

Peralta Retirees Organization

Meeting Minutes: December 7, 2022, via Zoom

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

Agenda item	Discussion	Follow up action
Minutes	Correction to August minutes on last page. Change \$500 to \$5000.	
Bruce: Treasurer report	<p>Newsletter expensive for printing because we send it to everyone. Cost of printing going up; ink expensive. We are current with mailing Newsletter. One of the membership incentives is offering a hard copy.</p> <p>Deb: Maybe some people could opt out of receiving hard copy?</p> <p>Closing account Balance: \$12,532.30</p>	
Social Committee	<p>No Events will next spring. Talk about it at next meeting. We know August outdoor meeting works. Questions about winter Covid spike.</p> <p>Jerry suggested put membership meeting on hold. Good to get people together.</p> <p>Debby: Discuss at March meeting; perhaps outdoor venue in late spring.</p>	
BENEFITS	<p>Benefits meeting 3rd Wednesday /month 12:00-1:00 pm.</p> <p>Jerry: It was a long meeting.</p> <p>Michael: questions raised; no resolutions. Nothing of substance addressed as ship has sailed.</p> <p>Debby: SEIU was unaware of problems going on with retirees. Flaws in system; Dist-don't worry about it.</p> <p>Michael: Harizon said 790 Retirees involved. Letter went out to about 300. Bruce assumes it went out to all 700. District will not give out retiree information. Asked how many retirees had returned documents. District supposed to contact retirees Friday before due date (15th or 16th).</p> <p>Bruce: Many people fell thru cracks. He contacted Carol Ward-Allen; she had not heard anything. Bruce called Harizon and he did follow up with instructions. Does not know about other out-of-state Kaiser retirees. Kaiser SISC retirees would continue with Kaiser. Mail order will end.</p> <p>Bruce spoke to Anthem. Retirees First; said there is mail order and there will be instructions after 1/1/2023. Bruce sent information to Retirees First. Does not want to give credit card information to Retirees First.</p> <p>Anthem letter to be used at pharmacy to refill prescriptions.</p> <p>Question: What more can PRO do? We know there will be problems for many</p>	

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	<p>retirees. PRO has done much to help but the District must cover retirees.</p> <p>Tom Sinclair sent letter to Chancellor, McKinley and Harizon addressing Peralta mismanagement. Requesting definition of "make whole". Covering reimbursements. McKinley sent letter espousing how well Peralta handled communications. PRO pointed out issues not addressed. Reimbursement and dispute not addressed. No response about solving issues from McKinley.</p> <p>Bruce: we will take up such issues at Benefits meeting after holidays. PRO needs to be disruptive and insistent about handling these issues.</p> <p>Debby: PRO can't make arguments on behalf of retirees.</p> <p>Jerry: Dependent coverage will be a problem. What to do about communications. Phones? Email?</p> <p>Mike: We need to be on the record at Benefits. Make our concerns and position known.</p> <p>Debby: Address Board of Trustees again. Make matter a public record. What does "make whole" mean? Get written directions from District. Address unions about contractual obligations.</p> <p>Michael: Get on agenda at Board meeting so P RO can make a report and engage in conversation with Trustees. President of Board must approve agenda item.</p> <p>Bruce: Reimbursement issues; can harass thru small claims court. 15 years ago Bruce took District to small claims court over coverage change to Trustmark. Enacted change to SPD. Lawyers cannot go to small claims. Plaintiff and defendant must show up.</p> <p>Perhaps Tom Sinclair can help with walking us through how this works. Use money from legal fund.</p> <p>Debby: Speak up at Benefits meeting; Board meeting. Deb will talk to Union. Possible small claims case.</p> <p>NEW: Louis Quinlan and one other new to Board of Trustees. Invite to March PRO meeting to establish contact and educate about retiree events. Deb will reach out and invite.</p> <p>Bruce: There have been continuing contributions to scholarships. We are OK.</p> <p>Michael: Request meeting in January with Ron McKinley to discuss Fiscal facts of OPEB.</p>	
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<p>NEWSLETTER</p>	<p>Beginning of January. Burt: question about hundreds of non-PRO retirees. Burt went to District and spoke with Harizon who is willing to be interviewed for Newsletter. Biography and Q&A. Questions? Start soon and newsletter can be out by 1/15 or 1/20/23 Deb: Follow up with healthcare concerns. Letter from Anthem. Recap where we are. Jerry: Article about Retirees First. Advocacy service. What they can and will do. Bruce: Ask about mail order prescriptions. Bruce will write something. Questions about Medicare reimbursement. Monthly or quarterly. How will it work? Ask Harizon about “make whole” questions. How District will cover items going away such as vision; eyeglasses. Karen: Get background info about Harizon. Ask him about defining new plans. Peralta policy to address new issues. Mike: Do interview with Ron McKinley (head of HR, Benefits) Debby: Whatever not answered by Harizon, pursue with McKinley. Email questions and concerns to Burt Dragin. Ronnie Roberts deals with Actives; Taneesha deals with Retirees: Get photos and background; what they do. Comment: Taneesha has been very helpful; give her acknowledgement from PRO. Bruce: Urge retirees to contact Retirees First for information instead of PRO; need to advocate; Who will do new mail order prescriptions? What are the reimbursement issues? Go to Medicare doctor, but what if doctor does not take Medicare? coverage for items needing reimbursement? What about those dependents not old enough for Medicare and children? Those must go to SISC; like old Trustmark and now Advantage. Newsletter column; congratulate PRO for getting secondary coverage. Mike: Next Newsletter should be about transition Debby found Retirees First easy to talk to but not well informed. Why call different organizations about new plans? What are functions of each? People in District Office should know answers to our questions; someone should be knowledgeable and responsible. Karen: Question of trust. Benefits Office takes care of Actives. People who care are now retired. New staff is not aware how to deal with Retirees. Get questions and comments to Burt. Look into cost of printing. Burt thinks</p>	
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	printing pricing is good. Victor very good. Printing was \$458. Not urgent, let's shop around. 8 page-tab size-350 copies folded.	
	Discuss legal fund money at next PRO Board meeting. What to do about future Zoom meetings? NOTE; Karen has resigned from Board. Deb will do Thank you. Lets give gift certificate to thank her. Asked Shirley Fogarino or Connie Willis to join.	Debby will invite new trustees to next PRO meeting.
	Meeting Adjourned at 3:06 pm	

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Cohen