

# Engineering Retirees Society ERS Newsletter



Treasurer **Bob Ferguson** (behind the podium) brought the poinsettias for the raffle, and he stood behind them.

## Quarterly meeting

Join us for our next all-member quarterly meeting, Thursday, March 5. We are again planning a hybrid meeting based at the SPEEA office at 15205 52nd Ave. S, Tukwila, Washington. Light lunch is planned for 11:35 a.m. at the hall, with our meeting starting at noon. There will be a Zoom connection available. The Zoom has provided OK listening and some speaking participation but no lunch to zoomers.

## Our program

Our ERS membership chair John Neller flew to Zurich and spent four weeks traveling by train and bicycle in Switzerland, Germany and France in June and July of 2025. He'll tell us about his trip and share pictures and stories. Our ERS past president, Dave Baine, will also share pictures and information about his cruise to Antarctica.

Our ERS travel committee is also planning to come to the quarterly meeting and inform members and take questions about the planned April 24-25 from Vancouver, BC, to Seattle cruise ship trip. See more about the cruise in the last quarter minutes below.

Look in your email for an upcoming meeting notice with ERS Zoom link info and any changes in the plans. We would like to have you join us March 5 in person if you can.

## Investment meetings

We hold investment meetings on the third Thursday of odd months. We typically email meeting notices with the Zoom link and a link to any speaker-supplied information. Our next meeting is March 19.

## Minutes from the Dec. 4 all-member meeting

President **Dave Baine** called the hybrid meeting to order at noon. There was no guest speaker for our holiday party and officer elections this meeting.

**Officer elections:** **Steve Ellis**, ERS vice president, asked officers to stand and introduce themselves and tell what they do for ERS. Position descriptions are included in the ERS bylaws posted on our website at [engineering-retirees.org/about\\_us](http://engineering-retirees.org/about_us). Steve called for nominations for ERS president. **John Meeker** was the only nominee and was elected by acclamation. John has served as Refreshments Committee chair arranging for lunches for ERS meetings for the past 18 years. His dad was doing it before that. John shared that he feels ERS has a number of things to do - it's time to build up the organization. If anyone is interested in becoming more active in ERS, reach out to John.

Other positions up for election were vice president, currently Steve Ellis; steering board chair, currently **Dwight Rousu**, and treasurer, currently **Bob Ferguson**. All were re-elected by acclamation with no other nominations from the floor. Dwight agreed to serve but would welcome someone else to transition into the steering board chair role, which includes organizing the steering board and publishing the quarterly ERS Newsletter. New terms begin Jan 15, according to ERS bylaws.

**Agenda:** The day's meeting agenda had been emailed and was approved as submitted

**Secretary:** **Jessica Bonebright's** Sept. 4 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

**President:** **Dave Baine** invited new members to introduce themselves. He also recognized **Gene Blackman**, a long time member we haven't seen for quite a while. ERS organizational filing is set up with Washington State, but we need to get set up with the IRS. **Katrina Jones** is looking into those arrangements. **Dave Showalter** is our new communications chair taking over from **Dave Westman**, who moved to Hawaii a while ago.

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## Minutes from the December 4 – all-member meeting - *Continued from page 1*

**Treasurer:** Bob Ferguson reported ERS account balances at BECU are savings: \$2,510.11 (0.25% interest); checking: \$1212.59; money market: \$30,451.93 (2.4% interest); three CDs: \$12,205.40 each (2.47% interest) for total on deposit \$71,791.72. Nov. 8 bank statement totals were \$68,536.31 and Jan. 10, 2025 bank statement totals were \$66,342.64. We have one check not cashed for \$265. Expenses YTD have been: printing \$188.45; refreshments for all meetings \$1,953.32 (consisting of investment meetings, quarterly meetings, executive board meetings, plus \$295 for three gatherings at BJ's restaurant), NRLN dues \$1,857; NRLN DC fly-in trip \$1,933; MailChimp and internet \$316.07; state re-registration fee \$95 (it was not filed in time, therefore extra expense to re-apply); Sunshine Committee \$8.49; gift card and poinsettias for fourth quarter meeting \$123.05. Total budgeted item expenses paid out at the time of the fourth quarter meeting \$6,285.93YTD.

At the end of each year, ERS donates the interest income we earn from our investments. The steering board dropped **SPEEA Cares** from the ERS list of charities, because they failed to deposit our check. Our seven charities will be the same as 2024 with that exception. They will each receive \$320 for a total of \$2,240: Uplift NW; Food Lifeline; Salvation Army for Renton Foodbank; Sound Generations; NW Harvest; DESC (Downtown Emergency Services) and Tukwila Pantry.

**Finance:** Steve Ellis presented a proposed 2026 budget to the members at the meeting. Dwight moved to add an IRS registration contingency fund of \$1,000. **Katrina Jones** is looking into the ERS IRS status and getting it up to date. The motion was M/S/C. The 2026 ERS budget was unanimously approved as amended

**Steering Board Activities:** Chair Dwight Rousu reported the ERS board met and the newsletter went out.

### Committee and Rep Reports

**Social:** Chair Steve Ellis noted the 2026 budget line item for \$1,500 to reserve a location for a social get-together. A potential site is Ivar's Salmon house on Lake Union. They have free parking. Participants would pay for their own food and beverage, but there's a minimum total to reserve the private room which could result in an ERS expense. No firm decision has been made on such a social gathering.

