

ERS Steering Board Meeting 5/29/25

Attendees: Dave Baine, Dwight Rousu, Jessica Bonebright, Bob Ferguson, John Neller, Katrina Jones.

Online Zoom Attendees: Dave Westman (left at break), Steve Ellis, Myrv & Joan Johansen, Roger Aisaka.

Excused Walt Ditlefesen – he's in the hospital – we need to look for another back-up or replacement.

Secretary – Jessica will email rough minutes after steering board meetings

President's report Check handed off to SPEEA Cares last month – they just happened to be at SPEEA.

Treasurer report – BECU Total 72,781.89 Bob did a transfer from saving to Money Market recently. Some checks still coming in from renewal mailing.

VP Report – We're very solvent – we could have a great party (grin ;-)

Steering Board Chair – We're down to 25 people who get hardcopies of our newsletter. Timeline has 5-6 days for SPEEA to do the mailing. So Dwight just printed the copies and bought postage stamps. Staples charges \$250 to mail 25 copies. Newsletter is still being worked. Dave Westman will work on

Communications – Dave Westman has issues with Mail Chimp has 2 Factor authorization is a Problem! Can't get the code from Walt. We'll need to find a replacement for Walt due to his health condition. Dave Baine will try going to visit

Membership – emailed numbers. 690 members only 57 are not paid through at least 2024. Thanks for making James Ewing an honorary member.

Finance Steve Ellis –most activity is at the end of the year and first of the year.

Social – a cruise is pretty expensive. A down payment is \$2K to reserve the boat and caterer. We could ask members if they'd be interested in a July 4 boat. 3 options on Lake Union with food. We could get just one floor of the boat. Or another day – Lake WA or Puget Sound – cost less, but no fireworks. Meet at Ivars Salmon house – reserve the room free with minimum food purchase. Parking could be a problem – it could be based in Kirkland? Dukes South Lake Union – they have a patio area – there'd be a minimum, then no charge. Parking isn't bad. We could survey members to gauge interest. Start by asking at our next meeting.

Program Dave Watt – he's got programs lined up for investment July 17th.

Service Bluebills Richard Beham was in the hospital and passed away at home shortly after. Maybe we can get another representative to serve as liaison to ERS – Fred Struck? Their membership is declining.

Sunshine Myrv Johansen –John Neller provided a few names of members whose renewal notices came back undeliverable. Donald A. Zeek passed away March, 2025. Added message to the online guest book. Todd Neumann April 2023 passed at age 61. Gary L Gould passed away. Couldn't find a notice for Gery Leadley

Travel John Neller said NBC says memorial day travel was up. Airfares are down. Gas prices are down – maybe not here? More people are driving – real ID requirement now applies to domestic travel

PSARA – Juneteenth celebration June 14 at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, join the opposition to changes by the Trump Administration. See PSARA.org website including the Advocate Newsletter.

Badges Roger Aisaka – still have some new badges. He hasn't updated in a while. Plan to be at our next meeting and make some more new ones.

Regarding Dave Westman's appeal for a replacement for Walt. Seems like it's a struggle to get people to step up to support this organization. Could we get SPEEA staff to help? We could pay them? Updating our membership lists, emailing and updating our website – maybe we could link to the SPEEA site so they wouldn't need to take on the administration of our website.

Insurance & Healthcare - Katrina Jones reported Aetna Medicare Advantage is negotiating with UW, Valley Medical and others for service for network providers. Maybe Matt Kempf would be available to share what he knows at our meeting. Comfort Keepers booklets information - the representative is away for a while.

Food Steve Ellis – speaking for John. If someone wants food delivered email him with time and headcount. Dave Baine will email him.

Communications Website & Gov Docs – already discussed & no further report

SPEEA ERS liason – Dave Baine reported he hasn't seen Ray in quite some time.

SPEEA L&PA Dwight continues to attend meetings

NLRN representative Steve reported they're working hard – it's an uphill battle. Ed Beltram planning meetings in WA DC Sept 15 to Sept 17th. Costs are going up. Do we have enough \$ allocated in the budget? Do we know who's interested & available to go? Steve Ellis is interested and maybe Katrina & Dwight. Dave Baine, Bob & Jessica all expect to be unavailable. Anyone flying will need real ID? NRLN doesn't advocate for strictly progressive issues since they have Republican members they don't want to offend. There are usually issues both sides can agree to. Judy Stenberg is likely going – 3 people in meetings is ideal – more can be a bit much. They wanted us to do an appeal in our spring newsletter. Our members seem unlikely to respond to their appeal. Dave Bain talked to him for about 5 minutes and resisted doing it. We need to tread carefully when things have political overtones.

Steve Ellis suggested when people retire they travel to places they couldn't go to while they're working. People could share lessons learned from their trips. Our members could learn for planning their trips. This could turn them into a participant instead of a observer and increase our membership.

Renewing our IRS tax exempt status?

Adjourned 1:30pm