



## From the President...

by Jerry Herman, PRO President

### Theater of the Absurd: The State of Health Care in America Today

I write this less than a week after the United States Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the health care law officially designated The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, more commonly known by foes and friends alike as Obamacare. For upwards of 30 million Americans, it is a chance to get medical insurance that was unavailable or unaffordable before, and for millions of others, the act enhances the insurance they already have in significant ways such as prohibiting insurance companies from turning down applicants for pre-existing conditions and allowing young people to stay on their parents' health insurance until the age of twenty-six. Sure it isn't perfect but it sure is a step in the right direction.

As you know, the vote to uphold the law was 5-4 with the swing vote being cast by Chief Justice John Roberts, who joined with the four liberal justices to retain the law substantially intact, a stunning reversal of his usual hidebound conservatism.

The decision has elicited cheers and great sighs of relief from partisans of universal health care for the citizens of the wealthiest nation on the planet and angry and anguished cries of doom from right wingers who believe it is a giant step toward a totalitarian regime with Comrade Czar Barack the Pretender now free to gleefully begin appropriating thousands of acres of the most desolate Alaskan tundra as America's Siberia, the gulag meant to imprison any protester who might even whisper the word, "Liberty." □

It's all high drama, juicy grist for the mill of the blogosphere and the 24-hour news cycle, creating

*(Continued on page 2)*



Come have fun at

# PRO's Annual Picnic

Thursday, August 23  
in Redwood Park



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 a seemingly endless buzz of speculation about Roberts' turn-around, the effect of the decision on the presidential campaign, the short-term and long-term meaning of the decision, the economic effects of the health care law, the fact that most Americans seem to oppose it, etc. etc., etc. Anything is fair game. After all, everyone is entitled to voice an opinion. It's a free country. Or at least it has been...

What has struck me as bizarre in all this kerfuffle is how preposterous it all is. The tipping point for whether more than 30 million American citizens will have health care or not ended up depending on how one man twisted semantic logic to decide that rather than labeling the cost to those who choose not to participate in the health care plan a penalty, that cost would be called a tax. For John Roberts that idea, essentially irrelevant to the substance of the health care law, changed the game. Tax, si. Penalty, no. The vote becomes 5-4 to uphold the law. It stands as written. The Supreme Court has spoken. For proponents it's a successful suicide squeeze in the bottom of the ninth. A last-second

Hail Mary pass that's caught in the end zone. A three-pointer from half-court at the buzzer for the win.

Is this truly a way to run a "civilized" society whose overriding goal should be to protect its citizens; in the words of the Constitution "...to promote the general Welfare"? Couldn't compassionate good sense be the determining factor, not some last minute legalistic hair splitting?

In the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education decision, which, in effect, legally ended the segregation of the races in America, the Supreme Court vote was unanimous, 9-0. Chief Justice Earl Warren persuaded the court that unanimity was important to demonstrate to the country solidarity, not divisiveness, in such a historically significant decision. Chief Justice Roberts did the opposite. Not only did he not persuade the rest of the court to side with the majority, he himself apparently changed his mind at the last minute after initially opposing upholding the law. Those of us who believe that health care should become a right for every American citizen the way public education is a right, the way health care is a right in so many other countries, would hope that the now tortuous process toward achieving it could be more rational and direct, based more on substantive issues rather than procrustean ideology, more on consideration of the general welfare than on narrow economic self-interest.

But when it comes to the inevitability of universal health care for Americans, it's more likely that we're fated to live out the perception of America by one of America's most astute observers, Winston Churchill, who wryly declared, "Americans can always be counted on to do the right thing...after they have exhausted all other possibilities."