**Membership:** **John Neller** reported we have 691 members, 634 are in good standing paid

up to 2024 or beyond. A total of 25 haven't paid since 2022. John will try to contact them; if there is no response, they'll be dropped. Members can check with John to confirm payment status. There's a letter that SPEEA has sent on our behalf as members retire. March 3 is the next SPEEA in-person retirement seminar. We'll attempt to invite participants to join ERS by verifying the letters that are being sent and seeing if our invitation to new potential members is part of the seminars.

**Program:** Chair **Dave Watt** pointed out the upcoming meetings at the bottom of our agenda today. March 5 is the quarterly membership meeting, and the hybrid steering board meeting is Feb. 26. Mark your calendar for upcoming meetings - almost always Thursdays. Looking ahead to the June 4 general meeting, the planned presenter is guest speaker Jarad Adams, an estate planning attorney. Jarad has invited everyone to prepare questions for him regarding topics you are interested in. You have over three months to prepare good questions.

Boeing charitable gift matching for retirees is online at [Boeing.yourcause.com](https://Boeing.yourcause.com). Boeing contributes a 50% match (up to \$3,000 per calendar year) for contributions by retirees to qualified 501(c)(3) organizations. There can be some issues accessing the site that Boeing uses to do the searches and donations, but there's support assistance if you clean your computer cache and still have trouble.

**Sunshine Committee:** Co-chairs **Myrv** and **Joan Johansen** reported there were no reported ERS members passing away this last quarter. Over the past year, 11 members have passed away. As of this meeting, six cards were sent out (four sympathy and two get well/thinking of you). They found eight members with an obituary online and added a condolence message to the memorial/guest book site that was still active. We also sent a sympathy card to one of the member's survivor in addition to the condolence message. There have been 244 deaths since Joan and Myrv took over the Sunshine Committee in 2011.

**Travel Committee:** Chairs **John Neller** and **Corinne Kumano** - Corinne announced a planned April 24-25 one-night cruise from Vancouver, BC, to Seattle that our members are invited to join as a group. Corinne has arranged for Claudette Hatcher, a certified travel specialist, to visit our March 5 general meeting to give a brief overview and Q&A on the Holland America Eurodam hosted cruise and questions about hotels, the northward leg, and parking. For more information, there is a

web page [Claudette Travels - 4/24/26 Annual Spring Overnight Party Cruise](#) or for questions or RSVP contact [bikenstein@myctl.net](mailto:bikenstein@myctl.net) or [corine.kumano@gmail.com](mailto:corine.kumano@gmail.com) with subject line "Holland Cruise trip."

**Insurance and Healthcare:** Chair Katrina Jones invited **Jason Collette**, SPEEA benefits coordinator, to the meeting to answer questions regarding Aetna Medicare Advantage plan for Boeing retirees. It will have a monthly premium for 2026. When Boeing switched to this plan starting in 2025, it had no additional charge beyond Part B premium. Everyone on Boeing corporate Medicare Advantage should have received notification by mail.

Katrina provided a link to information on a free estate planning package members can complete with their will and lots of other information with prompts for an emergency binder for use if something happens to you for use by whoever may step in to help you.

**Governing Documents:** Katrina Jones was busy with insurance and healthcare.

**Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action (PSARA):** Jessica Bonebright reported PSARA is holding their legislative conference the same day as our meeting. PSARA encourages members to get acquainted with your state representatives and senators in anticipation of the upcoming state legislative session. For national issues, PSARA invites members to join a Social Security Works Washington meetings that are noted on their site. PSARA's legislative agenda will be or is already posted at [PSARA.org](https://PSARA.org) with additional supporting information on the policies PSARA is advocating. PSARA made a presentation in Tacoma regarding the pilot program being attached to Traditional Medicare starting Jan. 1, 2026. The pilot program is in six states, including Washington, which can require prior approval for some procedures. Check for other presentations in our PSARA newsletter and watch for upcoming events at [PSARA.org](https://PSARA.org). Please consider joining to support our work - membership is only \$20/year.

**Badges:** Chair **Roger Aisaka** (no report)

**Refreshments:** John Meeker (pizza)

**Communications and Website:** Our chair, Dave Showalter, was not able to attend.

### Ad Hoc Committee Reports

**SPEEA Liaison:** Dave Baine intends to continue in this role where he can raise issues as needed.

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## Minutes from the December 4 – all-member meeting - Continued from page 2

**NRLN Liaison:** Steve Ellis recommended visiting the [nrln.org](http://nrln.org) website to stay up to date on federal retiree issues. The current administration isn't supportive of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. See Stan Sorscher's fly-in report in the December 2025 ERS newsletter for more information.

