

ERS Quarterly Membership Minutes for June 2, 2022

ERS President Dave Baine called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. This was a virtual meeting via Zoom, with some attendees participating by telephone only. Attendees included Dave Baine, Millard Battles, Dick Beham, Jessica Bonebright, Susan Brown, Matthew Carter, Walt Ditlefsen, Steve Ellis, James Ewing, Bob Ferguson, Doug Geiger, Dave Griffith, Mike Lansdaal, John Neller, Dwight Rousu, Dave Watt, and Dave Westman. about 29 attendees, including our two presenters and all five elected officers. There were no new members nor special announcements.

Guest Speakers:

John Neller introduced our two speakers: Corine Kumano from Boeing Employees Travel Club (BETC), and Claudette Hatcher, a travel agent with American Travel Bureau. Corine told us that BETC has “been around” for over 60 years. John Neller is president of BETC. Corine talked about a six-day five-night trip the club recently took to Hawaii. She told us that BETC has a no-host lunch at the Rainier Golf and Country Club once a month, often on the third Thursday of the month. Claudette Hatcher described herself as a lifelong traveler. Claudette talked about travel insurance (recommended), rising costs, traveling solo, vaccinations, and the “extras” now available to travelers on cruise ships. Claudette has many destinations she recommends, including Mexico, Jamaica, Greece, Japan, London, and Paris.

Contact information for Corine and Claudette is available on our website, engineeringretirees.org under "meetings", and from John Neller.

Secretary's Report:

Jim Ewing's minutes of the March 2022 quarterly membership meeting were printed in our June 2022 ERS newsletter and are available on our website. They were approved without dissent.

President's Report:

Dave Baine told us that the NRLN website has information about ongoing attacks on Social Security and Medicare.

Our members ask when we will be able to have our meetings in the Tukwila SPEEA hall. The answer is that we will be told when the SPEEA hall reopens. Dave Baine promised to discuss hybrid meetings with the SPEEA staff when the Tukwila SPEEA hall reopens.

Vice President:

Steve Ellis told us that our budget looks good. He added that the NRLN fall fly-in is on hold. Steve asked members who have had problems with a Medicare Advantage plan to share information with ERS officers.

Treasurer:

Bob Ferguson reported that we had \$3205.39 in checking, \$30,434.92 in savings, and \$20,240.14 in CDs as of June 2, 2022.

Steering Board Chair:

Dwight Rousu told us our latest newsletter was posted on our ERS website.

Committee and Rep Reports:

Communications: Walt Ditlefsen is now a co-chair, learning the operating details from Dave Westman.

Finance Chair:

Steve Ellis reported we had about \$54,000 in total assets and that we were doing “pretty good.”

Governing Documents:

Walt Ditlefsen volunteered to be our governing documents committee chair.

Membership:

Chair John Neller reported we had a total of 939 members, of whom 399 had paid dues for 2022, 2023, or both. A total of 280 members had paid dues for 2021 but not later. John recommended that a second dues notice be mailed at about the end of June.

Service:

Chair Dick Beham recently had knee surgery and his rehab is going well. Dick told us that Busy B's, a part of Bluebills, has been very active, creating quilts and making palm-size handbags for families of veterans. (These handbags hold casings of cartridges fired as salutes.)

Program:

Chair Dave Watt told us that he did not yet have a speaker for our September 1 quarterly membership meeting. Dave asked us to contact him if we had any suggestions. Dave had not yet chosen a speaker for our next investment meeting.

Pensions:

Chair Dave Westman. (Ed. If DWestman is leaving, we should have a new chair of the pensions.)

Investments:

Cochair Dave Watt told us the next investment meeting speaker was TBD.

Sunshine Committee:

Joan's assistant, Myrv Johansen, told us he and Joan did not know of any members who had passed since our last quarterly membership meeting.

Badges:

Chair Jessica Bonebright reported that many people are being denied approval for needed special healthcare by Medicare Advantage, which is run by for-profit insurance companies.

Legislative & Public Affairs:

Chair Dwight Rousu told us that he strongly agreed with Jessica Bonebright's comments about Medicare. Dwight added that Social Security and Medicare have been “targets” for many of our politicians.

Travel: (covered by guest speakers)

New Business:

John Neller told us that he would like to offload any responsibility for “discounts” and simply be our “travel” chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 2 p.m. Our next steering board meeting is scheduled for August 25, at 11 a.m. Our next quarterly membership meeting is scheduled for September 1, at noon. These may both be virtual (or a remote chance of hybrid) meetings.

Minutes respectfully submitted, James M. Ewing, secretary magna cum laude