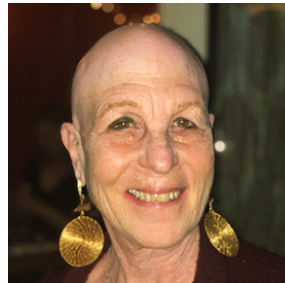




From the President...

*By Debra Weintraub,
PRO President*

About twenty retirees from ACOA, Merritt and Laney gathered August 18 under the aromatic pine trees in Redwood Regional Park for PRO’s annual August Picnic. We shared stories, laughs, and book, TV and music venue tips while eating our homemade lunches. Sue Chin in her normal generous manner provided cookies for the crowd. After being unable to meet outdoors last August, we were all delighted to have the opportunity to re-connect with Peralta colleagues in person.



We had hoped to hold our annual membership luncheon this November, but at our Board meeting on September 29 we decided to hold the membership meeting in the Spring of 2022 to ensure a safer gathering. We plan to find a venue with both good food and pleasant outdoor space; we also hope the weather in the spring will be more inviting for outdoor visiting if needed.

At our recent Board meeting we discussed Bruce Jacobs’ meetings with Harizon Odembo (from the District’s Benefits Office) \ review of pre 2004 retirees’ SPD. Bruce has been pleased with his work with Mr. Odembo, finding him pleasant and easy to work with while reviewing concerns PRO had about the SPD. They should be finalizing the clarification of language (thus benefits) very soon. Bruce will update the membership when the discussions are concluded. Many thanks should go to Bruce for the painstaking work he has done to methodically review the pre-2004 Retiree’s’ SPD and for effectively advocating for maintaining retirees’ promised benefits.

PRO desperately needs at least two post-2004 retirees to take a very thorough look at the post-2004 retirees’ SPDs. We hope there are a couple retirees that have the time and interest to help all post-2004 retirees be sure their health benefits are correctly documented in their SPD. Please step up!

Related to the need for some new folks to help with retiree health care concerns is the seriously diminished financial and people resources of PRO. Our financial and people resources are bare bones at this point. As a result, the PRO Board decided to hold a special Board meeting in early December to focus entirely on the future of PRO.

Fraudulent students plague Peralta, other college districts

Page 4

What should/can our goals be given the very limited income and actively involved membership we now have? Our Board has been at a reduced number for years. I have been president for six years and plan to step down soon. Several members, such as Jerry Herman, Alex Pappas and Bruce Jacobs, have been serving on the Board since its inception. Who will be the new leadership of PRO? Will there be new leadership?

The final topic we noted at the Board meeting was the recent CalPERS Board of Administration elections. The Board sets policy for retirement and health benefits for public employees and oversees assets allocation. This election cycle involved the two At-Large seats. One set of candidates was backed by many of the unions and organizations connected to public employees. They stated they were fighting to protect health benefits and pensions. The other set of candidates felt the CalPERS Board had been mismanaging assets and not investing wisely, thus a

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Assessing the rules for California educators who work after retirement

By CalSTRS publicist

Retirement is changing rapidly around the world. The norm of winding down a career at age 65 is no longer so normal, and for many, retirement doesn't mean a permanent departure from your craft.

As a CalSTRS member, you can take a job outside the California public school system any time after retirement with no penalty toward your pension payments. This includes teaching for private schools, public schools outside of California, and the California State University and University of California systems.

However, if you re-enter the California public school system, there are rules.

If you return to work (which includes working as a substitute teacher) as an employee, an independent contractor, or an employee of a third party, you're subject to restrictions under California state and federal law. Restriction

We know that teaching is not just a job, but a source of joy and, for many, a life calling.

tions include a postretirement waiting period (also known as a separation-from-service requirement) of 180 calendar days before taking a public education job and an annual postretirement earnings limit: \$48,428 is the earnings limit for the 2021–22 fiscal year. The earnings limit is revisited every year.

