

Engineering Retirees Society

ERS Newsletter

Quarterly meeting

Join us for our next all-member quarterly meeting, Thursday, June 4. SPEEA has reserved the SPEEA hall that day for a SPEEA meeting, so we in ERS are planning a noon, ZOOM-only quarterly meeting. Information on the zoom link address should be on our web site, and be emailed to you, as usual. The speaker for the meeting is Jared Adams, from CondieAdams Law Firm, speaking on the topic: "Estate Planning."

(Contingency: If for any timely reason SPEEA cancels their scheduled meeting so the room is available, we may try to return to a hybrid in-person and zoom meeting based at the SPEEA office at 15205 52nd Ave. S, Tukwila, Washington. Light lunch would be planned for 11:35 a.m. at the hall, with our meeting starting at noon. There would also be a Zoom connection available. But plan on the room not being available, so it will be Zoom only.)

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 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. The July 16 speaker and subject are still being planned.

Minutes from the March 5 all-member meeting:

John Meeker, our newly elected ERS president, called the meeting to order at noon. He shared some of his vision for ERS: You worked for your retirement and now we want your retirement to work for you. Our ERS mission is to aid members in protecting and enjoying their retirement with information about applicable state and federal legislation, employee plans, pensions, Medicare and Social Security. We do that at our quarterly and investment meetings and with our newsletter and website providing information. We're also connected with [PSARA.org](https://www.psara.org) and [NLRN.org](https://www.nlrn.org) for grassroots networks to connect with members. John invited any new members or members who haven't attended in a while to introduce themselves. **Jerry Andre, Stanley Lind** and **Ron Smith** introduced themselves.

Guest Speakers: Three ERS members shared travel information and adventures. Corinne Kumano introduced Claudette of [ClaudetteTravels.com](https://www.ClaudetteTravels.com) to speak about the

Vancouver-Seattle one night cruise April 24-25 with Holland America. For the price of a hotel room, the one-way trip includes unlimited meals and entertainment. [see trip report below] Corinne encouraged members to suggest trips that they'd enjoy taking as a group with other ERS members.

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 shared pictures and stories from his trip. He visited Notre Dame in Paris which was recently restored after a devastating fire. He also enjoyed seeing the countryside with many beautiful lakes. His trip unfortunately included a trip to the emergency room and catching COVID on his flight home.

Our ERS past president, **Dave Baine** shared pictures and information about his 2023 cruise to Antarctica. Dave and his wife flew on a brand new 787 to Santiago, Chile, and

just happened to land with a view of the sunrise over the Andes. Then they traveled to the coast to join the Holland America cruise. The route was a 75% circumnavigation of South America with an extension to Antarctica and ending in Buenos Aires. They saw varieties of penguins, seals, whales (including orcas), albatross and glaciers, including glacier alley. The trip was arranged through Travel with Alan based in Lynnwood. Dave recommends them for a good value.

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

Secretary: Jessica Bonebright's December 2025 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

President: John Meeker reported the 2025 ERS financial review has been successfully completed. Our ERS annual filing with the WA Secretary of State is complete. John attended a recent SPEEA retirement seminar and was allowed to speak to the attendees. Ten of them signed up to receive more information about ERS, including a link to our website and a copy of our newsletter.

Treasurer: Bob Ferguson reported remotely from Steamboat Springs. ERS account balances at BECU are savings: \$2,750.77; checking: \$3,444.41; money market: \$30,633.54; three CDs: \$12,279.88 each for total on deposit \$73,668.36. Last year's total was \$72,669.06 on March 6, 2025.

Dues checks are coming in. Bob deposited about half the dues checks that have come in so far. Bob will pay NRLN dues soon. They are based on 674 members at \$3 per member for a total of \$2022.

Finance & Budget: Vice-President **Steve Ellis** reported everything looks good.

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Minutes from the March 5 – all-member meeting - Continued from page 1

Steering Board Activities: Chair **Dwight Rousu** reported the ERS board met and the newsletter went out. (There were timing issues with scheduling a meeting with AARP. We apologize for sending a newsletter out which promised a presentation on fraud and scams, which is now planned to be at our September meeting instead.)

Committee and Rep Reports

Social: Chair **Steve Ellis** said we're still intending to have a social get-together, probably at Ivar's Salmon House on South Lake Union. They have free parking. Participants would pay for their own food and beverage, but there would be a minimum total to reserve the private room. This could be covered by an ERS expense, which is an anticipated contingency in our 2026 budget.

Membership: **John Neller** reported ERS membership count is currently 690. ERS membership renewal notices were recently mailed, and we have received about 500 renewals so far. A second mailing to those who haven't replied will go out in a month or two. After that John will try to contact those who haven't renewed in the last three years. If he gets no response, they'll be dropped.

