

Peralta Retirees Organization (PRO)
Board Meeting, February 1, 2006
PFT Conference Room

Board Officers: Jerry Herman, President, Bruce Jacobs, Vice-President, Shirley Timm, Treasurer, Juanita Peterson, Secretary

Board Members: George Herring, Pat England, Sondra Neiman, Ned Pearlstein, Alex Pappas

Absent: Remo Arancio, Phyllis Jones

The meeting was called to order at 12:40 pm.

Treasurer's Report: Shirley reported a balance of \$7579.13 as of January 31, 2006. She provided an estimated income of \$8000 for the 2006 fiscal year ending September 31. In addition, Shirley estimates \$6100 will be needed for expenses which includes incorporation fees, office supplies, postal box, stamps, printing, web site, donations, and a reserve fund. Shirley further indicated that the information for incorporation is being sent to the State Franchise Tax Board. Clearance for non-profit status should come in about 90 days.

MSU (Pat, Ned) to approve the Treasurer's report.

MSU (Shirley, George) to approve the Secretary's report.

Newsletter/Website: The Newsletter has grown to 8 pages. Bruce reported that 590 of the January – March issue of the Newsletter were mailed with only 30 being returned so far. Features of the expanded Newsletter are Letters to the Editor, an Opt Ed column, and the Travel Exchange column. Bruce appealed for suggestions of articles for coming issues. Pat suggested the Boston Globe article on Medical/Medicaid be printed; George suggested an article on living trusts; Jerry believes a list of attorneys conversant on estate planning could be included; Sondra suggested space for responses to letters to the Editor, and Alex thinks an article on long-term care would be helpful to many retirees.

Jerry reported that he has received many good comments on the Newsletter.

President's Report: The article Jerry wrote for the Newsletter about the PCCD bonds has been sent out broadly to other papers and sites. George gave out an article on the bonds issued by the Peralta Community College District. The bonds carry an AA rating by Standard & Poor, are State of California tax-exempt, but taxable by the federal government.

Jerry suggested that the Board set a membership goal of 400. There are currently 254 paid members. The question of providing incentives to join PRO was raised. The main purposes of PRO of safeguarding health benefits and providing services to retirees serve as incentives. Bruce questioned accumulating more in the Treasury than expenses, except perhaps for a legal fund. The question arose about issuing membership cards, followed by suggestions of listing incentives to join on the card back, such as, a

calendar, discounts at selected businesses. Jerry will appoint a committee to investigate possibilities for issuing cards and possible incentives to join.

Membership: To increase membership, George is assisted by L. Baysdorfer, J. Merrill, W. Allen, and A. Whitehead, among others, making calls to retirees who have yet to join. He has a list from Jennifer Seibert of those retiring in 2005; they will be contacted.

Ned requested that life-time memberships be a discussion item on the next meeting agenda.

Social Committee: Sondra reported that committee members have been sick, the next meeting will be on February 3rd. Several committee members will report on progress with obtaining tutors for the colleges. It was suggested that the committee work with departments to assess the use and needs of tutors. The Committee is also working on their “no-bake” sale project to gather funds for small scholarships. Sondra said the Committee appreciated the notice given them in the Jan-Mar Newsletter.

Benefits: According to Alex, the complaints concerning the transfer from Blue Cross (BC) to CoreSource (CS) have decreased by 90%. He credits this to Jennifer Seibert doing a good job. Most problems come from CS not providing equivalent coverage to the coverage provided by (BC). An example: in one instance CS would not cover a second heart condition treatment because Medicare will only pay for one administration of the treatment. CS delayed agreeing to pay for the treatment for over six weeks. On the other hand, BC SPD requires that requests and decisions be made 72 hours prior to a procedure. Jerry, Bruce, and Alex will serve on a committee which will send a letter to Jennifer Seibert suggesting she send a letter to CS instructing them that CS must provide coverage for retirees that is equivalent to the BC coverage that it replaced. Another example, CS wanted a \$25 co-pay for a routine exam, but this problem has been resolved (ref. PRO meeting minutes of January 4, 2006).

Meeting Time: Jerry has received suggestions that the meeting time be changed to earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon. After discussion, the consensus was to leave the meeting time just the same at 12:30 pm. Jerry will discuss the meeting time with Phyllis and Remo.

Budget Plans: To encourage retirees to be members, Sondra suggested that members pay half price for some of the social events. Ned suggested that each member bring to the next meeting three things to spend money on. With time running short, budget planning was tabled for the next meeting.

Jerry will bring the ballots of the last election to be filed as part of the record.

Next meeting: MARCH 1, 2006, 12:30 to 3:00 pm

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 2:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Juanita Peterson, Secretary