### **Peralta Retirees Organization**

1250-I Newell Ave., #162  
 Walnut Creek, CA 94596

<http://www.peraltaretirees.org>

President - Jerry Herman  
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 Vice President - Bruce Jacobs  
 Secretary - Ann Whitehead  
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 Alex Pappas  
 Ned Pearlstein  
 Jay Quesada

The Peralta Retiree Editor - Bruce Jacobs  
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### **Welcome New Members**

*PRO welcomes the following retirees who have recently joined.*

Suzanne Cancilla-Fox  
 Yvonne Carter  
 Leonard Fellman  
 Becky Hsieh

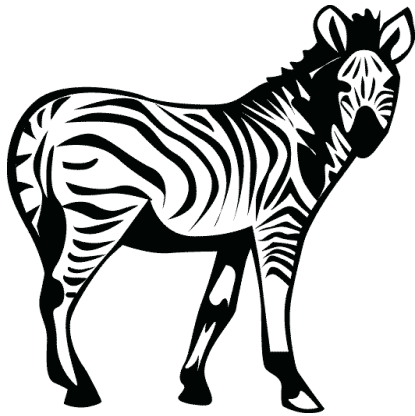
Mimi Leonard  
 Wendy Williams  
 Wayne Wong

Join your fellow Peralta retirees for

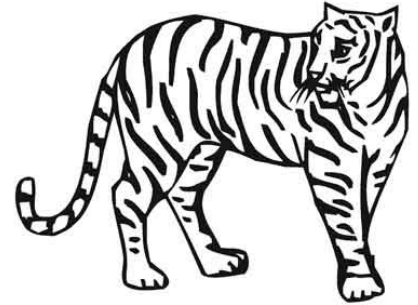
# *PRO's Annual Picnic*

In the Redwoods at the Huckleberry Picnic Area of Oakland's beautiful Roberts Regional Recreation Area

Thursday, August 23 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



This year's theme  
*A Day at the Zoo*



**Come have fun with  
Prizes and Surprises**

**PRO will supply  
water, soft drinks,  
plates, utensils,  
salad and dessert.  
Bring your picnic  
lunch and any  
other beverage of  
your choice.**

**Parking:  
\$5 per car**

**Wheelchair  
Accessible**

**Driving Directions:**

**From Highway 13 (Warren Freeway)**

Take the Joaquin Miller exit and go east, up the hill on Joaquin Miller. Turn left at Skyline Blvd. Proceed one mile to the Roberts entrance on the right.

**From 580**

Exit on 35<sup>th</sup> Ave. and proceed up the hill on 35<sup>th</sup>, which will eventually become Redwood Road. At the intersection of Redwood and Skyline Blvd., turn left and proceed for one mile, then right to stay on Skyline. Proceed for one mile to the entrance to Roberts on the right.

**RSVP: Let us know if you're coming and how many will be in your party. Call or e-mail Social Committee Co-Chair: Linda Japzon 510-483-7183 · [coolbigeyes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:coolbigeyes@sbcglobal.net)**



# District Reenrollment Process Full of Problems

by Bruce Jacobs

The Peralta District initiated a reenrollment process for everyone receiving District-paid medical benefits during the month of May. Peralta required all active employees and all retirees to complete and submit a form to verify information about eligible dependents and Medicare status. In an email to a retiree who inquired about people who did not return the form in a timely way, the Benefits Office indicated that their benefits would be “interrupted.”

The requirement arose from the new negotiated contract which added a third health insurance plan to active employees’ choices and instituted for the first time employee contributions to premiums. Thus, all active employees had to reenroll in order to specify their choice.

The District also decided to move the open enrollment period, when retirees and active employees can choose to change their health insurance provider, from October to May. The information about the reenrollment requirement as well as the required form were included in a booklet that was mailed to retirees at the end of April. Unfortunately, the information about the reenrollment requirement was not obviously displayed. Instead, it was buried in small print under a heading about open enrollment in the 16-page informational pamphlet. Many retirees did not read the entire pamphlet since they were not interested in changing carriers.

The form, for those who did realize that they needed to reenroll was also quite confusing. The District decided to use the same form for active employees who were deciding between three health plans and retirees whose choices were restricted to Kaiser and the traditional Blue Cross/CoreSource. The form also had errors in its instructions about which parts of the form needed to be completed by retirees.

PRO took the initiative by:

- Pointing out to the District that the notice of the reenrollment requirement was completely inadequate.

