

ESVA Board of Directors Meeting
October 7, 2023
In Person Meeting – Port Angeles WA

- **Call to Order.** President Joe Blazek called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. PST. In attendance, in addition to the president, were: Todd Oberlander, Vice President; Chase Davis, Treasurer; Diane Howell Evans, Secretary; Dennis Standridge, Eastern AC and Lilac City Rep; Lynn Blazek, Central AC; Sandi Severtsen, North West AC and Sound Steppers Rep; Pam Greig-Davis, South Puget Sound AC; Burt Paynter, Southwest AC and Vancouver USA Rep; Bonnie Tucker, CVC Rep; Russ Kruse, Sun Striders Pres; Sue-Lon Webert, DVVA Rep; Mike Nagan, Emerald City Pres; RoseMarie Hirsch, Evergreen Pres; Michelle Roberts, Family Wanderers Pres; Irene Stanford, Interlaken Pres; Clay Baulch, OPE Pres; Diane Wagner, OTHG Pres and Pathfinder Rep; Sharon Moats, NW RD; Ed Hainline, NW DRD; and guest Elaine Kruse. Absent were Tony Holt, Central Puget Sound AC, Four Plus Foolhardy Folks, International Wanderers, NW Tulip Trekkers, Sea-Tac Volkssport Club and Sherry Ogur, Challenge Committee Chair.
- **Attendance Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum.** Diane Howell Evans, Secretary, declared a quorum was established.
- **Welcome to Members and Guests.** Joe Blazek welcomed all in attendance and thanked OPE for hosting the meeting and walk in conjunction with the Port Angeles Annual Crab and Seafood Festival. Joe stated the days and hours of the fest for the attendees and recommended they attend.
- **Vote on Acceptance of July 25, 2023, BOD Meeting Minutes.** Burt Paynter moved the minutes of the July 25th BOD Meeting Minutes be accepted as written. Todd Oberlander seconded. Approved.
- **Treasurer's Report/Update of Current Budget.** Chase Davis asked if anyone had any questions on the 2 financial reports distributed prior to the meeting. There were no questions. Joe stated the quarterly Pathfinder costs were decreasing due to the ESVA changes and the budget was looking good.
- **VP's Report/Update on Walk Review Program.** Todd Oberlander reported there were no changes for the past 3 months and 70% of required walk reviews have been completed.
- **Challenge Committee Report.** Pam Greig-Davis reported for Sherry Ogur. ESVA Challenge completions include: 36 for *Frontline Heroes*; 25 for *On the Road Again*; and 15 for *Strolling Along the Rivers*. Beginning in 2024, a new challenge, *That's Entertainment*, will be offered. The challenge includes 4 different categories (Sports, Cultural, Fairgrounds/Festivals, and Crafts/Hobbies) with 5 qualifiers each for completion. Committee currently needs a new graphics designer for challenge patch and have someone in mind but there will be a fee.
- **Area Coordinator Reports.**
 - **AC Dennis Standridge** (Eastern) – Dennis reported Vancouver USA's Odessa YRE (Lincoln County) will not be renewed for 2024. However Lilac City Club's Columbia Plateau Trail S.P. YRE which starts at the trailhead near Fish Lake in Spokane County does go to the Martin Road Trailhead just inside Lincoln County. The club will sanction a seasonal in Davenport to cover Lincoln County. The Spokane downtown YRE is not available next year due to safety concerns. Lilac City club lost member Lou Applegate the last week in September.
 - **AC Lynn Blazek** (Central) – Lynn reported the Sun Striders' September 9th walk at Gold Creek Pond had 70 participants and was enjoyed by all. Next year all central WA walks will be on the OSB and some, if they are close to POCs, will also have a physical start box. Look for a May 2024 event planned by Sharon Moats in Winthrop. Ellensburg YRE in 2024 will be 5/10k rather than three 6k loops. Be advised there is construction in town and on campus. Ellensburg also offers a labyrinth for the new 2024 AVA A-MAZE-

ing *Labyrinths* Special Program.

