

PRO Meeting
May 9, 2012

Bruce called the meeting to order at 1:04PM.

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

ABSENT: Jerry Herman.

GUEST: Don Hongisto.

Secretary's Report: Following the distribution of the minutes, Jay moved for approval, seconded by Ned.
MSU

Treasurer's Report: Anna reported that PRO's original Bank-of-America account was closed and that the current PRO bank balance with Mechanics Bank is \$23,820.19. Also Anna reported that 27 people attended the Garden Party held at the home of Shirley Connors.

Vice-President's Report: Bruce had a complex and lengthy report to share because the report covered multiple issues. Bruce introduced PRO's most recently elected new member, Yvonne Lewis. Yvonne will be undertaking the scholarship program previously handled by Sondra Neiman. Bruce reported that the May 2, 2012 Retirement Workshop was well received by the 20-plus potential retirees who attended, all of whom were delivered a PRO membership form. Bruce announced that PRO's relationship with Pay-Pal (a program that will permit PRO members to advance dues payments/social events payments/etc. electronically) is almost ready. Bruce stated that there is one remaining issue that he will resolve shortly with Pay-Pal's customer service representative.

The remaining part of Bruce's report absorbed close attention and understanding relevant to the following:

1. Failure to enroll in Medicare

Penalties for retirees who have not enrolled in Medicare may never be imposed. Bruce shared that through a recent discussion with Chancellor Wise Allen he indicated that he did not think the District would impose penalties on the remaining 18 retirees who have neglected to enroll in Medicare. At the outset of this process there were 80 or so such retirees, now reduced to 18. Linda and Jay assisted effectively with the Benefits Office in this effort to reach retirees and persuade them to enroll in Medicare.

2. Conflict Resolution Process

Recently Bruce along with Mark Greenside met with Chancellor Allen and discussed a proposal that PRO and the District develop a "Conflict Resolution Process" wherein retirees, who have no bargaining rights, and PCCD management may be able to resolve potential conflicts such as disagreements about the District's application of contract language. Alex raised the question regarding how such a group will be structured and how it will obtain prior permission. Bruce suggested that there may be some liability for PRO in such an arrangement. All agreed that these potential problems must be solved BEFORE such a procedure is developed and is agreed upon.

3. Summary Plan Description

Bruce explained that prior to 2004 the Summary Plan Description document was published by Blue Cross. In 2004 when Coresource became the District's administrator for health benefits, a new SPD was developed. That SPD was reviewed by PRO, the unions, and others to ensure that the new SPD reflected the same level of benefits as what had been available under the Blue Cross Plan. Bruce claims there has been a unilateral change since that SPD was agreed upon in 2006. In this shift some 34 of the routine medications prescribed, although FDA approved, were dropped from being covered because Caremark has stopped including them in its formulary due to a dispute between Caremark and the drug manufacturers. In addition, the language in the SPD was changed unilaterally by the District to make an exception for those drugs not covered by Caremark. Since the changes represent both a unilateral change in the SPD and a reduction in benefits and since these changes affect active employees as well as retirees, the PFT is taking the lead in getting the

District to resolve the issues.

4. Re-Enrollment in Medical coverage program

First of all it was universally agreed that PCCD should have warned retirees that their re-enrollment was a necessary exercise during the month of May 2012. No such communication was advanced PRIOR to the arrival of documents sent via USPS to retirees REQUIRING their re-enrollment. There was also a discussion of some of the problems with Medicare D for Kaiser members. Language in the District's mailing is confusing and does not adequately explain how Medicare D works with Kaiser. A number of retirees has been harmed by the District's failure to adequately communicate with Kaiser member retirees about Medicare D. Bruce has written a letter to Trudy L'argent which details the problems and concerns and also asks the District to reconsider its position of not reimbursing retirees who have to pay Medicare D premiums because they are in Kaiser Senior Advantage.

Benefits Committee: Alex shared that the next meeting of the committee has not yet been determined.

Social Committee: Linda shared that 27 retirees participated in the recent garden party held at Shirley Connors' home and Bruce wants to acknowledge Shirley with some gift from PRO. Also the July 20 scheduled event at Woodminster for the performance of "Fiddler on the Roof" has already received 18 reservations.

Scholarship Committee: At each of the four Peralta colleges there will be a \$1,000.00 scholarship awarded during upcoming awards ceremonies. Ned will deliver PRO's award at Laney, Michael Wirth at COA, Ron Felzer at Merritt and Alex will do BCC unless we find some else who can do it.

Membership Committee: Jay emphasized that every time she and Linda participate in any meeting--e.g. assisting the Benefits Office--she distributes membership forms to upcoming retirees.

New Business: A motion to provide monetary support for Measure B, Peralta's parcel tax scheduled for vote on June 5, 2012 was advanced by

Alex, seconded by Ned.

MSU

Following lengthy discussion PRO determined to provide \$2,500.00 for the Measure B support.

Bruce adjourned the meeting at 3:14PM and scheduled June 13 for PRO's next meeting.