



The Peralta Retiree

From the President...

by Jerry Herman, PRO President

Beware Of Email Lie About W-2

I want to alert you to an email in wide circulation which states that beginning in 2011 the cost of health care paid by an employer will be reported on your W-2 form and then will be taxed as income for the employee (or, in our case, retiree). It is true that employers must report the cost of health care on W-2 forms in 2011. But the claim in the email that this amount will be taxed is a **blatant, bald-faced lie** intended to scare voters into unseating congressional incumbents who voted for the Health Care Reform Bill. See the article on page 8 for the complete explanation. If you have received this email, don't believe it, and please do not forward it to others. The health insurance amount to be reported on the W-2 form is **NOT TAXABLE**.

Good News...

Peralta retirees can take comfort in the action of the Fresno Unified School District Board on June 2. They voted unanimously (7-0) not to appeal the local court's decision declaring the monthly fee the district imposed on Fresno retired teachers' health care benefits to be illegal (See article on page 2). That's a resounding signal that Fresno Unified thinks it cannot get the court decision struck down and that it would be futile to try. Every governing board of a California public institution that has guaranteed retirees lifetime health care benefits – including Peralta - must now realize that trying to modify those benefits is a losing proposition. That's some bright sunshine for Peralta retirees in the midst of the economic gloom.

Bad News...

Like virtually every other school district in California, Peralta finds itself struggling to keep its head

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Upcoming PRO Events



PRO's Annual Picnic

Thursday, August 12
Details on Page 3



PRO Theater Party at Woodminster Amphitheater

Paint Your Wagon

Friday, September 11
Details on Page 5

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NO APPEAL IN FURA CASE

The Fresno Unified Retirees Association (FURA) has notified PRO that the Fresno Unified School District Board voted 7 - 0 and reported out in open session at their meeting on June 2, 2010, that the District **will not** appeal Judge Franson's decision to the 5th District Court of Appeals. In that decision Judge Franson ruled that Fresno Unified School District had violated the contractual rights of retirees by charging them for health benefits.

As in the case of Peralta, Fresno Unified had promised free health insurance for life in numerous union contracts and verbal statements. In 2005, the District imposed substantial charges for the insurance. FURA fought back with the lawsuit that resulted in Judge Franson's decision which completely vindicated the retirees' position.

Carole Sarkisian, FURA President, indicated that "This victory is a testament to the extraordinary

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Peralta Retirees Organization

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Peralta Colleges Foundation Hires Executive Director

Stephanie Casenza has joined the Peralta Colleges Foundation as its first full-time executive director.

"A viable and stable foundation is essential to the long-term health of the district's four colleges, and the board felt we were long overdue in hiring a qualified, full-time professional to take the foundation to the next level," according to Karen Friedman, president of the organization's board of directors. "We conducted a comprehensive search, and Stephanie was our unanimous first-choice with experience in all of the key responsibility areas."

Peralta The Colleges Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1971 to secure funds in support of the missions of the four colleges in the Peralta Community College District. The Foundation's primary purposes are to provide scholarships to students and support excellence in the colleges' diverse professional and vocational training programs.

Casenza brings a broad base of experience in the business and nonprofit worlds to her role as executive director of the Peralta Colleges Foundation. Her skills in management, fundraising, grantmaking, marketing, and public relations have been gained through positions in higher education, healthcare, the arts, and as a consultant.

(From the President... *Continued from page 1)*

above water. The budget picture is dismal, and the district has hired consultants to try to fabricate a lifeboat. The OPEB bonds, which we have seen as fiscal security to fund retiree benefits, have been losing money. In the latest Peralta budget they are listed as a substantial liability. Their fate will be determined in the next few months. Rest assured that PRO leadership will do everything we can to monitor the process and to exert our influence to protect the funding for our benefits. We will keep you posted through the newsletter and in periodic emails as to the latest developments.

Join your fellow Peralta retirees for

PRO's ANNUAL PICNIC

*in the redwoods at the Huckleberry Picnic Area of
Oakland's beautiful Roberts Regional Recreation Area*

Thursday, August 12 · 11 am to 3 pm



PRO will supply water, soft drinks, plates, utensils, salad and dessert. Bring your picnic lunch and any other beverage of your choice.

