

Engineering Retirees Society ERS Newsletter

Quarterly meeting guest speaker

Join us on the web for our next quarterly meeting at noon, Thursday, March 3. Our guest virtual speaker will be Steve Bauck from Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action (PSARA). He will speak about "What the pandemic reveals about our health care system." Steve retired after serving as director of advocacy

and agency relations for Northwest Harvest. He has long been active on many issues, with a special focus on poverty and hunger and has served on a variety of non-profit board of directors at the local, state and national levels. He currently serves as co-chair of the PSARA Education Committee.

Virtual meetings continue

Due to the seemingly everlasting COVID-19 pandemic and regulations against group in-person meetings, not to mention all SPEEA facilities are still closed to meetings, ERS is still having virtual meetings over the web. We plan to again 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 the pertinent information, but we will do our best to keep everybody in the loop who wants to be in the loop. Given the data showing our demographic group is the most vulnerable to the most adverse effects of COVID-19, this seems to be the only way to maintain ERS functioning for the duration. I hope you have gotten a booster. If you got a rooster, then you will have something to crow about instead.

Investment meetings

We continue to hold meetings on the third Thursday of odd months. We are conducting the investment meetings by Zoom video conference. We email notices with the meeting link to those who request the Zoom info or who frequently attend the investment meetings.

You are invited to join us for our ERS March Zoom investment meeting, Thurs-

day, March 17 at noon. Our guest speaker is Kevin Hasslinger, a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) with Edward Jones. He spoke to our group about two years ago in person. Our investment meeting chair is sure we will enjoy his presentation on a subject to be announced at our quarterly meeting March 3. Your partner is welcome to join us for the meeting.

National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN)

Current NRLN postings and actions can be found on the NRLN.org website. Of particular attention now is the issue of Direct Contracting Entities (DCE) threatening traditional Medicare fee-for service.

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 an individual.

Minutes from the December meeting

ERS Vice President Steve Ellis called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. This was a virtual meeting via Zoom, with some participants, including your secretary, participating via telephone instead of a computer. There were 17 attendees, including Dave Baine, Millard Battles, Walt Ditlefson, Steve Ellis, Jim Ewing, Bob Ferguson, Joan and Myrv Johansen, Ken Kuehnl, John Meeker, Dwight Rousu, Dave and Romayne Watt, and Dave Westman.

Guest Speaker: Program Chair Dave Watt introduced our guest speaker, Dom Anderson from Sound Generations. Dom told us the four pillars of Sound Generations (which includes Meals on Wheels) are food security, transportation, health and wellness and assistance services. Dom was joined in the presentation by Dale Hooper.

We were told Sound Generations provides services throughout King County and has offices in Ballard, Carnation, West Seattle, Lake City and Shoreline. Other organizations provide similar services, such as Meals on Wheels, in other Washington counties. A complete report of Dom's presentation can be found at our website (engineeringretirees.org).

Secretary's Report: Jim Ewing's minutes of our September 2021 membership meeting were approved as published.

President's Report: Dave Baine told us Medicare open enrollment only lasts through Dec. 7. Dave said we would have a 5.9% cost-of-living adjustment in our 2022 Social Security benefits, but we would also have higher Medicare premiums. Dave reported doctors found nothing broken after his recent fall, and no surgery was necessary.

Vice President: (The vice president was busy running the meeting, so he did not report.)

Treasurer: Bob Ferguson gave the treasurer's report. We had \$2,931.97 in checking, \$27,727.17 in savings, and \$20,234.94 in CDs.

Steering Board Chair: Dwight Rousu told us he sent our newsletter to SPEEA for publishing.

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Committee and Rep Reports

Communications: Cochair Dave Westman told us our website, engineeringretirees.org, has information from Sound Generations, our ERS newsletter and the minutes of our most recent steering board meeting.

Finance: Chair Dave Baine told us our expenses have been very low this year.

Governing Documents: Acting Chair Dave Baine said he would check a few little issues regarding the documents.

Membership: Chair John Neller was "on vacation." (The Steering Board meeting minutes for Nov. 16 showed as of Nov. 15, ERS had 943 members of whom 766 had last paid dues for 2020 or later.)

Service: Former Chair Millard Battles told us volunteerism has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Program: Chair Dave Watt said he did not yet have a speaker for our March 3, 2022, membership meeting.

NRLN Representative: Cochair Dwight Rousu told us Medicare Advantage plans are run by private insurance companies to compete against government Medicare. Dwight said he does not like Medicare Advantage insurance (and neither does your secretary).

Pensions: Chair Dave Westman reported Fi-

delity Investments would handle our Boeing pensions as of Jan. 1, 2022.

Investments: Co-chair Dave Watt said our next investment meeting would occur on Jan. 20, 2022, and the speaker had not yet been chosen.

SPEEA Liaison: Chair Dave Baine said he found it difficult to communicate with Ray Goforth. SPEEA has not responded to our concerns about the letter SPEEA sends to recent retirees.

Sunshine Committee: Cochair Myrv Johansen reported the committee sent a card to Gene Blackman because he was ill and sent a card to Dave Baine because Dave's son had a stroke. Myrv added 12 ERS members passed away in 2021, and the committee sent six cards to survivors.