- Demanding that the District not impose any penalty on people who did not submit the required forms, but rather follow-up by contacting them and soliciting their cooperation. Many Peralta retirees are quite elderly and in some cases are unable to comprehend the District’s requirements.
- Identifying a number of other errors that appeared in the District’s pamphlet including incorrect and/or confusing information about benefit levels for pre-July 1, 2004 retirees (page 2) and Medicare Part D enrollment (page 9).
- Sending an email to all retirees for whom we have an email address alerting them to the reenrollment requirement and clarifying the confusing instructions about completing the form.

We also responded to myriad emails and telephone calls from retirees who were confused by the District’s communications and requirements.

On May 16, Dr. Trudy Largent, Vice-Chancellor for Human Resources, responded to PRO’s concerns by eliminating any penalties on retirees who did not return the form by the May 31 deadline.

Despite our efforts there were more than 130 retirees who did not respond to the District by the end of May.

PRO has pointed out to the District (and will continue to do so) that the problems caused by the District’s failure to work and communicate with PRO when retirees are affected allows for the possibility of mistakes, distortion and confusion. At the beginning of the year, when Chancellor Wise Allen instructed the Benefits Office to work with PRO in order to enroll all eligible retirees in Medicare, we were very successful. This time we could have informed retirees in our April newsletter about the upcoming requirement, and we could have reviewed the District’s materials prior to their being printed and mailed in order to make sure that the reenrollment requirement was more prominent, and the instructions more clear and correct.

## PRO and PFT Challenge District Reduction in Drug Coverage

by Bruce Jacobs

On March 8, CVS Caremark informed affected retirees that certain prescription drugs that they were taking would no longer be covered on Peralta's drug plan as of April 1, 2012. They suggested alternative drugs and informed the retirees to talk with their doctors directly about choosing a "less costly medicine." There were 34 drugs that were no longer available under Peralta's coverage.

The decision to withdraw coverage for the drugs was made by CVS Caremark. A November 19, 2011 Wall Street Journal article states "CVS Caremark Corp.'s pharmacy-benefit business is recommending customers stop covering more than 30 drugs next year, including diabetes treatments and an erectile-dysfunction pill, to save money and combat drug-maker coupons that promote brand-name medicine over cheaper alternatives." Apparently CVS Caremark was in a dispute with certain drug manufacturers and as leverage decided to no longer cover their products.

Peralta's benefits for retirees as well as active employees are contractually-based and, as a result, the District cannot unilaterally change the level of benefit without negotiating with the employee unions and individual retirees. The guaranteed benefits are delineated in a document called the Summary Plan Description (SPD). Retirees are entitled to the benefits in the SPD in effect when they retired.

Both the Blue Cross SPDs in effect prior to the change to CoreSource in 2004 and the first agreed to CoreSource SPD guarantee that all prescription drugs will be covered if they are approved by the FDA and prescribed by a licensed physician. There are no exceptions. However, without notifying either retirees or the active employee unions, the District unilaterally changed the language in all the SPDs to say that covered prescription drugs include "drugs prescribed by a physician that require a prescription either by federal or state law, *except drugs excluded by the plan.*"

PRO contacted the PFT and together we communicated with the District that we would not accept uni-

lateral changes in the SPD. In fact for active employees such an action is an unfair labor practice. For retirees it is a violation of our individual contracts with the District that guarantee our level of benefits.

Taking more than a month to respond, THE District finally capitulated and indicated that all 34 drugs would be covered with the usual procedures and co-pays. However, thus far, District representatives have not responded to our request that the SPD be changed so as to remove the exception. In fact, they argued in a letter to PRO VP Bruce Jacobs that they have always had the right to exclude particular drugs from coverage. The sections of the 1995 SPD that they cited as justification for that right had absolutely nothing to do with exclusion of drugs from coverage.

We are also concerned that the District may have made other unilateral changes in the SPD. PRO and the PFT intend to take these issues to the District Health Benefits Committee when it next meets to demand restoration of the SPD to the *status quo ante*. We are concerned that if this language is allowed to persist in the SPD then at some future time the issue of some prescription drugs not being covered will come up again.

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### PRO Now Accepts Credit Cards For Dues and Tickets

PRO has opened a PayPal account, which means you can now pay securely with your credit card for tickets to PRO events as well as your dues when you renew your membership .