**Come join PRO for a day under the shade of the redwoods
full of fun with prizes and surprises.**

Parking: \$5 per car

Wheelchair Accessible

Driving Directions:

From Highway 13 (Warren Freeway)

Take the Joaquin Miller exit and go east, up the hill on Joaquin Miller. Turn left at Skyline Blvd. Proceed one mile to the Roberts entrance on the right.

From 580

Exit on 35th Ave. and proceed up the hill on 35th, which will eventually become Redwood Road. At the intersection of Redwood and Skyline Blvd., turn left

and proceed for one mile, then right to stay on Skyline. Proceed for one mile to the entrance to Roberts on the right.

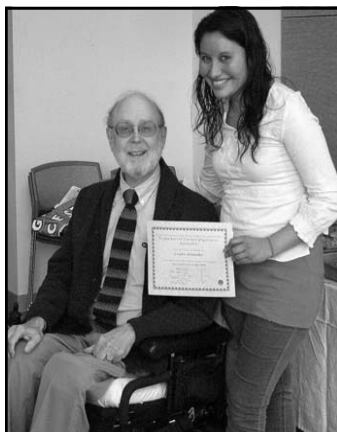
RSVP: Let us know if you're coming and how many will be in your party. Call or e-mail Social Committee Co-Chair:

**Linda Japzon
510-483-7183 ·**

PRO's 2010 Scholarships Awarded

By Sondra Neiman, Chair of PRO's Service Committee

Four outstanding students, one from each of the Peralta Colleges, were each recipients of a one thousand dollar PRO scholarship.



PRO Service Committee member Chris Hadley with BCC awardee Laura Hidrobo

The PRO scholarship recipient, from Berkeley City College, is Laura Hidrobo, Laura's academic major, at BCC is Biology. Her academic goal is to graduate from BCC in 2012, and then transfer to a university and study Integrative Biology. She has her sights set on Harvard, Stanford, or U.C. Berkeley. Her desire is to be a doctor

and to research holistic remedies by focusing on ancient cultures. She states that her life has been one of deprivation, but she believes she has been strengthened by these challenging experiences to take her educational opportunities very seriously, and work very hard to achieve her goals. Her overall life goal is to "use my education to better assist humanity." In addition to her college classes, she was a legislative intern in the city of Berkeley and has an impressive letter from Berkeley City Mayor, Tom Bates, as part of her overall resume.

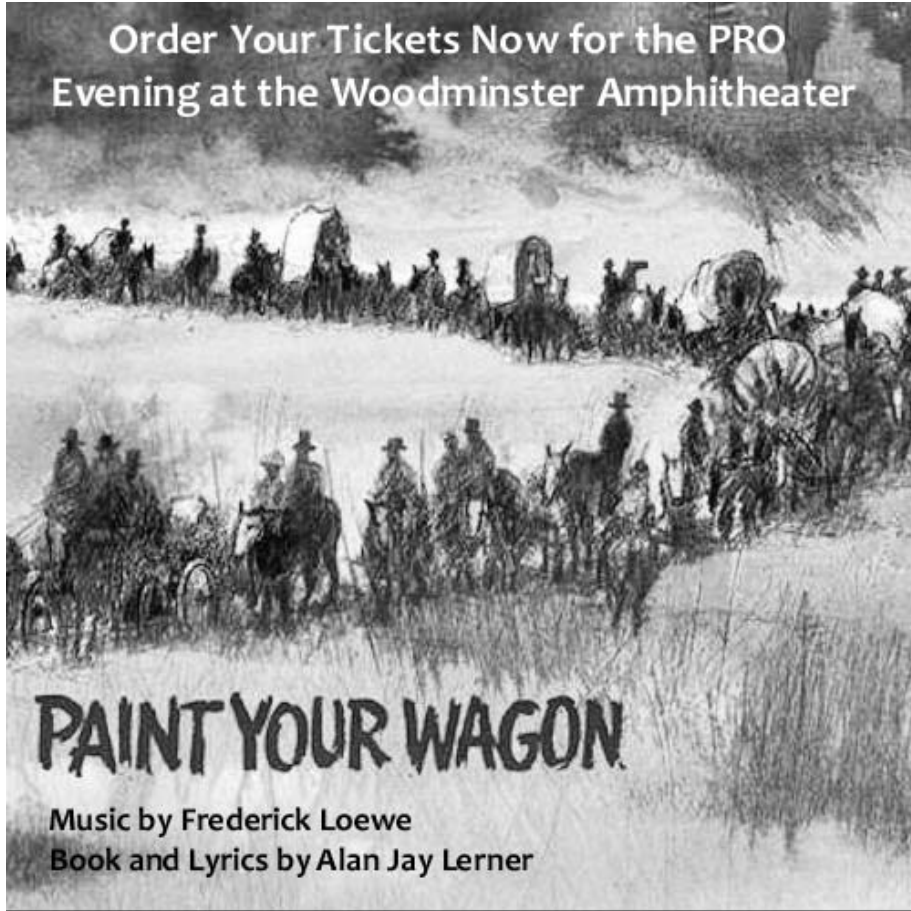
The scholarship student from College of Alameda was Linh Ly. Ms. Ly was awarded her scholarship by Linda Japzon, PRO board member. Linh Ly's academic major is Nursing, her overall GPA is 4.0, and she plans on transferring to San Francisco State University to complete her nursing education. She was born to a Chinese-Vietnamese family and raised in Vietnam, moving to the US at the age of eleven. She is a volunteer at the American Red Cross Blood Center as a way to further her insight into the medical field. Ly states that the freedom of the United States has helped her develop her individual

