

Engineering Retirees Society

ERS Newsletter

Quarterly meeting

Join us on **Thursday, June 6 at noon** for our mid-year all-member meeting.

The June meeting is presently planned to be in-person at the SPEEA Tukwila hall. Due to current microphone issues at the SPEEA hall, online Zoom attendance may or may not be available. Starting time will be 12 p.m. / noon.

Check for an email notice sent out shortly before the meeting to check for any last minute changes, especially regarding Zoom availability.

Our guest speaker is Brian Le with NY Life. He is going to talk about long-term care insurance.

Investment meetings

We continue to hold investment meetings at noon on the third Thursday of odd months. At the **May 16** meeting, our speakers were Katie Wham, CFA Wealth Manager and Research Analyst at [badgley.com](https://www.badgley.com), and her associate Andrew Hooley. For upcoming meetings, we email notices with the Zoom link shortly before the event.

Editor's Corner

We are living in "interesting times" - the famous curse. The potential consequences of an upcoming national election have never been so dire – such as climate, democracy itself and wars in addition to our senior issues.

Be accurately informed, despite the disinformation in much of the press which is owned by wealthy corporations. Be active. As seniors, we should be working to protect the future of democracy and of our grandchildren living in that democracy.

Other miscellaneous Medicare news stories and opinion links you can CTRL-click on:

- Medicare changes for 2025, with special mention to the big bonuses for agents who steer seniors to Medicare Advantage instead of traditional Medicare. (Oh, does that happen?) [[click here](#)]
- And if in the future you need a nursing home, will there be adequate staffing? [[click here](#)]

There are more such new stories on the NLRN site.

-Dwight

Minutes from the March 7 all-member meeting

ERS President Dave Baine called the Zoom meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

March guest speaker: Dr. Maddy Jalbert is a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Washington (UW) Center for Informed Public (CIP). CIP was founded 2019 to resist strategic misinformation, promote an informed society and strengthen democratic discourse.

Dr. Jalbert explained we tend to think something is true if:

- Its arguments are easy to process, especially with images or graphics
- It has a logical flow
- Comes from a credible source
- Is consistent with what we already believe

Because of this tendency, the mere repetition of information (including false information) makes it seem truer -- a phenomenon psychologists call the "illusory truth effect."

Our current social media environment leaves us particularly vulnerable, which is why people share false information (even when they know better). Whether it's true may or may not be relevant because they share information to inform others, for entertainment, to build social bonds, to get a laugh or to feel like part of a group.

To counter this, we can draw attention to the truth and get people to consider if it's true. Draw a connection between the truth and prior knowledge and share evidence for the truth including

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social consensus. When you encounter misinformation online, reply with something like: "Where's the evidence for that?" or "Have you been there?" or "Do you have any proof?"

Fact checking websites like [snopes.com](#) are a good resource.

Secretary report: Jessica Bonebright's Dec. 7 membership meeting minutes were approved as published.

President's report: Dave Baine invited new ERS member Karen Shyne to introduce herself. This meeting is all virtual for members due to new equipment being currently installed at SPEEA HQ. We anticipate returning to hybrid, Zoom and in-person for our June membership meeting.

The annual ERS financial review was successfully completed Feb. 8. The ERS IRS tax status is still in work. We also will file with the Washington state secretary of state and pay a fee by April.

We are looking for volunteers for ERS insurance and pension positions. Please contact Dave Baine if you may be interested in an ERS leadership position. We're also looking for our next steering board chair. Dwight Rousu is just 'acting,' and Jessica would appreciate having a co-secretary or a replacement.

Treasurer: Bob Ferguson reported account balances at BECU are checking - \$1,340.85, savings - \$11,048.66, money market - \$20,366.30 and three CDs totaling \$33,873.21 for a grand total of \$66,629.02. We reported a total of \$60,68.47 at our December meeting. Our CDs expire in early April and will be renewed probably for a 17-month term which has a higher return rate. Recent transactions include flowers for SPEEA staff Terry Hall's retirement and annual dues to NRLN.

Vice President's Report: Steve Ellis

reported everything is good with finances, budget and the financial review.

Steering Board: Dwight Rousu reported the newsletter went out. Things were changing to a new person working at SPEEA who did a good job smoothing up the newsletter. We used to email a copy of the newsletter. Now you need to follow the link to read it. It includes minutes from the prior meeting, editorials and other information of interest. The latest issue included a story about the Boeing Medicare supplement switch over.

Committee and Rep Reports

Membership: Chair John Neller reported 744 members. Of those, two-thirds are up to date for 2024 dues. A second mailing for renewals will go out.

Investments: Chair Dave Watt reported we're still looking for a speaker for our June membership meeting. Please contact Dave with your ideas and suggestions. The March 21 investment meeting speakers will be Brian Johnson and Matt Boelter of Edelman Financial Engines. They've spoken to us in the past. They always give a great presentation, including market and economic updates as well as smart approaches to investing and financial planning.