It's really simple. Just visit the PRO web site at: <http://www.peraltaretirees.org>. There you will see the links which takes you to PRO's PayPal web page. You can specify how many tickets you want to purchase or how many years you want to renew for before clicking on the payment button.

After you click on the button, click on the link for people who "don't have a PayPal account." Then

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## Communications From PRO Members

*Every month we hear from PRO members who want us to know how important it is to them that PRO is out there guarding our benefits and monitoring both the District and the State.*

*If you haven't joined PRO yet or if you haven't renewed for 2012 won't you do it today? It's easy on PRO's web site: <http://www.peraltaretirees.org>.*

I turn 65 next month and have been going through the process of enrolling in Medicare. I wanted to thank PRO for the write-up. It has been like pulling teeth to get information out of the district, so PRO's write-up was invaluable.

*Neil Dunlop*

I'm one of those people who is not inclined to join organizations. A notable exception is PRO. I joined PRO partly out of gratitude to my good friend Alex Pappas who, along with other dedicated Peralta individuals, contributed huge amounts of time and efforts to ensure the rights and benefits due both employees and retirees.

A few years ago I received a questionnaire from the District which I promptly placed on a stack of things to "take care of later." With me "later" often never arrives. Sometime later came the PRO Newsletter with a list of retirees who had not returned the questionnaire and were about to lose their insurance benefits. Needless to say I was on the phone to the District immediately. Had it not been for PRO I would have been out of luck.

With current financial problems at both the California and local levels benefit packages are prime targets for reducing expenditures. On occasion I've lost some sleep over the possibility of a significant reduction in my benefits. But thank goodness the PRO Newsletter keeps me apprised of legal actions in that area.

I am indeed indebted to dedicated individuals of PRO who contribute so generously of their time to the benefit of us all.

*Will Price*

I want you to know how much I appreciate the dedicated work you do for PRO. As a widow of a long-time employee of the Peralta District who now gets my insurance through the district, I would not know what is going on without your newsletter. It is clear, well written and so helpful for me.

In addition, I like knowing what is happening with the retirees, and I attempt to attend the annual luncheon. There would be no other way for me to know all this information without the newsletter. In fact, through the newsletter I learned of the death of another longtime employee whom I had not seen for several years. Because of this information his widow and I have now been in touch and are happy to renew our friendship.

We are so fortunate to have the organization of PRO. However, for those who are not active in the organization this newsletter is the only way to stay informed. It is worth every dollar!

*H.L. Ittner*

I'm writing to thank you for your recent e-mail explaining the re-enrollment forms that are due May 31st. Your clarifying comments helped me understand them, and I just have to mention that I have never seen a more disorganized, unclear set of forms in my life. All of this makes me very grateful to all of you who work to make PRO useful not only to retirees but to their survivors. Thank you!

*Laura Keilin*

### **(Credit Cards Continued from page 5)**

complete the required information.

PayPal will forward your funds to PRO's bank account and send us an email letting us know the amount and purpose of your payment. You'll get an email acknowledging the payment has been successful.

Our next step will be to make it possible for new members to join with a credit card payment. That should be in place soon.

## New Corporate Power Grab

# Ballot initiative is part of national anti-labor strategy

*The following article is reprinted from the California Federation of Teachers Perspective publication of March 2012. It was written by Kenneth Burt, CFT Political Director.*

The push to silence educators—while undermining public education—is rolling across the nation, and it is aimed squarely at college faculty as well as K-12 teachers. It is part of an ongoing conservative strategy to privatize social services and to reduce, if not eliminate, the voices of those advocating for the common good.

Check out the rhetoric that has dominated the media over the past several months. Home-schooling Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum has bashed higher education as a bastion of secular values. He's even attacked President Obama as a "snob" for encouraging all young people to attend college or to take advantage of some sort of post-high school job training program.

Candidate Mitt Romney has made attacks on organized labor a part of his stump speech, appearing before an anti-labor contractors association and attacking the United Auto Workers for collaborating with management and the government to save a million auto related jobs.