strengths, and helped her grow to be a self motivated and determined individual, with the desire and commitment to become a registered nurse.

From Laney College we have Cassandra Beverly who received her scholarship award from Shirley Timm, PRO Treasurer. Cassandra's academic major, for her AA degree is Paralegal Studies, and her plan is to transfer to the University of San Francisco, with a major in Public Administration. She is currently employed as a Litigation Examiner at Kaiser Permanente. Her career goal is to move up within the ranks of Kaiser Permanente, after completing the university requirements and receiving her degree in Public Administration. She is a single mother of two children, one of whom was born while Cassandra was still in high school. She believes that the Peralta Colleges gave her the opportunity to pursue academic and career goals that many would have thought impossible in her situation. She has been able to achieve 4.0 GPA, and along with working and being a mother, she has also been involved in her church and is the President of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Our fourth scholarship recipient is Manuel Lizarde, from Merritt College. Manuel states that he has worked very hard to overcome many personal issues and apply himself to his long term goal, which is to assist others in the Oakland community as a Substance Abuse Counselor. In order to achieve his goal, Manuel is majoring in Community Social Services and Substance Abuse Counseling at Merritt. He intends to transfer to U.C. Berkeley after attaining his AA degree. At UCB he plans to major in Sociology/ Social Work. He is currently on the Honor Roll and Dean's List, at Merritt.

I invite everyone in PRO to join me in congratulating these very fine and worthy students and to wish them continued success. I also want to personally thank each and every PRO member who made a contribution to the PRO Scholarship Fund, and to encourage everyone to continue making contributions so we can award more scholarships in the coming years.



Paint Your Wagon takes place in the California wilderness of 1853, and tells the story of a crusty old gold miner, Ben Rumson, his daughter Jennifer, and a townful of miners and other colorful Gold Rush characters. Songs include "I Talk To the Trees," "They Call the Wind Mariah," and "Wandrin' Star."

Friday □ September 10

\$21 per ticket

(center section—close to the stage—regular price for these tickets is \$40)

Before the show PRO will have picnic tables reserved for theatergoers.

Details will be included when we mail your tickets.

To reserve your tickets (friends and family are welcome)

complete the form below and mail by August 7 to:

PRO, PO Box 1951, El Cerrito, CA 94530

✂

Please send me _____ tickets for the Woodminster Summer Musical *Paint Your Wagon* on Friday, September 11. Enclosed is my check made out to 'PRO' for _____ (\$21/ticket).

(Please print)

Name _____

Address _____ Email _____

Phone _____

PRO's Spring Garden Party



Shirley Conner, PRO's hostess

About 35 PRO members gathered on Sunday, May 23 for a garden party at the Alameda home of Shirley Conner. The weather, which had been wet and cold all week, turned warm and sunny just in time. The garden was lovely, the food was great, and the company, as with every PRO gathering, was congenial.



