

PRO Meeting

April 4, 2012

Bruce opened the meeting at 1:55PM.

PRESENT: Bruce Jacobs, Ann Whitehead, Linda Japzon, Jay Quesada, Remo Arancio, Alex Pappas, Anna Pavelka-Lodato and Ned Pearlstein.

ABSENT: Jerry Herman, Yvonne Lewis and Pat England.

Secretary's Report: Ned moved to accept, Remo seconded.
MSU

Treasurer's Report: Anna delivered her monthly Treasurer's statement identifying the current balance. Ann placed this written report into the files. Anna reported that she has successfully opened PRO's new bank account at Mechanics Bank in Walnut Creek and that she has completed the purchase of PRO's new private postal address in Walnut Creek. Bruce stated that all the current PRO communications—e.g. the April newsletter—bear the appropriate new PRO address.

Vice-President's Report: Bruce shared that Yvonne Lewis was unanimously approved by the PRO Board as the new Service/Scholarship chairperson and he stated that due to previous commitments Yvonne cannot attend PRO's monthly meetings until May 9, 2012. Referring to two brief articles appearing in the April 2012 PRO newsletter, Bruce reviewed with the Board recent CALSTRS regulations relevant to exemptions, earnings limitation and benefit statements. STRS no longer mails out printed copies of one's monthly statements. The earnings limitation for post retirement employment in a community college is currently \$31,020.00 and it is annually determined by July 1. The traditional exemptions regarding post retirement employment in any CalSTRS covered job have been cancelled. Bruce identified the date for the next PFT/PRO retirement workshop to be conducted in the PFT Office. That

date is May 2, 2012 and therefore PRO's regularly scheduled monthly meeting has been established, with Board approval, as May 9, 2012.

Lastly, Bruce described his proposal to utilize PayPal as an alternate means for PRO members to easily update their dues. Instructions on the PRO website will direct one to the PayPal site where one can simply provide ID and credit card number, thus avoiding stamp, trip to Post Office etc. The cost to PRO for such a service from PayPal is negligible.

Alex moved for approval of the adoption of PayPal, seconded by Jay.

MSU

Health Benefits: Alex reported that he attended a meeting at PCCD on March 29 where he gained the following information regarding surviving spousal benefits: surviving spouses must pay a premium to Peralta and Alex inquired "how does the premium get computed for those enrolled in Coresource"? Peter Wantuch said that he would reply to Alex but as of April 4, 2012--no reply. Alex also shared that the Coresource rate for that premium decreased this year. Alex does not know WHY the rate went down. The reason may lie in the fact that those surviving spouses are AVERAGED INTO the group as a whole OR they experienced a low loss ratio (few claims).

Independently, Linda and Jay reported their positive experiences working with Jennifer Seibert in the effort to contact retirees who had not applied for Medicare. In essence, the group had numbered 80+ as of Winter 2012 and has now been reduced to approximately 20. With loud applause, the entire PRO Board present congratulated Linda and Jay for their outstanding efforts. One significant announcement Alex added to his discussion cites that the District has identified the month of MAY each year for anyone in Peralta--currently employed or retired-- to declare a shift in preferred health benefit organization---Kaiser, Coresource, Coresource Lite, (actives only) the three options available.

Given the selection of important dates to be remembered please note the following:

January-March	time to sign up for Medicare
May	time to shift one's medical provider
July 1	initial Medicare coverage, ff one's enrollment

Additionally Alex clarified that those who took cash from PCCD INSTEAD of a medical benefit can now receive \$250.00 per month (used to be \$25.00) and that the \$250.00 IS taxable. Furthermore, Alex pointed out that for anyone working at a California Community College in a post-retirement capacity-- their W-2 forms will display the value of medical insurance benefits, but those benefits are NOT taxable.

Social Committee: Linda reported that the arrangements for the Garden Party scheduled for May 6, 2012 at Shirley Connors' home in Alameda is in need of some extra setting-up help. The party starts at 2PM but about one hour before there is a need for help to shift furniture etc etc. Linda and Jay identified "Sylvester" who will provide music at the party and the Pro board voted with unanimous approval (advanced by Alex, seconded by Ned) an extra (beyond money collected from participants, \$10.00 per) \$100.00 for refreshments etc. etc.

MSU

With respect to the FIDDLER ON THE ROOF party--Bruce stated that he had already purchased 35 tickets and received very desirable seating for the first 35 participants. By June 20, 2012 Bruce said that Pro can buy additional tickets at the iscounted rate if there is demand for more than 35 seats. Participants who announce after June 20, 2012 may not necessarily be located in the same area.

Scholarship/Service Committee: Bruce talked with Socorro Taylor

who confirmed that the Peralta Foundation is already in progress with respect to the campus-originated scholarship program--i.e, identification of who may be eligible/who may be awarded-etc. There are four Awards Ceremonies scheduled at each of the four campuses---dates at this time are unknown. However, when those dates are made available, Bruce urged that representatives from PRO who will present the awards from PRO be provided biographic information of the awardees PRIOR to the event.

Membership Committee: Jay reported that she continues to mail out applications for membership in PRO to retired folks. Jay stated that six new members have joined during the past six months. Also, Jay and Alex felt that a membership solicitation should contain statements referring to PRO's accomplishments (i.e. PRO's maintenance of retirees' medical benefits) as well as examples of statements from PRO members' positive and praiseworthy testimonials.

At the close of the meeting Ned spoke knowledgeably of the status of the Gov. Brown's Tax Initiative. In essence Ned revealed that the so-called compromise may not be as effective as the original "MILLIONAIRES TAX" proposal, nor might the compromise tax program even have a good chance of passage on California's November ballot.

Finally Bruce shared that he and Mark Greenside will visit Wise Allen PRIOR to June 30, 2012 when Wise's Chancellorship ends. They will discuss the legitimacy of MANDATING imposing penalty on those retirees' s (i.e. prior to 2004 retirement date) who failed to sign up for Medicare.

Bruce adjourned the meeting at 2:45PM.