

ERS Steering Board Meeting Minutes for November 16, 2021

Attendees were Dave Baine, Dick Beham, Steve Ellis, Jim Ewing, Bob Ferguson, Joan and Myrv Johansen, John Neller, Dwight Rousu, Dave Watt, and Dave Westman.

Steering Board Chair Dwight Rousu called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. This was a virtual meeting via Zoom. Dwight announced that we had a quorum with all five officers in attendance. The agenda was revised to show that John Neller would give the travel report, and the agenda was approved as revised. We all agreed that John Neller was now our official travel chair.

Minutes: Jim Ewing's minutes of the August steering board meeting were approved as distributed (including a revision by John Neller).

President's Report: Dave Baine reported that he had an accident at home and possibly had a broken hip. Dave told us that our Social Security payments should increase by 5.9% in 2022 but that our Medicare fees would also increase.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Ferguson reported that we had \$2931.97 in checking and \$27,727.17 in savings. The BECU statement showed that our CDs were worth \$20,234.94. Bob also told us that ERS had received \$10,025 for 2021 dues as of November 16.

Vice President's Report: Steve Ellis said that we would discuss our 2022 budget later in the meeting.

Steering Board Chair's Report: Dwight Rousu reported that he had submitted our December newsletter to SPEEA.

Committee Reports: Membership Chair John Neller reported that as of November 15 we had 943 members, of whom 766 had last paid dues for 2020 or later. The total for NRLN dues was 811 and the total of members receiving a paper newsletter was 55. We had two honorary members. NRLN Liaison Steve Ellis told us there was a possibility of an NRLN fly-in next year. Programs Chair Dave Watt said that the speaker at our December 2 quarterly membership meeting would be Dom Anderson with Sound Generations and that Dom's topic would be "Four Pillars: Food, Health and Wellness, Assisted Services, and Transportation." Investments Chair Dave Watt reported that the speaker at our November 18 investments meeting would be Suzy Meyer with Edward Jones and that Suzy's topic would be "Tax-Free Investing—It's Not What You Make, But What You Keep."

Service Committee Chair Dick Beham told us that the speaker at the October Bluebills meeting in Renton was Heinz Gehlhaar, whose topic was "Coming to America." Dick said that Bluebills would not have a November meeting and that the December meeting would be a potluck. Dick urged all Bluebills to turn in their volunteer hours. Dick also reported that Bluebills are failing to recruit officers to sustain the organization. Sunshine Cochair Myrv Johansen reported that the committee had sent a get-well card to Gene Blackman. Myrv added that Dave Baine's son had suffered a stroke. Myrv reported that twelve ERS members had died in 2021 and that the committee had spent \$23.96 on cards and postage in 2021. Travel Chair John Neller told us that he had learned of a "link" for people who want to go to Canada, but

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Dwight Rousu replied that it was too late to include that link in our December newsletter. We were told that our SPEEA contact, Kaitlin Plunkett, would be married in two days.

SPEEA/ERS Liaison Dave Baine reported that he has been talking with SPEEA staff about changes to our “new member” letter. L&PA Chair Dwight Rousu told us that several ERS members routinely attend SPEEA virtual L&PA committee meetings. Communications Cochair Dave Westman said that our website has been updated to show meeting minutes and new meeting information, as well as copies of new NRLN bulletins.

Unfinished Business: We discussed section 1.4.2 of the ERS Policy Manual, which specifies that any nonbudgeted capital expense for \$200 to \$2000 requires the approval of all five members of the steering board. Dwight pointed out that it would have been impossible to fulfill this requirement immediately after Tom McCarty’s passing. Dwight recommended that we change section 1.4.2 of the Policy Manual to require all “available members” of the board to approve any nonbudgeted capital expense for \$200 to \$2000.

New Business: We decided that the three officers up for reelection at our December meeting would be renominated. We approved the slightly amended 2022 budget with three “yes” votes and zero “no” votes. We discussed our annual financial review. We need Bob Ferguson and two other members to conduct the financial review. This review was tentatively scheduled for February 2022. We decided to recommend six charities to the members at our December quarterly membership meeting to receive \$50 each from ERS funds. These charities are Millionair Club Charity, Northwest Harvest, Sound Generations, Renton Food Bank, Food Lifeline, and Puget Sound Labor Agency.

Dave Baine gave us the planned dates for our 2022 ERS meetings:

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

Quarterly Membership meetings: 3/3, 6/2, 9/1, and 12/1.

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

We decided to ask our friends at SPEEA to make it clear to all that ERS members in good standing do not need to pay dues to SPEEA in order to be accepted as associate members of SPEEA.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m. The next ERS steering board meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. This will be a virtual meeting via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Ewing, Secretary