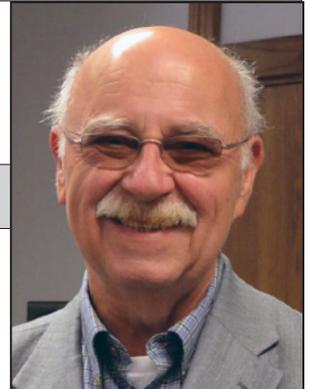


# Engineering Retirees Society ERS Newsletter

Late breaking news

September 2, 2021

We have learned our immediate past ERS president Tom McCarty passed away. See the story from SPEEA, IFPTE Local 2001 in this issue. We will provide further information when it becomes available.

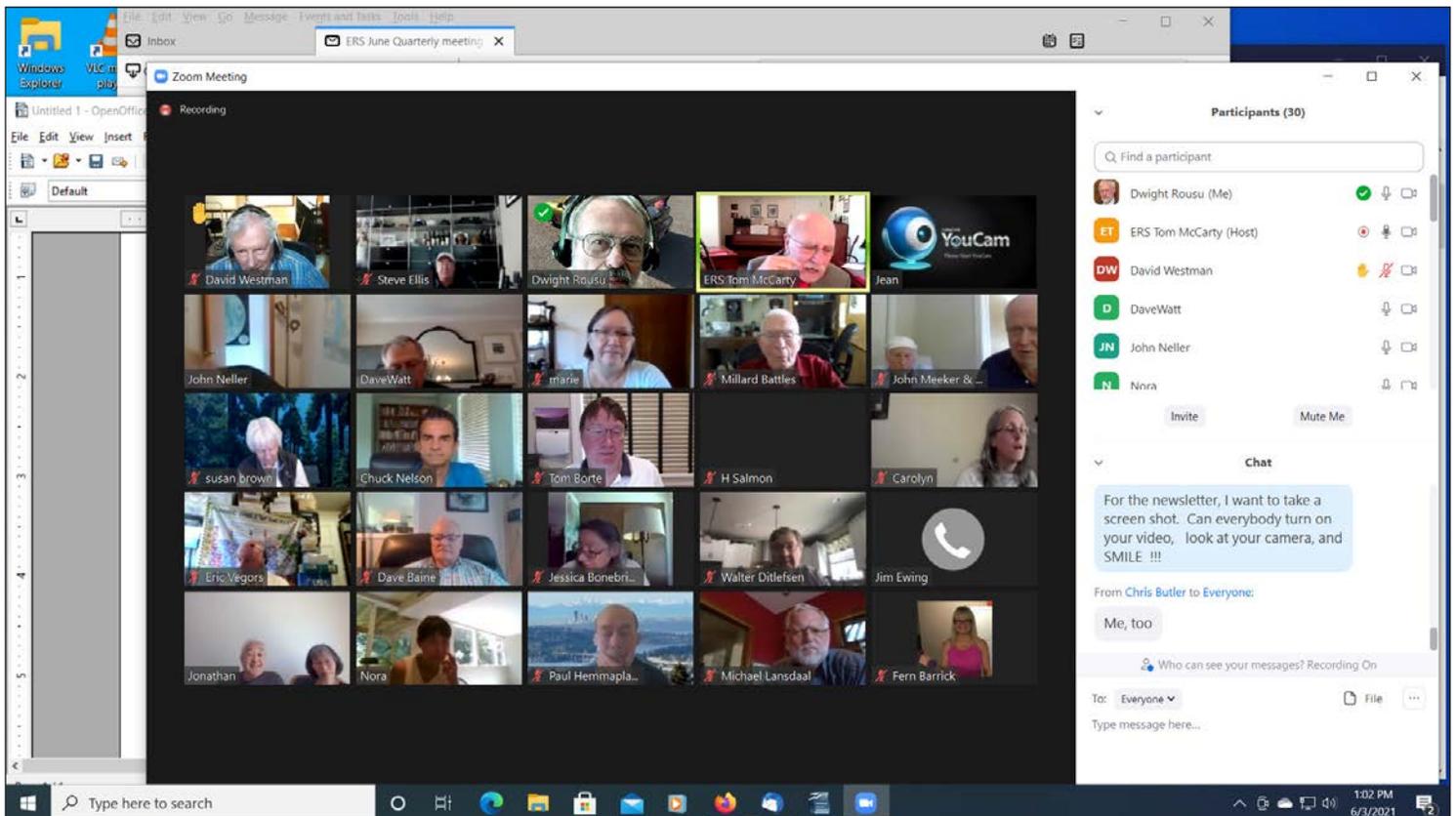


## Quarterly meeting

As we continue without Tom, join us on the web for our next quarterly meeting at noon, Thursday, Sept. 2. Our guest virtual speaker will be Tina Clark with Caring Transitions. She will speak about downsizing, relocation and online sales.