Summer 2021 update

In August 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-12-21 to provide additional flexibility to hire retired teachers during the Governor's COVID-19 State of Emergency. Among other provisions, the executive order streamlines CalSTRS' exemption process to allow eligible retired CalSTRS members to return to work prior to the standard 180-calendar-day post-retirement waiting period.

While the 180-calendar-day separation-from-service requirement is still in effect, the executive order suspends the need for school board approval to apply for an exemption to that requirement. The retiree must still meet other post-retirement requirements outlined here and the retiree's employer must submit the necessary form to CalSTRS

prior to returning to work.

Please see our Working After Retirement fact sheet for more details. If you have questions, call us at 800-228-5453 or send a secure online message using myCalSTRS.

We know teaching is not just a job, but a source of joy and, for many, a life calling. We want to equip you with the facts before you enter the next stage of your life and career.



Keeping busy after retirement

Peralta Retirees Organization

4200 Park Boulevard, #605
Oakland, CA 94610-2730

<http://www.peraltaretirees.org>

President – Debby Weintraub

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Vice-President – Bruce Jacobs

Secretary – Judith Cohen

Treasurer – Bruce Jacobs (acting)

Past President – Jerry Herman

Board of Directors

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Alex Pappas

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The Peralta Retiree is published four times a year by the Peralta Retirees Organization (PRO)

Volume 18 Number 1

Retirees gather for annual picnic in woods



From the President...

(Continued from front page)

change in leadership was needed. The results of the election were that David Miller and Jose Luis Pacheco won the election by substantial majorities.

Covid still dominates almost everything, so we ended with what if anything we should say to the membership about booster shots. We agreed that we do not have the expertise to advise anyone what to do, but we do want to provide some factual information. Medicare will currently cover the cost of a booster if you meet the eligibility requirements which includes being over 65 and receiving the second Pfizer vaccine six months or more ago.

Stay well.

IN MEMORIAM

The following Peralta retirees have passed away. PRO extends our deepest condolences to their families and loved ones.

Chris Galas
James Meniffee
Ed Minasian
Carmen Rezendes

*Please contact webmaster@gmail.com
 or by writing to PRO, 484 Lake Park Ave., #598
 Oakland, CA 94610-2730*

Fraudulent students and ‘bots’ Plague Peralta College District

*By Pamela Rudd
Oaklandside*

This article was co-published Sept. 17 with The Citizen, a student-run publication of the Peralta Community College District.

Laney and Merritt Colleges in Oakland are among the California colleges being hit hard by financial-aid scammers. Such cases have increased during the pandemic.

The shift from in-person to remote learning has led to an invasion of bots and “phantom students” who are taking advantage of Peralta Community College District’s

Using a bot—a robotic software program—a bad actor can generate the appearance of a real student by using fake identification to fill out an application form, enroll in classes, and sometimes collect financial aid.

enrollment system to fraudulently obtain financial aid.

The fraud is causing class enrollment lists to balloon with fake names, creating more work for faculty and administrators who need to identify and weed through the imposters. The fraud also has the potential to impact college funding and could affect student access to needed classes.

Using a bot—a robotic software program—a bad actor can generate the appearance of a real student by using fake identification to fill out an application form, enroll in classes, and sometimes collect financial aid. Tracking these fake students, say college officials, is like hunting multiple moving targets, and efforts to mitigate the problem are tantamount to playing whack-a-mole with serious consequences for the district’s administrators, Peralta faculty, and real students who need to enroll.

The recent rash of fraud is a statewide problem that’s

been reported in the Los Angeles Times, Inside Higher Ed, and elsewhere. But until now, the extent of the fraud occurring at Peralta—which includes Laney and Merritt College in Oakland, Berkeley City College, and College of Alameda—had gone largely unreported. In a June 22 memo, Siri Brown, vice chancellor of academic affairs at Peralta, reported that over 550 fraudulent applications



GABE JOHNSON/THE CITIZEN

Laney Tower building seen from estuary

were received for the month of May alone—and 125 of those students were enrolled in 9-12 units of summer coursework in total. Brown reported there were 1,138 fraudulent summer and fall applications. In an August 17 email to the Peralta community, Brown said fraudulent applications were bypassing the CCCApply system “in large batches.”

