

Engineering Retirees Society

ERS Newsletter

Quarterly meeting

Join us on the web for our next all-member quarterly Zoom meeting at noon, Thursday, June 1. Although we will not have a guest speaker, we will have officer reports, committee updates and other items to share.

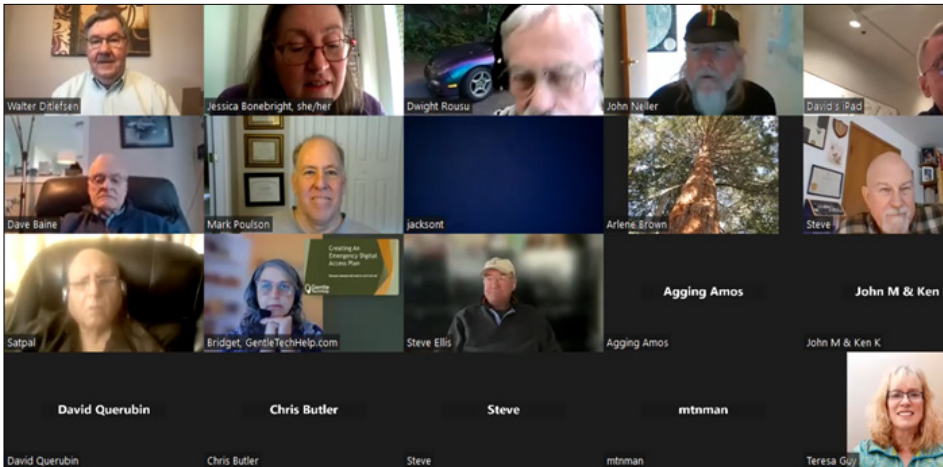
Virtual meetings

Due to continuing COVID-19 precautions and SPEEA facilities still being partly closed to meetings, ERS is continuing with virtual meetings. We use the Zoom platform, which enables computer attendance with audio and video or allows telephone (audio-only) attendance.

We will email meeting invitations. Any members without computer connectivity may have difficulty in getting all pertinent information, but we will do our best to keep everybody in the loop who wants to be in the loop.

Investment meetings

We continue to hold virtual investment meetings at noon on the third Thursday of odd months, when speakers are available. We email notices with the Zoom link and a link to any speaker-supplied information. We are still planning our July 20 investment meeting.



This is a screen shot of the March 2 Zoom meeting. Maybe we should add to the agenda a photo moment, where everybody turns on their video and smiles at their camera.

Treasurer's corner

We have at least 538 dues checks so far this year (approximately 84% of about 640 dues-paying members). The main bulk of dues collections looks to be over.

The current bank information is \$2,307.67 in checking, \$37,801.61 in savings and \$20,250.77 in four Certificate of Deposit (CDs).

The expenses for this year have been for the state registration fee, NRLN dues and Washington, D.C., fly-in expenses, Mailchimp and a few Board meeting lunches for the annual financial review and discussion on upgrading the CDs to a higher interest rate. The current rate is 0.20% with a maturity date of Aug. 28, 2026. There is a 90-day interest penalty for closing them out early but would be regained quickly at the current short-term interest rates.

Minutes from the March 2 all-member virtual meeting

ERS President Dave Baine called the virtual meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

There were 31 attendees, including Dave Baine, Dwight Rousu, Walt Ditlefsen, Steve Ellis, Bob Ferguson, Jessica Bonebright, John Neller, Dave Watt, Myrv and Joan Johansen, John Meeker, Ken Kuehnl, Carolyn Brock, Milagros Amos, Randy Hillenbrand, Chris Butler, Erich Koehler, Arlene Brown, Stanley Lind, David Querubin, Satpal Saini, Bruce Wiletzko, Kim Ryden, Steve Olwin, Mark Paulson, Tim Jackson, Steve Karich and Randy Leghorn.

New members were invited to introduce themselves, including Teresa Guy.

Guest Speaker

Bridget Agabra, founder of www.GentleTech-Help.com, presented on "Emergency Digital Access: Creating a Transition Plan for Your Digital Information." If something happens, what becomes of your photos, your emails and accounts? Who handles everything electronic and how will they find the passwords? Will an old camera be donated with pictures still in it?

Create a transition plan for electronic assets to make it easier for your family to handle quickly and securely. This includes setting up a password vault and Cloud storage, advice about sensitive material, handling of physical devices and more. She encouraged participants to make a list and store it in two places.

Secretary's Report: Jessica Bonebright's minutes of our December 2022 membership meeting were approved as published.

President's Report: Dave Baine reported ERS will be rolling over our Certificate of Deposits (CDs) at BECU for a higher yield. Also, we'll file with the Washington secretary of state and the federal IRS to renew our non-profit status. Dwight Rousu, Steering Board chair, represented ERS at the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN) fly-in

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in Washington, D.C. (A fuller report of the meetings in D.C. is posted on our ERS web site, accessible with a CTL-click.) We're looking for a volunteer to serve as Pension & Insurance Committee chair.

