

Peralta Retirees Organization

PRO Meeting Minutes, December 6, 2023

Present: Debby Weintraub, Bruce Jacobs, Jerry Herman, Burt Dragin, Ann Elliott, Jose Ortiz, Michael Mills, Judy Cohen

Agenda item	Discussion	Follow up action
Meeting	Call to order 1:11 pm	
Minutes	Reviewed and Motion to accept approved	
Treasurers Report	<p>\$1330 intake. Pay out includes \$500 Web retainer. Intake paid for last 3 months expenses. 2 checks in mailbox today. \$75 plus 8 subscriptions. This is time of year renewals at maximum. We generally get more at membership meeting. Legal fund stands at \$15,983.13. No funds used. If we are not going to use it, what do we do with it?</p> <p>Mike: What remains from retainer to Tom Sinclair? Not sure. Scholarship fund is doing well.</p> <p>Deb: We do not have many on-going expenses.</p> <p>Bruce: Those who passed generated some funds. \$1000 Contribution in memory of Ned went to scholarship fund.</p> <p>Deb: We can ask Ricki what is in there. We give scholarships once a year. We get readers; select winners, distribute \$\$.</p> <p>Jose would like to donate to operating costs. Great!</p> <p>Bruce: Should we send out message that we accept donations in order to raise some \$\$? Concern that Web development, Newsletter and insurance is costly. Dry out money in a year.</p> <p>Jerry: We haven't tapped into new generation of Retirees; raise dues to \$30/year?</p>	
Discussion	<p>We are spending future money now. Raise Dues. Request Operating funds. In person membership meeting.</p> <p>Burt: Why not go to a Foundation for support? We are all volunteers.</p> <p>Bruce: It is tricky to get a grant.</p> <p>Jose: Ask Life-Timers for additional contribution.</p> <p>Deb: Article in Newsletter. She wrote to Jeff; if we can remind people in PFT Newsletter to join PRO. Does PFT want to host information meeting with Bruce? SEIU? Facebook?</p> <p>Bruce: There are many who have already paid for 5 years and will not be contributing soon. If there are annual renewals, that is not much money. No clear</p>	<p>Jerry will write Article; let people know what PRO has done to save benefits.</p>

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	<p>sense how to handle it. Not adverse to going to a foundation, but why would we get much consideration?</p> <p>Mike: Understandable to increase dues. It is a small amount. At minimum, increase to \$30 will cover stamps. Has not found organization that deals with our type of organization.</p> <p>Jerry: Buck Institute in Marin. We have to generate new membership. How many in last 4-5 years?</p> <p>Deb: What is finite number of members. number is shrinking. What will keep organization going? We will have to make decision about legal fund. Fundraiser? Membership meeting? Cocktail Party? Jazz. Will support raising dues to \$30. If people cannot afford to pay, then pay less.</p> <p>Burt \$35- voluntary? We can show people how expenses have gone up. \$800/issue. Now we have Victor; printing was less. Newsletter costs twice as much as prior years.</p> <p>Jerry: Do not make it voluntary. If person cannot afford it, let us know and we can make arrangement.</p> <p>Still have issue of getting new members. Newsletter us life line to membership but has not generated response for people to participate. Personal call and contact get significant results. Use mail chimp.</p>	
<p>Motion</p>	<p>PRO charge: \$35 year; \$95/3 years; \$150/five years \$300 lifetime</p> <p>Jose: Is this retro?</p> <p>Jerry starting next year (2024); and solicit operating costs contributions via Newsletter. All in favor; passed unanimously</p>	
	<p>Remind people how active and effective PRO has performed in last 2 years. Help Retirees with lifetime benefits.</p> <p>Jose: Continue to advocate for Retirees</p> <p>Jerry: Generally, District Admin always looking to save \$\$\$. There are issues that will come up we cannot foresee that PRO will address. Need new leadership. Without PRO, retirees will be on their own. If not for viable organization. People will give money, but not necessarily participate. Spring fundraiser; Wine tasting</p> <p>Jerry: Events; get togethers are very important and integrate fundraising. Need Facebook and classified. Put message on Facebook for PRO membership.</p> <p>Deb: Non-faculty should become leadership. Facebook is not heavy faculty.</p> <p>Mike: Asked for discussion at last benefits meeting.</p> <p>Bruce: We have to change Paypal for new dues on website.</p>	