## Meeting in progress

Recently our ERS Newsletter featured a Zoom screen shot of our most recent quarterly meeting. Usually, I get an image in full screen mode. This time, I goofed up and only took a partial screen shot, which included my whole desktop. So, you get the whole experience this time. I will try better next time. (I still wonder who 'YOUCAM' was, and when they retired.)



## Virtual meetings

Due to the 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 demographics 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.

## 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 Zoom link to those who request the information or who frequently attend the investment meetings.

The Sept. 16 investment virtual meeting guest speaker will be Jared Adams from the law firm, Condie and Adams. He has talked to group several times and is a great speaker. His presentation on estate planning will include wills, trusts, supporting documents and changes to lifetime deductions.

We hope you and your partner can join us for the Zoom presentation.

## Special notice from the editor about the meeting minutes

Early in July, our elected president of ERS, Tom McCarty, resigned. In accordance with our governing documents, our vice president, Dave Baine, has taken over the office of president of ERS and resigned as vice president. This occurred after our June meeting, and so is not reflected in the minutes below of the June meeting. As noted atop the newsletter, Tom passed away.

## Minutes from the June all-member virtual meeting:

Attendees included Dave Baine, Millard Battles, Jim Biladeau, Jessica Bonebright, Steve Ellis, Jim Ewing, Bob Ferguson, Tom McCarty, John Neller, Kris Rhoads, Dwight Rousu, Dave Watt, and Dave Westman. We had two new members, Tom Borte and Marie Wyzgala.

ERS President Tom McCarty called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. This was a virtual meeting, with people attending online via Zoom on computers or by telephone.

**Guest Speaker:** Tom McCarty introduced our guest speaker, Kris Rhoads, a neuropsychology associate professor in the Department of Neurology at University of Washington Medicine at Harborview. The professor's topic was "Memory and Aging: What's Normal, What's Not?" The presentation dealt with memory care, dementia, and Alzheimer's disease.

Kris described normal aging: We forget stuff such as names. Our overall knowledge does not change. We still have the ability to do simple math, but the math might take longer as we age. However, short-term memory does change. Then Kris described abnormal aging: Having Alzheimer's disease does not always produce symptoms but having Alzheimer's dementia or other forms of dementia does produce symptoms that interfere with daily life.

In order to (hopefully) avoid dementia, Kris advised us to eat healthful food, exercise, limit consumption of alcoholic beverages, and maintain social contacts. Kris said a significant portion of dementia cases can be prevented. Kris Rhoads' contact information is on our website, [www.engineeringretirees.org](http://www.engineeringretirees.org).

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**Special Announcement:** Tom McCarty told us Washington state is scheduled to remove COVID-19 restrictions on June 30, so ERS might be able to have in-person meetings at the Tukwila SPEEA hall as soon as the time comes for our July investment meeting. (Not planned at this writing and may be further delayed due to the delta mutation of the virus). More than 50% of the attendees at the quarterly membership meeting (this meeting) indicated they would like online Zoom and in-person combined meetings at the SPEEA hall.

**Good of the Society:** Tom McCarty reported the steering board had revised our policy manual.

**Minutes:** Jim Ewing's minutes of our March 2021 membership meeting were approved as published.

**President's Report:** Tom McCarty asked us to submit any suggestions to him via email.

**Vice President:** Dave Baine reported ERS spending is under budget, so far, this year. There will be no National Retirees Legislative Network (NRLN) fly-in this spring, and we paid our NRLN dues in April. Tom McCarty, Bob Ferguson, and Dave Baine had a meeting to review our 2020 finances and concluded our officers did everything right — we're OK.

**Treasurer:** Bob Ferguson reported we had \$2,983.93 in checking, \$25,863.97 in savings, and \$20,219.13 in CDs. We have received 521 checks for dues so far this year, and we paid \$2,358 for NRLN dues and \$10 for a state registration fee.

**Steering Board Chair:** Dwight Rousu reported he created our June ERS newsletter.

### **Committee and Rep Reports:**

**Badges:** Jessica Bonebright confirmed she is willing to serve as our badges chair.

**Communications:** Cochair Dave Westman told us slides from today's presentation are already posted on our website.

**Governing Documents:** Acting Chair Tom McCarty said revision K.1 of our ERS Policy Manual is now posted on our website.