Service: On behalf of Dick Beham, Dwight encourages visiting the website [BlueBills.org](#) for their newsletter as well as volunteer opportunities.

Travel: John Neller reported some airfares are going down, though there seems to be an increase in extra charges like food and baggage.

Sunshine Committee: Co-Chairs Myrv and Joan Johansen submitted a report that since our December meeting we've been notified of the following former ERS members having passed away: Roger Whitson (age 90), 2023; Robert W. Gray, 2020; Joseph Gates, 2021; Thomas J. Russell, 2023; Carl G. Meserve,

2024; Warren F. Tufts (age 93), 2024; Richard H. Chin, 2022; Imanta Ikstrums, 2023; Bryan Lufkin (age 89), 2023; William J. Ritter; Walter J. Nothaft, 2012; Karla Nothaft, 2023; Sylvia J. Hjelmeland, 2019; David M. Marinsky, 2021; Carol Woulf-Shaffer, 2019. Several of the earlier passings were identified due to email delivery failures. A sympathy card or message in the online obituary memorial was extended where possible.

Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action (PSARA)

Liason: Jessica Bonebright encouraged everyone to join a webinar April 2 with five national leaders advocating for Traditional Medicare and leveling the playing field with privatized Medicare Advantage plans. It will also be available to view online afterwards at [PSARA.org](#).

Dave Baine encouraged everyone to go to [NRLN.org](#) to sign up for alerts. A recent update came up about a bill in Congress for a "Fiscal Commission" to come up with cuts to Social Security and Medicare behind closed doors. Their proposal would be taken up without the possibility of amendments during the lame duck session after the election for an up or down vote with no public hearings.

Badges: Roger Aisaka will have badges for people after they come to a meeting.

Insurance chair: This position is vacant, though John Neller reported CDC recommends those over 65 get a booster shot for trivalent COVID. They're working on an update for fall.

Refreshments: John Meeker and Steve Ellis reported no food for today, but we hope for our June meeting to meet in person with sandwiches and/or pizza.

Communications: Walt and Julie Ditlefsen were not present. Dave Westman is covering ERS

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communications while Walt deals with medical issues. Dave will post the slides from today on our website at engineeringretirees.org.

SPEEA Liaison: Dave Baine reported Terry Hall retired from SPEEA staff. Amber Musselman is her replacement and is our ERS contact person. Carissa Xayasensouk was recently hired as SPEEA receptionist and supports ERS. Due to equipment issues, we're not able to meet in-person at SPEEA HQ at this time. We don't have a back-up location for in-person meetings right now. Dave will check with Martin about holding the March 21 investment meeting in person or via Zoom. Watch your email for the status.

Legislative & Public Affairs: Chair Dwight Rousu pointed out tonight, March 7, is the "State of the Union" at 5 p.m. Pacific time. SPEEA went to Washington, D.C., to talk to representatives regarding Boeing quality and safety.

Jessica was among about 15 SPEEA representatives at a rally in Olympia in favor of unemployment insurance benefits for striking workers. Unfortunately, it didn't pass this year.

National Retiree Legislative Network (NLRN): Dave Baine reported there will be a fall trip to Washington, D.C., Sept. 15-18. The ERS Steering decided to send two people. The president and vice president are planning to go at this time.

No reports were made at this meeting for Governing Documents, Finance and Social Committee.

Pensions: Position is open – contact Dave Baine if you are willing to watch for changes to keep ERS informed.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Upcoming meetings: June 6 is our next quarterly membership

meeting. We're hoping it will be a hybrid meeting, but please check the email to confirm as the meeting approaches. The next ERS steering board meeting is on May 30. Investment meetings are at noon on the third Thursday of odd months.

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

*Minutes by Jessica Bonebright,
Secretary*

Reminder about links

For those receiving a print copy of the newsletter, links are live in the newsletter posted [online](http://engineeringretirees.org) at engineeringretirees.org if you or your grandkids have access to a computer.

The link is accessed by **CTRL-Click** on the link.

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 for meeting info and for local contact information. The Bluebills invite you to become an active Bluebill member and join their efforts.

Their motto is "Together, we can make a difference!"



Image from BlueBills.org

Engineering Retirees Society
15205 52nd Avenue S
Seattle, WA 98188

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 Roger Aisaka
Programs..... **OPEN** (Dave Watt)
Communications (website) Walt Ditlefsen / Stan Lind
Insurance **OPEN**
Governing Documents Walt Ditlefsen
Discounts..... **OPEN**
Finance, Elections Steve Ellis
Refreshments John Meeker / Steve Ellis
Investments..... Dave Watt / Ken Kuehnl
Social Steve Ellis
Legislative & Public Affairs.... Dwight Rousu / Dave Watt

NRLN Liaison Steve Ellis
SPEEA Liaison Dave Baine
Membership John Neller
Sunshine..... Joan and Myrv Johansen
Pension..... Dave West
Travel..... John Neller
Service (Bluebills) Dick Beham

We would like **VOLUNTEERS** for the chair **OPEN**-ings noted above and members for Refreshments committee.

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