

PRO Board Meeting, May 4, 2005  
PFT Conference Room

**Present:** Officers: Jerry Herman, President, Bruce Jacobs, Vice-President, Juanita Peterson, Secretary, Shirley Timm, Treasurer  
Board: Remo Arancio, George Herring, Phyllis Jones, Alex Pappas  
Absent: George Pacheco, Shirley Nedham  
Guests: Jennifer Seibert, PCCD Benefit Coordinator, Carol Greene, Risk Management  
Benefits Committee: Ned Pearlstein, Carmen Rezendes  
Service Committee: Sondra Neiman  
Social Committee: Ralph Marinaro

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Herman at 12:35 pm with the explanation that the meeting was a joint effort of the PRO Board and the Benefits Service Committee. Each person was asked to give their name and history with the Peralta District. The purpose of the meeting was to have a back and forth conversation with those on the Board and the Guests and to recognize the symbolic relationship each has with the other.

The Benefits Committee asked for clarification of the two types of reimbursements for Medicare Part B needed by Ms. Seibert's office. The concern is not to overwhelm her office with requests. Required by Ms. Seibert's office is one of the following for each quarterly reimbursement request:

The annual Social Security statement of medical benefits, for those persons whose Medicare Part B medical benefit is deducted monthly from their Social Security check (submitted once each year); or  
One STRS verification of payment for persons having Medicare Part B medical benefits deducted from their monthly STRS check; or

One copy of the Medicare quarterly billing statement acknowledging receipt for the previous three months and a copy of the cancelled check or credit card statement.

Ms. Seibert informed the group that a new database is being installed at the District and that her office is being moved. Beginning in July of this year, reimbursement for Medicare Part B for retirees will be outsourced to Pension Dynamics. Cost for the outsourcing was not known. Concern was expressed that there would not be a direct connection between retirees and Pension Dynamics as there has been with Ms. Seibert.

Bruce requested Ms. Seibert to provide him with information about the changes so that he can put the information on the Website. For example, whether enrollment in Medicare Part B is or is not required; what procedures are to be followed when an employee turns 65. Ms. Seibert will do some research before responding to these questions. The group was advised that the needed vote on the STRS Santa Claus program had taken place a few months ago.

Ms. Seibert and Ms. Greene were asked what PRO could do to help them. The response was to be patient while they get their offices back into shape and learn the new database software. When asked how the District determined who among the retirees had died, the response was that there is no procedure in place. Alex suggested that Medicare Part B is a way of determining who has requested reimbursement, since Social Security is always notified of a death. PRO will also let Human Resources know of any deaths of retirees that are reported to its members.

**Ms. Seibert and George Herring will work on procedures for beneficiaries when a member dies. Bruce will include this information in the next Newsletter.**

Ms. Seibert provided a list of CoreSource benefits that she had received and passed them to Alex. She was asked if InterPlan could be replaced by the Blue Cross network.

**Ms. Seibert will work with Alex, Bruce, and Jerry to determine an answer.**

Ms. Seibert and Ms. Greene departed at 1:20 pm.

**President's Report:** Ed Minasian has resigned from the Board. Each Board Member signed the letter to Ed Minasian commending him for initiating PRO and for his work. Bruce will print the letter on letterhead. Pat England was selected to complete Ed's term of office. She will attend the next meeting. Jerry called attention to the SF Chronicle article on BART management's proposal to reduce retiree benefits. Bruce suggested that one or two people on the Board write an op-ed piece to clarify for voters and the community why retiree medical benefits are an entitlement based on the fact that they represent deferred compensation. He pointed out that in salary negotiations the District frequently justified low salaries by pointing to the high cost of benefits for employees, both while the employee was active and after s/he retired.

Jerry announced that the Exec has approved, via email, to consider non-profit status for PRO. With IRS 501(c)(3) status, we would not have to buy liability insurance for Board members and our organization. This status also will save on postage for our mailings. A report must be filed to retain the status each year, but there is no renewal fee

**MSU(George H., Bruce J.) The Board voted to apply for non-profit status IRS 501(c)(3).**

**Treasurer's Report:** Shirley reported that the current balance for PRO is \$4320.62.

**Secretary's Report:** Copies of the April 13 minutes, with corrections, were distributed.

**MSU(George H., Alex):** Treasurer's report and Secretary's report be accepted.

**Newsletter Editor's Report:** Bruce distributed a copy of the survey to be mailed to all members. He asked for Jerry to write a cover letter for the survey. The letter will include a list of pros and cons for IRS 501(c)(3), non-profit status. Also, Jerry will prepare a flyer for the picnic.

**Service Committee:** Sondra Neiman and Phyllis Jones are Co-Chairs for the group. The first meeting was on March 31<sup>st</sup> and the second meeting is to be pm April 5<sup>th</sup>. Additional members are Pat England, Chris Hadley, Art Naftaly, Jan Wall, and Smokey Wilson. The group plans to focus on 1) Tutoring at all campuses, 2) Mentoring new faculty, 3) Book donations, and 4) Raising funds for scholarships. The Committee is off to a good start.

**Social Committee:** Ralph Marinaro, Chair, met once with members Wise Allen, Pat England, Ralph Hohl, Don Hongisto, Linda Japson, and Jane Koll. The mission of the Committee will be to have fun while looking out for PRO interests. Two events per year are planned, a picnic in June and a get-together during December holidays. Dates and times will be announced. The group also will determine the special interests of PRO members. Suggestions so far are golf, theater plays, sports events, tours, and lunch meetings. The group may come to the Treasury for funds. Ralph M. is currently in a play at the Chanticleers Theater in Castro Valley.

**The Board decided that all committees must obtain approval from the Board prior to holding an event. Each committee will be so advised by President Herman.**

**Sunshine Committee:** Ed Minasian sent guidelines for the Committee. The second statement of Guideline 2 was omitted and replaced by "Notice of death of member to be forwarded to the Newsletter Editor". Guideline 6 was omitted. **The Board unanimously agreed for Ida Pound to be the Chair of the Committee.**

**Benefits Committee:** Alex, Chair, expressed concern by the Committee that the District does not have an organized method of determining when a retiree has died. It should be emphasized to the District that health benefits continue to be paid, at quite a cost, unless the name of the deceased is removed from the roll.

**The next two Board meetings will be on June 1<sup>st</sup> and July 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm in the PFT Conference Room.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Juanita Peterson, Secretary