

## Minutes from the Sept 1 all-member virtual meeting

ERS President Dave Baine called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. This was a virtual meeting via Zoom. Attendees included Jerry & Dori Andre, Jeff Arnold, Dave Baine, Fern Barrick, Jessica Bonebright, Chris Butler, Walt Ditlefsen, Steve Ellis, Bob Ferguson, Doug Geiger, Ken Kuehnl, Mike Lowery, John Meeker, John Neller, Dwight Rousu, Dave Watt, and Dave Westman. About 34 attendees were present, including our presenters, guests and all five elected officers. There were no new members nor special announcements.

### **Guest Speaker:**

Rick Joseph from Fortune Management joined us to speak about Medicare. He described Medicare basics. Initial enrollment is normally age 65 and changes can be made during the Annual Election Period, AEP, Oct 15 to Dec. 7. Jan. 1 – March 31 is an Open Enrollment Period, OEP, when people in a Medicare Advantage Plan can switch plans or return to Traditional Medicare. Medicare premiums are normally taken from Social Security checks though not always. Part B premiums increase for individuals with income above \$91,000/yr or twice that for a couple. He explained provisions of Part D drug coverage and Medigap coverage. Contact information and slides are available on our website, [engineeringretirees.org](http://engineeringretirees.org) under “meetings”

### **SPEEA ACE Program Guests:**

Susanne Murphy and Catherine Thomas joined us to share information about the SPEEA ACE Program. They would like our help getting information out about the program which is open to anyone in WA. See [www.aerocareer.org](http://www.aerocareer.org) for more info. They’re soliciting for course ideas including people who can teach technical courses. Also they’re starting a mentor program and are looking for volunteers. Walt will work with them on an email message to ERS membership and an article for our newsletter

### **Governing Documents: Walt Ditlefsen** (*moved agenda since Walt needs to leave early*)

The ERS steering board recommends these changes proposed by Walt:

Change ERS Policy section 1.4.2 from 5 members to “a majority of the” members to assure we can conduct business even if one or two officers are not available. It will now read: *1.4.2 Any non-budgeted capital expense from \$200.00 to \$2000.00 shall require the approval of a majority of the members of the Steering Board.*

Change ERS policy to delete section: 4.5.3 ARA Representative and add: 4.5.5 PSARA Liaison.

Change ERS bylaw 6.1 requiring two signatures on checks to allow only one if at least one other board member approves it in an email to the signing officer and the Treasurer.

Change bylaws 3.18 add PSARA Liaison as an ad hoc committee and eliminate taxation, calling and ARA Liaison. Also eliminate 3.10 Public relations standing committee.

Eliminate ERS Policy Attachment 1, Equipment List. There is nothing on the list since the value of the Secretary computer purchased several years ago is now valued at less than our \$50 limit.

**Without objection these changes go into effect based on the steering board recommendation.**

**Communications:** Walt Ditlefsen will work with Catherine and Susanne to communicate with our members about the ACE Program and will post our updated Governing Documents.

Dwight expressed our thanks to Walt for his work on our neglected Governing Documents and for stepping up for Communications!

**Secretary’s Report:** Jim Ewing is stepping down as ERS secretary. Jessica Bonebright & Evan Wipf have agreed to share the position. Evan is currently traveling. Walt agreed to propose an

approach to deal with sharing an officer position relative to voting. The next ERS Steering Board meeting will consider the issue. For now, we'll approve Jessica for the position then take up the addition of Evan as Co-Secretary at our next meeting.

**Motion and second to accept Jessica Bonebright as ERS Secretary was approved**

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

**President's Report:** Dave Baine called our attention to his "President's Corner" published in our most recent newsletter. Medicare & Social Security are under fire so we need to be paying attention to political proposals. Medicare open enrollment is starting soon - be cautious of your changes.

**Vice President:** Steve Ellis told us we have 11% more money in our accounts than we had last year.

**Treasurer:** Bob Ferguson reported we had \$2,808.08 in checking, \$33,396.96 in savings and \$20,242.74 in four CDs. We'll need to update signature authority on our accounts due to the officer change in our secretary position.

**Steering Board Chair:** Dwight pointed out Yearly budget is due by next meeting.

**Committee and Rep Reports:**

**Membership:** Chair John Neller reported we had a total of 935 members, of whom 701 have paid dues for 2021 or later. A second dues notice was recently mailed.

**Finance:** Chair Steve Ellis will prepare the ERS 2021 financial report.

**Program:** Chair Dave Watt reported we're always in need of speakers for membership and investment meetings. Contact Dave with any suggestions. Jessica suggested a speaker on ACO Reach privatization of Medicare which is slated to go into effect January 2023.

**Investments:** Chair Dave Watt told us the Sept 15 investment meeting speakers from Badgley Phelps Wealth Management will discuss "Navigating Market Cross Currents." More information is available online

**Service:** Chair Dick Beham reported at the steering board meeting that the Bluebills would like help with WordPress to update their website if anyone has experience with that.

**Sunshine Committee:** Co-Chair Myrv Johansen reported the passing of Delores, J. Sellers, Salvatore Santamaria, Thomas A Minugh, Vernon F. Smith, Stanley Nanevicz, Peter S. Kogut, Robert (Bob) A. Hutchinson, Dale R. Rogers, Kenneth C. Warren, Eldon J. Williams, Charles R. Goodmanson, Edwin B. Gillispie, Malcolm L. Olthouse and Theodore W. Nasi. Seven messages of sympathy and cards were mailed when the needed information was available.

**Social & Refreshments** Steve will revisit ideas for a social activity and will meet with John Meeker regarding refreshments for future in-person meetings.

**SPEEA / ERS Liaison:** Dave B will touch base with Ray about when SPEEA hall may be available for ERS in person meetings. They planned to open in July until new COVID variants arrived. There's no plan to open the hall at this time.

**NRLN, National Retiree Legislative Network:** Steve Ellis reported NRLN is concerned about privatized Medicare overcharging the Medicare Trust Fund and inappropriately denying care to seniors. Visit NLR website for more information and to sign-up for their action notices – they're quick and easy to do. Also see their e-mails – the latest one came out this morning.

There's a new proposal from Republican Senator Ron Johnson to sunset Social Security unless it's re-approved every 5 years.

**Nominations & Elections:** Steve Ellis. President and Secretary officer positions will up for election. Dave Baine & Jessica both plan to run for reelection.

No reports this meeting for: Program, Badges, Travel, Insurance, Pensions, Communications or Legislative & Public Affairs

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m. The next quarterly membership meeting is scheduled for December. 1, at noon. The next Investment meeting is September 15. The next steering board meeting is scheduled for November 15, at 11 a.m. These may both be virtual (or a very remote chance of hybrid) meetings.

Minutes prepared by Jessica Bonebright