

Evergreen State Volkssport Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Jan 1, 2012

I Call to Order: President Dave Olszyk called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was hosted by the Emerald City Wanderers at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, Seattle, WA.

II Acceptance of the agenda and minutes from the Vancouver meeting. The agenda was accepted as printed. The minutes from the Vancouver meeting were approved.

III Officer reports about volkssporting goals for 2012

- a. 1st Vice President Mike Nagan's goal is to motivate all members of his club, the Emerald City Wanderers, to take a more active role in the club during 2012.
- b. 2nd Vice President Nancy Wittenberg wondered about the effect of meet ups and weekly club walks. This generated audience comments about growth of clubs, such as the Sound Steppers and the Interlaken Trailblazers as a direct result of meet ups. The Sacramento Walking Sticks have grown into the largest club in the US, due to their Sunday afternoon walks, followed by dining out. In addition, there was discussion of the YRE boxes having current point of contact information, clean stamps (which can be cleaned with Windex), and large groups of walkers using only a few sets of directions. Golden rule is never to take the last set of directions and to communicate with the POC about any supply shortages or problems.
- c. Treasurer Nancy Regan read a letter from the Kootenai Humane Society, thanking for the ESVA donation of \$90.00, given in memory of Jim Buchholz. Next she reported ordering name badges for Area Coordinators Diane Hildebrand, Joe Blazek, Susan Berry, and Jeff Blossey. Her treasurer's report stated that the ESVA had met income and that the outlook is good. The financials are located on the ESVA website.
- d. Secretary Bonnie Tucker suggested since the treasury is healthy, money should be spent effectively on marketing to grow our numbers. In the meantime, there are free marketing techniques-- a Speakers' Bureau, individuals walking the talk and talking the walk, mentoring new walkers, and involving new club members early in committee and club work. For her part, Bonnie plans to introduce two club members to event planning for the Millersylvania State Park Walk 29 Sept.
- e. President Dave Olszyk 's concern is balancing customer service to current walkers, while planning programs that interest new and younger ones. He advocates continuing challenge programs, even after the official end date. Although it is now possible to continue collecting events after all books are sold, we don't advertise that people can continue the program until the patches are gone. He recommends hiring a 20-year-old as a consultant. More discussion followed about what makes a good event, like the New Year's Eve/Day walks—good host, plenty of parking, and social interaction. The Northwest Striders and the Daffodil Valley Volkssport Association are examples of clubs who partner with their cities to present quality events.

IV Audience comments were included in officer reports.

