

PRO Board Meeting
PFT Conference Room
February 1, 2005

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

Board: Remo Arancio, George Herring, Phyllis Jones, Ed Minasian, Shirley Nedham, George Pacheco, Alex Pappas

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Herman at 1:10 pm with a self introduction by each member.

Treasurer's Report (as of 2/01/05):

PRO has 282 paid members.

Balance \$4638.29

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditures</u>	
Dues	\$5680.00	Office supplies	\$241.15
Lunch 11/10/04	848.75	Postage	602.79
Donations	110.00	Printing	128.58
PCCD 40 th (12/01/04)	100.00	Lunch	831.25
		Bank charges	27.60
		PCCD 40 th	250.00
		Misc.	19.09
Total	\$6738.75	Total	\$2100.46

Shirley reported receiving a letter from Jeanette Dorsey concerning document requirement for Medicare reimbursements for 2005. The document required is:

A Xerox copy of the notice from Social Security "YOUR NEW BENEFIT AMOUNT".

This verifies the amount deducted from the retiree's Social Security check for Medicare and supports the District reimbursement for auditing purposes.

The alternative documentation is the NOTICE OF MEDICARE PREMIUM PAYMENT DUE. This document is required along with a copy of the check, money order, or charge slip.

Shirley discussed requirements for non-profit status for PRO. Organizations with less than \$5,000 are considered non-profit. PRO fit that requirement for 2004. To be exempt from paying taxes, PRO must meet 501C requirements. To qualify for reduced postage, PRO must incorporate with the State under articles of incorporation for non-profits. Shirley is pursuing this option.

Newsletter Editor/Web Site Report

Bruce reported that two newsletters have been produced, put on the Website, and mailed to paid members. He has received many comments and compliments on both the Newsletter and the Website. More news is coming for the next Newsletter than there is space for it. Getting the Newsletter camera ready for production is no problem. Distribution, however, needs discussion. Volunteers are needed to apply labels and stamps for future mailings. About 20 of the 150 members requested USMail. With no feedback on how many members read the Newsletter on the Website, we don't know how many members are receiving the information it contains.

M/S/C[10-1](Bruce, Remo) That the Newsletter be sent to all members by USMail with an email notice to those with email that the Newsletter is available on line, including back copies.

Jerry's concern is monetary since it costs about \$1.00 per Newsletter to produce and mail. Remo suggested members who want hardcopies be assessed an addition \$5 to cover mailing for those without email. Shirley Nedham suggested any additional charges be given as an option beginning in 2006.

Alex sees the need for more information to define our groups (email/USMail). Bruce wants to do a survey requesting information for the Website and for the Newsletter. George H. wants more effort in reaching out to retirees not yet members and suggested including the survey with the Newsletter mail out.

M/S/U(Alex, George H.) To pay Bruce for the postage for the survey and Newsletter.

President's Report

Jerry has received many expressions of thanks for PRO. Accomplishments to date are a meeting on June 23rd at the District with luncheon before, a website (many compliments to Bruce), a bank account, a PO Box, officers, election of officers, a public profile of sorts.

PRO has a good working relationship with the PFT. SEIU seems not so happy with PRO's visibility, the concern being possible future negotiation problems. A suggestion was made to pay PFT for use of their meeting room, even if only a nominal amount.

Discussion followed concerning PRO's independence of and relationship with the District.

Alex: Each retiree has a contract with the District through PFT. Therefore, PRO has no right to negotiate with the District for any benefits. This needs to be reflected in PRO's Constitution.

Remo: However, when Blue Cross went to CoreSource, some PRO members intervened to maintain the original benefits. We must not lose the right to advocate.

Bruce: PRO has no negotiation standing in law.

Jerry suggested a committee meet with Bob Bezemek in the next month or so to obtain solid information. We have a public face other than with retirees since PRO was recognized at the PCCD 40th Anniversary Dinner in December.

M/S/U(Bruce, George H.) To authorize money to meet with Bob Bezemek with an amendment add for Jerry to name three delegates for this meeting.

Jerry named Alex, Bruce to meet with Bezemek with Phyllis as alternate whenever Bruce or Alex is not able to make the meeting.

Future of PRO

First and most important, PRO must preserve and protect benefits. PRO should actively form liaisons with other organizations. Concerns were expressed about having a formal relation with PCCD. But, since PCCD has information we don't have, we need a conduit for information exchange. A need for a retiree to be on the PCCD Benefit Committee, at least as an observer, was expressed. Since PRO and the District have common interest in cost containment, PRO could help by encouraging retirees to enroll in Medicare which saves money for the District. On the other hand, existing benefits should be preserved, such as retirees having the option of obtaining medications from their pharmacist or by mail. CoreSource has a 200 day contract with PCCD. For February, Jeanette Dorsey will be the representative at the District for CoreSource concerns. (I missed the info about Karen Anderson)

Concerning relationships with the PCCD Board, the consensus was for Jerry and Bruce to speak for PRO. The remaining officers and members of the Board should cultivate friendly relationships with the PCCD Board, be observers, and watch how they vote on benefits.

Concerning relations with unions, it was suggested that Jerry and/or Bruce meet with the executive boards of PFT, SEIU, and 39 as a courtesy to provide them with inform.

George P urged all to become members of CRTA (California Retired Teachers Association) and that CRTA be noted in the Newsletter and have a link on the Website.

Proposed Committees

The following committee appointments were made. Calls for other retirees also to join a committee will be included in the Newsletter and survey letter. President Jerry Herman is a member of every committee.

Benefits Remo Aranco, Phillis Jones, Shirley Nedham, Alex Pappas, Ned Pearlstein, Amey Stone

Membership/Phone Tree George Herring, Juanita Peterson

Social Ralph Hohl, Ralph Marinaro, Ed Minasian

Program Helen Bersie

Service/Sunshine Ed Minasian

Legislative Education Bruce Jacobs, George Pacheco

The meeting adjourned shortly after 3:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Peterson, Secretary