

Peralta Retirees Organization
Minutes
December 5, 2007

Present: Jerry Herman, President; Bruce Jacobs, Vice-President; Shirley Timm, Treasurer; Remo Arancio; Pat England; Odell Johnson; Sondra Neiman; Ned Pearlstein
Absent: Linda Japzon; Alex Pappas, Juanita Peterson

Jerry convened the meeting at 1:10. Bruce Jacobs agreed to record minutes in Juanita Peterson's absence.

President's Report

Jerry provided an update on the medical condition of two of the absent Board members, Juanita Peterson and Linda Japzon. Jerry spoke with Juanita's son who indicated that it might be best for Juanita to step down as secretary. Jerry said he will speak with Juanita to determine whether she wishes to continue to serve. In any case she will require multiple months for a recovery from an accident in which she broke a pelvic bone. Linda is at home but needs to be resting.

Treasurer's Report

Current balance is \$18,570.05. All bills are currently paid.

January Meeting Date

The Board agreed to reschedule the January meeting to January 9 since the regular meeting falls on January 2 and many people will be unavailable because of the New Year's Holiday.

Newsletter Report

Bruce indicated that the deadline for the Jan-March 2008 newsletter will be December 27. Potential articles include:

- President's report
- Summary and Status of CoreSource SPD changes—report on meeting with PCCD Trustee Gulassa
- Prop 92
- Photos from luncheon
- Report on shingles survey
- Info on scholarship fund/form for contributing
- First person narrative by Jerry H.
- Publicity for planned event
- Election of Board members

Social Event

There was a consensus on the Board that we try to do an event between mid February and the end of March. Ideas included lunch at Culinary Institute on Treasure Island, concert at Yoshi's, a theater event at Berkeley Rep, Aurora or other venue, or an other musical event. Pat and Odell agreed to work with Jay and Linda on finding an appropriate

activity. Bruce will research the Treasure Island possibility. Decision will be made by email before the newsletter deadline.

Service Committee

Sondra reported that eight boxes of books were collected at the Membership Meeting in November. All were delivered to the Merritt Library and a letter of thanks was received from Eva Chinn, Merritt librarian. The Committee met on November 29. There is currently a balance of \$2475 in the scholarship fund. In addition \$750 that was allocated to college libraries remains unspent. The Board agreed that the college libraries be given a near term deadline for spending the funds; if they decided they did not want/need the funds the Board agreed that the money would be added to the scholarship fund. Sondra will contact the librarians. After a discussion, the Board agreed to set the amount of the 2008 scholarships at the January Board meeting. The Board also indicated its intention to again contribute \$2000 to the scholarship fund for this year, although no formal vote was taken.

Benefits Committee

Bruce and Jerry reported on their meeting with PCCD Trustee Cy Gulassa in which they asked for his help in resolving the outstanding issues between PRO and the District concerning changes in the CoreSource SPD. Both felt that the meeting was a success and that Trustee Gulassa would be an advocate for PRO's position. He promised to get back to PRO leaders shortly.

Ned reported on a problem he had in filling a prescription and said that he found contacting PSW, the District's broker, helpful in resolving the issue to his satisfaction. He recommended publishing their phone number in the newsletter as a place where PRO members can get help. He also said that PSW personnel communicated with Jennifer Seibert when getting the issue resolved. Ned also indicated that he felt that the District was trying to move away from covering preventive care by, for example, refusing to cover immunization separate from the \$250 routine care provision of the SPD.

Jerry verified that Kaiser members who retired prior to July 1, 2004 did not have to enroll in Senior Advantage even if they enrolled in Medicare.

Remo inquired about benefits issues that he had been helping to resolve for a retiree living out of state. Jerry reported that as far as he knew the issues had been resolved to the retiree's satisfaction.

Membership Committee

Odell reported that he had sent out 100 copies of the second letter with the membership application included. Both he and Jerry reported that there had not been much response. During the discussion the Board recommended telephoning people who did not respond. Odell will prepare a telephone list and Board members agreed to make some phone calls. Ned agreed to assist Odell.

Ned also suggested that the Board hold some Board meetings on the campuses in the spring and invite potential retirees to a social hour before the meeting. Jerry agreed to take up Ned's suggestion at the January meeting.

Old Business

Jerry asked the Board whether a formal election for vacant Board seat was necessary given that the number of nominees is equal to the number of empty seats. The Board passed a resolution to the effect that "a ballot should be included in the next newsletter so that members could vote to approve or disapprove if they wanted to" (M, Remo; S, Pat; Unanimous).

Liability Insurance

Jerry reported that he had received advice that PRO should have liability insurance in case of a lawsuit either because someone was injured at a PRO event or someone felt that PRO had provided advice or information that had resulted in a financial loss. He has spoken with an insurance agent who estimated that it would cost about \$1300 annually for \$1 million of coverage. Pat suggested that the liability could be eliminated by printing disclaimer notices in the PRO newsletter saying basically that attending a PRO event means waving your right to sue PRO. Ned asked what the deductible would be on a \$1 million policy. Jerry said he did not have that info. Other issues discussed were individual Board member's liability. Mac indicated that she thought as directors of a corporation, Board members did not have individual liability absent negligence. She agreed to review the by-laws to verify that. Jerry pointed out that if individual Board members did not have personal liability the only assets vulnerable in a lawsuit were PRO's treasury which amounts to less than \$20,000. \$1300 a year to protect such a small amount seemed unnecessary. Jerry agreed to do further research and the issue was tabled until the January meeting. Bruce suggested a consultation with PRO's attorney about language that could be included in the newsletter that would eliminate PRO's liability, Remo reiterated his concern about individual Board member's liability.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Submitted by Bruce Jacobs, Acting Secretary