V Standing Committee Reports

- a. Pathfinder Committee--Eleanor Borgardts stated that the NW Pathfinder was mailed 23 Dec. Three clubs didn't make the 30 Dec deadline for event ads for the Mar-Apr issue. She was working with one of them at the meeting. The Jan-Feb issue contains the list of YRE's with complete information, while the Mar-Apr issue will contain the seasonals. If you have more challenges to list for the YRE's, send them to Eleanor for inclusion in the May-June issue, which will again contain longer entries for the YRE's. Corrections and changes to information should be emailed to Eleanor. 24 Feb is the deadline for event ads for the May-June issue.
- b. Publicity Committee—PR covered in officer reports
- c. Challenge Committee—New co-chairs are Sharon Streitt and Millie Haupt, who invited new people to join the committee. 2012 Park books are selling well. 2013 will be a special State Park Centennial program. The books will have room for 10 walk stamps, 1 each for the 7 geographic areas of the state + 3 stamps of your choice. To support the program, clubs should plan state park walks specifically for these geographic areas. On the ESVA website there are forms highlighting current AVA and ESVA challenges, which can be placed in each start box as a reference for walkers.
- d. NW Conference 2012 Committee—Fran Carson passed around the following: souvenir patch and five-piece award patch, both designed by Dorm Batson, and registration form in design phase. Registration form will appear on ESVA website as soon as it's finished and in the next NW Pathfinder. Conference will be held 15-19 Aug. at Camp Berachah, Auburn, where lodging and camp sites will be available. Events: 15 Aug meet and greet; 16 Aug walk at NW Trek and barbecue; 17 Aug Crystal Mt; 18 Aug Tacoma; 19 Aug Camp Berachah. The swim event will be on-going at Camp Berachah throughout the conference. More information will be forthcoming.
- e. Finance Committee—Members: Sue Black, Ruth Kalies, Bob Morrison, Fred Fisher, Mike Nagan, and Millie Haupt. Nancy Regan will prepare the sales tax return. Then the committee will work the budget process of operating budget and the reserve fund, which is used for one-time expenditures. If anyone has ideas for a special project or wants to recommend expenditures for next year, contact one of the committee members.
- f. Storage Shed Committee—Nancy Wittenberg's committee of Carolyn Warhol, Diane Wagner, and Sharon Moats presented an inventory of the storage unit, as well as pictures, and proposed motions for disposition of assets. Mike Nagan moved that the ESVA downsize from a 5'x10' storage unit at a cost of \$65/month to a 5'x5' unit at a cost of \$45/month. Dina Johnson seconded the motion, and it carried. Mike Nagan moved that the ESVA either sell or donate a four-drawer legal size metal file cabinet and two metal shelving units. Dina Johnson seconded the motion, and it carried. Jeff Blossey moved that the ESVA donate the remaining Teanaway medals to Special Olympics or a similar non-profit group. Mike Nagan seconded the motion, and it carried. Nancy is the new Point of Contact for the storage shed.
- g. Dave Olszyk reported for the ESVA Associate Member Establishment Committee. Dick Baker is still checking on associate membership, with the Pathfinder as the newsletter sent to members. Dorm Batson recommended that the associate membership for ESVA include a newsletter as a membership benefit, but DO NOT MENTION PATHFINDER by name. Associate membership would require an ESVA bylaw change, which must be voted on at the annual business meeting.

The motion must be sent out by 12 April, so the membership receives it one month prior to the annual meeting on 12 May.

- h. Fran Carson reported for the Election Committee. Candidates are needed for President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and Treasurer. Bonnie is willing to be a candidate for Secretary, but would like some competition for the election. Nancy Regan is willing to remain Treasurer, if issues about reporting sales tax on the Pathfinder can be resolved. Nancy Wittenberg's term of office is up. The President and Vice Presidents can only remain in office for two two-year terms, while Treasurer and Secretary have no term limits. PLEASE contact Fran Carson if you are willing to be a candidate for office or if you want to nominate someone. New officers must be elected at the next meeting, 12 May.

VI Area Coordinators' Reports

- a. West Central South Region—Fran Carson invited skiers and showshoers to the 7-8 Jan. Slip and Slide event in Cle Elum.
- b. South Sound Region—Susan Berry announced the NW Trek event 4-5 Feb, 11 Feb walk in Bonney Lake, and the 28 Apr Puyallup event.
- c. Southwest Region—no report
- d. Northwest Region—Jeff Blosssey invited walkers to Bainbridge Is 24 Mar.
- e. Eastern Region—no report
- f. Central Region—no report
- g. Central North Region—Diane Hildebrand reported the Woodinville Walk on 25 Feb, the Easter walk 7 Apr in Seattle, and the 5 May walk in Snoqualmie. She also reminded us that there's a national park in the downtown Seattle YRE.

VII Regional Director Sam Korff absent, but he has sent to clubs a number of motions that will be voted on by the AVA National Executive Council at their next meeting. **He has requested feedback from clubs by 13 Jan.**

VIII No old business

IX New business—12 April is the deadline for a list of candidates for ESVA office to be sent to the membership.

X Upcoming Meetings. Responsibility of Area Coordinators to schedule.

- a. 2nd qtr. 2012 (annual meeting), 12 May, Olympia, Burfoot County Park, hosted by the Capitol Volkssport Club, Susan Berry, POC
- b. 3d qtr 2012, TBA
- c. 4th qtr. 2012, 6 Oct 2012, Spokane, Mukogawa Institute, hosted by Lilac City Volkssport Association, Alan Heritage, POC
- d. 1st qtr 2013, TBA

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Submitted by Bonnie Tucker, Secretary