

Peralta Retirees Organization

Meeting Minutes: March 1, 2023, via Zoom

Present: Debby Weintraub, Bruce Jacobs, Jerry Herman, Michael Mills, Alex Pappas, Burt Dragin, Judy Cohen

Agenda item	Discussion	Follow up action
Meeting	Convened 1:04 pm	
Minutes	Approved	
Treasurer's Report	Report is clear. There is about \$16,000 in Legal fund. Will address as we move through VP and President's reports	
<b>Social</b>	Move to next meeting. Discuss August gathering in Redwood Park. People may not be ready for a restaurant meeting. Bruce will put out notice and place in July Newsletter; we are planning picnic this summer.	
Scholarship	Not contracted yet. Looking for volunteers to tread. Readers all had a good time. Michael volunteers. Reach out to recent retirees to join PRO. Debby will reach out to Tae Soon as possible treasurer	Debby will contact foundation.
<b>BENEFITS</b>	<p>Bis Issue! Two happenings since December meeting. Michael, Debby, Jerry, Bruce and Mike Wirth met with McKinley. He said not reimbursement policy until at least June. Working with attorney.</p> <p>Jerry: OPEB Bonds are in good shape. They are going to mature in 2024 and must be due to bond holders who have not been paid off. If we paid off all at once, would break District. Can refinance. District has done nothing. They have lawyers to work on it.</p> <p>Michael: Bondholders took no action. Dave Olsen hired by Retirement Board is on payroll and evidently part of process for Bond restructuring; is a principle in designing restructuring process and knows what he is doing. Michael received a call from Paulina Gonzalez, Trustee, asking about Bonds. Jerry and Mike assured her bonds are in good shape.</p> <p>Ron McKinley sent Michael actuarial study done after Chancellor Laguerre; needs to be updated. Question: Can Bonds be amortized? Restructuring may include amortization. District just paying off interest. Question to Board and attorneys; if District turned over to State, do Bonds remain separate? Question about payment of lifetime benefits continuing.</p> <p>Debby: District rating improving as accreditation issues are addressed. At the moment, Health Care and District in general is solid. Reserve is high-over 15%.</p>	

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	<p>Based on reports, health care costs are covered. Switch in health care saving District millions. Right now, no reimbursement policy; addressing case-by-case. McKinley said we will have what we previously covered before. Pointed out that generics would be provided unless doctor specifies Brand name. McKinley will let PRO look at draft. Debby wrote to Greenspan that unions should be part of examining draft; outside of contractual agreement.</p> <p>Bruce: We continue getting emails from retirees about problems with coverage. Problem with dependent coverage thru Anthem. Need agreement on how to process problems. Bruce directing people to Retirees First. Dependent case not being addressed. Must deal with CISC.</p> <p>Debby wrote to MCKinley and Harizon; they must communicate with people about reimbursement. People should speak out to Board. Not enough staff in Benefits office. Salary offered is not enough. Problems need to be public. Use stories in Newsletter. People are being disenrolled; contacting Benefits Office with no response.</p> <p>Michael: Harizon is out on leave. Only 2 staff in Benefits handling problems and responses. Trustees need to be informed. Place items on Agenda. Ask Nicky, Louis or Diana Polk to enter this on agenda rather than public comments. Ask retirees to attend Board meeting. Problems with Navia; District not submitting information.</p> <p>Need another large Zoom meet4ing to update retirees. Share in Newsletter. Michael will contact Louis Quinlan to add PRO to Agenda; need to provide particular items for agenda. i.e. Retiree Health Benefits and District staffing issue. Looking a first or second Tuesday meeting in March. Diane Polk is president. We need to show up and make issues public. Let McKinley know we plan to be present at Board meeting.</p> <p>Date for Large Zoom meeting; Monday 3/13/23, 4:00pm. Ask person with Dependent issues to contact Board. Some Trustees may not be reading emails. Post Zoom meeting to Facebook page. Note: Nice post on FB about Odell.</p> <p>Plans: Board Agenda; 3/13/23 Group Zoom at 4pm; Advise retirees in Medicare Advantage to contact Retirees First. Kaiser; contact Benefits Office. CISC; deal with District.</p> <p>Per Harizon; Retirees with dependents under 65 is a big problem,. Reluctant to put it in writing.</p>	
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<p>Newsletter</p>	<p>Burt interested in ideas. When he spoke with Harizon, it was too late to put in production and Harizon is now on medical leave. 4 positions needed? Have there ever been more than two in Benefits. Previously: Trudy, Jennifer- 2 in front office (Ronnie, Socorro). Problem is people are not often there in office physically. Photographer at Board meeting (3/14 or 3/28) . Debby: Get stories from people who are having Health benefits issues.</p> <p>Continue to publish contact information and resources. Run piece from Sanford Ohren; ups and downs problems and service.</p> <p>Ask people on Facebook if they are willing to write something from PRO Newsletter. Contact Burt; <a href="mailto:burtdragin@aol.com">burtdragin@aol.com</a> if anyone on FB wants to write article or interview.</p> <p>Bruce: New trustee; Sheweeet Yohannes, Area 7. Contact her and other new trustee: Louis Quinlan (Region 2). Burt will contact.</p>	
	<p>PRO Board elections. Think about it. Next Board meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in June. Can we meet on 5/31/21- Yes via Zoom 1:00-3:00 pm.</p>	
	<p>Legal funds: suggestion to hold in abeyance. Place note in Newsletter that we are going to return proportionately.</p> <p>Debby wrote to Tom Sinclair advising we may need his services to review Board reimbursement policy. Alex suggests to keep it in reserve for unexpected. Deb will bring issue forward in her newsletter article.</p> <p>Also address at Group Zoom meeting. Michael: We have no idea what may come in the future.</p> <p>Bruce: Consider hiring someone for Website. Technology has changed. Can we find someone to streamline website? Ask Victor. Burt will look around. Go Daddy quoted \$1500 to design website, but not maintain. Ask around.</p> <p>Reprint piece on Odell for Bruce, Burt &amp; Michael.</p>	
	<p>Meeting Adjourned at 2:36 P.M.</p>	

Respectfully submitted,  
Judith Cohen