

## ERS Quarterly Meeting Minutes for December 1, 2011

ERS President Dave Watt called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. in the South Park IAM hall.

**Good of the Society:** There were three new members: Harvey Kriloff, Stan Birch, and Joe Tomlinson. Dave Watt introduced the Society's officers. There were no special announcements.

**Minutes:** Jim Ewing read the minutes of the September 8, 2011, quarterly meeting, which was a Bring a Friend Day. One member of the Society insisted that the September 8 meeting was in fact Ladies Day instead of Bring a Friend Day. Almost everyone in attendance, except the Secretary, then voted to approve the minutes with the correction that the September 8 meeting had been Ladies Day. Later that day, your Secretary examined the ERS newsletters, Steering Board meeting minutes, quarterly meeting minutes, and printed agendas for recent meetings. All of these documents, without exception, supported the Secretary's minutes. The June 2, 2011, quarterly meeting was Ladies Day and Dick Ferguson Day. The September 8, 2011, quarterly meeting was Bring a Friend Day. It appears that at least one member of the Society had a memory lapse. The September 8, 2011, meeting minutes are correct. The September 8 meeting was in fact Bring a Friend Day, as reported by your Secretary.

**President's Report:** Dave Watt reported that he, Romayne Watt, Dwight Rousu, and Judy Stenberg had met with U.S. Representative Jim McDermott to express concerns about the viability of Social Security, Medicare, and our pensions. Dave reported that we were urged to get younger people involved in protecting retiree benefits.

Dave reported that he had been calling members of the Society in order to recruit new committee chairs. Dave also reported that he would like us to have two split-venue meetings per year, preferably in March and September, with video conferencing between the Everett and Tukwila SPEEA halls.

**Vice President's Report:** Dwight Rousu reported that he had attended meetings of the SPEEA northwest and national legislative and public affairs (L&PA) committees. Dwight also reported that he had collected contact information about our meeting attendees to help Dave Watt recruit new officers and committee chairs. Dwight generated a draft 2012 ERS budget with inputs from Ed Stanley.

Dwight reported that he, Dave & Romayne Watt, and Judy Stenberg had met with U.S. Representative Jim McDermott in Seattle to express concerns about pensions, Social Security, and Medicare. Dwight reported that Representative McDermott had been congenial and sympathetic. Dwight wrote that it seems timely for us to contact our representatives to express our concerns about the future of our social contracts such as Social Security and Medicare.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ed Stanley reported that the value of the Society's accounts was \$29,981.51 as of November 30, 2011. Ed also gave us a list of the five organizations which received donations from the Society in 2010.

**Steering Board Chair's Report:** Dave Huntman reported that he had attended a preretirement meeting in Everett that was sponsored by Boeing. Dave reported that he had addressed about 23 people at this meeting and had left forms for those who might want to receive our newsletter.

Dave also reported that he had responded to at least two NRLN Capwiz action requests to provide letters to members of Congress on topics of concern to NRLN. He strongly urged other ERS members to do the same thing.

**Committee and Rep Reports:** Dave Watt reported that the annual NRLN meeting in Washington, D.C., would be held on January 30 through February 1, 2012, and that ERS would send two members to the

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meeting. Dave also told us that the next investment meeting would be January 19, 2012, and that the next quarterly meeting would be March 1, 2012.

Dick Ferguson told us that if Congress did not take action, Medicare payments to doctors would be cut drastically beginning January 1, 2012. Dick also told us that ERS members are welcome to attend the meetings of SPEEA committees, such as the L&PA and Governing Documents committees. We can call the SPEEA office for information on when these committees meet. Ken Frazier told us that the cost of the Boeing Medicare supplement would be reduced for 2012.

Our Badges Chair, Tom Mechler, reported that 37 people were in attendance and asked everyone to sign in or check off his or her name. Our new Membership Chair, John Neller, told us that he had been updating our membership files—something that was hard to do with a broken arm. Gary Palmer asked us to tell him when we learned of good discounts. One member mentioned that Northwest Trek gives seniors a 50% discount on the admission price each September. Someone else said that AAA members receive discounts at many businesses. Another member recommended that we register at [www.groupon.com](http://www.groupon.com) for travel discounts.

Dave Watt told us that Myrv and Joan Johansen would now be cochairs of the Sunshine Committee. Joan said that Alan Simmons and Donald Trussell had recently died. Gary Palmer urged us to take the required minimum distributions from our IRAs and 401(k) plans this month if we are required to do so. Dwight Rousu said that he supported publicly financed elections to eliminate the domination of special-interest groups in politics.

**Unfinished Business:** Dave Huntman told us that breakfast meetings for retirees had been held during November in Everett, Bellevue, and Renton. Of those who attended, about nine had become ERS members. Dave Watt said that the Steering Board had decided to have split-venue quarterly meetings in the Everett and Tukwila SPEEA halls, with video conferencing between the halls, in March and September.

**New Business:** Dave Watt conducted the elections for Vice President, Treasurer, and Steering Board Chair. There was one candidate for each office. Dwight Rousu, Laurel Reiff Svingen, and Dave Huntman were elected as Vice President, Treasurer, and Steering Board Chair, respectively.

The members voted (with one dissent) to give \$50 to each of the following charities: the Seattle Millionaire Club, Northwest Harvest, Meals on Wheels, Renton Food Bank, and Food Lifeline.

Dave Huntman then conducted the drawings for prizes. Jim Ewing and Bob Shirrod each won a \$50 gift card to Anthony's restaurants, while eight other members won poinsettias.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

The next investment meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2012, in the Tukwila SPEEA hall. The next Steering Board meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2012, in the Tukwila SPEEA hall. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2012, in the Everett and Tukwila SPEEA halls with video conferencing.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Ewing, Secretary