

January 30, 2003

Dear PGTA retiree,

Those who attended the PGUSD retirees' breakfast at Carrows last October on Butterfly Parade Saturday heard Jessie and Bruce mention the possibility of forming a local chapter of PGTA Retired Teachers.

Reasons to form a PGTA-Retired chapter include:

- Focus on issues that affect us as retirees such as the costs and levels of continuing health benefits
- Communicate directly upon hearing of any proposed increase in costs for premiums or prescription drugs or amount of co-pay
- Request and receive direction from our PGTA-R members when PGUSD negotiations concern retirees' issues
- Provide guidance and resources whenever our PGTA-R members experience changes in marriages or deaths in the family
- Let everyone know of future business or social meetings.

Since the breakfast we asked the CTA/NEA Retired Board of Directors if we could form our own chapter here in PG and they agreed. There are few requirements to do this: We must have a minimum of twenty members and they must accept our chapter bylaws. We may establish our own dues and budget. The current dues for unified CTA/NEA-Retired membership is one \$220 lifetime payment, or an annual fee of \$27 plus an estimated three dollars per year for cost of printing and postage.

Don't forget, our medical benefits are determined by the current contract with the District. As retirees without a voice during negotiations, concern about monitoring and maintaining our benefits seems appropriate under recent economic pressures. (See recent Herald article enclosed, "PG, Carmel schools face severe budget cuts".)

If you are interested in helping form a PGTA-Retired Chapter, please let one of us know. Write or call with your comments or questions.

Thank you!

Bruce Belknap / Jessie Bray / LaRene Kauffman / Hilma Smith / Don Luce