

Peralta Retirees Organization (PRO)
Board Meeting, July 11, 2007
PFT Conference Room

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

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

Absent: Odell Johnson

Guest: Jay Quesada

Jerry called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM.

Secretaries Report: Juanita distributed the minutes of the June 6th Board meeting. These minutes had earlier been distributed via email to all Board members.

Ned asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect his request that a list of names and addresses of the PRO members, who are also PFT members, be made available to the PFT and CFT so that these retirees may receive information from these organizations.

Treasurer's Report: Shirley reported a current bank balance of \$16,084.24 and expenses of \$593.66.

She expressed caution that some of the funds reflect the fact that some members have paid for multiple years and that the balance will decrease as these memberships are honored. She questioned spending money paid in advance. A discussion followed in which suggestions were made to invest some of the funds, perhaps two-thirds, into interest-bearing CDs. Bruce suggested an interesting-bearing money fund so that money would be available in case of an emergency. Alex suggested laddering a series of 2 or 3 month CDs so that funds are not locked up for extended periods. Jerry suggested that Shirley work with two accounts, one being restricted, the other unrestricted to be used only if an urgent problem arose. Bruce proposed that a super majority vote be required to use restricted funds.

MSU (Alex, Pat) that a committee be appointed to recommend a policy on the use of restricted funds.

Jerry appointed Shirley, Bruce and Juanita to serve on this committee, other members may participate by use of email.

There was no objection to putting some of the Treasury in a money market account. Ned was appointed to research possible investments and to report his findings at the August Board meeting.

MSU(Alex, Remo) to accept the Treasurer's report.

Newsletter: Bruce reported that he had received more material for the last Newsletter than he had space. There was no space for pictures of the "Blood Wedding" social event, and there was no space for Alex's explanation on Medicare Part B. It has come to a choice of going to a 12- page Newsletter or to publish 6 times per year as opposed to 3 times a year as is currently the case. He suggested that we all think about the choices over the next two published Newsletters. The October-November-December Newsletter will include information about the Annual Meeting..

President's Report: Linda, Pat, and Jerry each thanked the Board for the receipt of the "get-well" cards.

Jerry has followed up on the calls that some members have received from MedCo about use of generic drugs. Remo said he received a call from Edith Grey that MedCo calls people to ask if it is OK to fill their prescriptions with generic drugs. MedCo does not require that people use generic drugs as opposed to non-generic drugs. For economic reasons, the District would prefer the use of generic drugs and suggests members try the 3-month mail options for receiving their prescriptions.

Jerry announced that the District is proposing to change the non-Kaiser pharmaceutical provider from MedCo to CareMark. Alex and Jerry met with the CareMark company representative and were assured that prescriptions will be filled as the prescription specifies. See the Benefits Committee Report below.

Social Committee Report: Linda has made a reservation for the annual picnic to be held on August 2 at Huckleberry area of Robert's Tilden Regional Park. She and Jay have made a survey of supplies left from previous social events and find that there will be few supplies to purchase for the picnic. Since buns provided in the past were not used, buns will not be provided this year. Linda and Jay would welcome help in setting up for the picnic and especially for clean-up afterwards.

For the Membership Meeting in November, Jerry asked if the Board wishes to reserve the PCCD Board Meeting room. The consensus is to reserve the PCCD Board Room for the Annual Meeting. Remo suggested that, if operating at that time, the Laney Food Service be asked to cater the lunch.

Service Committee Report: The form for donating to the Scholarship Fund along with naming those who have donated takes up the better part of a page in the Newsletter. Bruce suggested that the form be put on the Web with a note of recognition placed in the next Newsletter. A donor to the Scholarship Fund will receive a letter of recognition from the Peralta Foundation indicating that PRO is a non-profit organization and that donations are tax deductible.

Sondra meets every other month with the members of the Service Committee (Jan Wall, Chris Hadley, Art Naftally, Pat England, and Smokey Wilson). They will be meeting in August to decide whether or not to have a book donation program this year. Sondra will ask the college librarians the type of books they might be interested in receiving as donations. She reported that the \$1,000 set aside for the Cal Works Program for Transportation Scholarships has yet to be used. The next meeting of the Committee will be on September 6, 2007.

