

Peralta Retirees Organization

Meeting Minutes: May 31. 2023

Present: Debra Weintraub, Jerry Herman, Bruce Jacobs, Burt Dragin, Ann Elliott, Alex Pappas, Gregg Marro

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Follow up action</b>
Discussion Foreign Travel	If not in Blue Cros network you are covered 80%. Deductible \$250 for foreign travel. Pay deductible, submit for reimbursement. Get EOB and use EOB for payment. United American agreement is \$250 deductible. Bruce travel was reimbursed by Trustmark and doctor in Columbia was paid.	Jerry will pursue reimbursement.
Meeting Minutes	Convened at 1:11 pm Accepted	
Treasurer Report	2 Reports. Treasurer and Legal Fund. Treasurer Balance: \$11806.15; Legal Balance: \$15,988.13.	Legal Defense fund will remain in place.
Social	August picnic; No reservations; late morning, midweek. Probably no camps there. Date chosen, August 17 (Thursday) ; 11:00 am-3:00 pm. Bring your own picnic.	We can use template from last year; change date.
Scholarship	There are 8 readers. Winners names in Newsletter with photo and bio. Debby will write Rikki to contact winners; ask what they will use scholarship for in 200 words.	
Benefits	No new meetings. Harizon is gone for several more months due to family illness in Kenya. Bruce, Debby and Mike Wirth met with Dr. McKinley.	
Discussion	Bruce: Webpage technology has advanced. Old tech not being used. Bruce proposes PRO hire someone to make site more modern and maintain it. Bruce will be link. Wife of Bob Bezemek is artist. Mark Greenside has website person- \$80/hour. Bruce asking to contact website person for ideas and charges. For now Bruce can channel Board info wo web person. Bruce has worked with Andrew. Debby proposes to speak with web designer and assess hiring. If reasonable Bruce has authority to move ahead. NOTE: check out markgreenside.com	
Newsletter	Names and photos of scholarship winners. Picnic; Retirement Board-Jerry will write something. Lifeblood to our benefits. Bruce> let members know that PRO has been very active in pressing District to honor terms of agreements under retirement benefits. Debby: two or three new Board members to interview. Find out what Trustees know about PRO and retirees. Do they know how lifetime benefits came to be? Should we interview one or all? Trustees: Shewet Yohannes; Paulina Gonzales Brito; Louis Quindlan. Bruce: Do we send online version to members? We email with link and on	

Peralta Retirees Organization

	<p>Facebook with link. Burt: without the current writers we couldn't do Newsletter. We were short until the very end. Debby: on some level, everything comes down to Board members. Probably only 10-12 active retirees giving time. How does organization go on if people are not interested in contributing or reading? Who will step up as next president? Who will contribute?</p> <p>Interesting articles; What is it like for an American in Turkey? Alex will write a personal article; Burt will send deadline to Alex.</p> <p>Jerry: Newsletter is a symptom. Who is coming up in second and third generation of retirees. Is anyone interested in taking over. For example, Shirley Fogarino. Jerry will communicate with Shirley. We will have to actively contact prospective new retirees as recruits for PRO Board</p>	
<p>Greg Marro joins meeting Continuing Newsletter discussion</p>	<p>Some background; Greg was laid off in 2009; retired prior to layoff. Ran for Chair of SEIU State Retirees and sits on National Board. Seeking data from retirement system to increase membership. Affiliates with various retirement associations in California. Working on getting retiree list and data from Peralta HR.</p> <p>Debby: We want to keep organization alive; Protecting lifetime benefits. Newsletter page advocating for new recruits and protecting benefits.</p> <p>Does Facebook know of any who are recent retirees? Are any FB members interested in joining PRO Board and supporting work we do to retain benefits?</p> <p>Gregg suggesting PRO place ad in PFT Newsletter to increase membership and participation.</p> <p>Debby: Big issue on moving forward. Normally in November we have meeting, luncheon and officers' elections. Need to set stage to elect new officers. Are we going to have membership meeting in November? Do we have nomination committee? Someone needs to come forward.</p> <p>Burt: Run full page about who will represent you as Board members leave.</p> <p>Jerry: LIFETIME BENEFITS IN DANGER! Join PRO Board. Advocacy will be gone if you don't step up. No monitoring of District to Preserve Benefits. Burt: Lifetime Benefits in Jeopardy</p> <p>Next Issue in July – One more in October. We can make it Page One on Newsletter</p> <p>Note: Personal contact effective to recruit.</p>	
<p>Recruitment</p>	<p>What about Jose Ortiz?</p> <p>Bruce: Place to start- who were involved in Zoom when District was changing benefits? Those who contributed to legal fund. Article by Debby and Jerry: Why it is time to have new Board.</p> <p>Bruce: Working for PRO has been very satisfying. 20 years. Jerry was President</p>	

Peralta Retirees Organization

	<p>for 10 years. Very satisfying experience. Good to see Greg joining. Debby agrees it has been very satisfying and will write with Bruce.</p> <p>Alex: Remind retirees we gave up salary increases for 40 years to keep lifetime benefits.</p> <p>SEIU Retirees want to be at the table advising at SEIU meeting. Don't sell us out!</p>	
Benefits	<p>Meeting with Dr. McKinley. We revised letter about reimbursement. Concerns about timelines. Form a committee with HR, PRO and third party to adjudicate disputes. McKinley suggested NAVIA – concerns about that organization.</p> <p>Asking for one year from date of service to submit bills instead of 90 days. Hiring 2 new people to work in District Benefits Office.</p> <p>McKinley will look into problems with United American not contracting with Sutter. Per Greg it is not a problem.</p> <p>Kaiser reimbursement issues. People being dropped from Kaiser.</p> <p>End of June updates. New reimbursement letter.</p> <p>Bruce: Article about new reimbursement policy</p>	
Retirement Board	<p>Jerry: His revisions considered: Bruce wanted to keep to District language.</p> <p>Jerry: There was expert on OPEB ratings who said S&amp;P rated Peralta as AA; whereas Moody rated lower; most look at Moody as bell weather. We should send out more about other ratings. Ratings subjective, thus difference between Moody and other ratings. Moody rating is "B". Fitch rates AA-strong</p> <p>Board has \$180 million. \$9.8 being used to pay off principle. Bonds &amp; Trust in good shape. 4% interest – a good gain. Last few years reports on Peralta are good. Administration has been poor. Peralta now has full accreditation. Chancellor Jackson did a lot of cleanup.</p> <p>Unclear when different tranches of Bonds callable. Must clarify when parts are due. Peralta can pay off and replace. PRO not voting entity at Retirement Board</p> <p>Greg: Questions about SEIU representation on Retirement Board? Not presently.</p> <p>Bruce Hackett. Does SEIU sit on oversight. Most oversight committees are public.</p> <p>No Union representation.</p>	
	<p>Picnic: 8/17/23 at Redwood Park.</p> <p>Meeting Adjourned at 3:11 pm. Next meeting, Wed, September 6<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm</p>	

Respectfully submitted,  
Judith Cohen