

# ESVA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2024, 7:00 PM PST

Zoom - Home

- **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; Chase Davis, Treasurer; Diane Howell Evans, Secretary; Dennis Standridge, Eastern AC; Lynn Blazek, Central AC; Sandi Severtsen, Northwest AC and SS Rep; Tony Holt, Central Puget Sound AC, Pam Greig-Davis, South Puget Sound AC; Burt Paynter, Southwest AC and VUSAV Rep; Bonnie Tucker, CVC Rep; Russ Kruse, CWSS Rep; Carolyn Warhol, DVVA Pres; Sue-Lon Webert, DVVA Rep; Mike Nagan, ECW Pres; RoseMarie Hirsch, EW Pres; Tess Sutton, EW Rep; Lisa Robertson, FSFW Rep; Irene Stanford, ITVC Pres; Allan Heritage, LCVA Pres; Clay Baulch, OPE Pres; Diane Wagner, OTHGVC Pres; Sharon Moats, NW RD and Ed Hainline, NW DRD. Absent were Sherry Ogur, Challenge Committee Chair; Four-Plus Foolhardy Folks; International Wanderers; NW Tulip Trekkers; Sea-Tac Volkssport Club. Guests included Terri Czapinski, LCVA; Jim Elder, LCVA; and Chris Valdez, LCVA.
- **Establishment of Quorum.** Diane Howell Evans declared a quorum established for meeting.
- **Welcome to Members and Guests.** Joe Blazek welcomed all in attendance.
- **Vote on Acceptance of October 7, 2023, BOD Meeting Minutes.** Tess Sutton made the motion to accept the minutes from the October 7, 2023, BOD meeting as written. Todd Oberlander seconded. Approved.
- **Treasurer's Report/Update of Current Budget.** Treasurer Chase Davis reported the last 2023 fiscal quarter, 10/1/23 – 12/31/23, had an income of \$300 and expenses of -\$718.01 resulting in a net loss in assets of -\$418.01. Chase stated the ESVA Challenge books sold at the New Year's Eve events plus the AVA credit to our account from OSB payments, which are not reflected in the financial reports, resulted in revenues above costs. So no longer in the red.
- **VP's Report/Update on Walk Review Program.** Todd Oberlander stated he updated the review list and the revised numbers show a total of 614 current Seasonal/YRE events and 228 needing a review. There were 133 walks added to the review list as they were events last reviewed in 2019 thus needing a new review 5 years later. The review program is 59.1% in compliance.
- **Challenge Committee Report.** Pam Greig-Davis reported for Sherry Ogur. ESVA Challenge completions include: 39 for *Frontline Heroes*; and 30 for *Strolling Along the Rivers*. The new 2024 challenge, *That's Entertainment*, has already sold enough books to cover costs. Joe mentioned he and Sherry have been updating the ESVA Challenge web page and are currently updating the "Take a Walk Down Memory Lane" web page.
- **Area Coordinator Reports.**
  - **AC Dennis Standridge (Eastern)** – since Allan is in attendance Dennis passed the baton to him. Allan stated all of Lilac City's seasonals and YREs are now on the OSB and some also include a PSB too. As usual on that side of WA there is snow!
  - **AC Lynn Blazek (Central)** – Lynn reports all of the Central WA Sun Striders' seasonals and YREs are on the OSB with a few including the PSB as well. On Sept 14<sup>th</sup> the club is hosting a traditional event in Hyak on the Palouse to Cascades State Park Rail Trail.
  - **AC Sandi Severtsen (Northwest)** – Sandi reported on the following clubs:
    - Sound Steppers (President Sherry Ogur) – last November's Turkey Trot was the most successful walk they have had in a while with 173 walkers. Advertising through local

papers and the food bank helped.