The Republican candidates propose further undermining the National Labor Relations Act and support adopting state-level anti-labor bills, à la Wisconsin.

### Deceptive wrapping

In California, Orange County businessmen and out-of-state conservatives have already qualified an ini-

tiative for the November 2012 ballot that would effectively eliminate the ability of educators to come together to shape public policy.

This new voter initiative, which is yet unnumbered, is similar in intent to two previously defeated measures, Proposition 226 in 1998, and Proposition 75 in 2005.

The anti-labor initiative is deceptively wrapped in the veneer of good government. For example, the measure would prohibit unions and corporations alike from collecting political funds through payroll deductions. But in practice, only unions collect most or all of their funds through payroll deductions. Wealthy donors simply write a personal check or use company profits.

Recall for a moment the last gubernatorial campaign in California. In 2010, CEO Meg Whitman spent millions of her personal fortune to obtain the state's top office. She was unable to effectively buy the office only because organized labor provided a critical counterbalance for the underfunded Jerry Brown.

Had unions been prohibited from participating in the election, Whitman would have financially overwhelmed Brown in a one-sided contest. Had that happened, thousands more teachers would have been laid off—and colleges and schools would be facing still greater cuts.

Applied to voter initiatives, these rules would prohibit CFT from

supporting the likes of Proposition 98, which guarantees baseline education funding, or supporting a surcharge on millionaires to fund education and other state services.

### Draconian proposal

The impact of this draconian proposal is not limited to state issues and candidates. It would also be felt dramatically at the local level. Imagine trying to elect a community college trustee—or pass a facility bond, or a parcel tax—if your local union had to sit on the sidelines.

Do you want only college trustees—or state legislators—elected to office who are wealthy enough to self-finance their campaigns or who have well-heeled friends? The timing of this initiative is not coincidental. It is part of the broad anti-labor campaign that is being pushed in the Midwest and around the nation.

Conservatives believe that even if their initiative is defeated at the ballot box, they will have gained a strategic advantage, because organized labor will have been forced to spend its limited resources in a defensive fight and thus hindered in proposing its own proactive measures.

Educators must prove that the Right is wrong. To keep alive the California Dream, faculty must unite with other working families to defeat this unfair proposal—and to support measures and candidates, from president to trustee, committed to expanding economic and educational opportunity for all.

## PRO Invites You to an Evening of Wine Tasting, Dining, and Dancing

at the



# Pasta Pelican Restaurant and Lounge

Friday, September 7

6 - 9:30 PM

### Live Music by Retroz Band

No cover charge, Dinner & Drinks at your own expense; no host bar. We will reserve tables if you rsvp to Linda Japzon (510-483-7183) or Jay Quesada (510-521-6117). Come join other Pro Members for a fun time.

The Restaurant is located at 2455 Marina Square Drive in Alameda.

**Directions:** Use the Webster Street Tube to Alameda. At the end of the tunnel, exit Right on MARINER SQUARE LOOP. You will see the signs for Pasta Pelican. After passing Mariner Square Athletic club and following the loop, turn Left on MARINER SQUARE DR.

## Medicare Part D and Kaiser: Clearing Up the Confusion

When Peralta retirees sign up for Medicare they are told by the District not to sign up for Medicare Part D, Medicare's prescription drug program. This is because the District's prescription drug coverage is vastly superior to the coverage available from Medicare. Enrolling in Part D can jeopardize the retiree's District coverage. This is true whether the retiree is enrolled in CoreSource or Kaiser.

Peralta also requires all Medicare eligible retirees who are covered by Kaiser to enroll in Kaiser's Senior Advantage program. After a retiree signs up for Senior Advantage, Kaiser enrolls the member in Medicare D, usually in a process that is invisible to the retiree. This does not jeopardize the retiree's superior District prescription drug coverage.

The confusion comes in if the Kaiser member's income is greater than \$85,000 (single) or \$170,000 (couple) because under the new federal health law higher income retirees must pay an income-based

fee when they are enrolled in Medicare Part D.

