

Peralta Retirees Organization

Meeting Minutes: February 23, 2022

Present via Zoom: Debbie Weintraub, Jerry Herman, Ann Elliot, Karen Anderson, Bruce Jacobs, Judy Cohen, Burt Dragin

Note: Stan Peters submitted some thoughts to Debbie

	Discussion	Follow up action
Call To Order	1:10 p.m.	
Approval of Minutes	Discussion: How do we know when retirees have passed away. How can PRO keep track? Jerry followed up with Christine, asking about numbers for each year. Christine has not returned with answer. All we want is numbers. Question: are we talking about retirees including Dependents? Assuming we are only counting retirees. Needing clarification: How many are Pre 2004 hires. Post 2004 do not impact OPEB. Minutes accepted as modified.	
	Debbie thanked Jerry for his hard work on Newsletter	
Treasurer Report	Bruce advised there was a flurry of dues received after Newsletter came out. Linda Sanford sent lifetime renewal. Expenses include both Felix and Victor. Victor is easy to work with. Print costs high. 10 pages incurred extra labor costs. New volunteer to print labels (Sue Chin grateful). Patrick McDermott has volunteered and will change label format to place membership date at the top. Bruce emailed those whose newsletter was returned. If we are to continue to send out Newsletters, cost will be \$700-\$800/issue. Between Victor and postage & printing - \$450-475 Renewal for Board Insurance is \$1000/year. There was \$2000 contribution from James Mohr to Scholarship fund. There is enough in fund to cover full scholarships this year.	Recommend Newsletter not to exceed 8 pages.
Vice President	Bruce not convinced we need to purchase insurance because we are not putting on events. We should consult with Alex about it. Debbie hoping to resume in-person membership meeting this fall. 2022-23 may have in-person events. Can we purchase insurance for a particular event? Bruce insurance completed form from Insurance company. Bill has not yet arrived. There may be places that carry their own liability insurance, e.g. Oakland Museum. If we are doing an event this summer, need to find a venue. Picnic is simple.	We can wait till next meeting in June to schedule next event. Be safe.
	Bruce assisted 93-year old, pre 2004 retiree being charged \$300 for prescription. Bruce checked that retiree is covered and wrote to Ronnie McRoberts at District who advised retiree must contact CAREMARK. The retiree unable to make inquiry. Pharmacy had	Burt suggested call for advocacy in Newsletter.

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	<p>called Caremark and was informed there is NOT \$1.00 copay for the medication. PRO can develop advocacy group that understands benefits. OR, District Benefit Office can involve an advocate for retirees (present to Board). Karen said the District does not think such advocacy is their responsibility. Jerry informed that District Benefits Office is still in charge of PRO benefits, so there remains a connection.</p> <p>As we go forward, we will probably have to address each problem individually. Karen added that District is not concerned with service; just numbers.</p> <p>How is it District's benefit to help retirees? If nothing, then it will be difficult to get cooperation to help individuals.</p> <p>Can do 2 Online trainings for advocacy & Medicare. Bruce in favor of Prospective Retiree Workshop in spring. Should partner with SEIU and faculty.</p>	<p>Perhaps do a training by Bruce to establish procedures and seek advocacy from PRO membership.</p>
Scholarship	<p>Money is stable. Readings will be ready March 23-24. It takes only 2 hours. Read finalists essays; No awards ceremony. There will be a few weeks to read and make decision. Do not have to be faculty to read essays. Burt, Ann and Jerry volunteered to read. Person who received last years' scholarship from Merritt did not reapply.</p>	<p>Debbie will find out how much is in scholarship fund.</p>
Newsletter	<p>Burt thinks Victor did incredible job. Burt submitted pages and headlines to Victor. Writing about ourselves received positive feedback. Can we get Newsletter online to prospective new retirees? Email from Roger about STRS divesting from Fossil fuel investments. Ann mentioned FossilFree California.</p> <p>Bruce will write about deceased faculty. He has photographs of Ernestine to share. Bruce received positive notes as members sent in renewals.</p> <p>Again, looking for who will carry forward with PRO.</p> <p>Interview Ronnie at Peralta Benefits. Who to call when you need information about benefits. Interview Harizon?</p> <p>Next Issue: broader topic: Activism as you age. Bruce sent article from NY Times: Finding a way to be an activist as you age. Ann may interview Karen on her perspectives as she ages. Newsletter deadline: March 18. Maling – mid April, Suggestion: As Newsletter is planned, use ½ page to solicit for scholarships; stick to 8 pages. Next edition beginning of April. Scholarship winners announced July.</p>	<p>Ask Roger to write an aspect of Climate change.</p> <p>Burt will look into reprinting from Times column on "My Turn"</p>
	<p>Per Bruce, Jose Ortiz wants to work on Pose 2004 retirees for SPD. Needs volunteers to work with him. There is a template. Suggestion, Ava Chin to help Jose with SPD.</p>	<p>Designate individuals willing to participate.</p>
Meeting Adjourned	<p>3:15 pm. Next Meeting TBD</p>	

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Cohen