

Peralta Retirees Organization

PRO Meeting Minutes, ZOOM call 1/24/2024

Present: Debby Weintraub, Bruce Jacobs, Jerry Herman, Burt Dragin, Ann Elliott, Jose Ortiz, Michael Mills, Judy Cohen, Neil Dunlop, Maggie Walthall, Jose, Tom Branca, Regina Davis, Karen Bough, Art Naftaly, Kerry, Bill Lepowski, Tom Cluster, M Glen, Eva Chin, Mark Greenside, Rita Haberlin, Leslie Fleming, Nikki Elman, Margaret Traylor, Ann Marlys, Lawrence, Sanford Ohren, Anna, Judy Thomas, Susan Chin, Odell Johnson, KColl, Dinke Meryl, and others....

Agenda item	Discussion	Follow up action
Meeting	PRO Zoom 3-5PM	
Discussion	Issues: Leadership; Reimbursement; Newsletter	
Debbie	Current Leadership wants to step back. Need others to come forward. Last 18 months President has been active due to Dist health care issues. Works with other organizations. Must be willing and able to deal with Board of Trustees & retirees. Fundamental to keeping PRO together.	
Bruce	Holds many position; Vice President, Website Coordinator, Treasurer, Benefits committee, backs-up Debbie as needed. Resource person for Benefits information; questions; presentations. Protect lifetime benefits; must know District players.	
Jerry	PRO President first 10 years. Mike Baldinelli was Risk Manager. Advised to organize or District coming after lifetime benefits. Over 200 attendees, social events; Annual Scholarships. Most important is protection of lifetime benefits. Need strength in numbers. Debbie & Bruce stepping down. No leadership-PRO will die. Benefits were compromised but saved. Duties are significant; Deb Bruce willing to mentor and work with People; transition every couple of years. NOTE: Healthy Retirees are out and about. Unhealthy limits ability to be involved. Upcoming year may be stressful with election coming,	
Our Debbie	Very rewarding to work on healthcare. Won Battle against Medicare Advantage. Importance with organization being viable. One person agreed to become Treasurer. Need people on Board who may later transition Before healthcare crisis, President's job was only 10 hours/month. Now different.	
Bruce	If he combines all tasks-many hours. Clearly must separate out; person must be able to use software, check mailbox once every 10 days. Coordinate website. Communicate with our Technical person,	
Carolyn	How much can be done if person not physically close to Oakland?	
Bruce	Website is coordinated by computer. Treasurer must have access to post office; best local. Tracking Data base. Benefits Committee is by Zoom, so need Not be local for now. Marilyn with Ann take Treasurer duties (problems with children outside country). Bruce: We already have a person who volunteered as Treasurer. Deb: There may be way to work with 2 alternating people.	
Meryl	New. Not ready to take on new tasks. How many are in PRO? 300-350 current.	

Peralta Retirees Organization

Debbie	Board meets 4 times per year. Way to learn about organization. Activism around lifetime benefits. Post 2004 Not Lifetime.	
Jerry	Still 140 Active employees who are eligible for lifetime benefits. Leadership of PRO has mostly been Faculty. ALL ARE Welcome! Most effective to speak personally with potential person to step up. Comment from participant: Sees 3 necessary things. President. Move on it!	
Christine	How many are needed on Benefits Committee? How many Board members needed? Website – all can be done remotely.	
Bruce	Benefits – 3 serve. Debbie, Bruce, Michael Mills. Debbie and Bruce will mentor. 8 people on Board- more very useful. Mark Greenside will serve on Benefits Committee. Thank you!!	
Peg Lum	What will Benefits Committee be doing?	
Bruce	Advocate for retiree issues. Must be knowledgeable. Figuring with District about Reimbursement. Committee member must be advocate & have expertise. We expect to spend the next months mentoring and will provide documents. All issues come up. Kaiser, Medicae. Carolum – volunteers to take on website- Speaking for Jose – Benefit savvy at Contra Costa	
Jose Martin	Suggestion for Manual	
Helene	Available to be on Board, will get mail. Work this past year has been very helpful. Only PRO's alternative has helped her with benefits	
Kerry	Volunteered ast Treasurer. Maybe coordinate job	
Debbie	Still looking for someone for President. Will not leave PRO with nothing; doing it for many years. Will remain on the Board. Think about skills. There are many capable advocates. We are all busy. Fundraising – raised \$7000. Move on to reimbursement issue. Send email to Debbie or Bruce.	
Jerry	Still 2 important offices to fill. Seriously consider. Maybe Co-Presidents? The most important positions.	
Reimbursement	Many on call have has issue with Reimbursement. Message with Unions. Promise Retirees will be made whole. Healthcare that was in place on date of retirement was guaranteed. Did not happen. People are paying for treatments that were previously covered. NAVIA will be main distributor. Some people not reimbursed due to proposal assumption – signed by Benefits Manager. We have proposal-clear statement about not reimbursing. Why District did not know? District is contesting. Need exception. District is reimbursing anyway.	
Bruce	Relationship with former Vice Chancellor has been confrontational. Last meeting was more amicable. Snails pace reimbursement happening. Waiting for Navia. District promised to redesign Website and send draft for review. Tanisha Dickerson should be dedicated for Retiree Benefits. Deb will provide her email address.	
Neil Dunlop	Has Kaiser submitted request? Received vendor form-IRS form- no sense at all	

