

PRO Meeting
March 13, 2013

Jerry called the meeting to order at 1:06PM.

PRESENT: Jay Quesada, Anna Pavelko-Lodata, Pat England, Bruce Jacobs, Jerry Herman, Yvonne Lewis, Remo Arancio and Ann Whitehead.

ABSENT: Alex Pappas, Linda Japzon, and Debby Weintraub.

GUESTS: Meredith Brown, Ned Pearlstein, Matt Goldstein, Karen Anderson and Dianna Lara.

During the opening hour of this meeting, Jerry introduced the recently elected PCCD trustee, Meredith Brown. Meredith began her commentary with a description of her educational background as well as that of her immediate family. Meredith is from Texas and she, a trained lawyer, currently practices in her own firm.

Following introductions to all PRO Board members present, Jerry described the history and purpose of the 7-year old PRO organization. Initially, Jerry emphasized that PRO has always maintained a thoroughly cooperative relationship with PCCD. Jerry clarified that the total number of retirees reaches about 800, with 400 of those being dues-paying PRO members. Jerry defined the principle goals of this organization as those of maintaining lifetime medical benefits for retirees who were hired prior to July 1, 2004, and providing scholarships to all four Peralta campuses annually. Thus far, PRO has provided approximately \$25,000.00 in scholarships.

PRO's website (peraltaretirees.org), maintained by Bruce Jacobs, provides timely information regarding MEDICARE as well as an entire archive of PRO meeting-minutes and PRO

newsletters. Jerry explained that PRO meets once per month and publishes its newsletter four times annually. In addition, Jerry identified PRO as the most active community college retiree organization in the entire State.

During the latter part of this opportunity to share PRO's history and objectives with Meredith, Jerry focused on interesting commentary regarding the current different discourses between Public Service Workers and those of the Private Sector..... fundamentally speaking, it is easier for arguments to mount against the Public sector during strained economic circumstances than toward regulations impacting the Private sector. Meredith Brown revealed clear awareness of the economic challenges faced by community colleges. Jerry spent time introducing the status of Peralta's bonds purchased originally for the protection of retiree medical benefits.....currently referred to as OPEB,i.e. Other Post Employment Benefits.

Jerry explained the complexities of the bond-history and pointed out that the bonds are now performing more positively.

At 2:00PM Trustee Brown had to depart and the PRO Board warmly thanked her for coming to its meeting.

Secretary's Report: Yvonne moved for approval, seconded by Pat.
MSU

Treasurer's Report: Anna stated that the current bank balance is \$23,842.88 and she shared that PRO's recent lunch expense was \$35.84. Anna also told the board that 11 checks were received for the cancelled Bistro Wellness lunch and that those checks are either shredded or returned. Bruce indicated that additional PRO dues had come in recently through the PayPal

links on the website..

Social Report: Jay indicated the following kinds of events PRO may want to pursue:

- A series of fine-dining outings..
- Garden party at Shirley Connor's home.
- At district, a "wellness" lecture.
- An Altarima theatre event.

The Board decided to sponsor a garden party with a fashion show at Shirley Connor's home on Sat. May 18 or Sun. May 19.

Service Report: Yvonne established recent contact with each of the campus coordinators and thus has readied each campus for the upcoming scholarship awards.

Bruce suggested that PRO make the final decisions, with the college committee screening down to 2-3 applicants. His idea was to have four pairs of PRO Board members, each responsible for the final decision at one college. The PRO Board accepted that recommendation and the following Board members volunteered to serve: Bruce, Pat, Jerry, Anna, Remo with Yvonne as backup if needed. Jerry agreed to ask Alex and Debby to serve as well

Yvonne agreed to check the balance in the scholarship fund to ascertain if there are sufficient funds for this year's scholarships.

Benefits Committee: Bruce reported that Jennifer is circulating a 32 page document and asking for feedback. The timeline for feedback is very short and Bruce indicated that he would not have time to review it before her deadline.

Membership Report: Jay indicated that she has been sending out applications as she becomes aware of people who have

retired and not joined PRO. Bruce indicated that he is working with the PFT to do one or more retirement planning workshops in April and that should generate some names of people who are considering retiring.

New Business:

CALPERS Long Term Care: Guest Karen Anderson asked if the PRO Board had any information about the recent 85% increase in the cost of CALPERS LTC, (long term care). Bruce indicated that he had pursued the possibility of a class action lawsuit against PERS when this happened a few years ago but was advised that it was not a winnable action. Bruce agreed to have an article in the next PRO newsletter about the increase as well as the sense of betrayal that is widespread among people who enrolled in the program.

Email List: Bruce suggested that PRO move to an online email service. He volunteered to research those that are available. Pat moved, seconded by Anna, that Bruce be authorized to decide the best service for PRO and thus enroll in it using his discretion as to committing PRO to an expenditure for the service.

Several dates were established for upcoming events:

April 3	next PRO meeting
May 22	May's PRO meeting
May 18 OR 19	next Garden Party at Shirley Connor's home combined with a fashion show.

Jerry adjourned the meeting at 3:15PM.