

ERS Steering Board May 25, 2023 minutes

Attendees: Dave Baine, Richard Beham, Dwight Rousu, Walt Ditlefsen, Steve Ellis, Bob Ferguson, , John Meeker, John Neller, Dave Watt, Myrv and Joan Johansen, Dave Westman, Millard Battles, Jessica Bonebright

Reports:

President's Report: - Dave Baine see write-up in newsletter reported on discussions about holding hybrid meetings at SPEEA. ERS is rolling over our CDs at BECU for a higher yield. We're still looking into renewal of our non-profit status. NRLN is considering a fly-in September 23-27 in WA DC. We're planning to send two ERS representatives. A memorial event for Joel Funfar will be held at SPEEA, Tukwila 3-5pm. Please contact Dave for more information about volunteering to serve as ERS Pension & Insurance Chair.

Vice President: no report

Treasurer: Bob Ferguson reported ERS balances are: Checking \$2278.68; Savings \$25,057.54 and CD's \$20,247.96 for a total of \$60,413.26 (in March we reported a total of \$62,929.26) A few more dues checks are coming in.

Membership: John Neller reported we have 930 ERS members, 546 paid dues for 2023 and additional 135 paid for 2022 or 2023. 249 paid for 2021 or earlier. We need to coordinate with SPEEA to assure our invitation to join letter is getting out to new retirees.

NLRN count is set at beginning of year, we don't change numbers mid-year

Finance: Steve Ellis reported our higher return, risk free CD investments are good for ERS..

Program: Dave Watt reported we're still looking for a speaker for our September 7 & Dec 7 meetings – get in touch with your ideas. ERS member Emmett Omar will make an updated presentation at the investment meeting. May 18 meeting was cancelled our TD Ameritrade speaker couldn't get management approval.

Service: Dick Beham reported Bluebills hold hybrid meetings monthly at Renton VFW hall. Lots of volunteer activities. ERS link to the Bluebills newsletter.

Sunshine: Myrv and Joan Johansen reported SPEEA notified us of three members who have passed away. Condolence messages were posted on memorial websites for Lois Boyer and James L Beason. A sympathy card was mailed to Richard Etter's wife Eloise.

Travel: John Neller reported airfares and hotel rates to Europe are way up since last year.

PSARA: Jessica Bonebright reported on an upcoming webinar on Medicare

Social & Refreshments: John Meeker and Steve Ellis will need an approximate number of participants for purchasing refreshments when we're able to start meeting in person again.

Communications: Walt Ditlefsen reported we're still using MailChimp - our issues were resolved. People unsubscribe from our list. We've been sending out ACE messages about 1 per month. Dave Baine & Dave Watt have ERS emails, we'll get rid of the other ERS email addresses.

SPEEA / ERS Liaison: Dave Baine coordinating with SPEEA on starting hybrid ERS meetings. We'll use SPEEA's digital whiteboard - we may need training.

Legislative & Public Affairs: Brandon Anderson returned to SPEEA after briefly taking a job at WFSE – it wasn't what he was expecting. He's getting committee things back on track. Dwight Rousu reported candidates in local elections are seeking endorsements. SPEEA doesn't endorse candidates, but it's good to consider labor endorsements.

National Retiree Legislative Network: Dwight Rousu reported NRLN is tracking Social Security and Medicare issues. They're particularly concerned about proposals from Speaker McCarthy. They are gauging interest in a fly-in to WADC this fall – ERS will probably send 2 people. See email messages or the NRLN website for more information.

Nominations and Elections: Steve Ellis reported elections will be held at our Dec. 7 meeting.

New Business:

501c3 vs c4 status? ERS is registered with WA state, but maybe not with IRS?

Finance: Motion approved for Bob Ferguson recommendation to move \$20K to Money Market

Governing Documents: Walt Ditlefsen proposed 3 changes to our governing documents.

Motion approved for two Policy changes:

Policy manual section 4.4 Travel Expenses – changes reimbursement from 20 cents per mile to “the current standard IRS mileage rate”

Policy manual section 2.1 Badges Committee – simplify language to: “Each member will receive a badge after attending one general meeting.”

The steering board recommends to the membership changing By-Laws section 3.1 Badges – to simplify attendance records by eliminating language about keeping a two-year record of attendees and add “in-person” prior to “general meeting” regarding providing a sign-in sheet.

Motion and second to approve this By-Laws change was approved without objection.

Walt will be considering process options for dealing with proposed resolutions prior to bringing them up at ERS meetings.

Walt intended to look into possible language for reviewing and handling resolutions prior to bringing them to a meeting to save time.

Old Business:

Invitation to join ERS letters have not been going out to SPEEA new retirees. Dave Baine will try again to reach Bill Dugovich about this.

Backup communications person for Walt is needed. Dave Westman has been doing it.

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 meetings are July 20, Sept. 21 and Nov. 16. ERS member Emit Omar will speak about his system of reviewing and buying funds. He charts impressive returns.

No reports this meeting for: Badges or Pensions