

Peralta Retirees Organization (PRO)

Board Meeting, January 10, 2007
PFT Conference Room

Present: Jerry Herman, President, Juanita Peterson, Secretary

Absent: Bruce Jacobs, Vice-President, Shirley Timm, Treasurer

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

Absent: Alex Pappas

Guests: Jennifer Seibert, PCCD Benefits Coordinator, Tom Smith, PCCD CFO

The meeting was called to order at 1:12 PM by Jerry

Jennifer was introduced by Jerry. He explained that she has a meeting at 1:45 PM so that her time with us would be short.

Explaining that she had no special items to talk about, Jennifer emphasized that she and her office staff are available to help with any problems. In particular, to answer any questions about the information concerning reimbursement passed out at the annual meeting in November.

Jerry said that the Board has concern about the insert handed out at the annual meeting. We would also like Tom to clarify the 4% interest that he spoke about on the bonds that are funding retirees' health care. Jerry then asked Tom Smith for information on the bonds.

Tom reported that the bonds have performed well. Over the period ending December 31, 2006, 152 million became 164 million. Based on market value of assets, the bonds mirror Kelper allocations. Fixed income, equities, large, medium, and small caps returned 4% net. Those working with the bonds are getting a handle on under performing small caps. In December, the bonds were changed from fixed rate to variable rate. In 2010, the bonds will become variable rate mortgage and later changed to 30 year fixed rate.

Odell asked whether other educational institutions are doing a similar deal. He understands that West Hills District is in the process.

Tom said that in New York the bonds were rated and were told that the PCC District is about 3 years ahead of the problem that other institutions are having with their budgets.

Odell asked Jennifer whether reimbursements will be made as fees go up on Medicare. Jennifer said reimbursements will be made.

Tom reported the result of the re-enrollment process: of 1500 survey forms sent, 90 to 95% were returned with a result that about 25% of deceased employees were still covered by health care benefits.

Ned commented that it is not necessary for us to enroll in Part D, but, then asked, if later we have to enroll, can it be at the same premium? He noted that this situation had happened with Part B that being required to join at retirement and the District paying for the increased premium. Remo said the surcharge is based on income and that the penalty is for each year not signed up since becoming eligible to sign up. He believes that the District must notify Social Security, along with wavers of each being charged, that these employees were covered for Part B by Blue Cross.

Someone asked: Are employees mandated to sign up for Medicare? It was noted that STRS covers Part A and the District covers Part B. Jerry said that the purpose of the insert, given out at the General Meeting, is not clear and is confusing to those receiving it. Who should be scared, and why not? Not everybody retiring is a member of the union, yet each is covered by the union contract. PFT contract covers and represents each academic retiree.

Jennifer said that there is nothing in the SEIU and 39 contract that specify that 790 members be reimbursed for Medicare B. About half of the retirees are members of 790 or 39. The SEIU and 39 contract covers academic employees and managers who become academics. This means that, according to the Districts understanding, 790 and 30 members are not eligible for reimbursement.

Remo suggested that the problem be taken to the PCCD Board. Ned recalled that the previous chancellor was at the Benefits meeting along with PFT, SEIU, 39 representatives. The implication was that every employee in PFT, SEIU, 39 is covered by Parts A and B. Also, you have to sign up for Part A, but not for Part B; anyone not covered for Part B premium reimbursement probably would stop paying that premium and let the Peralta District assume the full cost of medical coverage.

A meeting with Jennifer was agreed to be on January 24 at 9 AM to talk about the CoreSource SBD that was sent out. Jennifer and staff are working on scheduling workshops.

Jerry said that the Board must let retirees of 790 and 39 know about the reimbursement problem. We need to pressure the District to be fair to all retirees.

Due to Shirley's absence, there was no Treasurer's Report.

Secretary's Report: Juanita distributed the minutes of the December 6, 2006 Board Meeting. Since the Board members had not had an opportunity to read the minutes, the members were asked to relay any errors or changes to Juanita.

MSU (Remo, Odell) that the December 6 Board minutes be approved with the proviso that errors be relayed to Juanita.

President's Report: A letter announcing that a book by Ed Minasian has been published was read by Jerry. He reported that Ike Buchanan had died.

Sara Hughes gave each member a flyer about HANDS AROUND THE LAKE celebrating Oakland's multicultural diversity being held on Saturday, January 12, 2007. Jerry reported that he has sent letters of recognition to Benita Baines saying that PRO was pleased with her help. He also acknowledged Sondra's dedication and work. Similar letters were sent to librarians for buying the reserve books provided by PRO for students. In addition, Jerry sent letters to the Vice-Presidents of Student Services of each of the colleges about the scholarships being given to students. He requested the names of students receiving the scholarships and the criteria used in making the awards.

Social Committee: Linda reported that 20 to 30 seats have been reserved for Blood Wedding and that the tickets must be paid for at least one week prior to April 5. Checks for the performance should be given to Jerry or sent to the PRO Box 1951, El Cerrito, CA 94530. Jerry asked Linda to investigate possible restaurants in the theater area for dinner prior to the performance. Kirlia and Stony Plough were suggested.

Service Committee: Sondra said the Committee will meet February 1, 2007. She will be meeting with Benita Baines and she will give a phone call to follow-up on the librarians and Deans of Student Services.

Jerry reported that he has received two ballots.

Benefits Committee: The Committee will be working on the CoreSource SPD.

New Business: Membership cards were discussed. Also discussed were the mechanics of giving new cards to members and ways to indicate when a membership has expired. Remo will report on his experience with membership cards.

MSU (Pat, Ned) that PRO will issue membership cards.

Membership Renewal: Jerry will write a letter to those who have not renewed, there are 81 such members on the list. If there is no response to Jerry's letter, phone calls will be made. As Chair of the Membership Committee, Odell will get a list of the names of the last two year retirees.

MSU (Pat, Remo) that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Juanita Peterson, PRO Secretary