Peralta Retirees Organization

Michael Mills	Last meeting was attempt at resolution. Probably Dr. McKinley wants to leave accomplishing resolution. Board is involved. Chancellor listening. We need to have everything clearly written out. We have about 6 weeks to achieve this. Finally things are coming together.	
Richard Bideman	He has no issues. Lives in Hawaii	
Dinke	Last HR person was helpful. She has Dependent daughter over 26 years age; pays \$1500/month. Not been getting response.	
	Tammeil Gilkerson – New Chancellor, Paulina Gonzales – new Board of Trustees President, Louis Quindlen – new Board Vice President	
Bruce	OPEB Bonds pay for retiree benefits	
Debbie	Do not want to lose any benefits we had. Meet with McKinley and incoming Vice Chancellor. Tom: Spoke with Tanisha who is working on processing reimbursement claims. Send claims to District. Waiting for Navia. Spending \$1000/month for medication. How is this separated out. Issue is Generic vs. non-generic. There is difference between non-active ingredients in Generic.	
Tom	Spoke with Tanisha who is working on processing reimbursement claims. Send claims to District. Waiting for Navia. Spending \$1000/month for medication. How is this separated out. Issue is Generic vs. non-generic. There is difference between non-active ingredients in Generic.	
Debbie	Contractually we are to get same coverage as received prior to Benefits change.	
Mark	Suggestion strategy-wise. May not fight it out with McKinley. Where are with open enrollment issue? SISC not allowing retirees to open enroll.	
Debie	McKinley says he will look into it. Most people do not change their healthcare. This is not resolved.	
Bruce	McKinley said SISC gave one year waiver. Looking for quote from Kaiser to get out of SISC. Looking at cost. Nothing is written. SISC exception is for 2024.	
Meryl	Drug issue. Asking about Retirees First as advocate.	
Bruce	Is you are being asked to pay larger copay, contact Retirees First to intervene if regular monthly prescription.	
Kerry	Is someone at District making medical decisions? How should we proceed?	
Bruce	No decisions yet. Navia given old SPDs in order to make reimbursement decisions.	
Michael	We are coming to making decisions. Send email to Board to expedite matters. No desire to put healthcare on Agenda as an item. Looking for resolution with McKinley. Debbie has asked for agenda item and following up,	
Shirley	Sent bargaining units PDFs to reference bargaining agreements. There is language indicating what you are entitle to. The year or retirement spells out what is entitled. If you have such documents- share.	
Bruce	We had reached agreement on final SPD with Harizon. McKinley said that is what they are working with.	Bruce will put on PRO website

Peralta Retirees Organization

Debbie	Going forward: Pressure Trustees to advocate for Retiree issues. Reimbursement. PRO Board will work on resolution. For those interested in History, talk to Bruce. Keep History going.	Work on resolution
Bruce	Worthwhile project. Organizing Index on Website.	
	Thanks to everyone who made donation!	

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Cohen