**Membership:** Chair John Neller reported we had 948 members, of whom 741 paid dues for 2020 or later.

**Service:** Millard Battles, former service chair, said Bluebills are still having Zoom meetings.

**Program:** Chair Dave Watt does not have speakers for our July 15 or Sept. 16 investment meetings or for our Sept. 2 quarterly membership meeting.

**NRLN Representative:** Chair Steve Ellis reported NRLN invited us to a fly-in this fall, but we will not go, as usual. (We usually go to the spring fly-in but not to the fall fly-in.)

**Investments:** Co-chair Dave Watt said the speaker at our next investment meeting was still being arranged.

**SPEEA Liaison:** Tom McCarty said no decision has been made on when the SPEEA offices will reopen. Tom McCarty told us nobody is going back to the Boeing Longacres complex.

**Sunshine Committee:** Tom McCarty gave us some bad news: Sunshine Co-chair Myrv Johansen was seriously injured in a fall and cannot currently attend meetings. Tom reported he mailed a get-well card to Myrv on our behalf.

**Legislative & Public Affairs:** Chair Dwight Rousu reported several ERS members routinely attend virtual SPEEA L&PA committee meetings.

No reports this meeting for the following: Travel: (opening for our travel chair), Pensions, Nominations and Elections, Social and Refreshments.

**Old Business:** There was no old business.

**New Business:** Jessica Bonebright moved ERS send a letter to President Biden asking the president to replace leaders of the Social Security Administration. The motion passed by an overwhelming majority.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m. The next ERS steering board meeting is scheduled for Aug. 26 at 11 a.m. The next quarterly membership meeting is scheduled for Sept. 2, at noon.

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

## Editor's Corner

Given the demographics of ERS as retirees, we all have the pre-existing condition of being pretty old. We can cry about it or joke about it, but it is our reality. Following the sudden passing of Tom McCarty, we are faced with the task of regrouping and continuing to pursue the economic and social well-being of our membership, as our ERS charter calls us to do.

Dave Baine has gingerly taken the reigns of ERS president, and I am sure will appreciate any help going forward.

We will need to find a new vice president for the office Dave vacated. There are also several vacancies in committee chair positions, as frequently noted at the end of each newsletter. Tom was filling in as committee chair for Governing Documents and SPEEA Liaison, which were made vacant. Dave Baine said he will appoint himself SPEEA liaison. Ideally, Gov Docs would be filled by a new volunteering ERS member.

Dave Watt is covering for vacancies in the Programs, Insurance, and Calling committees and would not likely object if members would volunteer to take over or assist in performing those committee tasks.

The travel chair is vacant. We hope the Sunshine committee co-chairs make a good recovery and can resume serving that post but are temporarily tending more important issues.

James Ewing has been diligently serving as secretary since time immemorial and would not object to a new volunteer to take over pushing the quill. The Steering Board Chair has been officering for a decade or so and would not object at all to a new volunteer taking over.

Our treasurer, Bob Ferguson, is young and happy as a clam and likely to be good for a decade or so going forward.

So, as a volunteer organization, we have to volunteer and get organized. Think about it. Heck, act about it.

-Dwight

SPEEA, IFPTE Local 2001 article

### Tom McCarty, SPEEA past president, dies at 77

Thomas (Tom) McCarty, a past SPEEA president and inventor of the environmentally friendly burn barrel, died at his home July 27.

McCarty, 77, served as SPEEA president from 2010 to 2014. An electronics and electrical engineer at Boeing for more than 41 years, he retired in 2014 and lived in Seattle with his wife of 13 years Sara Arnold.

In addition to SPEEA president, McCarty served terms as SPEEA treasurer, Professional Negotiation Team member, Council Rep, Area Rep, IFPTE vice president and more recently president of the Engineering Retirees Society (ERS). In 2018, he received a SPEEA Lifetime Achievement Award.

“Tom was union through and through,” said Joel Funfar, past president who worked with McCarty on several Negotiation Teams. “He always had time to talk and share his wisdom. I learned a lot from him.”

Born May 10, 1944, McCarty was the oldest of six children whose parents were both teachers and union members. A SPEEA member his entire career, the one-day strike in 1993 increased his own union interest. Soon after, he became a Council Rep. Early in the strike of 2000, McCarty heard the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said the picket line open burn barrels were a problem. While others worried, McCarty dove into solving the problem. Within days, he had designed EPA-compliant burn barrels and was delivering them to the picket lines. In 2020, McCarty completed and published “Picket Line,” a book about the 40-day strike.

