

PRO meeting June 3, 2009

PRESENT: Jerry Herman, Bruce Jacobs, Shirley Timm, Ann Whitehead, Alex Pappas, Sondra Neiman, Ned Pearlstein, Linda Japzon and Pat England

ABSENT: Remo Arancio and Odell Johnson

GUESTS: Jay Quesada and Debra Weintraub

Jerry called the meeting to order at 1:02PM and distributed to all PRO Board members present copies of a document titled

AN OPEN LETTER TO FACULTY, STAFF, AND MANAGERS
FROM SEIU, PFT, AND LOCAL 39 (see attached)

Given that this open letter describes in some detail references about potential changes for retirees' health benefits, Jerry outlined his suggestion/s regarding a formal and forceful response from PRO to be shared first with the total membership of PRO and subsequently, in a separate communication to the PCCD Trustees and the top level managers at the District. Before proceeding with the usual officer reports Jerry invited Debra Weintraub to join the meeting and share her insight and background information relevant to the preparation of the Open Letter.

In her comments Debra assured the group that the PFT would "go to the mat" to protect retirees' benefits. Debra described carefully the succession of events that led to the conclusion that Peralta's General Counsel, Thuy Nguyen had identified medical-benefits-for-retirees as possible candidates for reduction. Debra shared that Thuy Nguyen affirmed that comments established in the closed sessions of the PCCD Trustee meetings cannot be made public. Debra said that Thuy commented that the Open Letter was "misleading" and that the Chancellor, Elihu Harris had revealed that "PCCD may have to go to a 3, 4, or 5 tier program" with respect to benefits. Additionally Debra mentioned that Trustee Gulassa had phoned her several days ago and dampened any fears of benefit-changes for retirees.

Concerning the entire benefits issue the following thoughts were voiced by PRO members:

Jerry phoned Thuy and found her to be personable but not forthcoming.

Sondra questioned---what action might PRO take?

Alex told the group that Jenifer Seibert wants to have 2 more meetings this summer of the Health Committee. Apparently, Jenifer indicated that these meetings will not address retiree concerns.

Jerry talked with Tom Smith who stated that PCCD was "looking for ways to cut costs without cutting benefits".

Alex mentioned that if extreme threats to retiree benefits arise then PRO might ask the total membership for a \$100.00 donation applicable to legal costs

Ned feels that it is essential that PCCD receive "written" evidence of PRO's concerns

.The PRO Board formed a committee of Jerry Herman, Bruce Jacobs, Ned Pearlstein and Alex Pappas which was instructed to write a letter to be sent by email to PRO members validating the sentiments of the Open Letter. The same letter accompanied with a copy of the Open Letter will appear in the next issue of the PRO quarterly Newsletter, thus accommodating members who do not possess email addresses.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes for the April 2009 meeting. Ned, Shirley. MSU

There was no meeting of the PRO Board in May, 2009.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Shirley reported that the current bank balance is \$18,715.91. Shirley also cautioned that the anticipated income for next year shall be less than in previous years as approximately 50% of members have purchased multi-year memberships.

NEWSLETTER

Bruce reported that the next newsletter will promote both the "Brigadoon" play (Sept. 11) and the upcoming annual picnic (Aug. 13). Also the newsletter will outline in detail the whole controversy surrounding threats-to-retiree-benefits and responses to that issue.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Linda explained that PRO will supply the annual Picnic event with salad, dessert, soda drinks, water and door prizes. Notably it will not provide any grill cooking service. The picnic is scheduled to be in Roberts Park Huckleberry Picnic Area.

SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT

Sondra emphasized with enthusiasm the success of the delivery of four awards given at each campus for scholarships this year. She reported that there is indeed significant value to PRO by its presence at these award ceremonies. Sondra will provide an update regarding the scholarships for the upcoming newsletter. Jerry requested ---from anyone, anywhere--- relevant photographs for the newsletter.

Ultimately Ned moved to continue the PRO support---\$2000.00---for four worthy PCCD Arts programs (\$500.00 each). Sondra expressed concern about the people power necessary to implement the planned awards. Bruce suggested we find off-Board volunteers and that we solicit them at the Annual November Meeting. Ned's motion was amended to read "suspend" the award until the time of the next annual meeting scheduled for sometime in November, 2009. Ned, Pat MSU.

Jerry announced that the next scheduled meeting for PRO shall be July 8, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58PM

Respectfully submitted by Ann Whitehead