

Peralta Retirees Organization

Meeting Minutes: March 4, 2020

Present: Debra Weintraub (President) Bruce Jacobs (Vice President), Jerry Herman, Burt Dragin, Stan Peters, Judy Cohen (Secretary)
Alex Pappas, Karen Anderson

Agenda item	Discussion	Follow up action
	Call to order at 1:02 pm	
Approval of Minutes		
Secretary	Minutes Approved	
Treasurer	Position still vacant. Bruce acting Treasurer. Closing balance: \$10,928.57. About \$300 in bills still outstanding. Question how much is in scholarship fund. Still uncoordinated. Bruce thinks we are close to having funding to cover scholarships at \$750 per student. Newsletter expense is about \$1000 per quarter including labels and postage. Mailbox is expensive but necessary and convenient for Karolyn to access. Newsletter is a way for members to communicate.	Debbie will follow up. Bruce will check on mailbox expense at his post office.
Vice President		
President	Does PRO want to message about Corona virus? Bruce mentioned sharing common sense email that is widely distributed. Joseph Beilinsky wants Academic Senate involved with information sharing about parking, ID, campus activities and college events. Maintain "edu" for communication, but there are issues. Question about tuition reduction for retirees, but only fees allowed by State are permitted. Community College tuition is \$46/per unit.	
Benefits Committee	Bruce and Harizon working on base SPD for 2004 retirees which has not been there since conversion to CoreSource. They reached agreement with most important issues resolved in ways that Bruce thinks advantageous to retirees. Alliant sabotaged agreement offering a Modern Agreement. Waiting for new sample to compare and identify what we want; how it compares to PRO SPD. Meanwhile PFT has discovered discrepancies between the CBA and the latest SPD, e.g. Bridge benefits for dependents under age 65 where employee has retired. Alliant wants a uniform summary plan, however retirement has been with different benefits. Implication down the road if Union negotiates a decrease, then retirees could receive less benefits. Trustmark is changing agreement	Meeting on 3/18/20 to discuss.

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	without negotiation, and District agrees in order to cut costs. This is a problem, illegal and against contract; (unless changes mandated by Federal or State law). There have been meetings on agreements, but changes keep happening. This has been a concern for 16 years. Karen asked if Alliant inserted Modern SPD to agreements already reached, but nothing has been received from Alliant.	
Scholarships	Debbie has 6 readers; needs 2 more. Jerry volunteered to read. Scholarships applications ready by 3/20 to be completed by 4/7. Looking for Scholarship Chairperson. \$750/per student.	
Membership	Need Chairperson. Newsletter produced excellent response. People who had expired, renewed, reflected in extra dues received. Will PRO conduct a workshop for retirees this year? Consider Spring Break (4/12-4/18) when planning workshop	Bruce will check on a date for April.
Newsletter	<p>Thanks to Burt Dragin for taking on the Newsletter. He is proud to take on the responsibility. Luncheon photos were not clear. Question about obituary. Burt wrote to Debbie, Bruce and Jerry regarding the obit and wants to run comment about the response.</p> <p>Ida Pound daughter sent 2000 word Obit, however if we give space to everyone who passes, that will be the entire newsletter. Sue Chin filed a complaint about the Petrilli obit. Past policy did not favor one retiree over another. In-memoriam box should mention deceased retiree; a brief letter to editor could be written by family, but not part of newsletter article. Next Newsletter should include policy about obits and a way to acknowledge via letter to editor. Note: George Herring was an exception as a PRO Board member. Newsletter is usually 8 pages. Create box and word limit for letters to editor.</p> <p>Jerry commended Debbie's column.</p> <p>Burt commented about 12 point formatting, suggesting reducing to 11 point. Burt will enter page continuity when an article runs to later page in newsletter. PRO in favor of Burt using his expertise when producing the newsletter.</p> <p>It takes 4 people to work on newsletter distribution (labels & folding). When Newsletter is ready, notify PRO to search for distribution help.</p> <p>Sue Chin should have list of renewals.</p> <p>Newsletter needs instruction insert about how to renew. Suggest box in newsletter on how to renew. Usually January issue has an insert.</p> <p>Stories for July issue due beginning of May. Will need scholarship recipients, BIO and photo from student.</p> <p>Ideas for Articles: Medicare workshop in April (Medicare and Mental Health</p>	<p>Burt will follow up on luncheon photos. Need to set clear policy about obituaries. Call Ida Pound family to acknowledge and explain.</p> <p>Clarify who performs production tasks. Burt will buy stamps and work with 3 others.</p>

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	coverage); Bruce can give status of SPD; Info about Census; Article about travel; Article about Prop 13 loss; Bruce story about attending University of Chicago with Bernie Sanders in 1961; Next newsletter in May, deadline to submit to Burt beginning of April .	
Retirement Board		
New Business	Debbie asked for job description of OPEB Bonds person. Christine Williams sent her job description. She has 2 year contract and office at the District. Michael Mills asked if she will be permanent. Retirement Board not obliged to pay anything except salary (no benefits or expenses). Difficult to find someone to do job at salary offered by District.	
Old Business	None	
Adjournment	Adjourned at 3:06 pm. Next meeting: June 3, 2020	

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Cohen