Program: 'Looong' time Chair **Dave Watt** urged everyone to mark your calendar for upcoming meetings - almost always Thursdays. Dave said the March 19 investment meeting presentation topic was: "Retain your brain". Our speaker, David Thread of Edward Jones Advisors, presented research by neuroscience expert Dr. Marc Milstein. Dave also distributed forms soliciting questions regarding estate planning for our June 4 membership meeting speaker. Dave would like to phase out his service as Program Chair. Members are encouraged to help to identify speakers for future quarterly and investment ERS meetings and/or taking on the position of Program Chair.

Sunshine Committee: Co-chairs **Myrv & Joan Johansen** received notification from SPEEA of six ERS members passing recently.

Stephen H. Lundin passed away May 7, 2025, at the age of 74. They found his obituary in the Klontz Funeral Home

website and in Legacy and added a condolence message: Having recently been notified of Stephen H. Lundin's passing, the membership of (ERS) Engineering Retirees Society posted a message to express their sympathy. They also sent a sympathy card from ERS to his wife Sara. **Harold W. Schultz** passed away Dec. 23, 2025, at the age of 96. They found his obituary in the Emmick Family Funeral Services and the West Seattle Blog websites and sent a sympathy card to his wife, Korene. **Odd Justad** passed away Feb. 1, 2026. They found his listing in the Neptune Society webpage and sent a sympathy card to his wife, Greta. **Kieth M. Kalanquin** passed away Sept. 28, 2025, at the age of 94. They found his information in the Neptune Cremation Service site. He lived in Bonners Ferry, ID. They sent a sympathy card to his wife Arlene. **Vernon A. Redecker's** passing couldn't be found online. ERS sent a sympathy card to his wife Laurel. **Theodore A. Reyhner (Ted)** passed away Oct. 3, 2025. They found his obituary in Legacy.com and the Seattle Times. He was 84 years old. They sent a sympathy card.

Travel Committee: *Cochairs* **John Neller and Corinne Kumano;**

Jumping ahead of the March minutes, and the guest speakers' report mentioned above, to the travel follow up about a special April travel event:

At our March quarterly meeting, Corinne told us about a planned April mini-cruise. A few ERS members, along with Boeing Aerospace Employees Travel Club

(BETC) attended the overnight repositioning cruise on Holland America on April 24-26. Arriving in Vancouver via Amtrak on Thursday early afternoon, the group checked-in to their hotel, met up and did a walking tour of the downtown and Smith Cove Cruise Terminal, visiting a bakery for Nanaimo bars, participating in the "Flying Over Canada" experience, then dining together. The next day, we enjoyed breakfast, then headed over to the terminal at 10:30 a.m. to board the ship.

Once aboard, group members headed for the lunch buffet.

This was a first-time cruise for some guests, who were thrilled to get an early check-in to their rooms, take a tour of the ship, enjoy a buffet lunch, attend a bon voyage celebration on deck, pose for photos, meet for dinner at the fine dining restaurant.

Some guests enjoyed the casino, while others attended the comedy show at the event arena, ventured off to see live music, and some of us took a spin on the dance floor. Some of us enjoyed the hot tub, the casino, the food options throughout the ship, and the live entertainment at various locations on the ship.

The rooms were \$99 plus tax, which included ALL meals and events! No single supplement (the common charge for traveling single, rather than the commonly quoted touring charges for each when traveling with someone else). We plan to offer this event next year to our members.



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Minutes from the March 5 – all-member meeting - Continued from page 2

For more info, and maybe more pictures, contact: John Neller, bikenstein@myctd.net or Corine.kumano@gmail.com and/or Claudette@ClaudetteTravels.com.

Now, back to the minutes:

Insurance and Healthcare: Chair **Katrina Jones** reported some Boeing retirees have received notification that their personal information was compromised by a data breach. Emails are sometimes a scam but if you receive notification by mail, free credit monitoring service may be provided and an 800 number for more information.

Governing Documents: **Katrina Jones** (no report)

Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action (PSARA): **Jessica Bonebright** reported PSARA has an active south end group that meets monthly, surprisingly at the Southend Coop in Tacoma. PSARA's monthly newsletter, *The Retiree ADVOCATE*, just came out and includes a great article about Social Security by a leader of the union representing workers at Social Security offices about the staffing cuts and the push to reduce retiree visits to social security offices by 50% this year by telling people their issues can be addressed online. Check for other presentations in the Advocate and look for upcoming events at www.PSARA.org. Please consider joining to support PSARA issues –membership is only \$20/year, and the newsletter can be reached for free online.

Badges: **John Neller** filled in for **Roger Aisaka** and encouraged everyone to sign in, especially newbees. Temporary badge stickers are available for anyone who doesn't

have a printed badge.