- **AC Sandi Severtsen** (Northwest) – Sandi reported on the following clubs:
 - Sound Steppers (President Sherry Ogur) – Everyone is invited to the Turkey Trot traditional walk on Saturday, November 25th in Edmonds, WA starting at the Edmonds United Methodist Church. Start table open from 9:00-10:30am. Thursday walks continue every week, starting at 9:00am.
 - Olympic Peninsula Explorers (President Clay Baulch) – Thank you to OPE for hosting the Crabbiest walk ever, and the ESVa meeting. OPE is wrapping up some new ideas for YRE's including a seasonal snowshoe/cross country ski at Hurricane Ridge. They continue to hold weekend walks every 3 weeks.
 - NW Tulip Trekkers (President Tom Wallace) – 8 new members joined this last quarter. NWTT no longer maintains a website. Meet up is listed as “NW Tulip Trekkers - a walking group” where they are listing Saturday walks through December. A Traditional Event is scheduled in Sedro Woolley on Saturday, November 18th, and sign up is 9:30-12:00. Group walk is at noon. Their newsletters are informative and welcoming. Inclusive of AVA events/distance books, other NW club walks, and thank-you's.
- **AC Tony Holt** (Central Puget Sound) – Mike Nagan and Sharon Moats reported for Tony.
 - F.S. Family Wanderers have a new seasonal – Seattle Roosevelt and Ravenna – which started July 1st 2023 and will be a YRE in 2024. Their May event had 58 participants. 3 Seattle 10k YRE walks offer labyrinths in 2024.
 - Light Rail Challenge – new station Roosevelt East side opening and Interlaken YREs cover qualifier. There is a new Light Rail challenge but the new stations are not open yet.
 - Emerald City Wanderers upcoming events include the Halloween walk at Remlinger Farms and the New Year's Eve and Day walks in Seattle. Seattle Lincoln Park and Seattle Ballard YREs include the 2 new NW trolls by Thomas Dambo.
 - Interlaken Trailblazers' Trails and Trolls event on Oct 14th offers both a 5k and 10k distance. The 10k starts at the Tibbetts Valley Picnic Shelter and the 5k at the Issaquah Community Center.
 - Spring Walks are scheduled for May in Winthrop to showcase the Arrowleaf Balsamroot. The walks will be on the OSB from May 5-20, 2024 with on-site walk registration on May 9-11, 2024.
- **AC Pam Greig-Davis** (South Sound) – Pam reported on the following clubs:
 - Capitol Volkssport Club (Karen Younkins President) – their August 5th Anderson Island 5/11k walk had 87 participants. Upcoming events include the Dec 9th Holiday walk in Olympia and they are going to once again try the Portland 5-T train trip in the spring. Wild and Woodsy 2024 is scheduled for April 25 – 28 and will include a Thursday night Pub Crawl in addition to the Friday Meet & Greet and Saturday dinner. Weekly group walks are scheduled for Mondays at 2pm and Thursdays at 10am. On the 2nd Sunday of each month (Oct 8 and Nov 12) the club is offering an afternoon walk at 2pm to solicit new members.
 - Daffodil Valley Volkssport Club (Carolyn Warhol President) - their upcoming Veterans Day walk on Nov 11th is on the Nathan Chapman Trail (named for an honored veteran) in Puyallup. The club's *Search for Sasquatch* special program has been completed by 28 members. On Jan 6, 2024, the club will hold a one day event to introduce walkers to their new 2024 YRE Puyallup West Foothills Trail. Weekly group walks are scheduled for Mondays at 9:30am and Wednesdays at 10am.