Pat England, Jay Quesada and Linda Japzon sporting PRO T-Shirts



Pat England, Ida Pound, Juanita Peterson and Odell Johnson

Live music contributed to the pleasant atmosphere. The entertainment was provided by two high school students from Alameda. Judy Cruces played the violin and Robert Quesada played acoustic guitar. The selections were classical and flamenco.



Rita Haberlin wins a raffle prize



Velma Nance

The Pro Board thanks Chris Skarada, Administration Assistant, and Tulip Hill Winery and Vineyards for their generous donation of wine to the Garden Party. Tulip Hill Winery and Vineyards is one of Lake County's premier wineries. It is located on Hwy 20 and Bartlett Springs Road in Nice, CA. For more information on the winery and it's summer music and wine pairing events you can visit their web site: www.tuliphillwinery.com



Toni L'Esperance and Bunny Moeller



Irv Stein and Bruce Jacobs



A group of retirees anticipating the outcome of the Garden Party raffle



Shirley Timm, Bunny Moeller, and Odell Johnson

Contribute To The Pro Scholarship Fund By Honoring Or Memorializing A Friend Or Loved One

✂ **Yes, I want to support the PRO Scholarship Fund with a contribution.**
(Please print)

In honor of: On the occasion of: In memory of:

Please send acknowledgement card to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Contributor's Name: _____

Contributor's Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

- Make check payable to: **The Peralta Foundation—PRO**
- Send to: PRO, PO Box 1951, El Cerrito, CA 94530
- Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by federal and state law.

IN MEMORIAM

The following Peralta retirees have passed away during the last months. PRO extends our deepest condolences to the families and loved ones.

**Dick Collins
Fran Frame
Kenneth Guinasso
Jack Olson**

If you have any information about the passing or the serious illness of a Peralta retiree, please contact Bruce Jacobs at: webmaster@peraltaretirees.org or by writing to PRO, PO Box 1951, El Cerrito CA 94530.

Contributions Received for the PRO Scholarship Fund

In Memory of	Contributor
Jack Olson	Susan and Harvey Chin
Lee Spenza	John and Marge Maloney
In Honor of	Contributor
Mark Greenside	Ron Felzer
Bruce Jacobs	Ron Felzer
Alex Pappas	Ron Felzer
Dan Rosen	Ron Felzer

Congratulations to Socorro Taylor on Her Retirement

The PRO board and its members wish to extend congratulations and warm wishes to Socorro Taylor on her retirement from the Peralta District Office. As staff assistant, in the Peralta Foundations Office Socorro has been a valuable resource and support to PRO. She has assisted the Service Committee in the endowment or our four annual PRO scholarships,

with remarkable proficiency and expert advice and consultation. As we welcome Suzanne Kunkel, the staff assistant who is assigned to assist us in Socorro's place, we know we will miss Socorro. But, we also hope we'll be welcoming her soon as a new member of PRO!

PRO Members Receive Deceptive Email About New Health Care Bill

by Bruce Jacobs

An email circulated to many PRO members attempts to undermine support for the new health care legislation by incorrectly asserting that employer payments for health insurance will be considered taxable income. The email correctly indicates that employers will have to report the value of health insurance on W-2 forms starting in 2011. However, it goes on to say that individuals will then have to pay taxes on that amount which is totally false.

The new legislation does impose a tax on so-called “Cadillac” health insurance plans. The W-2 reporting requirement was included to allow the government to ascertain if an employer’s plan falls into the “Cadillac” category, and if it does there will be a tax on the amount over the cutoff. However, for PCCD retirees it’s important to note that Peralta’s plan is *not* considered a “Cadillac” plan. In addition the provision does not go into effect until 2018.

The circulating email refers recipients to an article in Kiplinger’s Magazine. If you are interested in seeing

what Kiplinger’s actually has to say go to <http://www.kiplinger.com/columns/ask/archive/a-tax-on-health-benefits.html>.

The email ends by suggesting that “people have the right to know the truth as there is an election this November.” The email circulates fears and rumors precisely so that people will not know the truth.

(FURA Continued from page 2)

dedication and tireless work of hundreds and hundreds of retirees, and others, who willingly gave their time, memories and records to support this case. FURA’s evidence proved beyond question that the District made a promise of lifetime retirement health benefits, with no premium charges, a promise district employees relied upon through years of lower pay.”

There is a September 10, 2010 court date in Judge Franson's courtroom regarding FURA's motion for court costs and attorney fees.

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