Refreshments: **John Meeker** (Yep, he's still bringing food). He reported we're trying Costco sandwiches this month and will probably alternate with pizza for future meetings. He encouraged people to let him know their preferences.

Communications & Web Site: Chair **Dave Showalter:** **John Meeker** has been working with **Dave Showalter** and his backup **Katrina Jones**. They are taking over from **Dave Westman** who provided many years of great service to ERS in the role and has moved out of the area but continues to support their work. Dave (S) is working on issues with Mailchimp, especially related to people who 'unsubscribe.'

Ad Hoc (but really effectively permanent) Committee Reports

SPEEA Liaison: **Dave Baine** - No report

NRLN Liaison: **Steve Ellis** - No report

Legislative & Public Affairs (L&PA) and NRLN: **Dwight Rousu** encouraged everyone to visit www.NLRN.org for more information on their work.

Specific issues include Medicare Advantage plans dropped coverage for three million people. Those affected need to know their Guaranteed Issue Right, GIR, protecting them from being denied or overcharged when they switch coverage, especially if they have pre-existing conditions.

NLRN continues its work in opposition to the "WISER" pilot project requiring prior authorization that uses private for-profit companies and artificial intelligence for some procedures under Traditional

Medicare. Also, they are opposing issues related to hearing aid coverage and pension protections under "ERISA."

If you're concerned about how things are going in our federal government, Dwight encourages you to contact and get involved in your local party organization. He will be a delegate to the WA State Democratic Party Convention this year, and you also can promote your ideas and inputs and policies.

Nominating/Elections: **Steve Ellis** reported ERS has five officers elected to staggered, two-year terms. Elections for president and secretary will be held at our December 2026 meeting. At our December 2025 meeting, **John Meeker** was elected for the remaining year of **Dave Baine's** term as president after he resigned from the position.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Gov Docs: None

SPEEA Liaison: None

Upcoming meetings: Thursday, June 4, is our next quarterly membership meeting starting at noon for Zoom participants and at 11:30 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 meetings are May 21 and July 16.

The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Jessica Bonebright, secretary

Editor's Corner

There is no shortage of topics affecting the current generation and future generations in this political moment. This moment seems at times to be a rapid collapse of democracy and of peace in our country.

Climate deterioration and overpopulation affect us all. Attacks on Social Security and Medicare and medical science are a particular threat for us seniors and to our kids as they age. National near monopolies of the

"news" media have shielded much incriminating political news from the public. The super rich buy elections.

We need to protect the media and protect democracy if we are to avoid further negative spiraling. We should support independent news that gets the truth out and support and vote for candidates who will work to fix democracy.

The Retiree Advocate is a good local example. FAIR, Reader Supported News, The Guardian, TruthOut, Al Jazeera and Meidastouch all can fill in where FOX leaves big foxholes. Being informed, we should also be sure to be registered and to vote. Our retirement will be better for it.

Dwight Rousu

President's corner

Doris Goodwin wrote *The Bully Pulpit* about **Teddy Roosevelt** and his efforts at reform. On the conditions over 100 years ago, she wrote "The gap between rich and poor has never been wider...legislative stalemate paralyzes the country...corporations resist federal regulations...spectacular mergers produce giant companies...the influence of money in politics deepens...bombs explode in crowded streets...small wars proliferate far from our shores...a dizzying array of inventions speeds the pace of daily life." These unnervingly familiar headlines should serve as motivation to shed our laissez-faire attitude toward robber barons, corrupt politicians, and corporate exploiters.

John Meeker Please feel free to contact me at 206-225-4925 or johnmeeker@comcast.net.

On the lighter side:

I went to the paint store to get thinner, but it didn't work.

Wanted: Someone to brush my teeth with; 9 of 10 say brushing alone will not prevent tooth decay.

I told my wife to embrace her mistakes. She gave me a hug.

I think my wife is showing the first signs of dementia. She says she cannot remember what she saw in me.

I just sold my homing pigeon on eBay for the 22nd time.

Before we worry about artificial intelligence, why don't we do something about natural stupidity?

One day you will find someone who is obsessed with you. It's probably going to be a dog. But it is what it is.

If I choke to death on Gummy Bears, I hope people just say I was killed by bears.

Spring is here!!! I'm so excited, I wet my plants.

Treat your mom to a margarita; you are probably the reason she drinks.

A good woman is by your side to tell you that none of this would've happened if you had just listened to her.

I tried to remarry my ex-wife, but she figured out I was only out for my money.

Me: I just had my physical, and the doctor said I'm a beast! Wife: No she said you're obese!

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
 Travel..... Neller / Corrine Kumano

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

ERS SPEEA contact: Carissa Xayasensouk

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