McCarty was preceded in death by his first wife, Betty Jean and son Corey. A private, family service is planned with a public picnic in his honor to be held at a later day.

## From the photo archives



The group photo, taken about a decade ago at a meeting in the IAM hall, shows some past ERS presidents, including Dick Ferguson, (former president at the time serving as vice president, I think), Dave Watt, Secretary James Ewing, me (Dwight Rousu), but I forget why I was in the picture, and then-president Ken Frazier. Thank you all for your service to us on ERS.

## Reminder about links

For those receiving a print copy of this newsletter, the links are live in the newsletter posted at [www.engineeringretirees.org](http://www.engineeringretirees.org).

## National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN)

Current NRLN postings and actions can be found on the website, at [www.nrln.org](http://www.nrln.org). 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. If you have the ability and desire to support the NRLN at a higher level, you can also become an individual member of NRLN.

## Boeing online access:

Boeing help for Worklife is at 1-866-473-2016.

## Service Corner

Many of us already volunteer in our communities or local organizations. ERS Services Committee chair Dick Beham is active in the [Bluebills](http://www.bluebills.org), a service organization of all Boeing retirees, engineering or not. See their website, [www.bluebills.org](http://www.bluebills.org), for more information. The Bluebills invite you to become an active [Bluebill](http://www.bluebills.org) member and join their efforts. Their motto is: "Together we can make a difference!"

Contacts:

- |                                 |              |  |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--|
| • Central & South Puget Sound   | Dick Beham   | <a href="mailto:rsqdncr@foxinternet.com">rsqdncr@foxinternet.com</a> |
| • North King & Snohomish County | Alan Rice    | <a href="mailto:aerice77@yahoo.com">aerice77@yahoo.com</a>           |
| • Olympic Peninsula             | Clinton Webb | <a href="mailto:cwebb91275@aol.com">cwebb91275@aol.com</a>           |

## On the lighter side

Today's tip: Blowing on the wine in your mug will convince the Zoom meeting audience your tea is hot.

Thanks for teaching me the meaning of plethora. It means a lot.

The best thing about the good old days is I wasn't good, and I wasn't old.

My body is a temple. Ancient and crumbling, but eh!

I don't like to think about what I say. I like to be just as surprised as everybody else.

Friends of a certain age: Charlie Horse, Arthur Ritis, Ben Gay, Al Zymer, and Bud Wisner.

As a seenager (senior teenager), I have everything I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later:

- I don't have to go to school.
- I get an allowance every month.
- I have my own place.
- I don't have a curfew.
- I have a driver's license and my own car.
- I have ID that gets me into bars.
- The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant.
- And I don't have acne.

Life is great.

One way to tell if you are old is to fall down in front of a lot of people.

If people laugh, you are young.

If they panic and start running to you, you are old.

I don't call it old; I call it outliving the warranty.

Apparently, it is only appropriate to say: "Look at you, you got so big!" to children. Adults tend to get offended.

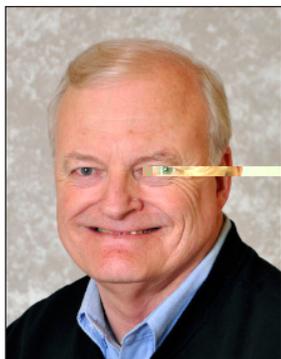
So ... you've been eating hotdogs and McChickens all your life, but you don't want the vaccine because you "don't know what is in it"???

*(continued on page 8)*

## Volunteers who make it all happen

### Elected officers

President



Dave Baine

Vice President



Vacant

Secretary



James Ewing

Treasurer



Bob Ferguson

Steering Board Chair



Dwight Rousu

**ERS SPEEA Contact** ..... Kaitlin Plunkett  
206-674-7361  
[kaitlinp@speea.org](mailto:kaitlinp@speea.org)

### 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.

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Engineering Retirees Society  
15205 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S  
Seattle, WA 98188



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## On the lighter side (continued)

Whoever hates speeding tickets, raise your right foot.

"Buy one burger for the price of two and get the second burger absolutely free!!"

My goal for 2020 was to lose 10 pounds. I only have 16 to go.

A study has found women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.

Life is like a helicopter. I don't know how to operate a helicopter.

If a cow does not produce milk, is it a milk dud or an udder failure?

It is probably my age that tricks people into thinking I'm an adult.

A thief broke into my house last night. He started searching for money, so I got up and searched with him.