

ERS Membership meeting Dec 1, 2022

Minutes from the December meeting

ERS President Dave Baine called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. This was a virtual meeting via Zoom. There were 23 attendees including Dave Baine, Dwight Rousu, Walt Ditlefsen, Steve Ellis, Bob Ferguson, Jessica Bonebright, John Neller, Dave Watt, Myrv and Joan Johansen, John Meeker, Millard Battles and Stanley Lind. New members were invited to introduce themselves including: Carolyn Brock, Mark Freeland, Evan Wipf and Dennis Sarr

Guest Speaker: Jeff Johnson is Co-President of Puget Sound Advocates for Retiree Action (PSARA) and former president of the Washington State Labor Council (WSLC), AFL-CIO. He spoke about the threats of the ACO Reach Medicare pilot program which begins January 2023. Also PSARA's campaign to protect, strengthen and improve Medicare. The Center for Medicare Services, CMS, has said they want to eliminate Traditional Medicare by 2023. Those who select Traditional Medicare, will be automatically switched to private, for-profit ACO Reach plans without their knowledge or consent. These plans have an incentive to delay and deny care. They are allowed to keep as much as 25 to 35% of Medicare trust fund payments that are not spent on care. Visit PSARA.org for newsletter articles with more information and to sign onto letters opposing this program.

Officer Elections: President and Secretary positions are open for 2-year terms starting Jan 15, 2023. Dave Baine and Jessica Bonebright were the only nominees for the positions they currently hold, President and Secretary respectively. They were elected by acclamation.

Secretary's Report: Jessica Bonebright's minutes of our September 2022 membership meeting were approved as published.

President's Report: Dave Baine reported Medicare Annual Enrollment Period is Oct. 15 to Dec. 7. ACO REACH is a new threat to Medicare. Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) Realizing Equity, Access, and Community Health (REACH) plans are run by for-profit organizations such as insurance companies like Medicare Advantage plans. The New York Times recently published an expose article showing that insurance companies have exploited Medicare Advantage for years to maximize profit. A National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN) discussion of the study is available on their website. Social Security Administration (SSA) announced the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) increase for 2023 will be 8.7%

Vice President: Steve Ellis our proposed budget for 2023 will be voted on under new business later in this meeting.

Treasurer: Bob Ferguson reported ERS balances are: Checking \$2199.84; Savings \$34,484.34 and CD's \$20,243.34. He also reported 2022 year to date income \$10,190 and expenses \$3782 with additional expenses of about \$1,000 to be paid for newsletter printing, end of year donations and web hosting.

Steering Board Chair: Dwight Rousu reported our December ERS newsletter was on our website. Please submit articles or ideas for future newsletters to Dwight.

Committee and Rep Reports

Communications: Walt Ditlefsen reported SPEEA ACE messages have been emailed to members.

Governing Documents: Walt Ditlefsen will consider changes for possible co-secretary officers

Insurance chair: position is open, please contact Dave Baine if you're interested. Boeing Medicare supplement insurance premium is going down by \$28/month after increasing last year.

Investments: Dave Watt investments meetings are 3rd Thursdays of odd months. Next meeting on Jan 19 speaker topic will be: What to expect in the coming year.

Membership: John Neller reported we have 936 ERS members, 720 paid dues since last year.

National Retiree Legislative Network: Dwight Rousu & Steve Ellis reported NRLN has been working and reporting on ACO Reach. Their next meetings in WADC are planned for Feb 26-28, 2023. See email messages or the NRLN website for the President's end of year message.

Pensions: Dave Westman reported Fidelity is the new manager of Boeing pensions.

Service: Millard Battles reported the Bluebills newsletter came out last week.

Social & Refreshments: Steve Ellis is considering options for a future social event

SPEEA / ERS Liaison: Dave Baine contacted Ray Goforth regarding use of the SPEEA office for in-person ERS meetings. Meeting room capacity is currently limited to 26 due to COVID. We're waiting for limits to be relaxed as COVID risk declines.

Sunshine: Myrv and Joan Johansen reported total activity for 2022: 19 members have passed away as of December 1st, 7 cards were sent out and 2 condolence message were added to - Number of members we found an obituary for and added a condolence messages were added to memorial/guest book sites that were still active.

No reports this meeting for Program, Badges, Travel or Legislative & Public Affairs.

New Business:

Steve Ellis presented the budget proposal for 2023. We voted to donate \$50 to each of the following six charities: Uplift Northwest, Northwest Harvest, Sound Generations, Renton Food Bank, Food Lifeline and Puget Sound Labor Agency. The 2023 budget was approved without dissent.

The meeting was adjourned by Dave Baine at 2 p.m.

2023 ERS meetings are planned as follows:

- All member: March 2, June 1, Sept. 7 and Dec. 7
- Investment: Jan. 19, March 16, May 18, July 20, Sept. 21 and Nov. 16
- Steering Board: Feb. 323 May 25, Aug. 24 and Nov. 30

Special Note: After the March 19, 2020 meeting, the Steering Board canceled all in-person meetings until further notice.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Jessica Bonebright, secretary