Brown provided an update at the September 14 Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees meeting and said 3,473 fraudulent applications made it past the CCCApply system, with roughly \$179,000 in aid obtained through these efforts. Brown said it has been “very challenging” to get an accurate look at the impact of fraudulent applications on enrollment because the district is still receiving them.

David Johnson, president of Merritt College, put it bluntly in an interview with the Citizen. He said there have always been people “trying to game the system for financial aid” but their attempts were “disorganized.” The latest round of fraud, he said, is “cunning, precise and unprecedented.”

In order to obtain financial aid, these “phantom students” must defraud multiple systems. They first submit a fraudulent application through CCCApply, the California community college enrollment platform. Then, they enroll in classes they have no intention of attending, and finally, they access the federal system by filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) application to obtain financial aid.

Letters to the Editor

CFT members support vaccine mandates

Editor:

Since January of this year, we have pushed hard for educators and classified professionals to be prioritized for vaccinations after medical personnel and seniors. We know that in-person education is best for our students and that vaccines are the best safeguard to prevent serious illness. Vaccine access was a key factor in getting us back to regular, in-person education.

In September, after months of a successful vaccination effort by the state and by our union, we took a poll of CFT members to discern the level of vaccination of educators and classified workers in the state. In the poll we found that an incredible 89% of CFT members are vaccinated against COVID-19.

We also found that 85% of CFT members were supportive of policies requiring vaccination verification or regular testing, the policy that Governor Newsom and the California Department of Public Health put into place last month. Furthermore, when asked, 79% of CFT members were supportive of vaccine mandates for all school staff, with 75% also supporting a vaccine mandate for students. These incredibly high percentages underscore just how much CFT members understand the safety of vaccines and the protection they offer members and our school communities.

Given the high vaccination rates of CFT members and

the results of the poll, the CFT Executive Council passed a resolution in support of working with state agencies and employers that choose to implement a vaccine verification or test policy, or vaccine mandates in schools.

As part of this resolution, we also committed ourselves to ensuring employees have a voice through collective bargaining to address the impacts on workers of any vaccine policy implemented by employers. We also pledged to continue to advocate for other safety mitigation strategies, including mask requirements, ventilation upgrades, and regular testing.

Although these vaccines have been proven to be safe and effective, we understand that there are valid reasons that might prevent someone from getting vaccinated, and so our resolution also supports individuals who need to obtain an exemption to the vaccine for valid medical or religious reasons. You can visit the CDC's website for more information about vaccine safety.

CFT members are leading the way to fight for our schools, for our students, and for the safety of our communities. We thank you for your work and your dedication to our schools.

In Unity,

Jeffery M. Freitas

Jeffery M. Freitas is president of the California Federation of Teachers.

In tribute to Carmen Rezendes

Editor:

Carmen passed away October 10. I met her before she came to Laney when she lived next door to a good friend of mine. I thought she was a lovely person even then despite her having an intimidating German shepherd named Thresher. Little did I know that two years later, when she joined the Laney English Department, that lovely person and I would begin a friendship and colleagueship that would last over fifty years. We were officemates and co-chairs of the department for more than twenty years, and in all that time there was never a harsh word that passed between us. We strove to navigate the stormy seas of Peralta on the leaky ship called Laney and had our fair share of success.

