

## **PRO Meeting April 6, 2016**

PRESENT: Debra Weintraub, Bruce Jacobs, Anna Pavelka-Lodato, John Lodato, Patricia Dudley, Remo Arancio and Ann Whitehead.

ABSENT: Alex Pappas, Tom Branca and Jerry Herman.

Secretary's Report: Patricia moved for approval, seconded by Bruce.  
MSU

Treasurer's Report: Anna reported that the current bank balance is \$24,511.82. Anna shared that the annual mailbox fee has been paid through March 17, 2017 and that the Peralta Foundation has not yet identified the current balance in PRO's scholarship account.

At this time Debra introduced Jennifer Seibert and Ronnie Roberts-McCain and shared with the Board how very much PRO wants to maintain a collegial relationship with the Benefits Office. Jennifer answered questions and distributed copies of three documents published by the Benefits Office:

- 1) a one page document identifying insurance and carrier contact information.
- 2) a one page document identifying open enrollment period.
- 3) an eleven page document titled "Survey Monkey", This document outlines Employee/Retiree activities for a given year. The Benefits Office surveys Peralta employees and retirees to gather their ideas and preferences for future workshops.
- 4) Copies of all three documents will be maintained in the PRO files located in the PFT office.

Jennifer emphasized that inquiries by phone should always use the following number—510-466-7229. Either Jennifer or Ronnie will get

back to the inquirer. In response to Debra's questions shared with Jennifer prior to this meeting Jennifer made the following points:

- 1) Regarding the difference between a broker and a consultant—Jennifer pointed out that a broker works on commission and the consultant is fee-based. The consultant cannot be reached by phone and/or directly by retirees.
- 2) Jennifer's next newsletter available in early May has space devoted to PRO concerns. Bruce agreed to review that portion of the newsletter and make any suggestions for change by April 15, 2016 to Jennifer.
- 3) Jennifer stated that emergency expenses will be repaid.
- 4) Jennifer agreed to investigate the option of an inquirer's opportunity to bring a PRO representative to the Benefits Office to resolve a medical question—e.g. if the inquirer is disabled or impaired and therefore needs a representative to make his/her questions totally clear.

Social Committee: Patricia suggested that the luncheon planned for recent PRO Board retirees be cancelled and that those four honorees be given a \$100.00 gift certificate instead. Debra and Jerry will write a thank-you note to accompany the certificate.

Regarding the Garden Party, the Picnic and the annual Membership meeting the following conclusions were reached:

- 1) Cancel the Garden Party.
- 2) Maintain the picnic and point out that it be BYO Lunch.
- 3) Maintain the annual November membership meeting and hire someone who can organize the lunch.

Scholarship Committee: Debra pointed out that the readers for this year's scholarship awards have completed their task and that PRO needs to identify presenters for the Award Ceremonies at the four colleges. Debby agreed to find out the dates and times of the ceremonies.

Membership Committee: John emphasized that he will establish an ad-hoc membership committee staffed by retirees with whom he is familiar who can mobilize the needed effort effectively.

Newsletter: Bruce explained that though there may sometimes be little news to report that on the whole, the PRO newsletter has sufficient information to report.

Debra alerted the Board that on April 13 at Laney there will be a Workshop held 3:30-5:00 in room F255. Also, Debra signaled that the June meeting of PRO shall take place on June 8, 2016.

Minimum Wage: Independent of the Minimum Wage proposal recently passed in the State of California by Governor Brown, the city of Berkeley have advanced an Initiative Measure to be submitted to the Voters. Ned Pearlstein, former PRO Board member, has requested of PRO an endorsement of the Berkeley Initiative. An attachment describes the Initiative. Bruce moved for approval, seconded by John. Both John and Debra cautioned that PRO needs to establish some criteria for making political endorsements. The Board agreed that the newsletter should discuss the minimum wage issue and explain PRO's endorsement.

Debra adjourned this meeting at 3:11PM.