

ERS Steering Board Nov 30, 2023 meeting minutes

Attendees: Dwight Roseau, Bob Ferguson, Steve Ellis, Dave Baine, Dave Watt, Jessica Bonebright,

Via ZOOM: Walt Ditlefsen, Roger Aisaka, John Neller, Myrv & Joan Johansen, Dave Westman

Dwight Rousu called the meeting to order at 11:15am. The agenda was approved as distributed and we certified a quorum.

OFFICER REPORTS

Secretary – Jessica Bonebright Minutes of the 8/24/23 meeting were approved as distributed.

President - Dave Baine – Receiving lots of phone calls at home regarding Medicare open enrollment – will continue until Dec 7th. We're having some technical difficulties with our hybrid meeting with echos from multiple computers in the room signed into the ZOOM meeting since we're in room C and don't have a large shared screen to display the zoom connection.

Treasurer - Bob Ferguson ERS account balances at BECU are: Checking \$2074.70, Savings \$4462.19, Money Market \$20227.47, and CD's \$33572.19 for a total of \$60,336.55. We reported a total of \$60,413.26 at our Aug. 24 meeting

Steering Board Chair –Dwight Rousu We got the newsletter together – confusion on 1st paragraph of the report

If we have food & some at home – not eating – we need 2 start times. Stay with noon – if people want to eat, they should arrive about 11:45. We'll be consistent with email reminder and newsletter

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership – John Neller will email the 30 people who haven't renewed since 2017 and attach a renewal form they can print & send in that identifies them as 'renewals' vs new members. If they fail to respond we'll drop them from our lists. As of 11/28/2023 total members for all years and types is 922. Total for NRLN dues (2022) is 640 & names 618. 685 paid in 2022 or 2023, 57 last paid in 2021; 56 last paid in 2020; 59 last paid in 2019; and 33 last paid in 2018. 49 members don't have emails in our system – we mail paper newsletters to them.

Finance committee – Steve Ellis reported early next year our annual financial review is due in February.

Social Committee – Steve Ellis will start looking for an event early next summer – he'll survey members for input. We have money in the budget.

Program & Investments–Dave Watt - Jared Adams will be our speaker for Dec. 7. He's an estate planning attorney & adjunct professor at UW. He'll speak about changes in current status of estate planning rules. He was well received last time he spoke to us. We don't have speakers lined up yet for other upcoming investment meetings Jan 18 & 3/21 & no speakers lined up yet for our next membership meeting 3/1/24

Sunshine Committee –Myrv & John Johansen were notified by Walt of these members’ passings: Curt Rhodes passed away July 10, 2022. We found his obituary in the Seattle Times. He was almost 100 years old. No card sent. Marvin R. Sundstrom passed away in June. He was born 02/18/1931 making him 92 years old. We sent a card to The Family of Marvin R. Sundstrom at the address in our membership list. Matthew D. Cleary passed away in April of 2023. We could not find any obituary. We sent a card to The Family of Matthew D. Cleary at the address in our membership list.

2023 activity & cost: \$ 39.66 was spent on cards and postage. 18 members passed away so far this year. 8 cards were sent out. 5 had no spouse/survivors listed and no other information could be found. 5 we found an obituary for and added a condolence message to the memorial/guest book site that was still active. since Joan and Myrv took over the Sunshine Committee in June 2011, there have been 212 member deaths.

Travel - John Neller emailed information on available cruises the Boeing Travel Club is planning – they’re open to ERS members.

Pension - Dave Westman raised the question of Boeing pension buyouts. They’re generally for those about to retire and for some with small pension

Badges - Roger Aisaka made 41 badges for those who attend last membership & investment meetings. Others will use temporary stick on badges.

Communications & Website: We recorded the special meeting regarding Medicare to post it to our website. Walt asked for more space and they gave it to us for no charge. Next time Walt will try to recording the zoom meeting on the cloud.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

SPEEA /ERS Liason - Dave Baine – Recently there have been a number of SPEEA staff changes including a new communications guy supporting Karen. Also a new person working with Jason and Matt on benefits and Jim O’Connor administrative support. A number of people have left or will be leaving including Terry Hall, Amber Mussleman and Susi Bustamonte who was just recently hired. Staff contact for ERS is unsettled for now.

L&PA –Dwight Rousu - Regular ERS participants include Dwight, Dave Baine & Dave Westman. Brandon Anderson is back as staff for the committee and back to a higher level of committee functioning.

NLRN - Steve Ellis announced – no spring fly-in for chapters like our next year. They were having trouble getting people to go. But they’re continuing with fall meetings – likely just one fly-in per year going forward since they’re short of funds.

There were no reports for: Vice President, Service, Insurance, Refreshments & Governing Docs.

NEW BUSINESS

Elections - Next meeting we will hold elections for Vice President, Treasurer & Steering Board Chair. VP & Treasurer will serve for 2 more years. We're looking for someone to run for the office. Dwight has been doing it for 12 years now. He was VP for a time but is too busy to continue and would much prefer to let someone else take over – instead of lifetime officers. We need to involve more new people especially since we're a retiree organization.

Dwight has made significant contributions to the organization – at we appreciate him very much!

SPEEA letter to retirees regarding ERS - Karen McLean sent a letter to SPEEA member retirees inviting them to join ERS. Dave Baine recently emailed a copy of the latest version to the steering board. Roger Aisaka received one of the letters dated November 1, so it seems they went back in time which is great. If there are still some retirees who didn't receive a letter inviting them to join ERS, we'd be willing to pay the cost to go back further for earlier retirees- depending on the cost. Dave Baine will check with Karen.

2024 Budget - Steve Ellis presented a draft budget. Several changes were recommended and Steve will make changes as discussed and forward an updated budget proposal to be voted on by the membership at the December 7 meeting.

Charitable contributions - We've traditionally donated the amount of our interest income to charity at our December meeting. We expect to earn nearly \$1100 in 2023 and will increase our donations to \$1100 this year. We agreed to contribute evenly to the same list of charities as 2022 but add the Tukwila Food Bank (3118 S 140th St Tukwila, WA 98168) and Downtown Emergency Services (PO Box 4607 Seattle WA 98194) which is a large provider of services to homeless people. The 2022 list of 6 included Uplift Northwest, Northwest Harvest, Sound Generations, Renton Food Bank, Food Lifeline, and Puget Sound Labor Agency

UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS

ERS's non-profit status with IRS lapsed after 3 years of not making a 990-N 'postcard' or other filing. Dave Baine will look into the steps needed to renew our IRS tax-exempt non-profit status for our 2023 filing.

Bob Ferguson agreed to buy 12 poinsettias for the December meeting including some for SPEEA staff & the remainder for the door prize drawing. Jessica will bring raffle tickets.

Dave Watt will prepare a list of meeting dates including investment meetings for 2024 to be shared at the Dec 7 meeting.

Topics to carry forward: An ERS article in a future Spotlight; Providing information on the option to switch back to Traditional Medicare within the 1st year and avoid underwriting for a Medigap supplement plan.

Meeting adjourned about 2:15pm

Next steering board meeting Feb 29, 2024

Notes by Jessica Bonebright, Secretary