Some Peralta retirees have been confused when they receive a bill from Medicare for Part D coverage. In at least one case a retiree ignored the Medicare Part D bill thinking she had declined the coverage as instructed by the District only to find herself with canceled prescription drug coverage at Kaiser. If you receive a bill from Medicare for Part D coverage and you are enrolled in Kaiser it is essential to pay the bill to avoid problems with your prescription drug coverage.

Peralta has refused to reimburse retirees for the Medicare Part D fees saying that Medicare Part D is not mentioned in the contracts as eligible for reimbursement. PRO believes that this is a misreading of the contracts as well as a violation of the negotiators' intent to make Medicare cost-free to retirees. We are continuing to press the District to change their policy.



# PRO's Spring Garden Party



*Shirley Conner, PRO's hostess*

About 25 PRO members and friends gathered on Sunday, May 6, for a garden party at the Alameda home of Shirley Conner. The weather was perfect, the garden was lovely, the food was great, and the company, as with every PRO gathering, was congenial and friendly.



*Tom Hughes*



*Angelita Finlayson, Linda Japzon and Ralph Marinaro*

Live music coupled with some phenomenal karaoke performances by Sylvester Brooks as well as some PRO members contributed to the festive atmosphere.



*Myrtle Bennett and Vickie Redus*



*John Beverly*



*Armand Fernandez and Linda Japzon*



*Brenda Lacey*

## PRO Donated \$2500 to Support Peralta District Parcel Tax Campaign

The Peralta District won big at the ballot box on June 5. While revenue generating measures were going down to defeat in California and the rest of the nation, Peralta's parcel tax measure passed with 72% of the vote, far surpassing the 67% needed for approval. The tax will generate about \$8 million a year for eight years. The PRO Board donated \$2500 to the District's campaign on behalf of PRO.

About \$30 million in funding for the Peralta Colleges has been cut by the state, and as a conse-

quence, nearly 4,000 students have been turned away from core academic and vocational courses due to overcrowding and unavailability. The district promised to use the funds for maintaining core academic programs, such as math, science, and English; for training students for their careers; and for preparing students to transfer to four-year universities.

The ballot arguments in favor also stated that the

*(Continued on page 11)*

## PRO Scholarship Recipients for 2012

Every year the PRO Scholarship Fund awards a \$1000 scholarship to a transferring student at each of the Peralta colleges as part of our continuing commitment to Peralta's educational mission. The recipients are chosen by the scholarship committees at each of the colleges. They are always strong academic achievers who are highly motivated and who have overcome difficult obstacles to achieve their success. This year was no different.

The scholarships are announced during an award ceremony held by each college. This year a PRO member presented the award at each ceremony, met the student recipient, and had the opportunity to say a few words about PRO's mission.

### College of Alameda

**Student:** Francis A. Allison

**Presenter:** Wylie Walthall

Francis plans to study Mechanical Engineering at either Cal Poly or UC Berkeley in order to work on developing safety standards for theatrical venues. He started his career moving boxes and packing trucks for rock and roll bands near Boston, and worked his way up to becoming the head of rigging on the west coast for one of the largest audio-visual and corporate theater providers in the country, responsible for the hanging of lights, speakers, video screens, and scenic elements from the ceiling and rafters in ballrooms, theaters, arenas and stadiums. According to Mr. Allison, productions have grown larger, and the need for safer and stronger equipment has grown exponentially.

### Berkeley City College

**Student:** Namuun Bayara

**Presenter:** Alex Pappas

Namuun, an immigrant from Burma, loves food and cooking. After taking a nutrition class at BCC, she knew that she wanted to major in nutritional science, with concentration in physiology and metabolism. Upon getting her AA degree from Peralta, she plans to transfer to a 4-year university and continue on to graduate school. She wants to be part of solving malnutrition and obesity in developing countries

by reaching out to the underprivileged, and educating the society on the importance of good nutrition. As a BCC student, she worked as a student ambassador, helping her fellow students transition smoothly to college. She also volunteered and participated in various BCC events and outreach activities, and was a volunteer at the Highland Academy in Oakland, as a 5th grade science student-teacher. Additionally, she has been a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society since January 2010.

