

**REMCO General Meeting Minutes**  
**Police Detective Sannadan, Stephanie Cone, Adult Protective Social Worker,**  
**and Rosa Alvarez, Merced Police Community Liaison Officer, Current Senior**  
**Scams and Elder Abuse Workshop – 10:30 AM**  
**REMCO Luncheon Follows General Meeting (11:50 AM)**  
**Tuesday, June 13, 2023**

10:30 -11:30 AM – Vice-President Scott Johnston asked speakers at front table to come to the dais to introduce themselves: Detective Sannadan from Merced Police Department, Stephine Cone, Merced County Adult Protective Social worker, Rosa Alvarez, Merced Police Department Community Liaison Officer who took pictures and advanced PowerPoint pages, and American Red Cross Gameelah Mohamad, Disaster Program Manager who would speak during the General Meeting.

Detective Sannadan reported he had served 17 years in the Merced Police Department and 4 years as a Detective investigating domestic violence, sexual assaults, neglect, isolation, and other forms of Elder Abuse. For every Elder Abuse case that is reported there are 23 more that are not reported. This can occur because caregivers may be family members and the senior doesn't want to get them in trouble or they are afraid that they may be abandoned. Some seniors may self-neglect by ignoring their hygiene care. Detective Sannadan reported that he can't discuss active investigations, however he stated that those individuals found committing Elder Abuse such as battery, kidnapping, and sexual assault are felony charges. The results of an investigation are sent to the District Attorney Office, and would work together with other counties if the victim was moved.

Detective Sannadan and Stephine work collaboratively to educate the population to recognize abuse whether it is in a facility, other agencies, or at the senior's home as abuse occurs anywhere. The use of all senses to smell (urine, feces, infection, blood, maggots), looking around their room or house for damage caused by abusive behavior (broken furniture or holes in closet doors); seeing locks on the outside of doors; looking at their body for unexplained bruises and marks or bruises in different stages of healing or bleeding from the genital area, bed sores, pain, signs of being restrained; notice if their behavior has changed (now afraid rather than happy); are they acting normally, are they losing weight, is there food in the cupboards? Are they having financial problems, are utilities turned off or are receiving financial late notices; can't pay their bills due to unusual financial activity (checks made out in larger amounts than usual), are there new helpers or "friends" or neighbors involved. Focus on the victim's safety, avoid assumptions, and cultural responses. He reported that women aged 50 to 60 endured cultural abuse. As of January 1, 2023 those 60 and above are considered an Elder. Most cases of abuse are females or older males.

Other forms of abuse are emotional and psychological (power and control), threatening, targets vulnerabilities and neglects; victims denied access to Spiritual Traditions/events, ridicules personal and cultural values; uses family members like children to control victim; isolates, uses privilege (in charge), and financial exploitation which has been on the rise; Victims discover missing belongings such as jewelry or certain pieces that matter to the senior, or missing financial and property documents. Checks may be missing from their check books, or checks are made out to "cash", or the check amount may have been altered to a larger amount than originally written. The Suspect may hide bank statements or go through the mail to discover what assets the victim may have.

Detective Sannadan reported that one case that he investigated was a victim that was moved about 90 miles from their family, friends and doctors and the suspect had found the deed and had changed the deed to their name. Sometimes the suspect will portray that they are the victim (being abused by the Senior) or as a very caring person.

Abuse in facilities need to be reported to the Ombudsman to advocate for the Victim, their rights of knowing the changes in their care, the right to spent time in the way they want and the right to have visitors. Facilities usually have had DOJ background checks on caregivers if they are paid through agencies. Background checks are important if a caregiver is being hired for an individual. The Ombudsman will be notified if a Suspect is convicted of a felony.

Detective Sannadan and Stephine provided members forms to identify Victim indicators, Suspect indicators and environment indicators, to discuss their thoughts and outcomes with their groups and then report their results to the audience. Detective Sannadan reported there are many types of Elder Abuse and Scams such as "Sweetheart" (romance) scams, Identity theft, grandchild-in-trouble, too many to cover now. The suggestion to have them come back to another meeting was made and accepted by the members with a round of applause. They provided informational handouts at the front table.

11:50 AM

#### CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Scott Johnston called the business portion to order at 11:50 AM. He led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for Military and Public Safety personnel and REMCO members who have passed.

Vice President Johnston introduced the REMCO Officers by title including himself, Secretary LaVon Justice, Treasurer Lola Barnett, and President Jackie Walther-Parnell who is recovering from surgery, and acknowledged Directors Eric Swenson, Jim Pacheco and Bernadette Castaneda.

Vice President Johnston noted that members can use the suggestion box or contact any of the Officers to recognize members for their volunteerism or suggest trip destinations or speakers and topics that would be of interest to the members and suggested joining the Facebook page for REMCOAI which President Walther-Parnell reported has a total of 203 members as of today.

Vice President Johnston asked American Red Cross Disaster Program Manager Gameelah Mohamed to come to the dais who reported that the main goal of the American Red Cross was to provide assistance to victims of disasters and to arrange blood donations which may be needed in a disaster. 90 percent of the Red Cross are volunteers. Several of Red Cross projects are installing free fire alarms, creating preparations for disaster plans and helping financially during a disaster and offered her contact information for those members that might be interested in volunteering or had questions that she could answer about the American Red Cross.