Ned suggested that Sondra be on the agenda of the November membership meeting. It was also suggested that a recipient of a PRO Scholarship be invited to attend, and to be introduced, at the November membership meeting.

Benefits Committee Report: On July 10th, Alex and Jerry attended a meeting with Tom Smith and a representative of CareMark, a company larger than MedCo. At that time, they were told that the District will be changing from MedCo to CareMark on November 1st. They were assured that the changeover will be seamless; no new prescriptions will be needed, and all information that MedCo has will be transferred to CareMark.

After the CareMark representative had left and the decision to make the change from MedCo had been made, Tom Smith asked PRO, 39, Seiu, and PFT representatives what they thought of the change. Apparently, the District is one of CareMark's smaller clients. Jerry will write an article about the change for the Newsletter.

Alex announced that the District will hold a healthcare and re-enrollment fair in October. Kaiser Plan members will be urged to join the Senior Advantage Program, and all eligible retirees who have not already done so will be urged to apply for Medicare Part A and B. Alex will give Bruce information about the health fair for the Newsletter. He will also write an article about CoreSource

abbreviations, e.g., MM for major medical, COM for Comprehensive to include dental, and EOB for Explanation of Benefits. He will also relate some of the problems that people who live out of state have with CoreSource.

Bruce and Alex prepared a table of issues of concern that compared Summary Plan Descriptions (SPDs) of CS and of BC and noted the differences between them. The table was given to Tom Smith with a request to set up a meeting with the broker. Later, they were given the table with an added column that contained the objections of Tom and the broker prepared by Kimberley Wypychowski, who works for the broker. She did not agree to all the changes submitted by Bruce and Alex. In addition, the PRO representatives, which also included Michael Mills, discovered two additional relevant documents, viz, part of the Appendix to the PFT Contract which was inserted in 1992 after PFT agreed to a reimbursement rate of 80% of customary and reasonable charges for out of network providers (reduced from 100% in exchange for other benefits, such as, 100% ER care) and a letter from Trudy Largent, former VC for Human Resources, which she wrote to former PFT President Michael Mills in order to clarify the coverage under CS. Bruce and Alex were given no advance time to read through the District's 19 page response. However, after the meeting Bruce and Alex wrote a detailed response including a critique of the District's use of the Blue Cross exclusionary clause. They then gave their critique to Jerry. The lengthy document will be given to Tom Smith with an introductory letter from Jerry. PRO does not have any information on whether the benefits included in the PFT Contract Appendix also appear in the PCCD contracts with SEIU or with 39. The District is planning to issue a new SPD for CoreSource on September 1, 2007 and there is, therefore, a strong sense of urgency about resolving the outstanding issues about SPD discrepancies.

PRO needs to find people with expertise in small claims court and arbitration procedures in order to assist faculty who wish to make claims against the District because benefit levels have been changed.

Ned wanted to know if the PRO Board was going to be able to look over all of the documents. Jerry indicated that the Board had already reviewed the documents but that the final versions would be available to interested Board members upon request.

Other Items: Border's in Pleasant Hill will have a book signing for Ed Minasian's book; it is thought that other Borders stores will do the same.

Ned said the CFT, in general, wants the names and addresses of as many retirees as possible. He asked that PRO have a policy on giving out lists of PRO names and addresses. Jerry believes that PRO should provide former PFT members the opportunity to opt in or opt out of providing their name and address to the PFT. The Board agreed that Bruce would compose the text of a post card telling former faculty that the Board was planning to give their contact information to the PFT so that the retirees could receive literature from PFT, CFT and AFT, and that they could opt out of having their information included by returning the post card. Bruce will print the post cards and bring to the next Board meeting. Juanita will provide the labels. Ned will do the work involved in labeling, stamping, and mailing the post cards.

By consensus, the meeting adjourned at 3:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Juanita Peterson, PRO Secretary

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 8TH, 1 TO 3 PM, PFT CONFERENCE ROOM

