

Peralta Retirees Organization (PRO)  
Board Meeting, October 10, 2007  
PFT Conference Room

**Present:** Jerry Herman, President, Bruce Jacobs, Vice-President, Juanita Peterson, Secretary

**Absent:** Shirley Timm, Treasurer

**Board Members:** Remo Arancio, Pat England, Linda Japzon, Odell Johnson, Sondra Neiman, Ned Pearlstein

**Absent:** Alex Pappas

**Guest:** Jay Quesada, Social Committee Co-Chair, Debbie Weintraub, PFT President

Jerry called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

**Secretary's Report:** Juanita distributed the minutes of the September 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting on which corrections received had been made.

**MSU (Remo, Ned) approval of the minutes as presented.**

Due to Shirley's absence, there was no Treasurer's Report. Bruce will pay the publishers of the Newsletter and request reimbursement when Shirley returns.

**Newsletter Report:** Bruce announced that the Website has been updated. He will post the latest Newsletter, July-September, 2007 issue, on the Website.

**President's Report:** Jerry shared a picture taken on the cruise trip from which he had recently returned.

Jerry reported that he had received an email response to PRO's SPD concerns on September 30<sup>th</sup> and a hard copy response from Tom Smith on October 4<sup>th</sup> (a copy was emailed to each Board member). Ned asked about the 30 mile-50 mile radius question and was told that there was a provision in the PFT contract, and not in the SPD, namely that the patient can ask Blue Cross to identify an out-of-network provider within the 50 mile radius and that Blue Cross would then agree to pay 100% of the bill. The District's 30 mile provision is a slightly different benefit and is in the SPD.

As a result of PRO's documentation to the District, they have agreed to return to the non-emergency use of the emergency room that existed under Blue Cross, namely a \$25 co-pay in the SPD, the District had changed this to 80% of customary and usual. This could potentially represent a huge difference to the retiree. Bruce cautions that changes should be in writing since 10 years from now there won't be people around who negotiated the changes or necessarily remember what benefits were in force under the Blue Cross contracts prior to 1974.

Ned questioned the letter about life-time coverage and the current amount stated. No one knows what the balance is for anyone and if major surgery is required, would there be enough to pay for it? He suggested that perhaps there should be a COLA clause. At retirement, the life-time benefit was \$1 million, now it has been changed from \$2 million by CS and then to \$3 million by the District. Jerry will ask the District for an annual letter that would let the retiree know how much is left in each covered person's lifetime benefit. He will also ask the District to clarify if benefits received from Medicare count toward the lifetime maximum. He will check with Michael Mills, who is currently away.

Jerry appointed Remo to Chair the Benefits Committee in Alex's absence. The current PRO Benefits Committee members are Alex, Remo, Jerry, Bruce, S. Nedham, Ned, and C. Rezendez.

**Social Committee Report:** Linda proposed that a trio be hired for music during the social hour before the lunch at the Membership Meeting. She and Jay had investigated other possibilities, but the Ben Luis Trio for \$300 seemed a good choice.

**MSC (Linda, Pat)** to engage the Ben Luis Trio for social hour at the Membership Meeting.

Jay said that there will be table clothes and napkins provided and the food will be served buffet with the choices given at the last meeting.

Jerry will give Linda the number of those attending as soon as the number has been determined.

**Benefits Committee Report:** The PRO Board had recommended that we retain Bob Bezemek as the PRO attorney. Earlier Bob Bezemek raised concern that there may be conflict of interest since he also is retained by the PFT. Bezemek has now indicated that because of a potential conflict of interest he will not be able to represent PRO. Bezemek has agreed to be speaker for the Membership Luncheon Meeting and has asked what we would like him to speak about. It was decided that he should speak about retirement contracts and what can be done to support and maintain the benefits. Bruce suggested that PRO ask Bezemek for a recommendation for an alternative attorney.

**MSU (Ned, Remo)** to authorize Jerry and Bruce to look for an attorney to represent PRO.

**Service Committee Report:** Sondra has spoken to the Warehouse people about receiving the books from the book drive that will take place at the Membership Meeting. The Warehouse must receive the books by 3 pm, therefore, the books will be taken the next day after the Lunch. Ned suggested that other people be given the opportunity to purchase some of the books for \$1 and give the proceeds to the Libraries. However, this would require extra handling and Merritt College is the only library willing to receive books. Sondra asked that Jerry or the Social Committee request that a table be reserved at Wedgwood for the book drive.

One of the scholarship recipients, Lisa Sutton, will be invited to the lunch. Jerry said that other invited guests will be Debbie Weintraub and the Speaker.

**Membership Meeting Agenda:**

Greetings and Introductions: Jerry  
Speaker

**Business Meeting:**

President's Report, Jerry.  
Secretary's Report, Juanita  
Treasurer's Report, Shirley  
Newsletter Editor/Web Master: Bruce

**Membership Committee Report:** Odell will mail a membership letter and application to the 40 new retirees. This will be done by October 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Debbie Weintraub** told the Board that the CFT is supporting Sandy Keaton's run to be on the CSTRS Board. She also said that the PFT is contributing \$15,000 towards raising \$5 million for media in support of the Community College Initiative which would assure stable funding and stable tuition for community colleges as well as assure that they continue under local governing boards.

**Old Business:** Tabled until the December meeting were: Use of PRO funds, Insurance liability, and Non-profit advocacy policy.

**New Business:**

Board elections: In 2005, Alex, Sondra, Pat, and Odell were elected for two years. As Board nominees, they will be presented for election at the Membership Meeting along with nominations from the floor. Bruce suggested that the ballot be used to authenticate votes of paid members and to solicit paid memberships when they are mailed out. There were no objections to Bruce's suggestion.

MSU (Remo, Pat) to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM.

(Note: During the meeting, labels and stamps were applied to the Newsletter for mailing.)

Respectfully submitted,  
Juanita Peterson, PRO Secretary

**NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 8, 11:00 AM – 3 PM**

**WEDGWOOD BANQUET CENTER, METROPOLITAN GOLF LINKS, OAKLAND**