

ERS Steering Board Meeting Minutes for February 24, 2022

ERS President Dave Baine called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. This was a virtual meeting via Zoom with some members attending by telephone only. There were eleven attendees, including all five elected officers. Steering Board Chair Dwight Rousu announced that we had a quorum and the agenda was approved by acclamation.

Minutes: Jim Ewing's minutes of the last steering board meeting were approved as written and published.

President's Report: Dave Baine told us about a change that affects both traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans. The government is now allowed to take people off their Medicare plan via Direct Contracting Entities (DCEs). Dave Watt urged us to get NRLN and SPEEA to work on the DCE issue.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Ferguson said that he would send us an email showing the status of our BECU accounts.

Steering Board Chair's Report: Dwight Rousu told us that he had prepared our March ERS newsletter and that the newsletter was on our website (engineeringretirees.org).

Committee Reports: Dave Westman announced that he expects to move to Hawaii in a few months and needs an understudy. Service Chair Dick Beham told us that Bluebills continues to hold meetings in the Renton VFW hall. He added that Bluebills did not have a speaker for February 25. Dick also told us that a longtime Bluebills member, Myron Vogt, had passed away in January at age 85 from cancer. Programs Chair Dave Watt said that the speaker at our quarterly membership meeting would be Steve Bauck from Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action (PSARA), whose topic would be "What the Pandemic Reveals About Our Healthcare System." Investments Cochair Dave Watt announced that the speaker at our March 17 investment meeting would be Kevin Hasslinger, a certified financial planner (CFP) with Edward Jones. Kevin's topic was "Outlook and Opportunity: Where Will Interest Rates Go from Here?"

Sunshine Cochair Myrv Johansen reported that our SPEEA contact, Kaitlin Plunkett, had tested positive for COVID-19 and that the Sunshine Committee had sent Kaitlin a get-well email. Myrv added that the committee had sent a sympathy card to Bob Ferguson because of his son's death. Membership Chair John Neller reported that ERS had a total membership of 937 and a count of 766 members for NRLN dues. Only 646 of these members, however, had last paid dues for 2021 or 2022. We also had two honorary members. Travel Chair John Neller confided that now is not a good time to travel to Russia or to Ukraine(!). SPEEA/ERS Liaison Dave Baine told us there had not yet been any change in SPEEA's rules about meeting and wearing masks. L&PA Chair Dwight Rousu said that SPEEA was having a "virtual conference" with federal legislators the weekend beginning March 19.

Unfinished Old Business: Dwight Rousu said that we would like to change the Governing Documents to allow action on a budget item with fewer than all five officers. Bob Ferguson told us that he had no new information on newsletter printer payments.

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New Business: ERS and SPEEA people need to discuss how we can set up hybrid meetings that include in-person meetings at SPEEA and virtual meetings, after SPEEA reopens. Dave Baine said that he will set up a virtual meeting for our annual financial review. Dwight Rousu told us about two right-wing organizations recommended by The Boeing Company for retirement advice. Dwight did not encourage us to seek advice from these organizations (American Seniors and AMAC).

Open Committee Chairs: We need to appoint a communications chair to replace Dave Westman when (and if) he leaves. It was suggested that we may have more success in recruiting committee chairs during in-person quarterly membership meetings at the SPEEA hall in Tukwila when it reopens for our meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 p.m. The next steering board meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. This is expected to be a virtual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Ewing, Secretary