

REMCO
Luncheon Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Call to Order:

President Sandy Teague called the meeting to order at 11:56 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and a moment of silence for those who serve and protect, for those we have lost, and in remembrance of 9/11.

President Teague introduced the Head Table: Vice-President Kaye Greeley, Secretary LaVon Justice, Treasurer Lola Barnett, Director Scott Johnston, Director Linc Clendenin, Risk Management Analysts Marla Pettygrove and Tina Machado, MCREA Representative Bren, Ombudsman Beverly McCormick, and Hi-Cap Representative Isabel Nuno.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary LaVon Justice reported the minutes of the June 11, 2013 REMCO luncheon meeting. The Secretary reported the full report is on the REMCOMerced.com website, as well as hard copies available from the Secretary. Accept Report - ***M/S/P**.

President Teague reported that today every tenth member who confirmed their attendance at the registration table was given a free lunch ticket. President Teague asked for those who had received their lunch free to raise their hands, noting this was a fun way to begin the luncheon, and an excellent reason to get here early and to register early to be on the registration list.

Treasurer's Report:

Interim Treasurer Lola Barnett reported that the current balance was \$82,360.30 (including the redeemed CD) and current expenses of \$10,382.78. Treasurer Barnett suggested that members update their mailing address and if possible provide REMCO with an email to receive the newsletter earlier and save REMCO some expenses, such as the \$2.40 to retrieve returned newsletters in addition to the actual costs to send them out. Accept Report - ***M/S/P**.

President Teague noted that he would hold off asking for Director Clendenin's Health Care update until after the guest speaker's presentation. President Teague asked for updates from Directors and Officers. Directors Marie McDonagh and Scott Johnston and Retirement Board Representative Ron Kinchloe had nothing to report. V-P Greeley, Membership Chair, reported that quite a few new membership applications had been received and new members were warmly welcomed. Treasurer Barnett, Scholarship Chair, reported that 3 of the scholarship winners had not yet provided their certified transcript to receive their scholarship check. Newsletter Editor John Carlisle also added that it is important for members to provide their current addresses to stay current on events that are published in the newsletter. Website Chair Director Mike Sofranek was not present to give a report.

Newsletter Editor Carlisle introduced guest speaker Isabel Nuno, Hi-Cap Representative of Area Agency on Aging (AAA). Ms. Nuno reported that there were many programs available to REMCO members over 60, such as legal services for a simple will, tax services, nutrition programs such as meals-on-wheels for home-bound seniors, or eating in the AAA "café" for those able to get around. Ombudsman services are available for those in care facilities, and bus tickets are available for those seniors using bus services. PEARLS (a Program to Encourage Active Rewarding Lives for Seniors) provides counseling for seniors suffering from depression because of social isolation, financial concerns, health care needs, housing or food issues.

Hi-Cap staff can compare Part D or Medicare supplement plans for seniors to find one that meets their financial and medical needs. Part D open enrollment begins in September. Those in the donut hole this year would pay 50% of the generic drug costs. Those that can't afford to pay their co-pays may be eligible for subsidies. The annual check-up is mostly free, the doctor visit co-pay may be charged. Any members that have questions can contact Ms. Nuno at 209 385-7550 ext 4533.

President Teague reported that Marie has volunteered to take luncheon reservations. President Teague noted receipt of a letter dated August 29, 2013 from retiree Lily Tomita, who had worked at Merced Community Medical Center (MCMC) that he would like read into the record:

Dear REMCO Members, I received the complete packet for Retiree Health and Dental coverage. I thank you for the invitation, however, I am covered by L.A. County. Thank you for the most informative and updated newsletter. Although my association with Merced County was a short experience, I can tell you I continue to have fond memories of the County Hospital. The employees were dedicated, caring people. I peruse the newsletter to see if there were any mention of the staff I remember with nostalgia. I am amazed how much the Employee Organization morphed, with pertinent information, political, social and public interest. You all should be proud of all the accomplishments and dedication to the organization and community. I salute all of you and continue the great work and contribution you portray to your community. With fond Memories, Lily Y. Tomita.

President Teague noted that rising costs of publishing and mailing the newsletter required the Postage Account be increased to \$700. An email sign-up sheet is available at the head table and if more members would sign up to receive the newsletters by email, it would help to lower costs.

President Teague reported that Director Vivian Stierwalt had resigned due to health issues, and may have surgery. The President can appoint someone to complete her term, any member can volunteer, or the position can remain vacant until the next election. If anyone would like to volunteer, please talk to Sandy after the meeting. Directors John Carlisle and Mike Sofranek are on the election committee. Director Sofranek is not present to report on picnic information. President Teague also noted that the opening time of the luncheon meetings will be changed to 11:30 AM, with lunch and social time after the meeting is closed.

President Teague requested an update from Director Linc Clendenin, Chair of the Healthcare Committee. Director Clendenin reported that the County would be setting up educational meetings in Los Banos and several in Merced with UnitedHealthcare representatives available to provide information. A meeting with the County and employees Under 65 would be the next day (9/11/13). Dental premiums will be capped at \$35 per month which means with the current premium of \$41 that members would pay \$6. Currently, 20 members apply their dental premium amount to the cost of their medical premiums to lower their premium costs. This scenario was not discussed with the County and he doesn't know what can be done for those members. Question from the floor asked about increasing the annual maximum from \$1000 to \$2000: Director Clendenin stated that option was not approved during negotiations. Director Clendenin also stated the subsidies that changes through each age category is just for this group of retirees - all ages of future retirees will have the same subsidy amount. Question about the premium being deducted from retirement check was answered that it will not as UnitedHealthcare will bill retirees individually for the complete premium and the County subsidy will be reimbursed to your checking account and it will not be taxed as income.

Risk Management Analysts Marla Pettygrove and Tina Machado were requested to give additional healthcare information. RMA Pettygrove reported that everyone will be covered and no one will be dropped. RMA Tina Machado reported that the letters will be going out in the next several weeks but can give members a heads-up that the meetings are scheduled October 9th at 9:00 AM for members with last names A through M, and 12:30 PM for members with last names N through Z at the Public Health Auditorium. On October 16th meetings will be held in the Board of Supervisors Chambers with the 9:00 AM meeting for last names N through Z and last names A through M at 12:30 PM, and in Los Banos at Spring Fair, at 4:00 PM. The County will send an informational letter around September 20th and around September 27th UnitedHealthcare will send an informational packet. Open enrollment is October 1st through November 15th, with implementation January 1, 2014. If a member has a Post Office box, UnitedHealthcare will need a physical address for their records per the Affordable HealthCare Act. RMA Machado stated the premium reimbursement from the County would be provided by the 5th of the month (2014).

MCREA Representative Bren, in response to a question on VSP coverage stated that members could call MCREA for VSP's phone number, and asked that members keep MCREA informed of any changes to their personal information such as mailing addresses. Representative Bren reported that MCREA investments fiscal year return was 12.4% Representative Bren reported that the external audit had been completed and that the AB340 lawsuit is awaiting the Judge's determination of action.

With no further business, President Teague closed the meeting at 12:38 PM.

President Teague remarked prior to the raffle that the proceeds of raffle tickets sales was \$246, which showed the raffle was self-sufficient.

After the meeting, Walt Lopes volunteered to fill the Director vacancy due to the resignation of Director Vivian Stierwalt.

***M/S/P** (Motion made/Seconded/Passed)