

## Evergreen State Volkssport Association

### Board of Directors Meeting

Nov. 27, 2010 (Revised Dec. 2, 2010)

**I Call to Order:** President Dave Olszyk called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was hosted by the Sound Steppers Volkssport Club at Old Woodway High School, Edmonds, WA.

**II Recognition** of Curt Myron, AVA President and Sam Korff, NW Regional Director in attendance. Dave presented Susan Berry her Mountain Goat achievement from the Extreme Program.

**III Acceptance of Agenda and minutes from the Renton meeting.** The agenda was accepted as printed. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as distributed.

**IV Audience Comments:** Nancy Regan has enjoyed Walk Washington, Walk Oregon, and Walk California and their associated Facebook pages. Eleanor Borgardts thanked Sam Korff for sending out event information in advance.

**V Officer reports** about what volkssporting has done for them lately.

- a. First Vice President Mike Nagan almost has his 50 states and just returned from a walking trip to Russia, Egypt, and Jordan. Volkssporting has provided him with unique travel opportunities. He cautions us to remember that we're about walking, not building a bureaucracy.
- b. Second Vice President Nancy Wittenberg credits volksmarching as great exercise and the cause of significant weight loss.
- c. Secretary Bonnie Tucker, a retired librarian, loves visiting libraries and recently finished her Carnegie Library book.
- d. President Dave Olszyk just reached his goal of finishing all 50 states before turning 50 years old. His recent travels took him to New England, where he completed his last four states. He touted Boston's Freedom Trail as fabulous. He encourages us to look at National Park and historic sites as good starting points and locations for YRE's and events.

### VI Standing Committee Reports

- a. Finance Committee—Nancy Regan reported that the financial report is on the website. The net income for first quarter is \$209.34. The ESVA balance is \$32,116.07. She has submitted the Jan. report to the State Dept. of Revenue, as well as the Annual Financial Report to the AVA.
- b. Pathfinder Committee—Dick Baker sent a detailed report of the Pathfinder Income and Expense for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2010.
- c. Online NW Pathfinder Feasibility Committee—The motion to put the Pathfinder online was tabled on 24 July, awaiting review by the committee. Diane Wagner reported that the Pathfinder can be put on the website for free. The concern is the impact of free access on home delivery. The committee recommends a 6-month trial of making the Pathfinder available through the ESVA website for free, starting with the May-June issue. Then the committee would

study the effects, if any, on home delivery. A decision would be made whether to continue free access or whether to charge.

- d. **Publicity**—Nancy Wittenberg mentioned that the Emerald City Wanderers and the Interlaaken Trailblazers have Facebook pages, which they did through Wendy Bumgardner, but it's not hard to do on your own. She encourages the rest of the clubs to do the same. Check out blogs as an additional PR source. And you can always beef up your trail descriptions on the AVA web site. She distributed copies of email correspondence about Facebook and KVOS DT, an additional source for advertising events.
- e. **Challenge Committee**—Sue Black reported that the new 2011 WA Town Challenge books are available from Nancy Regan and committee members. The committee has set "parks" as the theme for the 2012 WA Challenge—city, county, state, and federal categories. In honor and in support of the 2013 WA State Parks Centennial, the ESVA will sponsor a one-year, limited edition challenge for state parks

#### **VII Area Coordinator's reports** (featured upcoming events and what's going to make them special)

- a. **Northwest Region**—Tamara Belts said to be on the lookout for 2011 events on Camano Island and Bellingham
- b. **Eastern Region**—Jim Buchholz was snowed in.
- c. **Central Region**—New area coordinator Joe Blazek introduced himself.
- d. **West Central North**—Sue Black invited everyone to the New Year's Eve event (Emerald City Wanderers' 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary) and New Year's Day walk
- e. **West Central South**—Fran Carson mentioned the 8-9 Jan cross country ski/snowshoe at Cle Elum, the Northwest Trek event on 5-6 Feb, and Dupont on 26 Mar.
- f. **South Sound**—Susan Berry invited walkers to Olympia's Capitol Holiday Walk on 4 Dec, and the next ESVA meeting at Seabreeze Weekend, 19-21 Feb. in Ocean Shores.
- g. **Southwest Region**—Earl Bowen announced Christmas walks in Camas on 11 Dec and Longview on 19 Dec. 2011 Discovery Walks will occur on 9 April and be one day only, without IML credit.

