

ESVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
October 11, 2025, at 2:00 pm PDT – In Person
Port Angeles, WA

1. **Call to Order.** Todd Oberlander, ESVA President, called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. In attendance in addition to the President were: Pam Greig-Davis, Vice-President; Chase Davis, Treasurer; Diane Howell Evans, Secretary; Joe Blazek – Central Area Coordinator (AC) and CWSS Rep; Kim Paulson – Northwest AC; Mike Nagan – Central Puget Sound AC, ECW Rep, 4+FF Rep and Sea-Tac VC Rep; Bonnie Tucker – South Puget Sound AC; Sandi Severtsen – NW Regional Director and SS President; Pat Jewett – NW Deputy Regional Director; David Black, CVC Rep; Sue-Lon Webert, DVVA Rep; Tess Sutton, EW Rep; Michelle Roberts, FSFW President; Irene Stanford, ITVC President; Clay Baulch – OPE President; Ed Hainline – OTSVA VP and VUSAVC Rep. Guests included Sharon Moats. Absent were Dennis Standridge – Eastern AC; Burt Paynter – Southwest AC; and Sherry Ogur – Challenge Committee Chair.
2. **Attendance Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum.** Diane Howell Evans declared a quorum was established for the meeting.
3. **Welcome to members and guests.** Todd welcomed all in attendance at the meeting.
4. **Vote on acceptance of July 16th BOD Meeting Minutes.** Mike Nagan moved the minutes of the July 16th BOD meeting be approved as written. Sue-Lon Webert seconded. Approved.
5. **Treasurer's Report/Update of current budget.** Chase Davis stated income for the quarter 7/1/25 – 9/30/25 was largely due to club dues and interest from 2 CDs. Major expense for the same period was the annual subscription renewal for Meetup.com. Discussion held regarding the new WA tax on websites and the method used to charge clubs the new tax. Final thought was the new use tax for website services would be charged to the club by the website provider.
6. **VP's Report/Update on Walk Review Program.** Pam Greig-Davis reported the walk review program, which ran from 4/1/2025 to 9/30/2025, resulted in a total of 155 walk reviews received but only 131 counted as the other 24

reviews were either duplicates or they didn't need a review quite yet, but they did reset the clock for the next review due date. Sixteen folks participated in the reviews and each one received a chit for each walk they reviewed. This was a significant change from last year's contest rules. Pam read off a list of contest participants. Contest winners were:

- a. 1st Place (\$75) – Chase Davis
- b. 2nd Place (\$50) – Joe Blazek
- c. 3rd Place (\$25) – Sharon Moats
- d. 4th Place (\$25) – Rodney Schmidt

Todd stated the subject of a 2026 Walk Review Program/Contest will be discussed and voted on at the January zoom meeting and if anyone has any ideas or changes to the contest guidelines to let him know.

7. **Challenge Committee Report.** Pam Greig-Davis reported for Sherry Ogur and stated the new 2026 ESVA Challenge is “Discover Your Parks.” Parks include State and National Parks and runs from 1/1/2026 – 12/31/2028. The walk event must go through or past the park and is valid for the NW regional states only – AK, ID, OR and WA. The challenge requires 20 qualifiers and can be all state parks or all national parks or any combination of the two – entirely up to the challenge participant. Dorm Batson is currently designing the award patch.

8. **Area Coordinator Reports.**

- a. Eastern Region #1 – Diane Howell Evans reported for Dennis Standridge. Lilac City Volkssport Association (LCVA) is finally back on track after a “VERY HOT” and dry summer. All LCVA walks for Fiscal Year 2026 have been forwarded to Headquarters for their review and LCVA will be celebrating their 40th Anniversary on 4 November 2025. The celebration will be at the Manito Gardens and start at 1:00 PM. Food and drinks will be provided as well as a walk.
- b. Central Region # 2 - Joe Blazek reported the Sun Striders had been tracking their finances due to the increase of the event participation fees from \$3 to \$4 for walkers. There was no impact on club finances, so the club is lowering the participation fee at their YRE/SYRE

physical start boxes to \$3 to motivate walkers to travel over the pass and walk in Central Washington. Club membership is currently 13 members but at the end of the year it is losing 2 members due to relocation to western WA, and it might also include 2 other members who walk with the members moving out of the area. Joe mentioned the Alaska cruise the Emerald City Wanderers are sponsoring in May 2026 which is open to all walkers nationwide and beyond. Port calls include walks in Ketchikan, Juneau, Sitka and Victoria BC plus onboard sanctioned walks. The cruise this past May had 52 walkers. Joe also informed all in attendance the 6 ESVA sponsored ONP coastal walks have been extended to the end of the year!