- Olympic Peninsula Explorers (President Clay Baulch) – OPE updated their website and it looks great! They continue to have walks on Saturdays and plan on attending many of the upcoming sanctioned walks.
- NW Tulip Trekkers (President Tom Wallace) – in November, NWTT had a sanctioned walk in Sedro Woolley starting at Northern State Recreation Area Veterans Park. The walk included walking around the remaining buildings and cemetery of the Northern State Mental Hospital which stood active from 1912-1976, housing patients who were accused of being “insane.” Very moving and interesting walk. New Board for 2024 include President Sue Wallace, with two Trailmasters Everett Hobson and Tom Wallace.
- **AC Tony Holt (Central Puget Sound)** – Tony reported the Emerald City Club’s New Years Eve/Day walks were successful. Upcoming events include: Emerald City’s annual holiday events and a Bee Festival walk; and Interlaken’s spring multi-day events in Winthrop on May 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>. All clubs in the Central Sound area are reasonably healthy.
- **AC Pam Greig-Davis (South Sound)** – Pam reported on the following clubs:
  - Capitol Volkssport Club (President Karen Younkings) – On Dec 9, 2023, their Holiday Walk in downtown Olympia started at the Harbor House again and 91 walkers attended. The club’s upcoming walks include Wild & Woodsy on April 25-28 with a brand new pub crawl on Thursday night, a Meet and Greet on Friday, buffet dinner on Saturday, and a Northwest Trek walk on Sunday. The Procession of the Species “parade” and Olympia Arts Walk are both happening that same weekend for those interested in attending. More info in the Pathfinder and on the website. On Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, there is a 5-T train trip to Portland and all area clubs are invited. The same event last year had to be cancelled due to the train workers’ strike. More info on the CVC website. CVC has started a monthly Sunday afternoon walk at 2:00 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. The next walk is the Tumwater walk on Sunday, Feb 11<sup>th</sup>. All CVC walks are publicized on Meetup (South Sound Walkers) and the club’s website.
  - Daffodil Valley (President Carolyn Warhol) – the club is holding an event on Saturday, March 23, in the South Hill area of Puyallup. They are also putting together some new walks. The first will be on Saturday, June 8, at the brand new Nisqually State Park in south Pierce County near Eatonville. This location is not to be confused with the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually Wetland Refuge. The other new walk will be part of the Regional Conference in September and will be located in Port Orchard. The Daffodils sponsor weekly walks on Mondays at 9:30 am and Wednesdays at 10:00 am. The walks are publicized on Meetup (South Sound Walkers) and in the Pathfinder.
  - Evergreen Wanderers (President Rosemarie Hirsch) – the Evergreen Wanderers have an upcoming walk on Saturday, April 13, called Ruston versus Tacoma.
  - Over-the-Hill Gang (President Diane Wagner) – the club is now meeting at the Milton-Edgewood Library on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 2:30 pm.
  - NW Pathfinder Club (President Chase Davis) – Pam reported the club is humming along.
- **AC Burt Paynter (Southwest)** – Burt reported the joint New Years Eve and New Years Day events sponsored by Vancouver USA Volkssporters and Columbia River Volkssporters was successful with just under 90 participants total for both events. VUSAV held a club dinner at the Northwoods Brewery on Jan 11<sup>th</sup> with 14 people in attendance. No upcoming walks at this time. Stevenson WA event needs to be uploaded to the OSB.
- **RD Report – Update/Issues on NW Regional Conference and other topics.** Sharon Moats reported on

the following items:

- **NW Regional Conference** – Four clubs are hosting map walks. The Silverdale Scout Hall will be the conference headquarters and is located on a walking route. T-shirts will be available using the slogan “Kicking around Kitsap.” Registration for the conference will begin in May. Friday’s Meet and Greet will be held at the My Girl Museum located in Kingston. Saturday’s social will be a salad/pizza buffet at the Scout Hall. More to come.
- **Walking Week** – typically scheduled for the first week in April (Monday, April 1 – Monday, April 8) will kick off on March 31 with the Emerald City club hosting an Easter event.
- **Multi-day events** – upcoming NW events include CVC’s Wild and Woodsy (4/25-4/28); Interlaken’s Spring in Winthrop (5/11-5/13); Four+ Foolhardy’s NW Walking Weekend (8/2-8/4); Lilac’s Wallace ID Weekend (8/23-8/25); NW Regional Conference on Kitsap Peninsula (9/19-9/22); CRVC-Rogue Valley’s Shady Cove OR events (10/17-10/20). Please check out the host club’s website or OSB as many offer a longer window to register and walk than the in-person registration dates shown in this list of multi-day events.
- **Old Business.**
  - **Update on ESVA Winter Walking Contest/Info and Forms** – Ed Hainline reported there were no updates at this time. He recommended the 2024 Winter Walk Challenge Contest information be added to physical start boxes so non-club members can participate. Information and log sheet can be found on the ESVA Event page.
  - **Update of Nominating Committee** – Mike Nagan reported the committee is currently soliciting names of interested candidates for ESVA Officer positions until February 10<sup>th</sup>. The committee will submit a report recommending candidates at the end of February.
- **New Business.**
  - **Correspondence.** None
  - **Announcements.** Joe announced that any club officer changes need to be updated on the AVA Club profile site as well as forwarded to Diane Howell Evans for the ESVA club officer list.
  - **Formation of ESVA Budget Committee.** Joe is looking for committee volunteers and briefly explained the procedure to all. Chase will send out the current 2024 ESVA budget to committee members. Committee reviews and recommends any changes for the 2025 budget. The new finalized 2025 recommended budget is voted on at the annual April meeting. Volunteers for the committee are: Tess Sutton, Burt Paynter, Chase Davis, Mike Nagan, Joe Blazek and Todd Oberlander.
  - **Proposed Event Review Program Contest.** Joe presented information on the ESVA Walk/Bike Review Contest. The intent was clearly stated: 1) entice people to walk/bike events they may not have previously considered doing; 2) get event reviews completed to decrease the very long current list of walking/biking events that need reviews; and 3) improve our event maps and written directions per the intent and dictate of the ESVA Event Review Program. Contest requirements were discussed. Essentially, the more events you review the increased chances of winning the contest. Comments by attendees felt the contest prizes were right for the first year and if contest offered a second year any adjustments based on the first-year experience could be made. Vote taken and passed.
  - **New Events/Dropped Events/Changes to YREs/Seasonals to Chase and Todd.** If any club has new events/dropped events or changes to YREs/Seasonals be sure and notify Todd so he can update his review list and Chase for the Pathfinder.
  - **Pathfinder Issues.** Chase reported there were no issues and noticed while updating the Pathfinder there were now 48 seasonals in 2024.
  - **New Proposed ESVA sponsored YRE/Seasonals for 2025 (Mt Baker & Mt St Helens).** Joe stated

