

Peralta Retirees Organization (PRO)  
Board Meeting, March 5, 2008  
PFT Conference Room

**Present:** Jerry Herman, President, Juanita Peterson

**Absent:** Bruce Jacobs, Shirley Timm, Treasurer

**Board Members:** Remo Arancio, Sondra Neiman, Ned Pearlstein, Alex Pappas

**Absent:** Pat England, Linda Japzon, Odell Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 PM by Jerry.

**Secretary's Report:** Juanita distributed Minutes of February 8, 2008.

MSU (Remo, Juanita) that the minutes for February 6th Board meeting be approved)

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

**Announcement:** By way of announcing her resignation as Secretary, Juanita gave each member a copy of the email she had sent earlier to all members of the Board giving reasons for her resignation. Due to a fall in late November, she has missed several meetings and believes it will serve the Board better to appoint someone who can participate on a regular basis. She will continue to serve until a replacement has been found.

**President's Report:** Jerry has been working with Linda on finalizing arrangements for the group attendance of Chicago at the Altarena Playhouse on March 28<sup>th</sup>. For those persons wishing to go to dinner before the performance, Alex suggested Amarin Thai at 1332 Park St. and India Palace at 737 Buena Vista. Remo suggested Speisekammer at 2424 Lincoln Avenue in Alameda. The Altarena Playhouse does not issue tickets, so there will be someone at the theater between 7:15 and 8 pm to help issue the tickets on the night of the performance. Absent Board members will be notified by letter. Jerry will send out an email with directions to the Theater.

**Benefits Committee Report:** Alex attended the District Fringe Benefits Committee and reported that Caremark gives out a one month prescription until you use the mail option; some local pharmacists give out three prescriptions. There is still some concern that generic drugs are given without knowledge of the member. Remo said that if the doctor prescribes a brand, it must be given instead of generic. The difference between brand name and generic is in the mixing of the ingredients. According to Jerry, the agreed upon coverage specifies that brand name be given. Alex later requested clarification of Peter Wanatuch and was told the following:

“The plan states that if a physician prescribes a brand name drug and there is no generic equivalent available, then the member can and will receive the brand name drug. The member simply needs to tell the pharmacist that he/she prefers to receive the brand name in lieu of the generic drug. Caremark does not need the physician's approval, so no phone call to the physician is necessary. The brand name co-pay will apply in this case, not the generic co-pay. Also, the plan states that if a physician prescribes a brand name drug, but there is no generic equivalent available, then Peralta member will receive the brand name drug, but will only be required to pay the generic co-pay.”

The PSW broker told Alex that if a complaint goes to him instead of Jennifer, there is good follow-up. Ned said there are three levels in making a claim, Medicare, BC, and CS. He thinks that claims are often improperly filed.

Alex reported that transfer of his MedCo records has been done and all are OK. Out of state members network went from BC to PHCS.

**Membership:** Due to Odell's absence, there was no report.

**Service Committee Report:** PRO will again fund scholarships through the Peralta Foundation. The Foundation will send an announcement to each of the campuses and provide a flyer containing specifics for filing application for a scholarship. Each campus will publish its own flyer containing the date by which applications must be submitted. Sondra will contact the Dean of Student Services of each campus to remind them of the availability of scholarships to be given at graduation ceremonies. Ned suggested that the Service Committee post a flyer in the Library, Cafeteria, and Student Lounge of each campus so the general student population will know of the scholarships. Jerry will print a mock-up.

Bonita Baines of Laney College Work-study asked for a copy of information about the thousand dollars available for transfer scholarships. The Service Committee still has \$500 for books that has not been claimed by the libraries and there is about \$600 left in the scholarship fund. Ned suggested that those who have contributed to the scholarship fund be recognized in some way. It was pointed out that such a list is published in the Newsletter.

**Liability Insurance:** Ned reported his findings:

DVC has a retiree group; Contra Costa County District has a separate retiree group, but no liability insurance information,

San Mateo District has a retiree group; there are three campuses, but no information on liability,

Chabot has a retiree group,

Marin College has a retiree group and an emeritus group which gives \$177 per month to a retiree older than 77 years,

Napa College has no retiree group.

Therefore, area community colleges do not have liability insurance.

Alex will contact DVC and Chabot College about liability insurance.

**Membership Cards:** Jerry looked into the cost of producing membership cards. Kinko's will print 500 member cards in black and white for \$40 to \$45 and in color for \$65 to \$70. The card would contain a logo, member name, membership expiration date, PRO address, phone number, and website. The back side could contain Benefit information.

Alex suggested that PRO send the card and a statement to members requesting dues with a return envelope for submitting the dues.

Jerry wants to get the cards mailed out to members in the next month.

**Other Business:** Remo requested that Jennifer provide a definitive statement about a benefit's plan on generic versus brand name medicines.

**MSU (Ned, Alex) to adjourn the meeting.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Peterson, PRO Secretary

**MEXT MEETING: APRIL 2, 1:00 PM PFT CONFERENCE ROOM**