

Capital Volkssport Club Meeting

June 14, 2016

Izzy's Classic Buffet, Olympia, WA

A board meeting was held from 4:30 - 5:30. The first item of discussion was a request for a 35th anniversary walk to celebrate our club and the SeaTac clubs formation. SeaTac was the 1st club in the state and we were the 2nd. The board will contact Carolyn Warhol (our area coordinator) and Nancy Wittenberg for more information.

An IVV-Americas meeting was held at the recent convention in Canada. Items discussed included how to make more money, publishing a newsletter, bringing their computers up to date and possible future walks at cruise terminals.

The board passed a motion to purchase 3 "Caution Walker" signs for use at events at a cost of \$35 each.

All walks for the next year need to be sanctioned soon. After review the board agreed to drop the Chehalis town walk for a couple of years and replace it with the Hoquiam walk we previously had. This will give travelers coming for the Seabreeze event another walk to do while in the area. Our club will be offering 18 walks next year.

The ESVA is establishing a review program for walk directions and maps for Year-Round and Seasonal Events. The new guidelines are consistent with the AVA guidance for event directions. Members cannot review their own club's walks. But volunteers will be asked to walk and review directions from another club. Bonnie Tucker will email copies of the announcement of the new program, guidelines for route directions and the ESVA WA YRE/SEASONAL DIRECTIONS REVIEW FORM to all club members. Contact Joe Blazek (509-899-6535 joemblazek1@gmail.com) as to which walk you would be willing to review. As a courtesy please notify the box tender or other club board member before you walk and do your review.

The board reviewed previous discussion regarding assigning club members to be at the Park & Ride. It was decided that it was impossible to guarantee that a member be at the Park & Ride before heading out to a walk. The time that walkers should leave the Park & Ride is published in the newspaper and on Meetup along with the address and start time for the walk itself. Walkers should be aware that if no one shows up at the Park & Ride they should proceed to the address of the walk itself.

It has been suggested that we do a walk at Ohanapecosh (Mt. Rainier) in August. It would start at the visitor center. Liz Morrison will contact the visitor center for their hours and come up with a date for us.

President Liz Morrison called the general membership meeting to order at 6:30 and welcomed new members. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as written.

Members shared interesting new walks they have taken as follows: Karen & Jim Younkens walked in Anchorage, AK, Bonnie Tucker & Liz Morrison walked in Langley, BC at the Canadian Convention on the President's Walk led by a bagpiper, Perki & Peter Sweet walked in Reno, NV and Nancy Wittenberg walked in Fredericksburg, TX at the NEC meeting.

The President's report:

1. Lake Forest Park is temporarily unavailable due to renovation. We will be notified when it is opened to walkers in the future.
2. All Kitsap Club walks have been taken over by other clubs with the exception of Port Gamble. The Kitsap Club will be inactive as of July 1. If no one volunteers to take Port Gamble, Nancy Wittenberg will take it as Regional Director for the rest of the year and it will be an online start.
3. The recent Girl Scout walk was a success and they had good weather for it. Special thanks to Holly Spaulding and other volunteers.
4. Committee reports:
 - a. The club potluck picnic will be August 9 at Tumwater Historical Park. Bill Spaulding has a 5K walk to be done before the picnic.
 - b. Karen Younkins passed around sign up sheets and an envelope for collecting club dues (due July 1).
 - c. Karen Younkins passed around sign up sheets for reservations and an envelope for collecting the monies for the Seabreeze dinner. There are only 120 seats available for the dinner.
 - d. A motion passed to name our December 10 Christmas walk the "Susan Berry Memorial Holiday Walk". We will also be having a plaque engraved with her name to be added to the bench we donated at the farmers market in downtown Olympia.
 - e. The holiday potluck dinner will be December 13. Bill Spaulding has already reserved the same venue as last year, the Jacob Smith House, for the same price. Bill asks that you email photos of club members walking throughout the year. He will again be doing a slideshow for the dinner.
 - f. The Anderson Island guided walk is scheduled for July 16. Volunteers are needed to help with this event. The ferry at Steilacoom leaves at 10 am. There will be a 5K and a 10K. Bring your own lunch and eat at the winery where there will be tables and chairs provided. If you buy wine to take home the owner has agreed to deliver it to the ferry dock for your return trip. The return ferry will leave at 2:40 pm. Please do not bring your pets as they are not allowed at the winery or the farm on the island.
 - g. The next Seabreeze committee meeting will be at Karen Younkin's house to be scheduled sometime in August. The brochures are done and were passed out at the Canadian Convention. Bill Spaulding will have a table at the Columbia Gorge event this coming weekend. He has more brochures to pass out and a slideshow on his computer with photos from previous Seabreeze years. All the walks have been sanctioned but Jeanne Allan will need volunteers this fall to help map the walks. More information is available on our website.
5. Liz Morrison thanked all box tenders and passed out certificates of appreciation.