- Evergreen Wanderers (Rosemarie Hirsch President) – their historical Lakewood event on August 19th had beautiful weather and lots of great volunteers.
- The Pathfinder Volkssport Club of the Northwest - club has changed their name to “NW Pathfinder Club.”
- The Over the Hill Gang – their 2024 Maple Valley YRE includes a qualifier for the AVA 2024 *A-MAZE-ing Labyrinths* special program. The club meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday at 2:30pm in the Milton/Edgewood Library.
- **AC Burt Paynter** (Southwest) – The Vancouver USA Volkssporters’ Art Festival walk on August 12th located east of Vancouver in Camas/Washougal visited the Washougal Arts Festival, downtown area and quieter neighbor-hoods and then returned along a new riverfront path. Club made a donation to the Washougal Arts and Culture Alliance. Next traditional event is the New Year’s Eve walk in Vancouver. Events in 2024 include Stevenson in the Columbia River Gorge and Washougal. The club didn’t renew Odessa and the 2 Vancouver Burnt Bridge events for 2024.
- **RD Report.**
 - Sharon Moats reported the AVA fee increase is still a work in progress and welcomes any comments by October 16th which she will share with the other Board members at the Oct 18th meeting in Arlington VA. Discussion followed regarding non-profit rules for sales taxes and events held in WA National Parks, DNR and Fish and Wildlife areas.
 - NW Regional Conference – Sharon is currently negotiating with the Silverdale Best Western for room prices and use of a conference room. There is also located nearby a Boy Scouts Hall which can be rented for \$130/day. A reservation/deposit has already been made for the My Girl Drive In and Museum in Kingston for the Saturday night social event. Donations made so far for the conference total \$800. A zoom meeting will be scheduled once the final hotel pricing is available.
- **New Business.**
 - **Correspondence.** None.
 - **Announcements.** None.
 - **Formation of ESVA Nomination Committee.** Joe stated it is time to form a Nominating Committee and is seeking 3 volunteers. Current ESVA officer terms expire June 30, 2024, and the President and Vice President positions are allowed no more than 2 consecutive terms in office. Slate of nominations for the 4 officer positions must be selected by the end of February with voting to occur at the April ESVA annual meeting in Lacey WA. Cheryl Dines Patterson, Mike Nagan and Dennis Standridge volunteered to serve on the committee. Chase Davis moved that Mike Nagan, Cheryl Dines Patterson and Dennis Standridge be approved as members of the Nominating Committee with Mike Nagan serving as the committee POC. Todd Oberlander seconded. Approved.
 - **Winter Walking Contest Information.** The program runs January 1st through March 31st 2024. Completed log sheets must be submitted by April 8th to Ed Hainline, Challenge Contest Chair. Drawing for winners is done at the annual ESVA meeting in April 2024. Changes made last year now include a 4th level prize of \$25 from the ESVA. Program information can be found on the ESVA website. At this time it is unknown if OTSVA is participating but they will be discussing their participation in the program at their upcoming October 28th meeting. If they decide not to participate then additional language for Idaho and Oregon must be added to the challenge rules. Mike Nagan made the motion to add the following language to the Winter Walk Challenge Contest rules: “Residents of Idaho who are active members of a Washington ESVA club qualify for this contest. Residents of Oregon who are active members of a Washington ESVA club also qualify for this contest if OTSVA elects not to sponsor the Winter Walk Challenge Contest in Oregon.” Sue-Lon Webert seconded. Approved.
 - **New YREs/Seasonals/Major Changes to Todd.** Joe requested clubs to forward to

Todd any new YREs/Seasonals and/or any significant changes to their current YREs/Seasonals so he can update the Review Program list. Sharon stated she will send Todd information on any new YREs/Seasonals.

- **New Club Officer Updates to Diane.** Joe requested clubs send any new or updated club officer information to Diane. Especially if they are having elections in the upcoming months. Diane stated she only had one more club that needs to confirm current information or provide updated information.
- **Changes to YREs/Seasonals to Chase.** Joe requested any changes to YREs/Seasonals such as start points, POCs, AVA or ESVA challenges, method of registration (OSB and/or PSB), etc. be forwarded to Chase so the Pathfinder can be updated.
- **Next Proposed ESVA Sponsored Seasonal Events.** Joe asked club reps to go back to clubs and discuss the following events Joe is considering as seasonal events in 2025:
 - Four-Plus Foolhardy Folks have sanctioned 3 days of traditional hikes in August 2024 in the Mt. Baker area and Joe would like to sanction a seasonal hike in that area.
 - Joe would like to sanction a seasonal starting at a viewpoint at the end of the road into the Mount St Helens National Park.

If there are any clubs interested in hosting any of these events please let Joe know and the ESVA won't pursue.

- **Other.** There was a suggestion from an attendee regarding the new "*That's Entertainment*" challenge that perhaps the qualifier of Quilt Fairs be eliminated due to a spouse's lack of control when walking by any social event highlighting quilts. Failed for a lack of a second. Hearty laughter by all!
- **Schedule Winter EC and BOD Zoom Meeting Dates/Times or In-person Meeting in February.**
 - Winter ESVA EC zoom meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. PST. Winter ESVA BOD zoom meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. PST.
 - Spring ESVA Annual EC In-person meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 27th at 1:00 p.m. PST. Spring ESVA Annual BOD In-person meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 27th at 3:00 p.m. PST. Spring meetings coincide with the CVC Wild and Woodsy event weekend in Lacey WA.
- **Adjournment.** Chase Davis moved to adjourn the meeting. Dennis Standridge seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m. PST.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Howell Evans
ESVA Secretary

Reviewed:

Joe Blazek
ESVA President