

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

Board Officers: Bruce Jacobs, Vice-President

Absent: Jerry Herman, President, Shirley Timm, Treasurer, Juanita Peterson, Secretary

Board Members: Remo Arancio, Pat England, Sondra Neiman, Alex Pappas, Ned Pearlstein

Absent: George Herring, Phyllis Jones

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Bruce Jacobs at 12:30 PM.

The agenda was approved and the minutes of the February 1, 2006 meeting were unanimously approved with no corrections or changes.

Benefits Committee Report: Alex and Bruce reported on the February 15 PCCD Benefits Committee Meeting and on the letter written by Jerry Herman to Jennifer Seibert about problems with CoreSource payments. The main thrust of the letter was to ask Jennifer to inform CoreSource that their primary responsibility vis-a-vis the retirees is to make sure that benefits remain the same as they were under Blue Cross. Bruce explained that, at the meeting, the District informed us that there has been a change in the broker company. The new broker is PSW Benefit Resources.

As a result of the change in brokers, the Mybenergy web site is no longer functional. PSW is developing a new website containing benefit information. The website is currently under construction. Therefore, all inquiries about benefits need to be directed to Jennifer Seibert at the District Office. Also, PSW has identified up to 37 errors in the CoreSource SPD, many of which are minor and do not affect benefit levels. However, some of the errors are more significant and PSW staff is working on correcting the SPD. Further, at the meeting it came out that there was no definitive SPD version from Blue Cross with evidence of the required approvals. Thus, there is no standard document that the District can use to assure that benefits are identical to those paid by Blue Cross. As a result of this, the District will have to rely on past precedent when conflicts arise.

The PWS people also said there were still a large number of over-65 retirees who have yet to sign up for Medicare and that letters will be sent out to these retirees. Both Bruce and Alex expressed skepticism that letters would have much impact. They suggested either a District sponsored lunch and/or telephone contact. The District agreed to sponsor a lunch, but then did not follow up.

Bruce discussed the District's agreement to pay for orthotics (the term orthotics refers to any device used to support or correct a damaged body part). The District has agreed to pay 100% for network and 80% of usual & customary for out-of-network to a maximum benefit of \$2000 per year. Bruce expressed concerns about the language since the \$2000 limit would be inadequate for many orthotic devices, and concern about the \$2000 limit because of long-term inflationary affects. He said that his understanding was that Blue Cross paid for whatever was prescribed by one's physician at the

network/non-network rates. **Alex agreed to follow-up on these points with the Health Benefits Committee and with the PFT in order to clarify these issues with Jennifer Seibert.**

Proposed Uses for “Excess” Dues: Alex said we should aim for several thousands in reserves for contingencies such as the need for legal assistance. But, as well, we should use some of our funds for various support and social measures.

MSU (Ned, Pat) A \$500 scholarship per college per year be awarded by a PRO member at graduation, the recipient to be selected by the academic senate of each college.

Lifetime Membership: Ned proposed \$100 lifetime membership in PRO. Alex suggested something between \$300 and \$400. Remo made the (original) motion of \$20 for one year dues; \$35 for two years; \$45 for three years. Ned made an amendment motion of \$20 for one year dues; \$80 for three years; and \$250 for life membership. Further amendments by Alex and Remo offered \$80 for three years.

MSU (Remo, Pat) dues for membership in PRO shall be \$20 for one year; \$55 for three years; \$80 for five years; \$250 for lifetime.

Newsletter Report and Assignments: Bruce asked for articles for the Newsletter.

- (a) needed is an article describing the coverage Kaiser provides for those traveling in areas without a Kaiser facility or for travel abroad;
- (b) **Bruce will do** an article on the PCCD change of benefits broker, orthodontics, website for benefits on line, etc..
- (c) **Alex will do** an article on long-term care.

Social Events: Discussion of what type of event and when led to a choice of having a picnic or theater event at the beginning of June. **The Social Committee is to come up with the details for implementation.**

Policy on PRO charitable contributions: It was decided to make mention of Don Peterson’s passing in the PRO newsletter and indicate the help he had provided PRO in creating the data base of retirees. It will also contain information on possible contributions that can be made to Hayward State University scholarship fund in his honor. In addition, a resolution was approved by the Board to send condolences to Juanita Peterson and recognize his contribution to PRO.

Next was a discussion on Service Committee and Social Committee concerning fund raising. **Sondra Neiman and Pat England** will work on possibility of having a NO bake sale, i.e., bring money instead of cakes!

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Alex Pappas, Scribe