

Peralta Retirees Organization

Meeting Minutes: June 15, 2022

Present: Debra Weintraub, Bruce Jacobs, Margaret Mitchell, Michael Mills, Helena Lengel, Shirley Fogarino, Greg Marro, Katherine Kocel, Rona Young, Rebecca Stone. Judy Cohen, Allen Miller, Tom Cluster, Mike Donaldson, Connie, Sanford Ohren, Neil Dunlop, Kerry Compton, Nancy River, Horace Graham, Richard Thoele, Roberto Gonzalez, Kathy Bauer,

	Discussion	Follow up action
Continued Discussions	<p>Debby: Bob Bezemek names lawyer, Tom Sinclair. Debby spoke with him; he is Employment and labor lawyer who previously worked with Peralta. Willing to draw up contract. - \$300/hr plus retainer. He asked for Alliant proposal (going to Unions); collective bargaining agreements with contract for lifetime benefits. What do Confidentials have? Interested in OPEB bonds specific language. Debby struggles with nuances. Narrative of story leading to lifetime benefits.</p>	
	<p>Shirley: Has anyone hear from Peralta? Nicky responded. Kevin Jenkins spoke with Debby. Some Trustees don't look at their Peralta.edu emails. Bruce wrote to Cindy. No response. M. Mills: Suggestions are OK. Inappropriate for District to take unilateral stance.</p>	
	<p>Bruce and Debby with PFT – Alliant meeting. At least PFT talking to Alliant. Healthcare sunshined into proposal. PFT considering. Roberto Gonzalez said SEIU is entering negotiations about Alliant proposal.</p>	
	<p>Bruce: Proposal for Active & Retirees different. There is a lot of space for actives. Retirees are being offered Medicare Advantage. Important differences in Medicare Advantage. Minor willingness of PFT is understandable. Minor differences in benefits for current employees. Debby: Alliant proposal – CISC- Self employed has 17 plans, cannot choose to alter. Seminary plan comes out in April-October. First new contract goes into place. Unions negotiate in-between. CISC- All Administrators on board. Bruce: No Unions For Retirees, CISC is not important- Only Medicare Advantage. For those retired now, CISC plays no role. Would have to live with Medicare Adv. Shirley: What about choice? Original supplemental plan- Medicare Advantage would own secondary determination. Why is there no discussion. Is CISC only option for retirees is Union goes with new Alliant plan? Bruce: Can retirees maintain their previous benefits? Theoretically can do. District will be involved with CISC, and so would retirees. Retiree system separate, i.e. Kaiser copay \$5. Check generated to cover \$4 in copay.</p>	

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	<p>Greg Marro: What is current balance in bond? M. Mills: When Tom Smith sold Bonds District could not afford healthcare benefits. \$200 million in Bonds, will pay for retiree benefits and debt service. There is still comfortable amount to pay for retirees. Greg: Will Alliant be able to touch that? M. Mills: Alliant proposal unknown to Retirement Board. Debby: Alliant said it brought proposal to Retirement Board and was accepted. M. Mills says this did not happen.</p>	
	<p>Connie: Would Emergency room charges be covered? Bruce: CISC involves increases. Nothing has been guaranteed for reimbursement. Prescription drug questions. Kathy: OK if reimbursements are available under new plan; under Bond once passed Board decided about investments. Bad investments. OPEB not voted on-just passes by Trustees. Michael: All unions approved OPEB-went to Board-went to judge.</p>	
	<p>Alliant slides – Post 7/1/2012 Retirees in slides. Why split – 3 cohorts. Pre 2004, pre 2012, 2004-2012. Can retire with Trustmark light or Traditional. There is premium until on Medicare. Many cohorts; Alliant picked some to work on. Alliant believes nothing is changed after 2012.</p>	
	<p>Greg: What about contract language. Do pre 2004 hired and retires now still get lifetime medical? Is there oversight? Debby: Every collective bargaining agreement has language about retirement agreements. Greg: Concern language will be taken out. Michael: Lawyer says District is behold to Peralta membership. Oversight Board-Bill Withrow-Trustees (Bill Riley), Vice Chancellor-District advisory sear from SEIU vacant-opeating engineers vacant. Mike Donaldson: Medicare Advantage seems to be major scam. Sutter and Kaiser being sued for fraudulently claiming \$\$ through coding and overcharging. Not only saving \$\$ for District, but allows scam to continue. Allan: Advantage is a ripoff; payment dependent on diagnosis and treatment. More expensive for Medicare system. Becky Stone: Married to man in medical field. Hears many complaints about payouts. Doctors dropping from these plans. Significant takeaways; part of the case is this is not good enough; must have referral for specialist from GP. Difference in out of network copay-higher. Ceiling on pharmaceuticals. Bruce: one of our tasks must be analysis of what we have now compare to offered. Medicare Advantage-Anthem not made available. Takeaways serious. Retirees will lose all benefits. i.e. those outside US only covered for emergencies. Alliant said no other employer covers out of</p>	