c. Northwest Region #3 – Kim Paulson reported on the following clubs:

- i. Sound Steppers – club hosts weekly Thursday group walks of their YREs as well as walks hosted by other NW clubs; on November 11th, Veterans Day, they are walking in Sedro Woolley starting at the Northern State Rec Center located at 25625 Helmick Rd; On Saturday, November 29th, the club is sponsoring a Turkey Trot walk in Edmonds starting at the United Methodist Church. Bring non-perishable food for the Edmonds Food Pantry.
- ii. Olympic Peninsula Explorers – club is taking over 6 Tulip Trekker walks and will be adding some weekday walks to their group walk schedule; future walks in the plans include Point Roberts, Friday Harbor and Gardiner Troll Walk; the Hurricane Ridge walk has been sanctioned as a snowshoe/ cross country ski event in 2026.

d. Central Puget Sound Region #4 – Mike Nagan reported on the following clubs:

- i. Emerald City – club hosts group walks on the weekends and alternate Saturdays and Sundays; the Labor Day traditional event had 61 walkers; upcoming events include the annual Remlinger Farms Halloween walk on October 25th with prizes for walkers in costumes and of course the usual visit to the

Alpaca Farm; the Opt Outside walk on November 28th; and the New Years Eve and Day walks in W Seattle. Club is once again hosting an Alaska Cruise, May 16-23, 2026, on the Holland America MS Eurodam ship, Seattle round-trip and is open to all walkers. Register before Oct 29th with only a \$25 deposit and full refund if cancelled before Feb 15th.

- ii. FS Family Wanderers – club’s Sept 20th Redmond – Wandering in the Watershed walk had 43 walkers.
 - iii. Sea-Tac – club’s Aug 9th Federal Way Link Light Rail Station walk had 35 walkers.
 - iv. Four+ Foolhardy – club’s NW Hiking weekend is scheduled for April 17-19, 2026 with 3 walks planned at Steamboat Rock State Park located in the Grand Coulee area.
 - v. Interlaken Trailblazers – the club’s joint effort with the Sun Striders was successful with some cancellations due to the smoke from the area wildfires but folks had a great time and fun at the 7 walks. Joe stated the majority of the work at the event was done by the Interlaken club.
- e. South Sound Region #5 - Bonnie Tucker reported on the following clubs:
- i. Evergreen Wanderers – club has 28 members and membership meetings are held quarterly; club’s August 2nd event in Steilacoom – Farrell’s Marsh had 62 walkers.
 - ii. Daffodil Valley – club has 92 members with membership meetings held the 2nd Monday of every month in conjunction with a walk and lunch; club’s September 6th event in Purdy at the Gateway Park had 27 walkers; other traditional events included the September 27th Wilkeson Foothills Trail; club members made a trip to Mt Angel for the Octoberfest and did walks along the way.
 - iii. Capitol – club has 95 members with club meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month; club recently lost good member, Mert Turner, and had a memorial walk for her in Aberdeen; club has

taken over 5 Tulip Trekker walks and all the club's YREs have been renewed for 2026; upcoming big event is the Christmas walk on December 13th which has a new start point and a walk fee of \$3. Start table open from 10 am – noon. Capitol opens at 11 am if interested in viewing the Christmas decorations. Pam informed everyone that Wild & Woodsy is scheduled for April 23-26 and will offer group walks, Thursday pub crawl, Friday inexpensive meal, Saturday buffet dinner and Sunday will not include Northwest Trek.

- f. Southwest Region #6 - Ed Hainline reported for Burt Paynter on the Vancouver USA club. The club had an event in August and another in September and both events operated at a loss due to the low participation - which is experienced by many other clubs in the region despite being the most active region in the AVA; future events include the New Years Eve walk beginning at McMenamins East Vancouver with 4 different loops of 5k and the OR New Years Day walk is still a work in progress; the 2025 Opt Outside event will occur on the Oregon side in Hillsboro at Rood Bridge Park; all the YREs have been renewed with the exception of the canceled Vancouver Hazel Dell YRE.
9. **RD Report.** Sandi Severtsen thanked all the clubs that adopted all but 3 of the Tulip Trekker YRE/SYRE walks. The remaining 3 are still looking for a new home – Bellingham Lake Padden, Birch Bay and Bellingham NW Cornwall Park. The AVA Walk App project is new to both Sandi and Pat and they have submitted many questions to the AVA President and CEO and are waiting on a response. In the interim Sandi has forwarded all information she has been given to all the NW clubs. Biggest concern is the cost of developing and implementing the app, especially due to the loss of estimated money from the biennial convention in Las Cruces and the Big Give. Discussion continued on cost of app, benefit to clubs, use of club maps, etc. Finally suggested the item be tabled until more details are known.