To her everlasting credit Carmen was always the voice of reason, unflappable through crises, patient and compassionate when faced with problems of students, the English Department or the college. She was able to laugh at the absurdities and weirdness that became a Laney hallmark. I remember walking into the office one day to see a well-known, award winning East Bay author with his daughter, then a student in Carmen's English 1A class. The daughter received a C on an essay. The father, playing protective

poppa, was there with his daughter to protest the grade. In all of our 70+ collective years at Laney, we had never had a parent accompany a student to an office hour to protest a grade, but there was this father, trying to pick out bits and pieces of the essay to prove Carmen was wrong about the C while his daughter sat there silent, looking embarrassed. Carmen listened attentively, smiled sympathetically and calmly explained why the essay received a C. She was steadfast. The father was slightly mollified. The daughter just wanted to get out of there. When they left, Carmen and I just looked at each other, astonished. Then we started laughing and couldn't stop for the next five minutes.

Carmen's intellect was big, but her heart was bigger. Her smile lit up a room, and her hearty laugh came easily and often. She was respected, admired and loved by her family, friends, colleagues and students. She was truly a Laney College treasure. Carmen Rezendes was a woman of charm and grace whose physical body may have left us, but her beautiful soul will warm and nourish my memory as long as I live.

Jerry Herman

6 questions about catching COVID

By Sanjay Mishra, PhD

Project Coordinator & Staff Scientist, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Vanderbilt University

If you've been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, maybe you figured you no longer need to worry about contracting the coronavirus. But along with the rising number of new COVID-19 cases globally and growing concern about highly transmissible strains like the delta variant come reports of fully vaccinated people testing positive for COVID-19.

Members of the New York Yankees, U.S. Olympic gymnast Kara Eaker and U.K. health secretary Sajid Javid are some of those diagnosed with what is called a "breakthrough infection."

As scary as the term may sound, the bottom line is that the existing COVID-19 vaccines are still very good at preventing symptomatic infections, and breakthrough infections happen very rarely. But just how common and how dangerous are they? Here's a guide to what you need to know.

WHAT IS "BREAKTHROUGH INFECTION?"

No vaccine is 100% effective. Dr. Jonas Salk's polio vaccine was 80%-90% effective in preventing paralytic disease. Even for the gold standard measles vaccine, the efficacy was 94% among a highly vaccinated population during large outbreaks.

Comparably, clinical trials found the mRNA vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna were 94%-95% effective at pre-

When people get infected after vaccination, scientists call these cases "breakthrough" infections because the virus broke through the protective barrier the vaccine provides.

venting symptomatic COVID-19 – much more protective than initially hoped.

A quick reminder: A vaccine efficacy of 95% does not mean that the shot protects 95% of people while the other 5% will contract the virus. Vaccine efficacy is a measure of relative risk – you need to compare a group of vaccinated people to a group of unvaccinated people under

the same exposure conditions. So consider a three-month study period during which 100 out of 10,000 unvaccinated people got COVID-19. You'd expect five vaccinated people to get sick during that same time. That's 5% of the 100 unvaccinated people who fell ill, not 5% of the whole group of 10,000.

When people get infected after vaccination, scientists call these cases "breakthrough" infections because the virus broke through the protective barrier the vaccine provides.

HOW COMMON IS COVID-19 INFECTION IN THE FULLY VACCINATED?

Breakthrough infections are a little more frequent than previously expected and are probably increasing because of growing dominance of the delta variant. But infections in vaccinated people are still very rare and usually cause mild or no symptoms.

For instance, 46 U.S. states and territories voluntarily reported 10,262 breakthrough infections to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention between Jan. 1 and April 30, 2021. By comparison, there were 11.8 million COVID-19 diagnoses in total during the same period.

Beginning May 1, 2021, the CDC stopped monitoring vaccine breakthrough cases unless they resulted in hospitalization or death. Through July 19, 2021, there were 5,914 patients with COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough infections who were hospitalized or died in the U.S., out of more than 159 million people fully vaccinated nationwide.

One study between Dec. 15, 2020, and March 31, 2021, that included 258,716 veterans who received two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, counted 410 who got breakthrough infections – that's 0.16% of the total. Similarly, a study in New York noted 86 cases of COVID-19 breakthrough infections between Feb. 1 and April 30, 2021, among 126,367 people who were fully vaccinated, mostly with mRNA vaccines. This accounts for 1.2% of total COVID-19 cases and 0.07% of the fully vaccinated population.