**Legislative & Public Affairs, L&PA:** Dwight Rousu (no report, but there is an editor's corner below)

**Nominating/Elections:** Steve Ellis (see election on page 1)

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** See elections and budget above

**Holiday Drawings:** **Dan Choi** won a \$50 Visa gift card in our candy guessing game. He guessed 727 pieces – the actual count was 673. We subsequently drew names to give away poinsettia door prizes.

**Upcoming meetings:** Thursday, March 5, is our next quarterly membership meeting starting at noon for Zoom participants and at

11:35 a.m. in person for a pre-meeting light lunch at the Tukwila SPEEA Hall. The next ERS steering board meeting is 11 a.m., Thursday, May 28. Investment meetings are at noon on the third Thursday of odd months. The next investment meeting is March 19.

The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

*Minutes respectfully submitted, Jessica Bonebright, secretary*

## Editor's Corner

OK, here goes. This year has been one politically wild destructive storm after another. It is critical that each of us stay informed and politically active to protect our democracy, our environment, our news sources and protect the wellbeing of our particular interest group of retired oldsters. Our children and grandchildren have their futures endangered in ways that we only had shallow expectations of ever happening.

I try to search out news sources that are not just propaganda sheets for the super-rich and

greedy. I try to support worthy organizations and worthy political candidates with time and excess MRD funds and my votes.

A couple issues dear to seniors are Social Security and Medicare. Medicaid took a body blow, and there have been lesser blows against Medicare and Medicare Advantage, with rumors of more attacks coming. The whole science of medicine is being defamed and defunded. And Social Security has had large budget cuts to the work force that makes Social Security work. The workforce that finances Social Se-

curity has been depleted so that full future payments to seniors may have to be reduced or some heavy legislative funding passed to protect it.

ERS has aligned in various degrees with the NRLN and PSARA, some with mother SPEEA and lightly with AARP. Individually and collectively, we need to be activists. And we need to all find moments of joy, so we don't go crazy.

## President's corner

Hello, I'm John Meeker, your recently elected president. I've participated in the Engineering Retirees Society for 18 years and have this new opportunity to provide leadership as we move forward post-COVID.

Please feel free to contact me at 206-225-4925 or [johnmeeker@comcast.net](mailto:johnmeeker@comcast.net). We'll assist and inform you in enjoying your retirement. You've worked and saved for this retirement, now let this retirement work for you.

## Reminder about links

For those receiving a print copy of the newsletter, we try to make links live in the newsletter posted [online](https://www.engineering-retirees.org/newsletter.html) at <https://www.engineering-retirees.org/newsletter.html> if you or your grandkids have access to a computer. The link target is accessed by CTRL-left CLICK on the link.

## Service Corner

The Bluebills is a service organization for all Boeing retirees. Go to [BlueBills.org](http://BlueBills.org).

## On the lighter side:

It amazes me how much "exercise" and "extra size" sound alike.

Be grateful that no matter how much chocolate you eat, your earrings will still fit.

Never iron a four-leaf clover. You don't want to press your luck.

Where there's a will, here's a relative.

Have you noticed "THE" & "IRS" spells "Theirs"?

Kleptomaniacs always take things literally.

Water is heavier than butane because butane is a lighter fluid.

A few puns make me numb. But math puns make me number.

When you teach a wolf to meditate, he becomes aware wolf.

I think smooth leather shoes are the finest. My opinion will never be suede.

I wanted to be a monk, but I never got the chants.

Before the crowbar was invented, crows had to drink at home

Atoms lie. They make up everything.

The man who fell into the upholstery machine is fully recovered.

Political jokes sometimes get elected.

I sued the airline for losing my luggage. I lost my case.

Cold? Go stand in the corner. It's 90 degrees.

Some people are wise. Some are otherwise.

**Volunteers who make it all happen**

*Elected officers*

President



*John Meeker*

Vice President



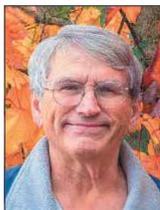
*Steve Ellis*

Secretary



*Jessica Bonebright*

Treasurer



*Bob Ferguson*

Steering Board Chair



*Dwight Rousu*

*Appointed Committee Chairs and Reps*

Badges.....Roger Aisaka  
 Programs .....**OPEN** (Dave Watt)  
 Communications (website)..... Dave Showalter / KJ  
 Medical Ins & Pensions ..... Katrina Jones  
 Governing Documents .....Katrina Jones aka KJ  
 Discounts .....**OPEN**  
 Finance, Elections ..... Steve Ellis  
 Refreshments ..... John Meeker / Steve Ellis  
 Investments Meetings ..... Dave Watt / Ken Kuehnl

Social..... Steve Ellis  
 Legislative & Public Affairs ..... Dwight Rousu / Dave Watt  
 NRLN Liaison ..... Steve Ellis  
 SPEEA Liaison..... Dave Baine  
 Membership..... John Neller  
 Sunshine ..... Joan and Myrv Johansen  
 (Bluebills).....**OPEN**  
 Travel..... Neller / Corrine Kumano

We would like **VOLUNTEERS** for the chair **OPEN**-ings noted above and members for Refreshments committee.

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