Treasurer, Sheila Morrison has new walk books for sale. She also has the order of club shirts, hats, jackets, and string rucksacks for pickup after the meeting. She reported that the quarterly AVA payment has been made and the purchase of sandwich board signs for event walks was made.

At the recent ESVA meeting it was decided to divide the state into 6 regions rather than 7. Our area coordinator is Carolyn Warhol. New officers were elected. Because the ESVA has a glut of funds the

normal quarterly payment all clubs make to the state organization has been reduced to \$25 a year. This will be a significant savings for us.

Liz Morrison read the slate of officers and Club Positions proposed for election. A motion was made to accept the whole slate as read. The motion passed unanimously. The newly elected officers are:

1. President, Liz Morrison 2 yrs
2. Vice President, Julie Heath 1 yr
3. Secretary, Barbara Malone 2 yrs
4. Treasurer, Sheila Morrison 1 yr
5. ESVA Representative, Holly Spaulding 2 yrs
6. Membership Chair, Karen Younkings 1 yr
7. Publicity Chair, Perki Sweet
8. Sales & Information Chairperson, Lesley Willardson
9. Webmaster, Peter Sweet
10. Newsletter Editor, Harry Saukants

Nancy Wittenberg reported what's new from the NEC (National Executive Council) meeting:

1. The AVA now has a new DBA - "AVA: America's Walking Club". We will no longer be using "American Volkssport Association". Next up will probably be a new logo graphic.
2. The SNOB program will end December 31, 2017. This program required collecting a stamp from all officers and regional directors.
3. San Antonio, Texas has applied to hold IML walks (International Marching League). Currently the Freedom Walks in Washington D.C. are IML walks. The 1st weekend in the process to become an IML event will be February 24-26, 2017.
4. There are plans to set up a national program of challenging events of distance and/or difficulty. These will be 20K or longer and should be on the website by the end of the year. The hope is to attract younger physically fit walkers to join our association.
5. We intend to sanction various sections of some long trails including the Pacific Crest Trail for 2017. They will probably be seasonals due to elevation and snow.
6. Commendable Service Awards program went into effect June 1. It includes a patch, a pin and a certificate. It will replace an older Award for Service program. Information is in the Policy Manual under AVA Recognition Awards Program – Guide for Nominations. It is a layer below the Meritorious Service Award.
7. Guidelines for non-IVV AVA walks were developed. They would be non-credit with no distance requirement but still require a signed waiver and map/directions for insurance purposes.
8. For clubs who purchase their own stamps please note that you need to mask the rubber and metal end of the stamp and paint the handles black to avoid damaged stamp handles and a fine when returning the stamps.
9. IVV rules require you to have nothing less than a 10K walk. But you can have the first part of a walk in one spot and drive to another location to complete the remainder of the walk.
10. You are also allowed to walk a 5K walk twice to get 10K or a 1K mall walk 10 times.
11. The NEC has been trying to do away with free walkers. They failed this time by 1 vote. The issue is sure to come up again at the next meeting in June 2017.

12. The motion to raise the credit walker fee to no more than \$4 also did not pass this time.

Upcoming walks & bike rides:

1. June 26 in Tacoma is the "Tour de Pierce" bike ride for 20K, 30 mile and 50 mile. It will include streets and the Foothills Trail. Check the Pierce County Website.
2. July 16 is our club guided walk on Anderson Island.
3. July 20 groups from Portland will be coming by train to meet the (Puyallup) Daffodil Valley Club at the train station in Centralia. The walk will start there at 10 am (if the train is on time). Come and join this large group of walkers. Contact Sheila Morrison if you can volunteer to help with registration.
4. August 5-7 is the International Friendship Walk in Bellingham sponsored by the Surrey Trekkers and the North West Tulip Trekkers. Make reservations at the Oxford Inn and Suites in Bellingham (360-676-1400).
5. August 25 is our club guided walk "Return to the Forest" at Millersylvania State Park. This is a free day at Washington state parks.
6. The Northwest Regional Conference in Boise, Idaho is September 16-18. Dinner will be \$35. Register as soon as possible at <http://nwregionalconferenceboise2016.weebly.com/>.