

ERS Steering Board Feb 23, 2023

Attendees: Dave Baine, Dwight Rousu, Walt Ditlefsen, Steve Ellis, Bob Ferguson, Jessica Bonebright, John Neller, Dave Watt, Myrv and Joan Johansen

Officer & Cmttee Reports (copy/same as Membership meeting – see below)

President action items:

check about filing to be a C4 non-profit (check with Pauline)

Check with IAM regarding use of hall for ERS meetings

Letters to potential new retirees are not going out

BECU CDs change for higher interest

Evan Wipf doesn't want to be back-up secretary but will do it on request by special arrangement

**New Business:**

501C3 status

MailChimp

SB5560 - Right to drive over age 70

**Unfinished Old Business**

Gov Docs – shared Secretary position

Service Certificates for James Ewing & Dave Westman

Updated New Retiree letter – Dave Baine

Pension Cashout retiree rush?

Plan for mixed-mode meetings?

Communications backup for Walt?

Pension Cmttee Chair to follow Dave Westman

Checking signatures Ewing to Jessica

**REPORTS:**

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

**President's Report:** Dave Baine reported ERS will be rolling over our CDs at BECU for a higher yield also we'll file with the WA Secretary of State and IRS to renew our non-profit status. Dwight Rouse, Steering Board Chair, represented ERS at the NRLN fly-in in WA DC. We're looking for a volunteer to serve as Pension & Insurance Committee Chair.

**Vice President:** Steve Ellis reported our 2022 financial internal review was accomplished and we are in compliance with our governing documents and the IRS.

**Treasurer:** Bob Ferguson reported ERS balances are: Checking \$4286.38; Savings \$38,394.92 and CD's \$20,247.96. We shifted some funds to cover our recent dues payment to NRLN.

About half of our dues checks have been deposited so far. CD rates have gone up and we're planning to take advantage of that.

**Steering Board Chair:** Dwight Rousu reported our March ERS newsletter was on our website and the steering board met last week.

### **Committee and Rep Reports**

**Communications:** Walt *Ditlefsen* reported on changing our email provider from MailChimp and changing contact and billing information for our email and website from Dave Westman.

**Finance:** Steve Ellis reported our ERS assets increased by 11% in 2022.

**Insurance chair:** position is open, please contact Dave Baine if you may be interested.

**Investments:** Dave Watt investments meetings are 3rd Thursdays of odd months. Next meeting on March 16. The speaker will be Matt Boelter of Viridian Advisors on the updated Secure 2.0 law and he will do a current market overview.

**Membership:** John Neller reported we have 931 ERS members, 662 paid dues for 2022 or 2023. 269 paid for 2021 or earlier. We need to coordinate with SPEEA to assure our invitation to join letter is getting out to new retirees.

**National Retiree Legislative Network:** Dwight Rousu & Steve Ellis reported NRLN fly-in included a presentation on Medicare & ACO Reach by the Kaiser Family Foundation a nonprofit organization that conducts its own research, analysis, polling, journalism, and specialized public health information campaigns. An increase in pension risk shifting raises concerns with individuals losing government protections like ERISA & PBGC. Several meetings were held with Congressional representatives and their staff from the Northwest. See email messages or the NRLN website for more information.

**Program:** Dave Watt *reported* we're still looking for a speaker for our June meeting – get in touch with your ideas.

**Social & Refreshments:** Steve Ellis suggested we resume purchasing refreshments from Costco when we're able to start meeting in person again.

**SPEEA / ERS Liaison:** Dave Baine continues to coordinate on ERS issues with SPEEA

**Legislative & Public Affairs:** Dwight Rousu 10 representatives from SPEEA including retirees went to Olympia to lobby on behalf of employee issues including pensions and healthcare.

**Sunshine:** Myrv and Joan Johansen reported SPEEA notified us of 7 ERS members who have passed away: John Bolender, William Robert Linn, Virgil DeLong, Kenneth Holing, Lawrence W. Tarpley, Ben C. Perry and Robert (Bob) Turanyi. Three cards were sent out and a condolence message was posted where information was available

No reports this meeting for: Badges, Governing Documents, Pensions, Travel or Service.