost calculations haven’t been run but will be required by the April meeting for discussion and voting. Good news the software program used on Eleanor’s

computer worked although no software support was available and there is a large number of renewals for processing.

- **ESVA Website Use Survey Update.** Joe Blazek thanked clubs for discussing the survey at club meetings and for the input received from all. Updates were completed on the Challenges and Pathfinder pages. Some items were moved and grouped together with similar items as well as duplicate items on different pages deleted. Recommended people check out the new changes.
- **New Business.**
 - **Correspondence.** None
 - **Announcements.** Joe Blazek reminded all clubs to forward any officer updates to Diane, ESVA and to the AVA. 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 walks, bikes and swims. No information posted to the website yet but will be done shortly. Same hotel used as last time but there is a price increase. More information in 2-3 weeks.
 - **Field Review of New/Revised ESVA Events for 2023.** Todd Oberlander reported there were 40 new walks and many are seasonals so need to review late spring. Todd will create a list of the new events needing review and forward to Diane to distribute prior to the upcoming BOD meeting so he can discuss and solicit volunteer sign up.
 - **Audit of 2022 ESVA Finances.** Bob Morrison accepted Joe Blazek's request to do the Financial Review of ESVA's finances for the calendar year 2022. Chase Davis will contact Bob when he is ready to do the review.
 - **Update of Capital Assessment Committee on ESVA Budget Drawdown.** Todd Oberlander reported there was no update at this time as more data is needed. He will definitely have a report for the annual meeting in April once the cost results of the Pathfinder changes made at the last fall meetings are known. Stay tuned.
 - **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. 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.
 - **Proposed Change to Event Review Program.** Joe Blazek reported the list of YRE/Seasonal events that need to be reviewed has reached over 4 pages now. We need to reduce this list for a more manageable review program. The goal was to create standardized formatting of event directions across the clubs. We need to prioritize events for review to new, those not reviewed over the last 5 years, and maybe include a feedback option from any walker doing the event. Agreement reached to discuss at the upcoming BOD meeting soliciting recommendations to finalize at the annual April meeting.
 - **ESVA Sponsorship of YRE/Seasonal Events.** Joe Blazek reported the 3 approved beach walking events from the September 2022 EC meeting have been sanctioned, added to the OSB and are offered April 1st – October 31st. Joe presented 3 new beach walk events for approval for April 1st – October 31st – Shi Shi Beach/Point of the Arches, Kalaloch, and Ruby Beach/Abby Island. Tide tables are annotated in the directions with instructions to walk at low tide only. Sandi Severtsen made a motion to approve the 3 new beach walks submitted by Joe Blazek for sanctioning by the ESVA. Burt Paynter seconded. Approved. Joe said he is also looking into the possibility of future winter ski and snowshoe events.
 - **Other.** None
- **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm PST.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Howell Evans
ESVA Secretary

Reviewed:

Joe Blazek
ESVA President