10.Ongoing and Unfinished Business.

- a. NW Region event – AVA 50th Anniversary 2026 – Ed spoke regarding the NW Regional Conference planned for Astoria OR, Sept 24-27, 2026. Ed and Pat Jewett will be meeting with past Astoria Mayor, Arline LaMear (AVA member), to check out Holiday Inn Express rooms, registration and social activity meeting facilities. Also investigating the availability of similar meeting facilities at the Columbia River Maritime Museum and the Finnish Social Club – Suomi Hall. More details provided as they come available. Diane briefed the group on the AVA 50th Anniversary Signature Events across the country. Total of 17 signature events with all 10 regions participating. Commemorative Passport book for attendees to collect stickers. Prizes for those completing at least 8 and for those completing all 17 events. The October Checkpoint, just sent out on Friday, includes an article with a link to the special AVA 50th Anniversary webpage listing the calendar of events and descriptions of all 17 events with information known from the clubs at this point in time. It will be updated as more information received from the host clubs.

11. New Business.

- a. Correspondence - None
- b. Winter Walk Challenge Contest – the Executive Committee recommended to the Board that the Winter Walk Challenge be continued in 2026. All guidelines/rules are the same as last year. Ed has offered to continue as the coordinator and the 2025 participation doubled from the 2024 challenge participation. Mike Nagan made the motion for the Board to approve the EC’s recommendation to continue the Winter Walk Challenge Contest in 2026. Tess Sutton seconded. Approved. Ed to mail the challenge contest guidelines to Todd and Diane for distribution to all the clubs at the end of October.
- c. Club Support Committee – Joe Blazek provided background information on the creation of the ad-hoc committee following the increase in the participation fee from \$3 to \$4 and the concern of the impact on the financial health of WA clubs. The Committee met

several times and recommended a budget line item of \$500 be added back into the ESVA budget to help any club needing financial support. Financially healthy clubs could also donate to the fund. Chase Davis stated there had been no activity from clubs requesting help since the account was added back into the budget. With the possible AVA development of a Walk app and the request for clubs to help fund the cost and opting into the system for a fee there is now a renewal of concern for the financial health of WA clubs. Question put forth to the attendees: Should the committee be re-activated now to once again look into ideas to help clubs remain cohesive and strong? Discussion held regarding club issues with loss of manpower and decreasing participation. General feeling was WA clubs were financially stable at this time. Decision made to keep committee membership list available and when the cost of the walk app is known to reconsider the reactivation of the Club Support Committee. If any unexpected issues arise the EC should call a special meeting of the Board.

- d. AVA Certificates of Appreciation – Sandi Seversen presented an AVA Certificate to Clay Baulch recognizing the 35th anniversary of the Olympic Peninsula Explorers club. Sandi also presented an AVA Certificate for Russ Kruse of the Central Washington Sun Striders for his 15 years as club president. Joe Blazek will present the certificate to Russ at their next club meeting.
- e. Event Stickers/labels – Sharon Moats announced she could supply blank sheets of labels or printed stamp labels to clubs for their events.
- f. Schedule next EC and BOD meeting location, dates, and times – Pam Greig-Davis recommended the winter January meeting be held via zoom and the Spring meeting be held in conjunction with Wild and Woodsy in Lacey. All agreed.
 - i. Winter zoom meeting - EC meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 7:00 pm PST. BOD meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 7:00 pm PST.

- ii. Spring in-person meeting at Wild & Woodsy in Lacey on Saturday, April 25, 2026. EC meeting scheduled for 1:00 pm PST followed by the annual BOD meeting at 2:00 pm.

12. Adjournment. Ed Hainline moved the meeting be adjourned. Sandi Severtsen seconded. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm PST.

Respectfully submitted:
Diane Howell Evans
ESVA Secretary

Reviewed by:
Todd Oberlander
ESVA President