

ERS Quarterly Membership Meeting Minutes for September 2, 2021

ERS President Dave Baine called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. This was a virtual meeting via Zoom, including those of us who attended by telephone.

Guest Speaker: Dave Watt introduced our guest speaker, Tina Clark with Caring Transitions. Tina's subject was "The Art of Downsizing," and her presentation covered downsizing, relocating, and holding estate sales.

Tina told us that Caring Transitions is a nationwide organization and that she worked in healthcare IT. Caring Transitions focuses on eliminating stress as we downsize in retirement. What should we ask ourselves and consider with regard to right-sizing? Does my home fit my needs? How much will it cost to upsize or downsize? How much can I bring? How do the areas of the old place and the new place compare? Things to bring into a new place include books, electronics, and furniture you will use. Things to leave behind include formal furniture, yard tools, outdoor furniture, old paint, and old papers. Things to donate to Goodwill or Value Village include TVs and monitors. Things to be shredded can be taken to a UPS store or to semiannual BECU events. We were told that Desiree Furniture in Puyallup would take "almost anything."

Tina Clark's email address is tnash@caringtransitions.com. Dave Westman told us that Tina's presentation was on our website (EngineeringRetirees.org).

Secretary's Report: Jim Ewing's minutes of the June 2021 quarterly membership meeting were approved as published.

President's Report: Dave Baine told us that the Tukwila SPEEA hall is open on a limited schedule and that ERS would not yet meet in SPEEA halls. Medicare open enrollment will last from October 15 through December 7, 2021. The Social Security 2021 COLA is about 6.2%.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Ferguson was not able to attend. Bob's report showed that we had \$2931.97 in checking, \$27,608.98 in savings, and \$20,230.84 in CDs.

Steering Board Chair's Report: Dwight Rousu told us that the ERS September newsletter was on our website.

Committee Reports: Communications Cochair Dave Westman told us that Tina Clark's presentation and Tom McCarty's obituary were on our website. Governing Documents Chair Dave Baine said that he would check a few little issues. Investments Chair Dave Watt announced that the speaker at our September investment meeting would be Jared Adams with the law firm Condie Adams and that Jared's topic would be "Changes to Lifetime Estate-Tax Deduction and Updating Wills, Trusts, and Supporting Documents." Programs Chair Dave Watt said that we would have a speaker at our December 2 quarterly membership meeting (as well as an election of ERS officers) but that he had not yet chosen a speaker for the meeting.

Membership Chair John Neller reported that our membership numbers had not changed since our last quarterly membership meeting. We have 122 members who last paid dues for 2020 and 635 members who last paid dues for 2021. Our total membership, including two honorary members, is 943.

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The total for NRLN dues is 811 members. We have 55 members who receive paper copies of our newsletter. Our NRLN representative, Steve Ellis, told us that NRLN recommends that we call our representatives in Congress and leave messages. Steve added that NRLN might have a fly-in (meeting) in February or March 2022. Service Chair Dick Beham told us that Bluebills are now having monthly in-person meetings at the VFW hall in Renton. Dick said that the September presentation at the Bluebills meeting would describe a trip that a member took to Africa.

Social and Refreshments Cochair Steve Ellis told us that cruise opportunities are booked and expensive for the near future. SPEEA Liaison Dave Baine told us that he would see if Ray Goforth can put information about ERS on bulletin boards for us. L&PA Chair Dwight Rousu told us that an election is coming in November. Dave Baine mentioned that the redistricting committee for Washington State was meeting. Sunshine Cochair Myrv Johansen reported the passings of Leon Hill, Arthur B. Wait, Tom McCarty, Craig Buckham, John Lorenzen, Omar Sommer, William Beck, and Charles Blackman. John Neller, who had just returned from spending four weeks in Europe, gave the travel report. John told us that the European Union was skeptical about American tourists because of high infections rates in the US, but that there may be little change in policies, which are determined by individual countries in the EU. John also told us that the Canadian border had reopened to Americans.

New Business: Steve Ellis was confirmed as our new vice president without dissent or opposition.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 p.m. The next steering board meeting is scheduled for November 16 at 11:00 a.m. The next quarterly membership meeting is scheduled for December 2 at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Ewing, Secretary