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	<p>country benefits. No recourse. Must systematically document and be clear over the summer. M. Mills: ask providers if they take Medicare Advantage. Most do NOT, especially in rural areas. B. Stone: asked District HR who would take Medicare Adv. District said there is no list. There is not positive feed from providers about Med. Advantage. Debby: All good questions. How will we move forward since unions will not bargain for us. What will we do as organization?</p>	
	<p>Shirley: Peralta has collective bargaining page. 11/2012 is earliest. Important we have supplement choices. Alliant did not put this out at all. Breach of contract to take choice away. Greg: Talk to former active chapter; swamp Board of Trustees for more study; protest & make it public. Allen: Attorney would need to know scope of case. Probably \$3500 retainer. Analysis of plan should be done by PRO committee. Role of lawyer is to give legal advice on rights; and type of litigation. Shirley: We retired under contract that promised specific benefits. Contracts must be analyzed. Need legal document for Alliant. Go forward as a class? Kerry Compton: Challenge to hire lawyer. Has District given PRO retiree information? Debby: Members will have to opt into legal move. District does not provide a list. IPRO can find out who will pursue legal action. And 2004 guarantee of benefits. Mike D. Advantage to having attorney; gives more weight and legal threat. Becky: Looking for timeline. How long before decision? Debby: Will be based on union negotiations. District cannot change Actives agreements. Will process to into end of year? Doubt it will go into effect October 1st. Don't know about negotiations. Bruce: Pro has \$11,000 in bank. PRO website has addition on home page about this issue. Has Alliant slideshow and 2004 guarantee of benefits. Will add format used by Shirley that document changes. Send emails to Bruce about document. 3 articles from NY Times about Advantage and scandals (obesity drugs not covered). Send link to Bruce if we have other articles. Allen: Lawyer will want to know who is client. Lawyer asked about Board and ByLaws. Helena: Struggles with Peralta benefits. Has been hospitalized; Medicare pays; Blue Cross has problems. Trustmark horrible; lawyer might get pricey. Will check with her daughter about class action law firm. M. Mills: Alliant will suggest to District? District will give individual choice? Or OK it for the group? Debby: If union Actives accept Alliant, District no longer self-insured. Will be all or nothing. Bruce: District will impose new plan on retirees. Take it or leave it! Debby: District will impose and retirees must accept. Majority of those on call want to hire lawyer. Do we go forward with Tom Sinclair or look at other attorneys? Bruce: Debby leaving Saturday. Bruce hopes bank balance will cove.</p>	

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	<p>Debby: Will be gone for a month. Trust Bob Bezemek and his recommendation. Google Tom Sinclair. . Who will do all this work? Kathy: agrees with Bruce and Michael.</p>	
	<p>Group OK to go with Tom Sinclair. OK for those who meet with Tom and accept his as lawyer to cut him a check.</p>	
	<p>Shirley: Gather contracts for attorney. Call for those who will work with Bruce to gather information for attorney. Greg: Is there a booklet provided to employees about benefits provided?</p>	
	<p>Search own contract. Cut and paste; send to Bruce to share language. Bruce will ut Shirley's spreadsheet on website. Look for section on health and welfare benefits. Share with Bruce with cover page. Note 2000-2003 contract extended to 2004. We will call another meeting after talking to lawyer. Will put out to others on Zoom. Debby wants everyone's email. Send donation to PRO as on webpage.</p>	
Meeting Adjourned	3:50 p.m.	

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Cohen