

# **PRO Meeting**

## **January 13, 2016**

Present: Debby Weintraub, Bruce Jacobs, Ann Whitehead, Anna Pavelka-Lodato, John Lodato, Patricia Dudley, Tom Branca and Jerry Herman.

Absent: Alex Pappas and Remo Arancio.

### Secretary's Report:

Bruce moved for approval, seconded by Jerry.  
MSU

Treasurer's Report: Anna reported to all present and shared with PRO officers, copies of her end-of-year thorough Treasurer's Report. The bank balance at this time is \$23,584.82 and the Scholarship contributions currently amount to \$2,375.00.

Copies of Anna's report are always available in the PRO file currently located in the PFT office. Along with Ann Whitehead and Debby Weintraub, John Lodato shared his enthusiastic compliments of Anna's carefully constructed four-page report.

### Vice-Pres. Report:

Bruce shared his pleasure with now having the E-mail list available using a web-based service, Mailchimp. Bruce is seeking names of PRO members who are willing to learn how to use the email list as a back-up for when he is unavailable. End results are the following names:

Debby Weintraub  
Patricia Dudley

President: Debby confirmed that those named above will learn to use Mailchimp and serve as backups for sending out email to all PRO contacts.

Intermittantly, Bruce commented that the “FRIEDRICH vs CTA” suit currently being heard at the U. S. Supreme Court may indeed impact retired public employees negatively. It is important to keep in mind that post-2004 full time Peralta faculty hired have NO lifetime healthcare insurance in retirement other than Medicare.

Debby suggested that PRO should be delivering up-to-date information to its total PRO membership about current topics via a special speaker program. Topic examples include:

- Threats to pension funds
- Threats to public service unions

Debby suggested that PRO sponsor membership events qualified speakers who can illustrate the need for awareness of current political programs/legislation that have either a negative or positive impact on public service retirees. Everyone present extended total agreement with Debby’s proposal.

Co-mingled into Debby’s and Bruce’s suggestions was a shared discussion of the problems with the Benefits Office’ website where information may/should be available. Bruce suggested that the site is poorly constructed. Lastly, Debby stated that she would contact Sondra Neiman to ask for Sondra’s assistance with the development of the PRO Scholarship Program. Debby emphasized again that PRO Board membership need NOT be a prerequisite for participation in PRO’s needed efforts/obligations.

Within a broad discussion of the typical PRO yearly activities it was pointed out that not everyone participates in a “social program” (i.e. picnic, garden parties etc.) and a broad discussion took place. John Lodato relevantly pointed out that many people join the social events and find them meaningful. Additionally John emphasized the need for marketing and salesmanship strategies that PRO needs to bring into play for capturing new membership.

At 2:15 PM Keiko James came via invitation to the PRO meeting and shared her materials relevant to the Foundation’s efforts delivered for the selection of four scholarships each June.

Debby adjourned this meeting at 2.50 PM.