

Peralta Retirees Organization (PRO)
Board Meeting, August 8, 2007
PFT Conference Room

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

Absent: Shirley Timm, Treasurer

Board Members: Remo Arancio, Linda Japzon, Odell Johnson, Sondra Neiman, Alex Pappas

Absent: Pat England, Ned Pearlstein

Guest: Jay Quesada

Jerry called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

Secretary's Report: Juanita distributed the minutes of the July 11th Board meeting. The minutes were distributed earlier via email to all Board members as amended in the Benefits Report section courtesy of Bruce and Jerry.

. **MSU (Remo, Sondra) approval of Minutes of July 11 as amended.**

Newsletter Report: Bruce said the Picnic notice will be taken off of the Website; and information about the General Meeting in November will be added.

The next Newsletter will be out in October.

President's Report: The SPD Report was delivered to Tom Smith on July 16th by Bruce. As of this date, no response has been received. Odell said that Tom Smith has been working on the budget for the District. Since time is short before publication of the revised SPD, it may be out without PRO's suggested changes. Receiving a response from the District to proposed changes is important. Jerry called Tom Smith during the meeting. He learned that Tom had looked at the proposed changes and had passed them on to Jennifer and to Kimberley. Response from Tom may be received by later this month. Jerry and Alex will call Jennifer right away requesting a meeting. Bruce suggested that an appointment be made with Bezemek after meeting with Jennifer.

Jerry invited all members of the Board to the showing of the pictures taken by him and Bev on their trip to Greece and Turkey.

Sara Hughes informed Jerry that an STRS notice is being issued that the maximum a retiree can earn is \$24,740.

Social Committee Report: Linda said that the Picnic flyer did not say to "Bring your own food". As a result, some who attended were not prepared. Mr. Japzon built the fire in the fire pit and helped roast hamburgers and sausages for others. The Board expressed appreciation for his help. Suggestions made for future picnics were: to have a potluck or a barbeque a fee charged for each person planning to attend. Linda will let Jerry know the cost of the supplies used for the picnic.

Membership Committee Report: Odell has sent all recent retirees, about 42 for the last 3 years, a letter and a membership form inviting them to join PRO.

Service Committee Report: Sondra reported that the Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

Benefits Committee Report: The number of emails concerning health problems has greatly diminished according to Alex. He will try to meet with Jennifer about the SPD requested changes PRO has submitted.

Old Business: Membership list distribution policy was discussed at the last meeting; and it was decided to send an “opt out” card to each former PFT member. At this writing, seven “opt outs” have been received.

Bruce proposed that, in future, the distribution of a PRO members list be (1) on a case by case basis and (2) only with Board approval.

MSU (Bruce, Odell) a PRO membership list will not be given without Board approval.

New Business:

Social Security Fairness Act Petition:

A petition distributed by UTLA (United Teachers Los Angeles) asks for support in passing two bills in Washington, HR 82 and S 206, that would eradicate the unfair Social Security offset and windfall penalties levied on teachers and professional staff. *Question: Does the Board want to support this petition?* Alex observed that the change that resulted in the offset and windfall penalties occurred in 1984. He questioned whether PRO, as a non-profit organization, can legally endorse such a petition?

Bruce suggested that the petition be used to educate people, and wondered if we have applied for the right type of non-profit. Jerry said that PRO has non-profit status from the State but not yet from the Federal government.

Alex offered to write something for the Newsletter with respect to the Social Security petition. He will email proposed article to Bruce with a copy to all Board members.

Ed Minasian’s Book:

Remo reported that Ed is holding a book signing at Borders Books in Pleasant Hill on Sunday, September 9th at 4 pm. Bruce will send an email to members about September book signings of books by Smokey and Ed.

Next Board Meetings:

Bruce requested that the September meeting be changed from first Wednesday to the second Wednesday. Planning for the next Newsletter will be done at the September meeting.

October meeting will be on Wednesday the 10th. PCCD open enrollment will begin on October the 8th.

The General Membership meeting will be on Thursday, November 8th Jerry asked Linda to check with Aroma as a possible caterer for the lunch. Suggestions of possible places for the General Meeting and Lunch were Richard Trudeau Center, the PCCD Board Room, and the Golf Course facility on Doolittle Drive.

MSU (Odell, Alex) that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Juanita Peterson, PRO Secretary

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 12, 2 TO 4 PM, PFT CONFERENCE ROOM