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	Jerry: Wait till next year. Do not penalize those who have already paid.	
	Bruce: Calendar based. Dues go up as of 2024. Jennifer will give open enrollment cutoff as well as non-reimbursement.	Bruce will contact Andrew to make change as of January 1st
Newsletter	Organize Spring Event; Burt, Jerry, Ann; April or May. Any musicians. People from Music Dept? Burt is Laney student. Free annual music Dept concert in Odell Johnson auditorium. Laney Theater. Look for Newsletter; email Burt.	
Benefits	<p>New Chancellor as of 1/1/2024. Local Benefits meeting. Per McKinley; negotiating with Navia to takeover reimbursements. He hopes to get 12/12/23 Board approval for agreement.</p> <p>Kaiser: District has decided on way to handle SISC problem is for District to contract directly with Kaiser. Go with old SPD, Going to Board on 12/12. Get in touch with friendly Board members to agree. Nicky, Lewis, Pauline, Diana, Withrow. McKinley will bring forth Navia agreement to have Kaiser for retirees.</p> <p>Deb: Letter from District. Last time for any change. Per SISC, cannot leave Kaiser and come back. Not Advantage.</p> <p>Bruce: We have no proof McKinley is talking to Kaiser.</p> <p>Jerry: Tanisha not going to deal with reimbursements. Up to NAVIA.</p> <p>Bruce: 12/20 Benefits meeting. McKinley changed time to 2:00 pm. PFT cannot be present. No replacement yet for McKinley.</p> <p>Bruce: spoke with McKinley. People are out thousands of dollars. People Emailed McKinley but nothing happened.</p> <p>Deb: Can compose something for mail chimp about Kaiser enrollment and reimbursement. Include Trustees in emails to let them know about important issues. Board Agenda is out on 12/7/23. Is it in closed session? Deb will ask Lewis. Contract Trustees to vote for these issues. Board of PRO should meet new Chancellor.</p>	
	<p>Jerry: Can we address departure of PRO Leadership. We have no replacements.</p> <p>Bruce Asked Allen Miller to Benefits committee; not enthusiastic, doubtful.</p> <p>Deb: Kerry Compton seemed interested in Benefits Committee.</p> <p>Connie Willis, no response. Judy: family issues.</p> <p>Bruce: We need treasurer. Jose does not live in area. Does Jose know anyone who can step up?</p> <p>Can Deb and Bruce serve as interim until we find someone?</p>	

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	<p>Bruce: No reason for anyone to step up if they remain interim. Ann could take over as Treasurer. Bruce does all banking electronically.</p> <p>Bruce: Run Newsletter with President message blank.</p> <p>Jerry: We must be in touch with someone personally. Those on Board should talk to others who can step in.</p> <p>Deb: Feels it is OK to let go of role. After 9 years it should be someone on Board. Older people travel, have health issues. What is the good of dues without leadership? Next year is election year, where others may be involved.</p> <p>Jose: Shock of blank page may move people to inquire.</p> <p>Jerry: Losing continuity. Can't replace Bruce. There is institutional knowledge. Someone familiar with PRO should fill in somehow. We are at a loss!! Most Retirees do not realize with a void will be left.</p> <p>Burt: Huge Thank you to Debby. Deb: What she does is minimal. Person must be committed to meeting and screening Chancellor. Willing to work with newcomers.</p> <p>Burt: There are people who can be a quick study.</p> <p>Deb: Ann &amp; Christine Olson, take over Treasurer. Reach out to Kerry to serve on Benefits Committee. Ask Shirley Fogarino again. Maybe sit on benefits committee. Greg Marro is on Board...Maybe??</p> <p>Can we come up with names of those who may step up? There used to be enthusiasm. People are not alarmed, but should be. Communicate via email, names, actions,. Bruce leaving 12/2- 1/11/24.</p> <p>Bruce: Maybe membership meeting via Zoom? Late January; reimbursement update; Benefits update. Brainstorm about future. Put on Facebook. Late January, 1/24/24. 3:00pm</p> <p>PRO Zoom Meeting with link. About membership; Reimbursement update; Benefits update.</p> <p>Bruce going to family reunion. Happy Holidays to ALL. We will work it out.</p>	
Meeting Adjourned	3:28 pm	

Respectfully submitted,  
Judith Cohen