

ESVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2025, at 7:00 pm PDT

via Zoom

- 1. Call to Order:** Todd Oberlander, ESVA President, called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm PDT. In attendance, in addition to the President, were: Pam Greig-Davis, Vice-President; Diane Howell Evans, Secretary; Chase Davis, Treasurer; Joe Blazek, Central Area Coordinator; Kim Paulson, North West Area Coordinator and OPE Rep; Mike Nagan, Central Puget Sound Area Coordinator and ECW Rep; Bonnie Tucker, South Puget Sound Area Coordinator; Burt Paynter, Southwest Area Coordinator and VUSAV Rep; David Black, CVC Rep; Russ Kruse, CWSS President; Sue-Lon Webert, DVVA Rep; Mike Nagan, ECW President; Tess Sutton, EW Rep; Lisa Robertson, FSFW Rep; Pat Campbell, 4+FF Rep; Sharon Moats, ITVC Rep; Sherry Ogur, Challenge Committee Chair and SS Rep; Sandi Severtsen, NW Regional Director; Pat Jewett, NW Deputy Regional Director. Guests included Mary Reed, OTSVA President; Donald Reed, Albany Fitwalkers, President; Ed Hainline, OTSVA Vice-President. Absent were Dennis Standridge, Eastern Area Coordinator; International Wanderers Club; Lilac City Volkssport Club; and Sea-Tac Volkssport Club.
- 2. Attendance Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum:** Diane declared a quorum was established for the meeting.
- 3. Welcome to members and guests:** Todd welcomed all in attendance.
- 4. Vote on acceptance of April 26th BOD Meeting Minutes:** Sharon Moats moved April 26, 2026, meeting minutes be approved as written. Sherry Ogur seconded. Approved.
- 5. Treasurer's Report/Update of Current Budget:** Chase reported FY ending 6/30/25 was under budget. Lower expenses than budgeted. Income was from the sales of challenge books, interest income and donation from the closing of the Pathfinder Club of \$3,034.77. Net worth as of 6/30/25 was \$14,158.39. Chase would like to pursue another Certificate of Deposit. Need to schedule time for both Todd and

Chase to meet at the bank as both are required for the purchase.

Overall, the financial status of ESVA is good.

6. VP's Report/Update on Walk Review Program: Pam reported that since taking over the job she now has access to the data. The 2025 Walk Review Program Contest runs 4/1/2025 through 9/30/2025. In 2025 there are 581 walk sanctions, 191 have been reviewed, 390 still need to be reviewed. Of the 390 needing review, 111 are completed and 279 are still outstanding. There are 121 entries so far for the Walk Review Program Contest of which 10 were duplicates or didn't need a review or something else. So, there are 111 valid review contest entries. Every couple of days the list of those walks needing a review is updated.

7. Challenge Committee Report: Sherry reported the new challenge for 2026 is "Discover Your Parks" and includes both National and State Parks. Twenty qualifiers in the NW Region (AK, ID, OR, WA) are required and a park can be counted more than once in the record book as long as the person pays the registration fee each time they walk.

8. Area Coordinator Reports:

- a. *Eastern Region #1* - No report. Dennis Standridge absent.
- b. *Central Region #2* – Joe Blazek reported CWSS and ITVC are sponsoring the Walking Stevens Pass to Leavenworth events the first weekend in October, but events actually start the Thursday before. The multi-day event offers a total of 7 events with 4 new walks, 1 bike and a social event on Saturday featuring brats. Other YREs are also available in the area. It is highly recommended you reserve your accommodation ASAP. Joe met with a gentleman from the *Wenatchee World* newspaper which publishes a "Summer Outside" issue and discussed the AVA, ESVA, clubs and events so hopefully an article is coming in the near future. Joe is considering more involvement with our current Meetup groups by looking for any open weekends he can use to motivate folks to come over the pass for CWSS events.
- c. *Northwest Region #3* – Kim Paulson, new AC, reported on the following clubs:

