

Peralta Retirees Organization (pro)
Board Meeting, March 7, 2007
PFT Conference Room

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

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

Guest: John Dahlquist

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM by Jerry.

Jerry announced that he would be away for the April and May meetings.

Bruce announced that he, also, will be away for the April and May meetings.

MSU (Juanita, Pat) that the next meeting of the Board will be May 16th, 2007.
Meeting dates for summer months will be discussed at the May meeting.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the February 7, 2007 meeting were distributed. Several corrections were suggested.

MSU (Ned, Alex) that the February 7, 2007 minutes be approved with corrections.

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

Odell reported that the College Librarians have received a number of unrestricted funds and suggested that, perhaps, the PRO Library book grants should be revised.

Newsletter: Bruce asked for items to include in the April-May-June Newsletter. He has received a letter about Medicare Part B that gives additional information. He discussed having a search engine for the Newsletter, but it might be easier to have an index. Bruce, as the Webmaster, said that the ad for Blood Wedding will remain on the Website until May.

For the next issue of the Newsletter, he must have everything that will be in it by Tuesday, March 13. The following are items that will be included: 1) Information on Medicare Part B,

- 2) The effort to change the law about the Social Security offset.
- 3) A notice about the new scholarship fund,
- 4) The Laney College photo courtesy of Mary Smith,
- 5) Michael will write something about travel insurance,
- 6) Information on the surcharge on Medicare Part B premium. (There will be a link on the PRO Website to the article),
- 7) A list of coming events.

The Newsletter goes to the printer on March 23 and should be mailed out by April

1. Remo is in charge of the Newsletter mail-out.

The next Newsletter will be July-August-September.

President's Report: Jerry related a call from Ed Minasion about the publication of his book. Ed wondered if PRO would like to hold a book-signing fund raiser or possibly a gathering where he could read from his book. Bruce suggested that if Ed gets a reading at a bookstore or two, then we could put out an email to our members telling where the reading would be. Alex said PRO needs a policy about sponsoring events for others. Pat suggested that we invite Ed to read at the Picnic. It was agreed that PRO will publicize but not sponsor any readings Ed has. "Sponsorship" will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Benefits Committee: Alex said that the District Benefits Committee will meet March 8, 2007. The main topics of discussion will be:

1) The CoreSource (CS) SPD. Alex has a 1997 Blue Cross (BC) booklet that he has used to compare what CS and BC benefits. Any Changes in the SPD must be finished by September. Alex will send an email to all members of the PRO Board when all changes have been made. These changes will be given to Jennifer Seibert.

2) The letter we all received about Medicare Part B and Medico monitoring of prescriptions. Pat believes that Medico should not review drugs and that she works closely with her doctor and her pharmacist about any drugs she takes. If Medico wants to call her doctor, that would be OK. Remo thinks the District may be applying pressure on Medico to reduce the cost of prescriptions by insisting on generic drugs.

Jerry asked the Union President if the Union had been consulted about the Medico notice. District Benefits Committee members, Jerry, Alex, and Michael Mills requested that the Union clarify the Medico process and determine why the District requested it. There should be expeditious filling of all requested medicines.

Service Committee: Referring to Odell's comment that the Libraries have adequate funding, Sondra said that any money given through a grant that is not used stays in the PRO account. However, interest on any money not used goes into the PCCD Foundation account. Socorro Taylor sends a list of all available scholarships to college presidents. Sondra has sent letters to follow-up. Odell will help track the scholarship process. Sondra will put a form for donations to the PRO Scholarship Fund in the Newsletter.

Social Committee: Linda related to Jerry that Remo will be in charge of the tickets for "Blood Wedding" and the distribution of them. Reno suggested the Shen Hua for those who would like to go to dinner before going to the theater. He will speak with the Shen Hua about reserving about five tables. Dinner goes should be at the Shen Hua between 5:30 and 6 pm.

Membership Committee: Odell said that Jennifer Seibert did have a list of retirees for 2004-2005 and for 2005-2006. Jerry will send letters to retirees not yet members and invite them to become members.

New Business: Jerry said there are proposed changes to the State Contributions to the STRS fund that is used for cost-of-living increases and for guaranteeing 80% buying power by the Governor. There have been arguments both for and against the proposal. The California Retired Teachers Association opposes the cuts. The proposal will be taken up at the next Board meeting.

MSU (Alex, Pat) that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 3:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Juanita Peterson, PRO Secretary

NEXT BOARD MEETING: May 16, 2007, 1 PM, PFT CONFERENCE ROOM