

November 4, 2014
RPSG Meeting Minutes

The meeting began with a discussion of a PANC (Parkinson's Assoc. of Northern California) seminar held in October. The newly diagnosed members felt it was too much information to absorb at one time. Members having had PD for quite some time felt they had heard nothing new, just the same old things. A suggestion was made to have breakout groups offering a variety of topics with the patient able to decide their preference.

Secretary Shelly Butler asked for subject suggestions in scheduling guests for next year. A pharmacist able to discuss PD meds ,a nutritionist and someone familiar with exercise programs geared for Parkinson's. The "Big and Loud" programs that Kaiser and Sutter offer that accentuate exaggerated movement and speech therapy for PD were mentioned.

President Harry Butler talked about a report that stated Neurologists were ignoring data that indicated prescribing a dopamine agonist for Parkinson's such as Requip or Mirapex was highly likely to cause obsessive-compulsive behavior in their patients. Excessive shopping, gambling and sex addictions were problems patients reported. Between 2003 to 2012 the FDA received 2.7 million complaints from patients who felt they should have been warned of the possible side effects. It has been suggested that the FDA require what is called a "black box" label on any dopamine agonists prescription with a suitable warning.

Shelly Butler
Secretary RPSG