- i. Sound Steppers are working on walks for the last 2 remaining Link walks – Lynnwood and Mountlake Terrace. They will be taking over 4 of the Tulip Trekker walks in 2026. The club is now meeting on Thursday, every other month, and the next meeting is on July 31st.
 - ii. Olympic Peninsula Explorers had a successful Triangle of Fire multi-day event and received great feedback on the events. They will be hosting it every other year. OPE will be taking over the Tulip Trekker events from Anacortes down to Coupeville on Whidbey Island and Fidalgo Island in 2026. Club is planning a future event at Pt Roberts. On September 27th the club will have their next club meeting with a work-ers walk that morning for the October Crab Fest event.
 - iii. Tulip Trekkers – Sandi reported the club is now inactive and the ESVA has taken over their 21 walks for 2025 with Joe as the POC. The 2026 event renewals will also show Joe as the POC until another club takes over the walk with a new POC. Then the event will be updated with all the new information. 19 walks have found new club hosts with 5 still outstanding – Ferndale, Bayview, Lake Padden, Lynden, and Cornwall Park. Sharon is ensuring all the events follow the same format for consistency on the information page. Previous members of the Tulip Trekkers have been contacted to see if they will serve as POCs for Tulip Trekker events near them. Sandi thanked Sharon for all her assistance in learning the process and helping with the task. She also encouraged all to participate in the walk review program.
- d. *Central Puget Sound Region #4* – Mike stated all the clubs are working hard sanctioning their 2026 events and reported on the following clubs:
- i. FS Family Wanderers have a walk on 9/20/26 in Redmond watershed.

- ii. Interlaken Trailblazers and Central Washington clubs are working on the multi-day event in the Leavenworth area on October 2-8. Sharon added that the brochure and registration form will be e-mailed to clubs, posted on the website and Meetup. Seven walks and one bike will be offered. Brat social on Saturday. Mosquitoes are almost non-existent in October. Highly recommend hotel reservations be made ASAP. Look for housing in Plain and near the golf course. Individuals who preregister will be sent one walk in advance that they can complete on their way to Leavenworth.
- iii. Four+ Foolhardy are planning on a Steamboat Rock weekend maybe next April.
- iv. Sea-Tac club has a walk on 8/9/25 in Federal Way starting from the Link Station.
- v. Emerald City club have their Labor Day Walk on 8/30/25 and they are planning another Alaska Cruise next April. This year was a success with 51 folks. Mike mentioned last weekend there was an informal West Seattle Saunter event, 13-mile walk, with no fees and no book stamps and heard maybe over 150 folks in attendance.
- e. *South Sound Region #5* – Bonnie Tucker reported on the following clubs:
 - i. DVVA had their annual picnic and the neighborhood was invited – which resulted in 2 new members. Walks are scheduled for 7/26 in Puyallup at Grayland Park; 9/6 in Purdy at Gateway Park; and 9/27 in Wilkeson on the Foothills Trail. Club is discussing their YREs for 2026 and they are taking over 2 Tulip Trekker walks in Bellingham. Club trip to Mt Angel, Sept 11-14, for the Octoberfest.
 - ii. CVC has canceled the August 1st Staircase Walk due to fire damage. Upcoming walks include 7/17 Westport YRE; 8/7

Moclips; and 9/4 Aberdeen. The club is taking over 3 Tulip Trekker walks: 2 in Bellingham and the Peace Arch.

iii. Evergreen Wanderers club has a walk on 8/2 in Steilacoom which includes walking in Farrell's Marsh.

f. *Southwest Region #6* – Burt Paynter reported the Vancouver Club's annual July 4th event was successful but a decline in walkers - 62 walkers. The last-minute event in North Bonneville, which also includes a huge car show, had 25 walkers. No walks in the works right now but have several ideas for an early fall/late fall event.

