

ERS Membership meeting Mar 2, 2023

Minutes from the March meeting

ERS President Dave Baine called the virtual Zoom meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

There were 31 attendees including Dave Baine, Dwight Rousu, Walt Ditlefsen, Steve Ellis, Bob Ferguson, Jessica Bonebright, John Neller, Dave Watt, Myrv and Joan Johansen, John Meeker, Ken Kuehnl, Carolyn Brock, Milagros Amos Randy Hillenbrand, Chris Butler, Erich Koehler, Arlene Brown, Stanley Lind, David Querubin, Satpal Saini, Bruce Wiletzko, Kim Ryden, Steve Olwin, Mark Paulson, Tim Jackson, Steve Karich, Randy Leghorn

New members were invited to introduce themselves including: Teresa Guy,

Guest Speaker: Bridget Agabra started www.GentleTechHelp.com in 2018. Her presentation was titled “Emergency Digital Access: Creating a Transition Plan for Your Digital Information” If something happens, what becomes of your photos, your emails and accounts? Who handles everything electronic and how will they find the passwords? Will an old camera be donated with pictures still in it? Create a transition plan for electronic assets to make it easier for family to handle quickly and securely. Including setting up a password vault and cloud storage, advice about sensitive material, handling of physical devices and more. She encouraged participants to make a list stored in 2 places.

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 the federal IRS to renew our non-profit status. Dwight Rousu, Steering Board Chair, represented ERS at the NRLN fly-in in WA DC. A fuller report of the trip and meetings in DC is posted on our ERS web site, accessible with a CTL-click at DC2023. 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.

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 that our March ERS [newsletter](#) was on our website and that the steering board met last week.

Committee and Rep Reports

Communications: Chair 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: Chair Steve Ellis reported our ERS assets increased by 11% in 2022.

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

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

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

National Retiree Legislative Network: Dwight Rousu & Steve Ellis reported that the 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 that individuals may lose government protections like [ERISA](#) & [PBGC](#). Several meetings over two days were held with Congressional representatives staff from the Northwest. A full report of the ERS trip to the NRLN fly-in can be accessed at the link given in the President's report above. See the NRLN [website](#) for more continuing information.

Program Chair: Dave Watt reported we were still looking for a speaker for our June meeting – get in touch with Dave if you have ideas for future speakers..

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

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

Legislative & Public Affairs Chair: Dwight Rousu reported ten representatives from SPEEA, including Dwight, went to Olympia to lobby on behalf of employee issues identified by SPEEA, which included pensions and healthcare.

Sunshine co-Chairs: Myrv and Joan Johansen reported SPEEA notified us of 7 ERS members who have recently 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.

Old Business:

Dave Baine was asked to elaborate on his trip reported in the March ERS Newsletter – perhaps he'll share photos at a future meeting.

Good of the Order:

Jessica Bonebright encouraged support of the [RaisetheWageRento.org](#) campaign to raise the Renton minimum wage to be similar with the higher amount in Seattle, SeaTac and recently Tukwila. They need signature gatherers and other volunteers. ERS planned to e-mail all members with more information.

Arlene Brown shared information about changes she's noticed with tax withholding from her Boeing pension and changes to Boeing 401K transfers after the switch to Fidelity.

The meeting was adjourned by Dave Baine at 2:30 p.m.

Next ERS All member meeting is noon on June 1

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Jessica Bonebright, secretary