Vice President: Steve Ellis reported our 2022 financial internal review was accomplished, and we are in compliance with our governing documents.

Treasurer: Bob Ferguson reported ERS balances are checking \$4,286.38, savings \$38,394.92 and CDs \$20,247.96. We shifted some funds to cover our recent dues payment to NLRN. About half of our dues' checks have been deposited so far. CD rates have gone up, and we're planning to take advantage of that.

Steering Board Chair: Dwight Rousu reported our March ERS [newsletter](#) was on our website, and the Steering Board met last week.

Committee and Rep Reports

Communications: Chair Walt Ditlefsen reported changing our email provider from MailChimp and changing contact and billing information for our email and website from Dave Westman.

Finance: Chair Steve Ellis reported our ERS assets increased by 11% in 2022.

Insurance chair: The position is open, please contact Dave Baine if interested.

Investments: Cochair Dave Watt reminded us investments meetings are third Thursdays of odd months. Next meeting will be July 20.

Membership: Chair John Neller reported we have 931 ERS members, 662 paid dues for 2022 or 2023. Another 269 people are on record as having paid for 2021 or earlier. We need to coordinate with SPEEA to assure our invitation letter to join ERS is getting out to new retirees.

National Retiree Legislative Network:

Dwight Rousu and Steve Ellis reported the NRLN fly-in included a presentation on Medicare and Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Realizing Equity, Access and



Shown above at a meeting in the Washington, D.C., office of Rep. Marie Glusenkamp-Perez, Washington 3rd-district, are from left, Jason Edwards, legislative aide, Dwight Rousu, ERS representative, and Maggie Sauerhage, legislative aide.

Community Health (REACH) by the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#), a nonprofit organization that conducts its own research, analysis, polling, journalism and specialized public health information campaigns.

An increase in pension risk shifting raises concerns individuals may lose government protections like Employee Retirement Income Security Act ([ERISA](#)) and Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation ([PBGC](#)).

Several meetings over two days were held with Congressional representatives' staff from the Northwest. Read the full report of the NRLN fly-in at [DCtrip](#).

See the NRLN [website](#) at [NRLN.org](#) for more information on issues concerning retirees.

Program Chair: Dave Watt reported we are still looking for a speaker for our June meeting. Get in touch with Dave if you have ideas for future speakers.

Social & Refreshment chairs: Steve Ellis suggested we resume purchasing refreshments from Costco when we're able to start meeting in person again.

SPEEA / ERS Liaison: Dave Baine continues to coordinate with SPEEA as needed.

Legislative & Public Affairs: Co-chair Dwight Rousu reported 10 representatives from SPEEA, including Dwight, went to Olympia to lobby on behalf of employee issues identified by SPEEA, which included pensions and health care.

Sunshine Committee: Co-Chairs Myrv and Joan Johansen reported SPEEA notified us of seven ERS members who have recently passed away: John Bolender, Wil-

liam Robert Linn, Virgil DeLong, Kenneth Holing, Lawrence W. Tarpley, Ben C. Perry and Robert (Bob) Turanyi. Three cards were sent out and a condolence message was posted where information was available.

No reports this meeting for Badges, Governing Documents, Pensions, Travel or Service.

Old Business: Dave Baine was asked to elaborate on his trip reported in the March ERS Newsletter. Perhaps he'll share photos at a future meeting.

New Business: None

Good of the Order: Jessica Bonebright encouraged support of the [RaisetheWageRenton.org](#) campaign to raise the Renton minimum wage to be similar with the higher amount in Seattle, SeaTac and recently Tukwila. They need signature gatherers and other volunteers. ERS planned to e-mail all members with more information.

Arlene Brown shared information about changes she's noticed with tax withholding from her Boeing pension and changes to Boeing 401K transfers after the switch to Fidelity.

Adjournment

The next quarterly membership meeting is scheduled for June 1 at noon. The next investment meeting is at noon July 20. The next steering board meeting is scheduled for May 25 at 11 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.30 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Jessica Bonebright, secretary

Reminder about links

For those receiving a print copy of the newsletter, links are live in the newsletter posted at enews if you or your grandkids have access to a computer. The link target is accessed by a CTRL-leftCLICK on the link.

National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN)

Current NRLN postings and actions can be found on the [NRLN.org](#) website. Steve Ellis is our ERS contact to NRLN. The ERS pays a reduced group membership rate of \$3 per paid member as a major part of our NRLN

partnership. You can also join the NRLN as individuals. There is a form for joining NRLN in our September 2022 ERS Newsletter on our ERS website.

