

PRO Meeting February 4, 2009

PRESENT:

Jerry Herman, Bruce Jacobs, Shirley Timm, Ann Whitehead, Sondra Neiman, Pat England, Odell Johnson, Alex Pappas, Ned Pearlstein, Linda Japzon, Remo Arancio

GUEST: Jay Quesada

Jerry called the meeting to order at 1:05PM

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Ann distributed the minutes of the January 2009 meeting. Ned moved that the minutes be accepted. Sondra corrected Ann's spelling of "Neiman". Shirley seconded the motion.

MSP U

TREASURER'S REPORT

Shirley shared that the bank balance as of February 4, 2009 is \$21,857.39. Shirley also indicated that \$9500.00 of that total represents dues already collected for years beyond 2009. A lengthy discussion followed in which Jerry made clear that during Shirley's absence there must be access to some blank checks. Bruce had used his credit card for a \$1200.00 charge needed for advance reserved tickets by Yoshi for the upcoming Yoshi's/Jazz evening planned. Ned called for the question to be resolved. The vote was 8 to 2 approving access to blank checks during the Treasurer's absence. At the conclusion it was determined that three blank checks be maintained in the PRO file locked drawer.

NEWSLETTER

Bruce stated that there were no items for discussion at this time.

PRESIDENT

Jerry distributed a selection of spectacular color photographs taken during his recent trip to Costa Rica and elsewhere. Jerry also mentioned that a meeting at Sondra's home on Friday January 30, 2009 had taken place where most of the members of the PRO ARTS AWARD COMMITTEE assembled to develop guidelines for the PRO Arts Program Award.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Linda reported that 49 tickets had already been sold for the evening at Yoshi's. She instructed that the attendees must identify themselves as part of the "PRO Group" when arriving for the event. She also shared that she had to submit the names of the 27 attendees who plan to have dinner.

Linda mentioned that only 14 people had expressed interest in the Casino trip thus far (minimum required is 40) . This trip is scheduled for March 19, 2009. Additionally Linda stated that the Casino/Bus Vendor company needs confirmation by February 20, 2009.

SERVICE COMMITTEE

Sondra identified the members of the committee for the PRO Support of an Arts Program: Sondra, Pat, Jerry, Ned, Odell, and Alan Meisel,. This group has determined the following:

The award shall be district-wide, not restricted to specific colleges

Successful applicants cannot re-apply until after 2-3 years.

The committee shall solicit applications through Departments.

The funds in the award shall not SUPPLANT other budgets.

Eligible programs include Wood-Working, Floral Design, Multi Media etc.

The chosen project shall be a public event, exhibition, or publication.

Sondra shared that her committee was scheduled for a follow-up meeting immediately following the PRO Board meeting in the PFT Office. Through a vote (10 YES, 1 ABSTENTION) it was approved that the Committee will decide winner of the award. The role of the PRO Board shall be to appropriate the funds for the award.

BENEFITS

Alex reported that there were no information items at this time. Alex said that he had not heard significant complaints during the past six months. Very good news indeed.

MEMBERSHIP

Odell stated that there were no items to report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Bruce reviewed the Renata Polt situation with regard to her recent victory in Small Claims Court. The PCCD has requested that the Court give them an extension for filing an appeal claiming that they had not received a copy of the Court's judgement. Because the PCCD has not provided the moneys Renata is owed and because the PCCD has requested an extension for the purpose of making an appeal to the Court, the PRO Board has identified a potential threat to retirees "as a whole". Please observe the following direct quote from Alex Pappas:

“The main issue is whether the District can unilaterally decide it is not obligated to provide the benefits we had at the time of retirement. Translation: we must fight their appeal so they cannot change (reduce) our benefits in violation of the contract we had at the time of retirement.”

Bruce announced that he will share emails he may receive from Renata as this situation evolves.

Ned commented that PRO is the most active retiree group locally that he has investigated. Jay suggested that there be a carpool availability identified (via the Newsletter perhaps) so that PRO members who do not travel at night can catch a ride with someone else to PRO sponsored events.

Regarding membership cards---Ann vehemently urged that the effort involved getting Membership Cards out to all updated members be terminated because the energy involved getting them out is quite massive AND the cards, in essence, have NO particular value to the membership at large.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40PM

Respectfully submitted by Ann Whitehead