Even if you're fully vaccinated, you should get tested if you have symptoms.

HOW SERIOUS IS A COVID-19 BREAKTHROUGH INFECTION?

The CDC defines a vaccine breakthrough infection as one in which a nasal swab can detect the SARS-CoV-2 RNA or protein more than 14 days after a person has completed the full recommended doses of an FDA-ortho-

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rized COVID-19 vaccine.

Note that a breakthrough infection doesn't necessarily mean the person feels sick – and, in fact, 27% of breakthrough cases reported to the CDC were asymptomatic. Only 10% of the breakthrough-infected people were known to be hospitalized (some for reasons other than COVID-19), and 2% died. For comparison, during the spring of 2020 when vaccines were not yet available, over 6% of confirmed infections were fatal.

In a study at U.S. military treatment facilities, none of the breakthrough infections led to hospitalization. In another study, after just one dose of Pfizer vaccine the vaccinated people who tested positive for COVID-19 had a quarter less virus in their bodies than those who were unvaccinated and tested positive.

WHAT MAKES A BREAKTHROUGH INFECTION MORE LIKELY?

Nationwide, on average more than 5% of COVID-19 tests are coming back positive; in Alabama, Mississippi and Oklahoma, the positivity rate is above 30%. Lots of coronavirus circulating in a community pushes the chance of breakthrough infections higher.

The likelihood is greater in situations of close contact, such as in a cramped working space, party, restaurant or stadium. Breakthrough infections are also more likely among health care workers who are in frequent contact with infected patients.

For reasons that are unclear, nationwide CDC data found that women account for 63% of breakthrough infections. Some smaller studies identified women as the majority of breakthrough cases as well.

Vaccines trigger a less robust immune response among older people, and the chances of a breakthrough infection get higher with increasing age. Among the breakthrough cases tracked by the CDC, 75% occurred in patients age 65 and older.

Being immunocompromised or having underlying conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, chronic kidney and lung diseases and cancer increase the chances of breakthrough infections and can lead to severe COVID-19.

For example, fully vaccinated organ transplant recipients were 82 times more likely to get a breakthrough infection and had a 485-fold higher risk of hospitalization and death after a breakthrough infection compared with the vaccinated general population in one study.

HOW DO VARIANTS LIKE DELTA CHANGE THINGS?

Researchers developed today's vaccines to ward off earlier strains of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Since then new variants have emerged, many of which are better at dodging the antibodies produced by the currently authorized vaccines. While existing vaccines are still very effective against these variants for preventing hospitalization, they are less effective than

against previous variants.

Two doses of the mRNA vaccines were only 79% effective at preventing symptomatic disease with delta, compared with 89% effective in the case of the earlier alpha variant, according to Public Health England. A single dose was only 35% protective against delta.

The U.S. is becoming “almost like two Americas,” as Anthony Fauci put it, divided between the vaccinated and the unvaccinated.

About 12.5% of the 229,218 delta variant cases across England through July 19 were among fully vaccinated people.

Israel, with high vaccination rates, has reported that full vaccination with the Pfizer vaccine might be only 39%-40.5% effective at preventing delta variant infections of any severity, down from early estimates of 90%.

Israel's findings suggest that within six months, COVID-19 vaccines' efficacy at preventing infection and symptomatic disease declines. The good news, though, is that the vaccine is still highly effective at protecting against hospitalization (88%) and severe illness (91.4%) caused by the now-dominant delta variant.

SO HOW WELL ARE VACCINES HOLDING UP?

As of the end of July 2021, 49.1% of the U.S. population, or just over 163 million people, are fully vaccinated. Nearly 90% of Americans over the age of 65 have received at least one dose of a vaccine.

Scientists' models suggest that vaccination may have saved approximately 279,000 lives in the U.S. and prevented up to 1.25 million hospitalizations by the end of June 2021. Similarly, in England about 30,300 deaths, 46,300 hospitalizations and 8.15 million infections may have been prevented by COVID-19 vaccines.

