

REMCO
Luncheon Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Call to Order:

President Lola Barnett called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Head Table was introduced, noting the attendance of Secretary LaVon Justice, Vice President Kaye Greeley, Risk Analyst Marla Pettygrove, and Sandy Teague, Retirement Board Representative.

Treasurer's Report:

John Carlisle, Newsletter Editor and Past President, reported that David Baker was out of town and had asked John to provide the Treasurer's Report. John reported for the first quarter: Deposits of \$9645 (membership dues, raffle ticket proceeds). Debits of \$4383.72 (prior luncheon costs, \$64.72 Wells Fargo bank fees, postage for newsletters), and \$100 for Petty Cash, leaving a new balance of \$48,117.80. Motion made and seconded to accept the report.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary LaVon Justice reported highlights of the minutes of the December 13, 2011 REMCO meeting. The Secretary reported the full report is now on the REMCOMerced.com website, as well as hard copies were available for new members that were attending the meeting. Motion to accept Secretary's report, seconded. Accepted.

Lola reported that the Board of Directors met on February 22, 2012. David Baker had reported that postage had increased and an increase of \$100 for the Post Office account was requested. The Board voted to increase the amount of the Post Office account from \$500 to \$600.

Lola also relayed that Ron Kinchloe had reported that the audit of REMCO's fiscal procedures was completed and that Ron had reported David Baker was doing a good job. Ron was still in the process of completing the written report.

Lola reported that 38 new members had joined REMCO, and she welcomed them to our organization.

Risk Analyst Marla Pettygrove reported on the January increase in medical premiums. Those in Secured Horizons (now United Health Care) had the largest premium increase. Due to restructuring of the insurance claims pool, the Under 65 premium went down about a dollar, while the dependent coverage went up about a dollar. The Over 65 group with Anthem Blue had a slight increase. No additional increase was expected in 2012. Marla could not predict what 2013 might hold or what impacts there would be from the Obama Healthcare Reform Act in 2014.

Marla reported that her husband, Scott, is now retired but was unable to attend today's meeting as his mother had recently passed away and he was helping his father deal with the estate. She also mentioned that she is there for the retirees, and if we see her out and about, to come up and talk with her. She relayed that a retiree had seen her around Christmas and noticed that Marla wasn't her usual cheerful self, and gave her a big hug and sympathy when she discovered Marla's favorite brother had recently passed away. Marla also provided an "Andrew Story". Her 10 year old son Andrew recently requested some money to put in some stocks. Marla told him that he was very lucky because his grandparents had opened an account for him with Morgan/Stanley. Andrew, shocked, asked if his grandparents had thought his name was going to be Morgan Stanley!

Lola noting that Maria Arevalo, Retirement Plan Administrator, was present asked for the MCREA report. Maria reported that the actuarial report was in and that the contribution rate for the County is 4% and that the Fund is 56% funded, which is up from previous years. The County will contribute at a rate as if there were not furlough days. The Retirement Board Miscellaneous Member Seat 2, currently held by Michael Rhodes, is coming up for election. Retirement Board Safety Member representatives Mary McWatters and Jim Pacheco are new and coming up to speed.

Maria reported that the Retirement Board Retiree Representatives, Sandy Teague and Ron Kinchloe were recently re-elected for a 3 year term. Maria reported that the fiscal year-end on June 30, 2011 showed an approximate 22% increase and she is hopeful that the current fiscal year-end will have a strong and positive result. Maria reported on pending legislation and the Governor's plan to diminish benefits by creating a hybrid plan. She reported REMCO has a defined benefits plan, meaning that retirees have a guaranteed monthly amount. The proposed defined contribution plan would result in an allotment based on how well investments did. This type of plan was meant to be a savings account for employees. Maria strongly suggested that members be advocates of their retirement plan by telling their neighbors and friends that REMCO's defined benefit had been earned and paid for by the retirees, that everyone should have a defined benefit retirement plan, rather than others being jealous of those who have one.

Lola reported that REMCO Tier One members would receive a 3% increase in their April allotment.

Sandy Teague reported on MCREA activities and advised members that a handout was on the registration table when they came in, and that he had additional copies if they had not picked one up when they came in, and if any member wanted further details to talk to him.

He also reported CRCEA was increasing their dues by \$.10 per member which would increase what REMCO pays by about \$100. He reported that there were bills working their way through Sacramento that could affect retirement plans. In April CRCEA would have a conference in Tulare County, which was open to any REMCO member, and it was an opportunity to hear first-hand what is going on in retirement organizations.

Sandy also relayed that the REMCO By Laws had been updated and finalized last February and are available on line.

Lola asked for the Insurance Committee Report, however, Linc Clendenin was not available to provide it.

Lola asked Mike Sofranek for a report on the website. Mike reported that he was still looking for advertisers who would be listed on the website free, in exchange for a discount for REMCO members. Mike also stated that might result in the need for an identification card for REMCO members at a later date when there were more businesses listed. Mike also asked members to ask people they knew that provided services, like cutting hair, or grooming pets, to consider advertising on the website. Lola said to contact Mike by email or to talk with him. Lola also commended Mike on his work on the website and that it is looking really good.

Lola mentioned that Mike had been instrumental in obtaining ten tickets for the Castle Air Museum. If anyone is interested in a ticket, please contact the Secretary. Lola also mentioned that Castle is selling bricks for a pathway they are building and buyers can honor someone, with up to 3 lines on a brick, for \$50 each. Contact Mike Sofranek for the contact person at Castle.

Kaye Greeley presented the Membership Committee report: There were over 80 employees who retired from December to March, and of that number 38 became members of REMCO. If anyone knows any of those 83 new retirees, please talk to them about becoming a member. Kaye stated there is strength in numbers and that REMCO becomes better the more members we obtain. Doug Jensen asked if information could be included in the statement received from MCREA each month. Kaye mentioned that possibility had been discussed by the Board of Directors but no action has been taken yet.

Lola thanked Delores White and Vickie for their help with meal tickets and Shirley Winton for the reservations. Lola also thanked Scott Johnston for his help in selling the raffle tickets, and reminded members that the next luncheon meeting would be June 12, 2012.

Lola called for a moment of silence for our heroes, deceased members, firefighters and soldiers who have died in the line of duty.

Meeting broke for the serving of lunch at 12:30 PM, with the raffle following.

At approximately 1:00 PM, Lola reminded members if they had something they would like to donate for a raffle prize, it would be appreciated for the next meeting. She also reported that individuals/groups who had tried to get pension reform actions on the ballot fell short of the necessary funds or signatures. However, those same individuals/groups might come back again, and we need to be vigilant in protecting our pension.

No other business being brought forward, a motion was made to adjourn, seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM.