

ERS Steering Board Aug 24, 2023 (Hybrid) Meeting Minutes

Attendees: in-person: Dwight Rousu, Dave Baine, Bob Ferguson, Roger Aisaka, Jessica Bonebright

Guests: Jason Colette & Susie Bustamante, SPEEA staff

Via ZOOM: John Neller, Dave Watt, Myrv and Joan Johansen, Walt Ditlefsen, Steve Ellis, Dick Beham, Dave Westman

Dwight called the meeting to order at 11:11am and certified a quorum

Susie introduced herself, she will be SPEEA ERS support person replacing Michelle

Jason reported the Boeing Medicare Supplement insurance will change for SPEEA. Boeing will change for coverage beginning Jan 2024. This applies to about 3000 SPEEA represented retirees. More information will be coming.

OFFICER REPORTS

Secretary Report- Jessica Bonebright: Minutes of our May 25, 2023 meeting were approved as distributed.

President's Report - Dave Baine had to replace his email account due to a hacking event and is working to learn gmail.

Treasurer - Bob Ferguson: ERS balances are: Checking \$2191.71; Savings \$5,321.17, Money Market \$20,089.42 and CD's \$33,273.57 for a total of \$60,875.87 (in March we reported a total of \$60,413.26)

Vice President's Report - Steve Ellis: Apologies for no food today. Next month will be budget and financial report.

Steering board Chair Report – Dwight Rousu: Newsletter out finally went out last evening by Amber. She'll be moving along – don't know her replacement. It's 4 pages – it was snail mailed out. A funny format-blue-black shading - Dwight will talk to them. The lighter side didn't get in.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership – John Neller: sent an e-mail about what NLRN thinks our membership is. We've never had 1,000 members – they must be looking at an old list or a list including pre-retirees. Currently 930 are on the full list including those who haven't paid dues in several years. We give NLRN two reports from a November snapshot. First we provide a count of 640 but not individual names. Additionally, we provide a list with just names and emails so they can email people. Paul Shearon recently joined as a new member

Finance -Steve Ellis: – Will start working on 2024 budget

Social Steve Ellis: – On a back burner until we start meeting in person – starting with Hybrid meeting Sept 7

Program – Dave Watt: Speaker will be Rick Faunt from the Hearing Loss Assoc. The Investment meeting speaker will be Steven Latch with TD Ameritrade part of Schwab on "Idyl Cash, What to do with it" Jared Adams, estate planning lawyer, will speak at our December 7 hybrid meeting. He previously spoke to us about changes for estate planning at federal and state level. It was well received. Everyone should plan to be here since most of us don't know enough about it.

Service Dick Beham: Volunteer opportunities are in their newsletter. Can't currently make updates to bluebills website. Looking for help with computing. They meet a couple of times a month in-person. Millard is 92 now and is slowing down – so we won't see much of him.

Sunshine: Myrv: No reported passings in the last quarter

PSARA – Jessica Bonebright: Webinar on Medicare Privatization Sept 13 – see psara.org for more info.

Badges - Roger Aisaka: Roger greed to take over this role – We all thanked him for stepping up.

Refreshments – John Meeker: Switch from sandwiches to pizza and salad - maybe cookies.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Baine will be getting new ERS business card with his new email address.

We will honor James Ewing with a ‘lifetime achievement award’ with a plaque and/or gift card Dave Baine will try to contact him and make arrangements for him to attend the meeting.

Motion/Second/Concur: To spend up to \$500 for awards. This could come from our budgeted items: contingency \$250 & \$300 door prizes.

Planning for our Sept 7th membership meeting will be mixed mode hybrid. **We don’t need to request RSVPs.** We want people to feel comfortable wearing a mask at the in person meeting. Walt will keep it simple.

NLRN requested street addresses to do a mailing. We decided previously to only provide email addresses. We reported 640 members in good standing that we pay dues for. John Neller will provide the list of names & emails to Steve who will forward it to NLRN. They are soliciting for more money. Section 3.5 of the ERS constitution describes sharing membership list with approval of the steering board.

NLRN fall fly-in - We’re not going to send anyone despite saying earlier we expected to send 3. Whoever we send should be up-to-speed on the issues – L&PA participants are well informed and would be effective in meeting with congressional members & their staff. They also have to work to set up the meeting.

ERS non-profit status update - we’re recognized at the state but not federal.

SPEEA hasn’t been sending letters to retirees about joining ERS. We also used to speak at retirement seminars & occasionally have an article in the Spotlight. Ray didn’t want to commit to help us with retroactive recruiting of retirees who didn’t get a letter – including 2022 retirees. It’s in SPEEA’s interest if we get updated contact information for retirees. We could draft an article for the Spotlight – Karen is great to work with on that. Including “Join ERS to keep in touch with what’s happening with SPEEA...”

UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS

Dwight found a link - Boeing discounts still exist. It require total access with your BEMSID. Similar to Boeing gift matching.

Dave Westman is Walt’s backup – we’d like to recruit someone for this.

Motion/Second/Concur Dave Baine nominated Bill Dugovich as a lifetime member - we’ve don’t this for others. He’s helped ERS.

John Neller called some members who unsubscribed to our emails but want to remain ERS members. Walt will look into ‘unsubscribers’ and work on inviting them to re-join our mailchimp distribution list.

Minutes by Jessica Bonebright, Secretary