

REMCOAI Board of Directors General Meeting

MCERA
3199 M Street
Merced, CA
August 5, 2015

President Sandy Teague called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

Roll Call: Present: President Sandy Teague, Treasurer Lola Barnett, Vice President Kaye Greeley, Retirement Board Representative Ronald Kinchloe, Directors Scott Johnston and Bobbie Baker, CRCEA Representative David Baker, Past President/Newsletter Editor John Carlisle and Secretary LaVon Justice. Absent: Director Mike Sofranek.

Secretary's Report: May 6, 2015 Board of Directors General Meeting Minutes: Accepted as Received. ****M/S/P**

Treasurer's Report: The current balance in the MERCOCO account is \$65,524.65 with total expenses to date of \$15,566.86. The total for the two CDs is \$50,632.52 bringing the total value of the MERCOCO accounts to \$116,157.17. Treasurer's Report: Accepted as Reported **** M/S/P**

Old Business:

President Teague reported the speaker for the September Annual Business meeting is CRCEA President Skip Murphy who has confirmed he will speak on September 8th. Discussion on the expenses for his visit reached the consensus that the overnight stay is part of the CRCEA membership fee and paying for dinner the night before would be a thoughtful gesture and a REMCO expense. As September 7th is Labor Day, President Teague will check that Strings Restaurant would be open for dinner, or he would find another dining option. President Teague stated he would introduce REMCO's CRCEA representatives (David Baker, Alt. Kaye Greeley) at the REMCO meeting, and David or Kaye would then introduce Skip to the members. Discussion was held regarding the possibility of several Board members attending the dinner with Mr. Murphy requiring advance notice per the Brown Act, with the consensus that REMCO is not a public entity and is not subject to the Brown Act.

President Teague announced he had received no nominations for the September election of Officers (President, V-P, Secretary and Treasurer) by the deadline of June 30th. President Teague and Treasurer Lola Barnett submitted their Intent to fill a second term in their respective offices. Both VP Kaye Greeley and Secretary LaVon Justice provided email confirmation that they would continue in their respective offices if the members voted at the September meeting to extend their term of offices. Kaye did request that she would like to step down as CRCEA Alternate and suggested that Bobbie Baker become the CRCEA Alternate as both David and Bobbie would be attending the semi-annual Conference anyway. Discussion was held and accepted that Bobbie Baker would become the CRCEA Alternate. The Secretary would provide Newsletter Editor John Carlisle a short article for the Newsletter to inform members that election ballots would not be mailed out due to not receiving any nominee names. Names could be gathered to hold for future vacancies of either Officers or Directors (per the By-Laws).

President Teague reminded the Board of Directors that there is currently a Director vacancy previously held by Marie McDonagh. CRCEA Representative Baker had previously suggested Hermalinda Reyes and Cindy Ramirez as possibilities, plus the suggestion of Veronica Carlisle had been received. David would check with Hermalinda and Kaye would check with Cindy if they were interested, and John Carlisle would check with Veronica.

New Business:

Director Mike Sofranek had previously requested that new pictures for the website be provided. Treasurer Barnett stated she had requested the Scholarship winners provide their picture with their families and provided Director Sofranek' email address to them. President Teague requested that pictures of the Board of Directors be taken at the September 8th meeting for posting on the REMCOMerced.com website.

Discussion was held on the suggestion to increase the Scholarship amount and/or increase the number of Scholarships granted annually. Following much discussion which recognized that many qualified applications had been received, the total value of the MERCO account, and that the Scholarship amount had been increased within the year, a motion was made, and seconded, to leave the Scholarship amount and number granted at the current amount and number. ****M/S/P**

At the conclusion of the Scholarship and financial discussions Retirement Board Representative Ronald Kinchloe suggested that another CD in the amount of \$25,000 should be purchased as a reserve for the protection of retirement benefits, considering the upcoming 2016 legislative initiatives targeting pension changes and the current battles of other Counties. This new CD plus the prior two CDs would all be considered a reserve for the protection of retirement benefits. ****M/S/P**

President Teague reported that attendance and membership has been an on-going issue. Several suggestions to improve both were another membership flyer in members' retirement statement; a suggestion box that members could provide ideas on speakers, subjects, activities, topics, events, and mystery gifts. A form could be created with some ideas and blank spots for their suggestions with the suggestion box in a corner of the meeting area for privacy. Topics could be printed in the newsletter, with discussion of enlarging the newsletter to included new columns. Some ideas presented were dynamic speakers, a professional table (In-Shape, reverse mortgage, investors, financial advisors, wills); increased dollar amount of gifts or unknown amount as mystery gift, a large grand prize); different luncheon location; quizzes for website with a winner receiving a prize (discount coupon, general prize); workshops (different subjects); and, sponsored trips. It was decided that a suggestion box would be in place at the luncheon for September.

President Teague asked Retirement Board Representative Alternate and Healthcare Committee Chair Scott Johnston to give an update on the proposed Delta Dental plan. Director Johnston reported that Merced County representatives had not returned with firm retiree rates for the dental plan so there was no new information to provide at this time. If he receives the premium rates that the members would vote on for the new dental plan prior to the September 8th meeting, he would let the Board members know.

Treasurer Barnett asked what dollar envelopes or other suggestions should be offered in September. President Teague donated a \$100 grand prize; Lil Teague would donate several fairy garden creations; VP Kaye Greeley offered to create a basket; Director Bobbie Baker suggested a TV for a grand prize, possibly for the December meeting. Suggestions were made of drawing throughout the meeting to keep the energy flowing and to hasten the results.

Directors Reports: Retirement Board Alternate Scott Johnston reported that the request to allow voting rights to position 8 (Retirement Board Alternate) to provide a 2nd position the ability to vote if other positions are not available to vote, was working its way through the process (letter to the Retirement Board, Legislative Format language to Legislative Analyst) to amend language of the 1937 Act.

With no further items to discuss, the meeting was closed at 12:00 PM.

****M/S/P = Motion Made/Seconded/Passed**