

Engineering Retirees Society

ERS Newsletter

Quarterly meeting

Join us for our next all-member quarterly (online Zoom) meeting, **Thursday, Sept 5.**

Planned Agenda

We will have a speaker advocating opposing the three Washington ballot initiatives. The labor movement is generally opposed to these initiatives.

Investment meetings

We continue to hold investment meetings **at noon** on the third Thursday of odd months. We email notices with the Zoom link and a link to any speaker-supplied information.

Editor's corner

I saw a strategy for not wanting to remain steering board chairperson. See the cartoon at [LINK](#). With perhaps the most important election ever for both us seniors and for coming generations, I would very strongly recommend getting well informed and making political donations. One article of interest is the Wikipedia article on [Project 2025](#). Specific Project 2025 plans for Medicare and Medicaid are outlined [here](#) in People's World and in Common Dreams [here](#).

-Dwight

Reminder about links

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

On the lighter side

- What does a clock do when it is in trouble? It goes back for seconds.
- Broken pencils are pointless.
- I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger, then it hit me.
- I tried to catch the morning fog, but I mist.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun might have gone. Then it dawned on me.
- Puns about German sausage are the wurst.
- She was a local vegetarian, but I never met herbivore.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity, and I can't put it down.
- A theater performance on puns would be a play on words.
- My medical record said I had type A blood, but it was a type O.
- If you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
- How do you make holy water? Boil the hell out of it.
- The dinosaur with the best vocabulary was the thesaurus.
- Always keep an 'oh pun' mind.

Minutes from the June 6 all-member meeting

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

June Guest Speaker:

Brian Le with NY Life presented reasons we may want to have long-term care insurance. Medicare doesn't cover long-term care in most cases, though in some cases, it covers up to 100 days of care. Relying on Medicaid coverage isn't available to those with income or assets above a low threshold. Most people prefer to stay in their own home as they age. Having adequate financial resources could make the difference whether it's possible. There are many options when considering insurance. Some require underwriting and a medical exam for eligibility. AARP.org has some great resources to help.

Secretary's Report: Jessica

Bonebright's March 7 membership meeting minutes were approved as published.

President's Report: Dave Baine reported ERS meetings will be virtual while SPEEA's meeting room technology is being upgraded, probably through the end of the year. The annual ERS financial review has been completed. ERS filing with the Washington secretary of state was also completed. Insurance, pension and health care chairs are open. They are jobs that don't take a lot of work.

Treasurer: Bob Ferguson reported ERS expenses are down due to virtual meetings. Our monthly internet expenses are less than \$30. Account balances at BECU

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Minutes from the June 6 – all-member meeting - Continued from page 1

are checking - \$1,145.84, savings-\$11,317.62, money market -\$20,505.87 and three CDs totaling \$34,192.83 for a grand total of \$67,162.16. We reported a total of \$66,629.02 at our March meeting.

Steering Board Chair: Dwight Rousu reported our ERS newsletter was polished and in the mail. It is posted on our website.

Committee and Rep Reports

Investments: Cochair Dave Watt reminded us the investment meetings are the third Thursdays of odd months. Next meeting will be Sept. 19.

Program: *Dave Watt* reported at the Sept. 5 quarterly meeting, we will have a speaker advocating opposing the three Washington ballot initiatives. The labor movement is generally opposed to these initiatives. Let Dave know if you hear an interesting presentation or have any suggestions for programs. There was a request for additional presentations on Social Security and Medicare – specifically the new Boeing retiree Medicare Advantage plan.

Membership: Chair John Neller reported we have 739 ERS members. Of that total, 82% are paid up for 2024 – including a couple of honorary members. Current members are welcome to invite new retiree friends to join us.

National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN): Steve Ellis reported he and Dave Baine were planning to attend the Sept. 15-18 NRLN D.C. fly-in for meetings and lobbying. See the NRLN email messages or the NRLN website for other retiree legislation information.

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

Service: Dick Beham was not present. Dwight Rousu mentioned Bluebills.org recently published their newsletter online. Contact Dick Beham if you'd like to be added to their e-mail list.

Social: Steve Ellis reported in the future, we'll have something for everyone to get together.

Refreshment: John Meeker and Steve Ellis will survey members regarding what they prefer for any future lunches.

Legislative & Public Affairs: Chair Dwight Rousu reported he, Dave Baine and Steve Ellis usually attend the SPEEA L&PA meetings. SPEEA and Boeing are happy about the FAA bill that recently passed. See the SPEEA Spotlite article for more information. Dwight volunteered for WA Democrats' platform & resolutions committee. It's a tremendously large job. The state convention will be in Bellevue in June.

Sunshine Committee: Dave Baine reported Walt Ditlefsen is having health struggles. Dave plans to visit him, and we'll send a card from ERS. Myrv & Joan Johansen were not able to attend but sent a written report noting the following former ERS members have passed away: David W. Gosse (age 95); Robert J. Nelson, February 2024 survived by his wife Teresa; Michael M. Stensen (age 78) and Alan C. Lodell. A sympathy card or message in the online obituary memorial was delivered where possible.

