

## ERS Quarterly Membership Meeting Minutes for December 2, 2021

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 Ditlefsen, Steve Ellis, Jim Ewing, Bob Ferguson, Joan and Myrv Johansen, Ken Kuehl, John Meeker, Dwight Rousu, Dave and Romaine Watt, and Dave Westman.

**Guest Speakers:** Programs Chair Dave Watt introduced our guest speaker, Dom Anderson from Sound Generations. Dom told us that 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 that 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](http://engineeringretirees.org).

**Minutes:** Jim Ewing's minutes of the September 2, 2021, quarterly membership meeting were approved as published.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Bob Ferguson gave the treasurer's report. We had \$2931.97 in checking, \$27,727.17 in savings, and \$20,234.94 in CDs.

**Steering Board Chair's Report:** Dwight Rousu told us that he had sent our newsletter to SPEEA.

**Committee Reports:** Communications Cochair Dave Westman reported that our website, [engineeringretirees.org](http://engineeringretirees.org), has information from Sound Generations, our ERS newsletter, and the minutes of our most recent steering board meeting. Finance Chair Dave Baines told us that our expenses have been very low this year. Investments Chair Dave Watt said that our next investment meeting would occur on January 20, 2022, and that the speaker had not yet been chosen. Programs Chair Dave Watt said that he did not yet have a speaker for our March 3, 2022, quarterly membership meeting. Membership Chair John Neller was "on vacation." NRLN Cochair Dwight Rousu told us that Medicare Advantage plans are run by private insurance companies to compete against government Medicare. Dwight said that he does not like Medicare Advantage insurance (and neither does your secretary).

Pensions Chair Dave Westman reported that Fidelity Investments would handle our Boeing pensions as of January 1, 2022. Former Service Chair Millard Battles told us that volunteerism has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Social and Refreshments Cochair John Meeker commented that "We're sitting on our hands" because of COVID-19. SPEEA/ERS Liaison Dave Baine said that he found it difficult to communicate with Ray Goforth and that SPEEA has not responded to our concerns about the

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letter that SPEEA sends to recent retirees. L&PA Chair Dwight Rousu told us that several ERS members attend virtual meetings of SPEEA L&PA committees. Sunshine Cochair Myrv Johansen reported that the committee had sent a card to Gene Blackman because he had been ill and had sent a card to Dave Baine because Dave's son had a stroke. Myrv added that twelve ERS members had passed away in 2021 and that the committee had sent six cards to survivors.

**Old Business:** None.

**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 then voted to approve the 2022 budget without dissent.

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

All member: 3/3, 6/2, 9/1, and 12/1;

Investment: 1/20, 3/17, 5/19, 7/21, 9/15, and 11/17;

Steering Board: 2/24, 5/26, 8/25, and 11/15.

The meeting was adjourned by Dave Baine at 2:07 p.m. The next steering board meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. The next quarterly membership meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2022, at noon. Both meetings are expected to be virtual meetings via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Ewing, Secretary

P.S. The steering board meeting minutes for November 16 showed that as of November 15 ERS had 943 members, of whom 766 had last paid dues for 2020 or later.