Vice President Johnston reported that the REMCOAI Officers White Paper election nominations were received for Vice President naming Lori Norman; Treasurer naming Richard St. Marie, and Secretary LaVon Justice. President Jackie Walther-Parnell confirmed that she would continue to serve as President. The Officers will be confirmed by the members for a two-year term at the September 12, 2023 Business Meeting.

Vice President Johnston reported that the winner of the \$50 quarterly random draw using the REMCO Membership list is Ruth Tomlinson from Merced who received her letter and check at the meeting. Winners will be sent a congratulatory letter with a \$50 check if they are not present.

Treasurer Lola Barnett announced the five \$1,000 Scholarship winners for 2023 beginning with Continuing Education:

Celina Henn: A Wheaton College teacher noted that Celina is assistant Volleyball Coach with attributes of enthusiasm, organization and efficiency and has been chosen to be a mentor to next year's Volleyball Team. Celina is well respected as a Teammate and as person. Celina will contribute to the success of any endeavor she chooses. A Wheaton College Professor noted that Celina's goal is to become a High School Teacher and during her first semester Celina earned a 3.00 GPA which is a strong effort for someone new to college. Parents are Chris and Myra Henn, Retiree Ken Henn. Celina thanked the members for choosing her for a Scholarship.

Anthony Sarginson: Fresno State Lecturer noted that Anthony is more than a capable student earning excellent grades in classes, and in Piano Finals Anthony received an A grade for those Finals each time. At the end of the semester's Piano Solo Concert, as a Piano Major and in front of an actual audience, Anthony played a striking piece, an impressive piece in "Ragtime" style which the Lecturer had never heard in the Concert Hall at Fresno State. Fresno State Assistant Professor noted Anthony has a bright, clever and inquisitive mind ready to absorb whatever topic at hand may be. Anthony's dedication to music and his potential for sustained success are both abundantly clear. Anthony is currently working on his second album. Parents are Lawrence and Heather Sarginson, Retiree Kathleen Sarginson. Anthony thanked the members for his scholarship, reporting he has a new teacher which has improved his second album and he thanked his grandmom for providing this opportunity.

Treasurer Barnett reported that the third Continuing Education Scholarship winner could not be present and she read what her teachers had reported:

Regan Pellissier: Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Educator Ms. McAulay noted that Regan is dedicated and loyal, inspires her by her devotion to help others. Regan works hard and shows determination in her academics as well. Regan ranks eleventh in her class of 413 students with an academic GPA of 4.17. Regan attends Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a degree in Recreation, Parks & Tourism with a career goal of becoming an Event Planner. Regan's math teacher noted Regan is a hardworking and responsible student. Currently, in her second year at Cal Poly, she has maintained a GPA of 3.5. Regan has shown the maturity to be an academic scholar but did not sacrifice her extra-curricular activities through her Sorority. Regan is involved with many philanthropic activities throughout the year. Parents Tim and Amy Pellissier, Retiree Mike Tanner.

Treasurer Barnett introduced the High School Graduates:

Angelo Tumonong: El Capitan High School Graduate

Angelo's Pastor noted Angelo is an admirable young man with strong faith and strong moral convictions and values. Angelo has the determination and ability to succeed in future goals. An El Capitan math teacher noted that Angelo maintained a GPA of 4.46 throughout High School as well as a GPA 4.00 for 4 courses at Merced College. Angelo has the teacher's highest recommendation and reported Angelo is one young man who will make a difference in the World around him. Parents Arvin and Christine Tumonong, Retiree Alma Contreras. Angelo thanked the members for choosing him for a scholarship and promised that he would work hard and wanted to recognize his grandmother's words of wisdom.

Treasurer Barnett reported that Lauren DeMoss, an Orland High School Graduate was the last Scholarship winner:

One of Lauren's teachers noted that Lauren is a conscientious student, always striving for above and beyond, hard-working, respectful and a leader among her peers. Helping out in her community is important to Lauren. Lauren helps at the annual volunteer Fire Fighters' Spaghetti Feed as well as the Orland Youth Group. A 4-H teacher noted that Lauren is motivated and a true contributor to her community. Lauren has maintained a 3.87 GPA throughout High School. Lauren is attending George Mason University with a career goal of being a Crime Scene Investigator, and is planning to intern with the FBI as a Lab Tech. Parents Scott and Jacquee DeMoss, Retiree Hope Barthel. Treasurer Barnett stated Lauren was unable to attend. Retiree Hope Barthel thanked the members for the Scholarship and reported that Lauren was happy and surprised to receive it.

Vice President Johnston reported the next Business Meeting is September 12, 2023 and to make reservations early.

Vice President Johnston stated he would let everyone know when lunch is ready and after those needing assistance, and those at the Front Table were released, he would announce in what order the remaining tables would be released.

With no other business items Vice President Johnston closed the meeting at 12:05 PM. \*M/S/P