Travel: John Neller reported the Boeing Travel Club is planning a cruise Jan. 12-19, 2025. It's open for signups at bit.ly/WesternCaribbeanCruise-1-12-25 at a cost of \$1,165 per person.

Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action (PSARA): Jessica Bonebright encouraged attending our Juneteenth event at WSLC, AFL-CIO. See PSARA.org for more

information, including advocacy for no cuts or privatization for Medicare or Social Security, including not raising retirement age which is effectively a 7% cut for each year increase.

Badges: Roger Aisaka will make badges for future in-person meetings.

Communications: Dave Westman is temporarily taking over for Walt Ditlefsen while he struggles with health issues. It would be great to find another volunteer backup person to be trained – it's not a trivial job.

SPEEA Liaison: Dave Baine reported we can't use the SPEEA hall for now due to meeting conflicts and lack of telecommunications equipment for Zoom.

Nominations: Steve Ellis reported ERS president and secretary elections will be held in December. If you'd like to learn more about the duties, our Governing Documents define the roles.

No reports this meeting for vice president, finance, governing documents, pensions or insurance.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Upcoming meetings: Thursday, Sept. 5 is our next quarterly membership meeting. The next ERS steering board meeting is scheduled at 11 a.m., Nov. 21 (to avoid Thanksgiving). Investment meetings are at noon on the third Thursday of odd months. *The next investment meeting is noon, Sept. 19, with speaker Stephen Lach from Charles Schwab, who will select a subject of interest.*

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Jessica Bonebright, secretary

Joint letter to Engineering Retirees Society members

ERS continues to work with the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN) to protect pensions, Social Security, Medicare, reduce the cost of prescription drugs and more. ERS plans to attend the NRLN's annual Fly-In to Washington, D.C., where we will meet with U.S. senators and representatives or their staff members, to advocate for legislation important to retirees.

You will read in Bill Kadereit's message below a few examples of the work the NRLN is doing to advocate for a better future for all retirees. You can read the entire NRLN Legislative Agenda at www.nrln.org by clicking on the [Legislative Action Network](#) tab.

ERS contributes \$3 per member per year to the NRLN and has agreed to solicit further contributions here once a year. Contributions to the NRLN go toward advocating legislation to make our retirement years better.

Dave Baine, President, Engineering Retirees Society

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!" August newsletter at [BB](#).

BlueBill contacts:

Central & South Puget Sound
Dick Beham
rsqdncr@foxinternet.com

North King & Snohomish County
Alan Rice
acerice77@yahoo.com

Olympic Peninsula
Clinton Webb
cwebb91275@aol.com

Message from Bill Kadereit, NRLN President

More companies are doing "de-risking" (Pension Risk Transfer) of their pension plans by purchasing alternative retiree annuities from third party insurance companies. This strips retirees of federal law pension protections. Foremost among protections that the NRLN wants to become law is our statute proposal that such an annuity contract must include full reinsurance of monthly benefit payments. A group annuity contract that requires independent, third-party reinsurance with a highly rated insurance company can protect pension plan participants from the pension risk that has been shifted to them.

Social Security and Medicare would be on the chopping block if House "fiscal commission" bills are passed. The NRLN opposes such commissions that would meet behind closed doors to create its cost-cutting recommendations to be "fast tracked" with no amendments in the House or Senate, and only yes or no votes.

The NRLN is against the harm to seniors that a House Study Committee's Fiscal Year 2025 budget proposal would do to Social Security and Medicare by: Cutting over \$1.5 trillion from Social Security.

Increasing the retirement age to 69 from the current age 67 which is a reduction in lifetime benefits. Many are not physically able to work until age 69 to receive full benefits.

Raising Medicare costs by stopping Medicare from negotiating prescription drug prices, repealing \$35 insulin and preventing Medicare's \$2,000 out-of-pocket cap on prescription drugs beginning in 2025.

Transitioning Medicare to a [premium support system](#) that the Congressional Budget Office has found would raise premiums for many seniors.

The NRLN continues to lobby members of Congress against high costs of health care shifted to retirees and the complicated unfairness of the chronic illness-subsidized benefits that are being denied to 27 million original Medicare Parts A and B participants. NRLN's proposal equalizes chronic benefits for all over age 65.

The NRLN wants legislation to end pay-for-delay and other brand-name drugmakers' tactics that keep generic drugs off the market. We support bills to allow Americans to import prescription drugs from Canada.

NRLN INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION FORM – Engineering Retirees Society

NRLN is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. The NRLN lobbies. Contributions are not deductible.

Name _____ Amount of check \$ _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email Address (if available) _____

Mail your check or money order of \$35, \$50, \$75 or more (any amount is appreciated) to: NRLN Inc, PO Box 69051, Baltimore, MD 21264-9051. Or use a credit card at the [Contribute](#) tab.

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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