### Laney College

**Student:** Jiawei Chen

**Presenter:** Ned Pearlstein

Jiawei immigrated from China when she was six years old. She is a straight A student and is currently taking 16 units at Laney. In addition to being a full-time student she is also the mother of a toddler and holds three part-time jobs to support her family. Despite all these responsibilities, she still finds time to volunteer at various Laney college events. According to her teachers, she is very hard working, dedicated, and extremely talented. Her goal is to transfer to UC Berkeley and become a teacher. She also wishes to help students financially in the future through scholarships.

### Merritt College

**Student:** Meisha Nicole Booker

**Presenter:** Ron Felzer

Meisha received her Paralegal Certificate from Merritt College in May 2008, and she wants to continue in school and finish her AA courses. After that, she would like to work in a field that would be involved in policy or legal changes within the state, and where she could help people within her community. There have been many obstacles in her life to keep her from her educational goals, but Meisha did not allow them to stop her from getting her degree. Her student advisor has stated that she has proven herself to be an exceptional student, campus leader, and role model.

## Contribute To The Pro Scholarship Fund By Honoring Or Memorializing A Friend Or Loved One



**Yes, I want to support the PRO Scholarship Fund with a contribution.**  
(Please print)

In honor of:     On the occasion of:     In memory of:

**Please send acknowledgement card to:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contributor's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contributor's Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: **The Peralta Foundation—PRO**

Send to: PRO, PO Box 1951, El Cerrito, CA 94530

*Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by federal and state law.*

### Contributions Received for the PRO Scholarship Fund

In Honor of	Contributor
Bruce Jacobs and Jennifer Seibert	Aiko Asato

### IN MEMORIAM

*The following Peralta retirees have passed away during the last months. PRO extends our deepest condolences to their families and loved ones.*

**Lynette DeFazio**  
**Edward F. Westin**

*If you have any information about the passing or the serious illness of a Peralta retiree, please contact Bruce Jacobs at: [webmaster@peraltaretirees.org](mailto:webmaster@peraltaretirees.org) or by writing to PRO, 1250-I Newell Ave., #162, Walnut Creek, CA 94596*

*(Parcel Tax... Continued from page 9)*  
funds would not be able to be taken by the state nor used for administrators' salaries or benefits.

"We want to return to the mission of the California community colleges, ensuring open access to eligible students, and these additional funds are necessary to allow us to do this," said Jennifer Lowood-Livingston, English department chair at Berkeley City College. "To be honest, in my thirty years of teaching in California (at the UC, CSU and community college levels), I've never seen the kind of dire circumstances we find ourselves in now."

An independent citizens' oversight committee will monitor the expenditures funded by the measure. The committee will consist of a wide range of individuals including students, citizens, academics and businesspeople.

# PRO Welcomes Ortiz as New PCCD Chancellor

Dr. José M. Ortiz was appointed by the Peralta Board as the District's new Chancellor. Dr. Ortiz served as the Superintendent/President of Alan Hancock College in Santa Maria, California since July, 2005. Prior to that he was Vice-President of Instruction at Laney College.



*Dr. José M. Ortiz*

In announcing the Board's selection Cy Gulassa, President of the Board of Trustees, characterized Dr. Ortiz as "a proven leader with great people skills and a sharp understanding of the challenges facing the diverse students of our four colleges." Dr. Ortiz took office on July 2.



*Dr. Wise E. Allen*

He is replacing Dr. Wise Allen who served as PCCD Chancellor for the last two years.

Most Peralta retirees have worked with Wise Allen at some time during their Peralta careers. Prior to serving as Chancellor, Wise served as the Vice-Chancellor of Instruction, the President of Merritt College and in numerous other administrative positions throughout the District for many years. Wise retired once before (and is still a PRO member) but was called back by the Trustees when the District was in financial disarray and was under critical scrutiny by the accreditation agency. Today, despite the state's fiscal crisis, Peralta is seen as a model for the rest of the state.

There will be a Retirement Celebration for Wise on Thursday, August 2. For information contact Judy Bryson at 510-436-2416 before Monday, July 16.

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**Peralta Retirees Organization**  
**1250-I Newell Ave., #162**  
**Walnut Creek, CA 94596**