President's Corner

Golly, will it ever end? It seems the conservatives in Congress are forever squawking about having to end "entitlements." This of course refers to any of the many programs aimed at helping people deal with issues related to poverty. Most specifically, it's aimed at Social Security and to a lesser extent at Medicare. However, don't let them fool you! At least with Social Security, it's really more like an insurance plan. It's paid for by an employment tax, half of which is paid for by the employees and the other half by the employers.

A few weeks ago, the annual Social Security and Medicare Trustees' reports were released. The Social Security and Medicare programs both continue to face significant financing issues. There are actually four various trust funds supporting these programs, and all are gradually declining in value. It

is very important we continue to keep the pressure on Congress to adequately sustain these funds.

Such Congressional oversight and pressure are some of the reasons we maintain our membership in the National Retiree Legislative Network. NRLN maintains a presence "on the Hill" in Washington, D.C. You can find their website at nrln.org. I'd recommend at least visiting the home page for a look around.

There's a red bar near the top of the home page. There, if you are not already receiving them, you'll find a spot to sign up for email notifications (don't worry, there's not many of them), a spot to contact your U.S. representative or senators, and still another to respond to Action Alerts.

-Dave Baine
ERS President

Editor's Corner

Do retired engineers and techs ever retire? Maybe a few do, but dealing with facts and data and considering good graphs to be works of art are all potentially sticky traits that don't stop when we stop work. Such traits could be useful to apply to problems that face our technically complex and rapidly changing world.

Some of our political office holders seem not so grounded in facts and data and get too easily led astray by disinformation. (I am not the first to sense that.) There are a few organizations trying to elect candidates with backgrounds in science to better deal with medical issues, climate issues, aviation regulation, information science and basic research.

One of those organizations is 314 Action. Their stated mission is to recruit, train and elect scientists and other Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) leaders to public office. Although 314 Action ends up now mostly endorsing blue engineers, presumably red engineers would be more than welcome.

Learn more at 314action.org.

ERS does not endorse candidates, but we can endorse the idea of looking for technically educated candidates of any color. I would recommend at least browsing their site.

-Dwight

Service Corner

Many of us already volunteer in our communities or local organizations. ERS Services Committee chair Dick Beham is active in the Bluebills, a service organization of all Boeing retirees, engineering or not. See BlueBills.org. The Bluebills invite you to become an active Bluebill member and join their efforts. Their motto is "Together, we can make a difference!" If you are a golfer, the Bluebills are participating in several golf

tournaments this summer. Contact Dick Beham for dates and details.

BlueBill Contacts:

- Central & South Puget Sound - Dick Beham, rsqdnrc@foxinternet.com
- North King & Snohomish County - Alan Rice, aerice77@yahoo.com
- Olympic Peninsula - Clinton Webb, cwebb91275@aol.com

Volunteers who make it all happen

Elected officers

President



Dave Baine

Vice President



Steve Ellis

Secretary



Jessica Bonebright

Treasurer



Bob Ferguson

Steering Board Chair



Dwight Rousu

Appointed Committee Chairs and Reps

Badges	Jessica Bonebright
Calling	OPEN / Dave Watt
Communications (website)	Walt Ditlefsen / Stan Lind
Discounts	OPEN
Finance	Stuart Buchan
Governing Documents	Walt Ditlefsen
Insurance	OPEN / Dave Who
Investments	Dave Watt / Ken Kuehn
Legislative & Public Affairs	Dwight Rousu / Dave Watt
Membership	John Neller
Nominations & Elections	Steve Ellis
NRLN Liaison	Steve Ellis
Pension	David Westman

Programs	OPEN / Dave Watt
Refreshments	John Meeker / Steve Ellis
Service (Bluebills)	Dick Beham
Social	Steve Ellis
SPEEA Liaison	Dave Baine
Sunshine	Joan and Myrv Johansen
Travel	John Neller

We need **VOLUNTEERS** for the chair **OPEN**-ings listed above as well as committee members for Calling and Refreshments if we meet again in person.

ERS SPEEA Contact Michelle Stanley
206-433-0991 x1118
michelles@speea.org

On the lighter side

- If your car is giving you problems, you might have the carownervirus.
- Our computers are now asking humans to prove they are not robots.
- It's weird being the same age as old people.
- If I am ever on life support, unplug me and plug me back in and see if that works.
- We celebrated last night with a couple of adult beverages – Metamucil and Ensure.
- Weight loss goal: To be able to clip my toenails and breathe at the same time.
- If you don't want Alexa listening to your conversations, they are making a male version. It doesn't listen to anything.
- He was nervous about going out with a vegan girl. He had never dated herbivore.
- Last year, I joined a support group for anti-social people. We haven't met yet.
- When you can't sleep at night, it is because you're awake in someone else's dream.
- "The trouble with quotes on the internet is it's hard to tell if they are genuine."
-- Abraham Lincoln
- Your call is very important to us. Enjoy this 40-minute flute solo.