In Israel, the high vaccination rate is thought to have caused a 77% drop in cases and a 68% drop in hospitalizations from that nation's pandemic peak.

Across the U.S., only 150 out of more than 18,000 deaths due to COVID-19 in May were of people who had been fully vaccinated. That means nearly all COVID-19 deaths in U.S. are among those who remain unvaccinated.

The U.S. is becoming “almost like two Americas,” as Anthony Fauci put it, divided between the vaccinated and the unvaccinated. Those who have not been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 remain at risk from the coronavirus that has so far killed more than 600,000 people in the U.S.

Miley and USOAC host Healthy Living Festival



Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley (right) and supporter



Karen Anderson & Alma Ferguson USOAC Board



Dancing to Cupid Shuffle at the Healthy Living Festival

The 18th Annual Healthy Living Festival, a free event for seniors 55+ living in Alameda County to promote health and wellness, was held on September 30th at the Oakland Zoo. As always, it was hosted by Alameda County Supervisor, Nate Miley and the United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County (USOAC). This year's event was a drive-through experience, and what fun it was!

At the festival live music was pumping,

produce was dancing, and hundreds of seniors and their family members rolled through to receive their free lunch. Swag bags with resource materials were also given out and free Covid testing/vaccinations were available at a pop-up clinic as well.

And ready to capture it all was Karen Anderson, a member of the PRO Board and USOAC Board, and a member of the Leadership Team of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay. Above are some of Karen's photos of this annual event:.

Travel in the time of Covid-19

By Debra Weintraub

The taste of agnolotti, Barolo wine and homemade panna cotta smothered in bacche rosse are still fresh to my senses. Memories of my struggles to communicate or to understand the rapid, beautiful avalanche of rolled r's, long vowels and the emphasis on double letter sounds are still with me as well after three weeks in Italy.

Deciding to travel internationally during a global pandemic did not come easily. In fact, on a scale of risk takers, I would be well below average. However, in September of 2019 my husband and I had spent five days hiking in the Alpe di Siusi part of the Dolomites, and I wanted to return with others to share the astounding beauty of the region and so urged my brother, sister-in-law and two dear friends to return with us.

We reserved rooms for September of 2020 for all of us,



Debby in Acqui Terme, Italy

and then, the world changed. We watched, heartbroken as Covid swept through parts of China, Italy, and then to other parts of the world before it landed in our own

communities. All the plans for travel were put aside—the world was in crisis.

Travel seemed like an impossible dream. But after we got vaccinated, we regained hope. We (all our travel companions) made plans, filled with caveats and assurances that whatever we booked could be fully cancelled. We did not know then how many times we would ques-



Debra, husband, Jim Krupnick, and friends

tion the decision, how many times we would get conflicting information about the safety of travel, or that 36 hours before we were to depart, the EU would put the U.S. on a list of high-risk countries so we would have to scramble to get certified negative Covid tests in order to board the plane to Italy. Nor did my husband and I know a child in our grandson's second grade class would test positive for Covid, making it necessary for the two of us to re-test less than 24 hours prior to departure since we had just spent the evening with him the night before. The health of our grandson's classmates had never been a concern for us regarding our travel plans; now, we were reminded how interconnected we all are and that when we travel, we are taking our community's health with us.

International travel requires testing and documents—a slew of them. Italy has witnessed the bleakest of times surrounding Covid; it is apparent they do not want to return and graciously comply with all Covid mandates: masks, limited numbers in stores, temperatures taken before entry, vaccine cards to eat indoors or go into public spaces like museums. These requirements definitely change some of the thrill of travel, some of the carefree feeling or sense of adventure one has upon arriving in a

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foreign country. But ultimately it does not diminish the joys, the discoveries, the delicious, not quite familiar smells and tastes. Nor does it stop the wonderful challenges of not hearing my mother tongue, English, or being fully comfortable with what is expected in certain situations. That marvel of travel continues.