we would table this discussion until the annual April meeting.

- **Other.**

- By-laws Change Proposals for Annual Meeting? None
- Clubs Helping Clubs. Tess Sutton inquired if there was a financially healthy club that wanted to help a fellow financially struggling club was there an ESVA written procedure in place for clubs to follow? Several attendees felt this was an idea worth examining and suggested Area Coordinators keep a close watch on the clubs in their area to see the impact of the recent fee increases. Chase mentioned in past budgets there was a line item of \$500 to assist clubs but after several budget committee reviews the line item was dropped as it hadn't been used in some time. Tess stated she was not making any motion at this time but considered it a worthwhile idea to stay in the forefront for future discussion. Recommendation made to add it as an item under New Business at the annual April meeting after Area Coordinators and clubs have some numbers on donations, expenses and financial health between now and April meeting. Bottom line is to keep all WA clubs active and healthy.
- Evergreen State Volkssport Association Motion - Mike Nagan presented a brief background on Pam Greig-Davis' original motion and Emerald City's motion which were subsequently combined with Joe's assistance. Mike also noted there is a correction to the summary information not the motion itself. The date used in the first sentence, second line of the section "Summary of Proposed Action" should be 2023 not 2024.

**MOTION** by Mike Nagan: *"That the ESVA form a committee comprised of individuals chosen by the ESVA Board of Directors to urgently identify options and strategies which will ensure the short term and long term fiscal and operational health of local clubs."*  
Motion seconded by Pam Greig-Davis.

**AMENDMENT TO MOTION** by Mike Nagan: *"That the ESVA form a committee comprised of individuals chosen by the ESVA **President and approved by the Executive Committee** to urgently identify options and strategies which will ensure the short term and long term fiscal and operational health of local clubs."* Motion seconded by Pam Greig-Davis. No discussion. Amendment approved.

Discussion ensued regarding the new changes in the fee structure recently approved by the AVA National Board and the financial burden on our local clubs. Motion is for a committee to be formed and research ways to keep the state clubs strong. Committee will present recommendations to the Board. Call for vote. Passed.

Volunteers for the committee include: Chase Davis, Don Whitt, Pam Greig-Davis, Todd Oberlander, Diane Troyer, Tom Baltes, Louise Baltes and Joe Blazek. Lisa Robertson, FSFW, and Lilac City Club would like to check with club members to see if anyone is interested in serving on the committee. Joe will put list together with Pam as Committee Chair and forward to the EC for electronic approval.

- **Next EC and Board Meetings.** Lacey, CVC Wild and Woodsy event, on 4/27/24. Executive Committee, 1:00 pm PST and Board of Director Meeting, 2:00 pm PST.
- **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm PST.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Howell Evans  
ESVA Secretary

Reviewed:

Joe Blazek  
ESVA President