

PRO minutes, October 7, 2009

Present: Bruce Jacobs, Shirley Timm, Ann Whitehead, Ned Pearlstein, Sondra Neiman, Remo Arancio, Pat England

Absent: Alex Pappas, Jerry Herman, Jay Quesada, Linda Japzon

Bruce, officiating opened the meeting at 1:05PM.

Secretay's Report

MSU, Ned, Remo

Treasurer's Report

Shirley identified \$18,210.45 as the current balance in the PRO Treasury. Shirley estimated that the upcoming Annual Lunch (at \$18.00 per person) will probably generate approximately \$1400.00. Therefore, it may be concluded that the total cost for subsidizing the Lunch for PRO may be approximately \$600.00 figuring in the costs for music, door prizes, etc.

Shirley moved that checks written in excess of \$500.00 may be signed by the Treasurer without a second signature for the following expenditures

- Stamps

- Advance payments for activity tickets

- Deposits or final payments for membership meetings

MSU, Ned, Pat

Newsletter The next issue of the newsletter will be distributed in January 2010. Bruce asked Ann to identify her suggestions regarding means of elevating awareness of the totality of information available on the website maintained by Bruce. Ann described her appreciation for the extent of information one can obtain from the PRO website and the following suggestions were advanced:

- That there be scheduled a workshop, headed by Bruce illustrating all of the information one can obtain from effective use of the website.

- That there be such a meeting in Laney Library Room 104 where computer access is available to all 11 PRO Board members as well as invited guests who may wish to attend (space limitations regarded).

Ned requested that such a meeting take place during the PRO meeting scheduled for February 3, 2010.

#### President's Report

Given that the President (Jerry Herman) was unable to attend, Bruce shared the following regarding two local Retiree Organizations' legal challenges with respect to retiree health benefits agreements established at the time of such retirements.

Sonoma County Association of Retired Employees (SCARE)

Fresno Unified School District (FURA)

Regarding Fresno—the October-December 2009 PRO Newsletter provides a status update. December 18, 2009 is the date scheduled for the trial in which the court will determine if Fresno Unified can renege on its contractual promise to provide fully paid health benefits for retired employees, their spouses and dependents for life” .

Regarding Sonoma County the following fact was shared---that there are approximately 3000 retirees affected by any withdrawal of contractually agreed-upon retiree benefits. The Sonoma County Association Of Retired Employees (SCARE) is challenging any threat to their benefits. Attached you will find an editorial comment prepared by Carol Bauer (President of SCARE) that appeared in a local newspaper, The Press Democrat online.

#### Bylaws Changes:

Please see attached (consult the PRO website for current by-laws) review of Article 9 section 1, Article 2 section 1, Article 3 section 8, Article10, Article 12, sections 2, 4, 9 and 12. The document enclosed will illustrate all of the agreed-upon changes established and voted on via email during the past month. Per Jerry's request these changes were therefore formally voted on during open session in October's 2009 meeting .

MSU, Shirley, Bruce

Additionally Shirley agreed to send to Bruce electronically a copy of the updated version of the Bylaws for inclusion on the PRO website. Also Shirley mentioned that per recorded minutes available on the website Jennifer Seibert had formerly been willing to share names of deceased retirees—significant because Jennifer had stated in PRO's meeting of September 2009 that such identity was essentially “off limits” for PCCD.

A discussion followed in which the exploration of Bylaw changes (or perhaps other formal changes) VIA EMAIL may indeed be legitimate. A vote was taken wherein the discussion of such changes was tabled.

MS, Bruce, Sondra

1-no

1-abstention

5-yes, i.e. to TABLE discussion RE email-voting

#### Committee Reports

##### Health Insurance

No report due to Alex's absence.

##### Social Committee

No report due to Linda's absence.

##### Service Committee

Sondra reported that nothing particularly was new.

##### Membership Committee

No report due to Jay's absence.

Bruce mentioned that the deadline for lunch reservations will be extended beyond October 25 in his second email message to entire membership. Also, Bruce reminded the PRO Board members present that the memorial service for Norbert Bischoff will be October 11, 2009 as was reported in the most recent newsletter.

Lastly, Shirley advanced a suggested change regarding the election process for directors to the PRO Board and the subsequent selection of Officers of the PRO Board. Regarding Article 3, Section 1:

Some facts are relevant:

There are five Board seats open every two years (e.g. Nov. 2009) and six seats (including the officers' seats) open the alternate years.

Those five are currently occupied by Neiman, Pappas, Arancio, Quesada and England and they all have agreed to run again

There are four officers on the PRO Board, Pres., VP, Treas., Secretary.

During the Annual Lunch in November additional nominations will be solicited for the available five seats.

Shirley advanced a change in the bylaws Article 4 to the following:

That the membership at-large elect the 11 Directors.

That the directors then elect the four Officers.

That if the election is uncontested, it will be conducted by ballot included in the January newsletter

That if the election is contested it will be conducted by mail ballot in December.

That the Board will elect new officers at the first Board meeting following the completion of the election process every other year.

MSU Shirley, Pat

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20PM