#### **VIII VIP Reports**

- a. Curt Myron, AVA president, will bring his stamp to any event where he is invited, to stamp SNOB books. He will appear at the 19 Dec Longview walk. His new club, Volkssport USA, gives pole walking seminars and will sponsor a seasonal walk in 2011.

Exciting news from Kandahar, Afghanistan is that MWR (Morale, Welfare, and Recreation) wants to put on a volksmarch. AVA will sponsor it in mid-Feb 2011 and may ask for donations to pay for awards for soldiers.

Curt addressed AVA's future, saying if AVA doesn't change, then it will cease to exist in 5-8 years. AVA's participation has been in decline for 20 years. Office systems are outdated, as is the office. The AVA is losing \$4500/month, though they do have \$800,000 in the bank. Step one of the change was hiring an Executive Director in June 2010. They are getting ready to accept a plan from her. If people haven't read Curt's recent message, they need to do so. He

challenged us to get informed, involved, and vocal to resistance to change. Curt encouraged us to email him with questions. He reminded us that he is willing to talk to clubs.

The 15 member NEC (National Executive Council) will meet in Feb. 2011.

- b. Sam Korff, NW Regional Director, said that AVA's participation of 541,000 in 1990 has dipped to 195,000 to date this year. This decline is also true in the Northwest, but not at as rapid a pace.

On a happier note, he presented a 25-year ribbon and congratulatory letter to the Emerald City Wanderers for their silver anniversary. In addition, he presented a Meritorious Service Award to Nancy Stephens, long-time treasurer of the Four Plus Foolhardy Folks.

He encouraged clubs to use their YRE descriptions in the Starting Point and on the AVA website as a marketing tool. As a start, use the name of the walk as a grabber, and write an interesting description, which would entice someone from afar to do the walk.

**IX Old Business**—Quarterly meetings will continue.

**X New Business**

- a. The motion to have a new rotation of quarterly meetings passed 18 to 13. Dave will publish the new schedule, based on the criteria within the motion. Major point is that there will be one meeting per year held within Eastern Washington, alternating between the two major areas. The other meetings will rotate through the five western regions.
- b. Awards. Dick Baker has been the chair of the Awards Committee, and he's assured that club presidents have been recognized. Sometimes other officers and volunteers have been overlooked. Certificates of Service are awarded for 3 years, 5 years, and then in 5-year increments. Meritorious Service is awarded for 5 years minimum. Submit name, town, and citation for the certificate. We need to use awards to encourage our volunteers. Nominations go to the Northwest Regional Director, Sam Korff.
- c. 2012 NW Conference. Since the president has the authority to establish committees, it became unnecessary to vote on establishing one. Dave stated the goal is to "top Alaska", and he's confident that we can do that. Dorm Batson, Fran Carson, and Sharon Moats offered to work on the conference committee with Dave.

**XI Audience Comments**

- a. Check the IVV for Olympiad information—next one to be held in Turkey.
- b. Sharon Moats recommended visiting the NW VOLKSSPORT meet-Up at <http://www.meetup.com/walkers-574/> to locate group walks of YRE's, when there are no Regular Events taking place in the Puget Sound Area.

## **XII Upcoming Meetings**

- a. 19 Feb 2011, Ocean Shores—Seabreeze Weekend, hosted by the Capitol Volkssport Club, Susan Berry, AC
- b. 11 June—Chelan, hosted by the Bavarian Volkssport Club, Joe Blazek, AC (annual meeting).  
Make hotel reservations now, as that will be high season.
- c. 3d Qtr, TBA
- d. 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr—Vancouver, WA to be held in conjunction with Veterans Day parade

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Submitted by

Bonnie Tucker, Secretary