Social and Refreshments: Cochair John Meeker commented: "We're sitting on our hands" because of COVID-19. (Not sure that is refreshing, but our hands are warm.)

Legislative & Public Affairs: Chair Dwight Rousu told us several ERS members attend virtual meetings of SPEEA Legislative and Public Affairs (L&PA) committees.

No reports this meeting for the following: Travel, Badges, Nominations and Elections

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Dave Watt conducted an election for ERS vice president, treasurer, and Steering Board chair. The current officers were reelected for 2022 without opposition. Steve Ellis presented the budget proposal for 2022. We voted to donate \$50 to each of the following seven charities: Uplift Northwest (formerly Millionair Club Charity), Northwest Harvest, Sound Generations, Renton Food Bank, Food Lifeline, Puget Sound Labor Agency and NOAH (Northwest Organization for Animal Help). We voted to approve the 2022 budget without dissent.

The 2022 ERS meetings were shown on the agenda as follows:

- All member: March 3, June 2, Sept. 1 and Dec. 1
- Investment: Jan. 20, March 17, May 19, July 21, Sept. 15 and Nov. 17
- Steering Board: Feb. 24, May 26, Aug. 25 and Nov. 15

The meeting was adjourned by Dave Baine at 2:07 p.m. The next steering board meeting is scheduled for Feb. 24 at 11 a.m. The next quarterly membership meeting is scheduled for March 3 at noon. Both meetings are expected to be virtual meetings via Zoom.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
James M. Ewing, secretary magna cum laude

Editor's Corner

We in ERS have spent significant work years in The Boeing Company and are familiar with the good aspects and good people. Most of us have rubbed up against some more problematic people and organizations. Boeing's public image, whether rightly or wrongly, also reflects upon us among people who know we have worked for Boeing.

The company's cultural shift that transpired after the merger with McDonnell Douglas can also cast shade on us. The disastrous and arguably criminal handling of the 737 MAX crashes is a case in point. The large and well-paid Boeing lobbyists and generous Political Action Committee (PAC) contributions have been severely tested.

There has been another less publicized ethics issue in Boeing land, having to do with the Jan. 6 attack upon the Capitol and the politicians in the "sedition caucus" who have been supporting the attempted coup to overthrow democracy.

Initially Boeing condemned the insurrection at the Capitol, paused all PAC contributions and made public statements they will "carefully evaluate future contributions to ensure support for those who not only support our company, but also uphold our country's most fundamental principles." However, moving into 2021, without any public announcement, Boeing resumed PAC contributions. Public records show the Boeing PAC in 2021 contributed \$190,000 to members of the sedition caucus. Boeing's contribution was the second-largest corporate PAC contribution in the country. Apparently, democracy is not a fundamental principle among Boeing executives who fund the PAC. Individuals in the caucus received from \$1,000 to \$10,000 each.

These contributions went to people who tried and are trying to destroy the democratic process that is core to our national values. The initial move to pause contributions was the right one. Financing insurrec-

tion goes against my ethics and the ethics of most Americans and is an embarrassment to former employees. I call for such contributions to the sedition caucus members to be halted until there is a clear change of their political positions.

-- Dwight Rousu

Communications (Website) Chair Corner

I am looking for an understudy. This job requires considerable knowledge of webpage maintenance and Mailchimp procedures. It is not trivial and can sometimes require an extra hour or so. I am looking to move to Hawaii sometime in the next year or less, so please help me find a replacement.

-- David Westman

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!

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

Reminder about links

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

Volunteers who make it all happen

Elected officers

President



Dave Baine

Vice President



Steve Ellis

Secretary



James Ewing

Treasurer



Bob Ferguson

Steering Board Chair



Dwight Rousu

Appointed Committee Chairs and Reps

Badges Jessica Bonebright
 Calling **OPEN** / Dave Watt
 Communications (website) ... David Westman / Stan Lind
 Finance Stuart Buchan
 Governing Documents **OPEN**
 Insurance **OPEN** / Dave Who
 Investments Dave Watt / Ken Kuehnl
 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 **OPEN**

We need **VOLUNTEERS** for the chair **OPEN**-ings listed above and members for Calling and Refreshments.

ERS SPEEA Contact Kaitlin Plunkett
 206-674-7361
kaitlin@speea.org

On the lighter side

If you're refusing to wear a mask due to concerns your brain won't get enough oxygen, I think that ship has already sailed.

Tower: "Delta 351, you have traffic at 10 o'clock"

Delta 351: "Give us another hint. We have digital watches."

A student became lost during a solo cross-country flight. Attempting to locate the aircraft on radar, Air Traffic Control asked: "What was your last known position?" Student: "When I was No. 1 for takeoff."

"Siri, why am I so bad at relationships with women?" --- "This is Alexa."

Freedumb - the belief your personal freedom outweighs others' personal safety.

If you don't need a mask because you believe God will protect you, why do you need a gun?

If FOX News were around in the 50s, we would still be fighting polio.

BTW, legitimate scientists tend to publish their research in academic journals, not on YouTube.

Local man addicted to brake fluid says he can stop anytime he wants...

The irony for mankind is a computer program asks a human to prove they're not a robot.