It was the masking of all the beautiful faces that broke my heart on this trip as it demonstrated one of the most loving acts of concern for others, as well as the reality that the world has suffered enormous losses, no place has been left untouched, unscathed by Covid. It was a big reminder that we are still experiencing a global health crisis. The world is not yet well.

What I can say is that I felt safe in Italy. For one, the infection rate, particularly in the northern part of Italy where we were, is very low, lower than in the Bay Area. They have many more regulations that require people to be vaccinated, so a greater number of people are vaccinated—even than here in the Bay Area. Tests, quick results and affordable health care are all much more readily available and create a safer environment for everyone, something I wish were true for everyone here as well.

The other considerations for us that tipped the scales towards taking the trip were that we all believed that we likely will be living with some form of Covid for years to come; we knew there were risks involved in our choice, but there were also rewards. Given that many of our contemporaries have suffered a variety of losses, we decided to experience the pleasure of travel with one another while each of our aging bodies and minds were still up to the task.

I encourage travel for those of you that are longing to do so. Travel always involves some elements of risk, more now, but throughout my life, the challenges and the pushing of the envelope of my comfort zone have always been part of the reason I love to travel. I am glad that even in this time of Covid, the six of us took our trip to Italy. I will cherish what we shared: the amazing hikes, the meals, the laughter, even the confusions. It brought us

Health Care funds in good shape

*By Jerry Herman, PRO member,
Peralta Retirement Board*

At the last meeting of the Peralta Retirement Board on September 30, Neuberger Berman, the Board's investment company, reported that the trust for retirees with lifetime benefits had \$228 million in assets. This represented an 18.44% annual gain for the fund, a substantial increase that should support retiree health benefits for the foreseeable future even in the face of escalating health care costs.

The Neuberger Berman representative cautioned that

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all a small sense of normalcy and a pathway towards how we may manage the future



Debra and Jim hiking in the Dolomites



And the Dolomites bathed in

About PRO Scholarships

Scholarships are funded by contributions from PRO members who may contribute "in honor of" or "in memory of" a former colleague or loved one, or "on the occasion of" special event. PRO notifies the honoree or the family of the deceased that a contribution has been made and who the contributor is. To contribute online with a credit card or by mailing a check click here: <https://peraltaretirees.org/Docs/schols.htm>

Contributions Received for the PRO Scholarship Fund

In Memory of: **Contributor(s)**

Chris Galas	Agatha K. Galas
Anita Black	Adrienne Riley
Bill Love	
James Meniffee	Patrick McDermitt

Edith Chan has made a donation in honor of all students

(Continued from previous page)

because the trust is invested in equities, stock market volatility is an ever present fact of life. To hedge against this volatility, the fund's investments are conservatively diversified over a wide range of stocks.

Retirement Board chair Bill Withrow reported that planned withdrawals from the fund will decline as the years go by as the OPEB bonds that initially provided the funding for the trust get paid off and as the number of retirees with lifetime benefits declines. The annual cost for retirees health benefits currently is \$10-12 million.

The OPEB bond funds started with \$150 million in 2005.

Renewal Due for Retirees Whose Membership Expires at the End of 2021

If your PRO membership is about to expire (or has expired) you will receive an email letting you know that you need to renew for 2022. If you do not receive an email renewal notice by the end of December and you think your membership needs renewal you can send an inquiry email to:

webmaster@peraltaretirees.org

Dues are \$20 for 1 year, \$55 for 3 years, \$80 for 5 years and \$250 lifetime.

It's easy to renew your membership in PRO. You can now pay your dues for 2021:

■ securely by credit card at the PRO web site (using PayPal).

Just go to: www.peraltaretirees.org/index.htm

Welcome New Member

*PRO welcomes the
following member who
recently joined*

Barbara Jean Lewis

Peralta Retirees Organization
4200 Park Blvd, #605
Oakland, CA 94602