9. RD Report: (Sandi)

- a. Big Give – Sandi reminded us of the AVA Big Give fundraiser on September 17-18.
- b. Starting Point – Sandi indicated if you want to pre-order a 2026 Starting Point book, \$35, the order form is on the AVA website and the order deadline is 9/30/25.
- c. Recognition – Sandi congratulated Chase on his service to the Pathfinder club as both President and NW Pathfinder editor for the past 10 years. Many, many folks will miss the publication. The Lilac City club celebrated 40 years, and a certificate was sent to Dennis to present to the club at their next meeting.
- d. 50th AVA Anniversary Walk NW Region – Sandi introduced Mary Reed, OTSVA President, and Ed Hainline, OTSVA Vice-President, presenters for the next NW Regional Conference in Oregon. Ed described the conference, which occurs every 2 years, and is typically hosted by each state in the region. Due to the fact Idaho no longer has any clubs and the Anchorage club has decreased in size it now has become only WA and OR that organizes the multi-day event for the region. The plan for 2026 is to go to the coast. The last time the conference was on the coast was in 2006 in Seaside. In 2026 the venue will be Astoria. The first choice for conference dates is the 2nd weekend of September 2026 with an alternative of the 3rd weekend depending on lodging availability

and cost. Ed is waiting for return calls from 2 hotels, Astoria Riverwalk Inn and Holiday Inn Express, to setup a meeting. There are many YREs in the area as well as across the Columbia River in WA. Also, the NW Regional Conference will be the NW Region's signature event for AVA's 50th celebration. Plus, the events also tie into ESVA's 2026 Challenge. Stay tuned.

10. Ongoing and Unfinished Business: None

11. New Business:

- a. Correspondence - None
- b. ESVA 2026 Sanctioned Events in ONP and Mt Ranier – Sandi confirmed with Todd the ESVA was renewing the 9 events.
- c. AVA 50th Anniversary 2026 - Diane reported that the AVA would be celebrating 50 years since AVA's 1st event in 1976. Currently Diane, Chair, Programs Committee, is soliciting a signature event in each of the 10 regions which could mean some regions might have more than 1 event. The Capitol club offered their Wild & Woodsy event as a 50th celebration event. Discussion ensued regarding Wild & Woodsy or a new WA location. Participation figures provided for W&W were 200 folks in 2022 and 2024. The 2025 event was known as "W&W Lite" with only a one-day event due to the AVA National Convention. Concern expressed that 2 NW signature events would be watering down the region's impact and participation for the 50th. Diane and Susan Fine, Publicity Chair, will be meeting with Henry Rosales and the AVA HQ staff to firm up plans and the 50th celebration calendar next week.
- d. Other:
 - i. Challenge Committee - Sherry asked if patches were really needed for the ESVA Challenges? Discussion included the fact clubs were no longer offering patches as A-awards as folks were just not buying event patches anymore, but challenges were different. One idea offered was to consider using hat pins for challenges, but it was stated that hat pins were too difficult to mail due to packaging and cost. A

suggestion was made to discuss the question at club meetings and provide club opinions to Sherry and Pam. Discussion on the turnaround time for club opinions to the committee and then the effect on the production schedule for the challenge wasn't a feasible option at this point in time. Mike Nagan moved the Challenge Committee be directed to include patches for the 2026 challenge and review the question earlier in 2026 for resolution. Tess and Sandi seconded. Approved 15. Opposed 1. Passed.

- ii. Labels/Stickers – Sharon stated clubs want to continue with the stickers and she would have label sheets for clubs at the Leavenworth and the Crab Fest events. Sharon reminded clubs when renewing their YRE/Seasonal event to click on the “No Stamp” option so AVA is not producing a physical stamp slug for the event. Sharon will continue to print stickers for those clubs that want them.

- e. Schedule for the next EC and BOD Meeting: Pam stated the next ESVA meetings are scheduled at OPE's Crab Fest event in Port Angeles, October 11th in a classroom at the Port Angeles High School, located at 304 E Park Ave, Port Angeles.

- EC meeting at 1:00 pm PDT
- BOD meeting at 2:00 pm PDT

12. Announcements: None

13. Adjournment: Sandi Severtsen moved the meeting be adjourned. Sherry Ogur seconded. Approved.