

REMCOAI Board of Directors General Meeting

MCERA Conference Room

3199 M Street

Merced, CA

November 2, 2016

President Sandy Teague called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Roll Call: Present: President Sandy Teague, Treasurer Lola Barnett, Secretary LaVon Justice, Directors Ken Henn, Scott Johnston, David Norris and Becky Reis. Absent: Retirement Board Representative Ronald Kinchloe, Past President/Newsletter Editor John Carlisle, Directors Mike Sofranek and Harold Goldman.

Secretary's Report: August 3, 2016 Board of Directors General Meeting Minutes: Draft emailed 8/08/16. No revisions/objections received: Finalized 08/10/16. Accepted as Received: ****M/S/P**

Treasurer's Report: Final 2015/16 balance: \$68,944.76 after Deposits of \$48,282.24 and Expenses of \$22,978.37. The three CDs in the Pension Protection Funds earned \$1,734.71 to date totaling \$76,734.71. The current 2016/17 balance sheet included two scholarship checks and the purchase of another \$25,000 CD with an October 2018 maturity date which increased the total expenses to \$27,941.19, 2016/17 balance \$41,006.57. Minor typos were identified and would be corrected. Treasurer's Report: Accepted as Reported **** M/S/P**

Old Business:

President Teague noted he had created a draft membership brochure that John Carlisle was to get an estimate from his printer for the cost of printing 500 brochures for MCERA. Jackie Walther-Parnell mentioned that she uses Merced College and had great results for little cost and Treasurer Barnett said she had used Merced College to print Flyers and Toy Drive applications as well as someone else who produced great flyers for an event. Treasurer Barnett noted that Merced College will only print for non-profits and government agencies. President Teague passed the draft brochure around for comments and received some suggestions on changing the text for current retirees who are not members and new retirees.

President Teague discussed having all Directors on committees such as Finance, Entertainment or Benefits. Director Norris said he would volunteer for Entertainment and work with Director Sofranek at the luncheon meetings. Director Norris said he may be moving some time next year.

New Business:

President Teague reported that REMCO had received a Thank You letter from Robert Justice, 2016 Continuing Education Scholarship winner, which reported his goals of obtaining a career that would enable him to give back to the community and his appreciation of REMCO's selecting him to receive a Continuing Education Scholarship check this year.

President Teague reported that MCERA hired a new Plan Administrator, Kristen Santos, who he had invited to attend the December luncheon meeting to meet the members. He hoped she would be available to meet the Directors but she was in a meeting at the moment.

Discussion was held on a meeting schedule for 2017, with a consensus that Wednesdays and 9:30 AM worked for the majority. The schedule would be emailed when it was confirmed with MCERA the availability of the Conference room.

President Teague announced that Jackie Walther-Parnell, Jennifer Eberhard and Hassan Goldbad had attended the CRCEA Conference in October as Delegates for REMCO. Jackie would be the Delegate and Jennifer and Hassan would be Alternates, to attend future Conferences when available.

CRCEA Delegate Walther-Parnell gave a Conference recap of speakers and topics: from CA State Treasurer John Chiang: the website for Unclaimed Property (www.claimit.ca.gov) so individuals can check if anything was owed to them; that the average Social Security check is \$1,350; defined benefit plans almost out of existence; wage growth is well below the increase in cost of living; Assembly bill AB1234 – Private Sector Retirement Savings Plan to begin in 2018 for individuals to save outside of their employer's retirement plan was discussed vs. defined benefit plans. California didn't lose money in BREXIT, and safety is the number one concern. Contra Costa County retirement group separated from the County. Any group could become independent if the County agrees or they could go through the Courts. Merced County was in the appeals process on a lawsuit involving the Ventura Decision. The roundtable discussion was on CRCEA conferences and the hardship for smaller counties to host. No decision was made on any of the suggested changes as the Conferences were scheduled through 2020, with the host counties already involved in planning those conferences. Stanislaus/Merced will host in 2020, and Alameda will host April 24-26 2017 in Ventura. The National Park System gave a presentation on local area National Parks and their histories, and reminded everyone that there is a one-time fee for a lifetime free-entrance card for those 62 and older. Ann White from the non-profit Road Scholar Organization (www.roadscholar.org) reporting on trips that older people could take or share with younger family members, and could be a good speaker at a future luncheon meeting. Jackie also participated in the Age Well Drive Smart program sponsored by the CHP. It consisted of a 2.5 hour class and those passing received a certificate that they could present to their insurance company to receive a discounted premium for up to 3 years (if their insurance company provided such a discount). A suggestion of having a CHP representative provide an overview of the program as a luncheon meeting speaker was made. Jackie also mentioned that a similar driving training class is provided by Merced College.

President Teague also reported that CRCEA Legislative Analyst Amy Brown gave an overview of all the State legislative bills. He stated that the DiMaio/Reed initiative to eliminate defined benefit plans is tabled for now, but they planned to make changes and bring it back to be placed on a ballot in the future. Jackie stated defined-contributions takes the risk away from counties. She also sat in on the breakout committee on memberships and what benefits, activities or communications were offered by different counties to provide an additional asset for their members belonging to their retiree organizations.

Director Becky Reis reported that everyone who spoke with her at the luncheon and later were excited about the possibility of bus trips, and the overwhelming suggestion was Black Oak Casino, as the first trip was hosted by REMCO. Suggestions were made to look into several dates for Wednesday or Thursday trips and have a sign-in sheet available at the December luncheon meeting to gauge the interest to lock down a trip date.

Discussion was held on having a membership card, what type and the zip code area of members to be provided a membership card; charging more for guests that attend the luncheons (\$8-10 vs \$6 for members) and to add the topic on the December Agenda for the members to vote.

Discussion on the December meeting included the entertainment group Bear Creek Ukulele Society (President Teague would contact them to give the time and place, how many of them will attend for a lunch count, and confirm their attendance). Money draws, wine donations, donation for the entertainment group (\$50-75 depending on lunch included or not), \$100 puzzle prize, one or two baskets created by Kaye, and purchasing a small screen TV (32-42 inch) if Director Sofranek could get as good a deal as he had previously on the wireless microphones. A cap of \$500 was originally suggested but including the possibility of a TV would require an increase to that cap, with several figures between a \$500-\$1000 cap mentioned but nothing was decided as it depended on what deal Director Sofranek could find.

Directors Reports/Activities: Director and Retirement Board Alternate Scott Johnston reported that legislation for the Retirement Board Alternate becoming a voting member would be heard in 2 weeks and he plans to be there for the outcome. He also reported that the healthcare premium will be a half-percent increase, the dental premium would not increase nor would the maximum at this time as the County and Delta needed a longer claims history to discuss a change in the maximum or lowering premiums. He mentioned that RX premiums increased, and that CVS would no longer be part of the network for 2017. He stated he was meeting with HiCap on November 14th to find out other RX/Part D options for him and his family. Jackie stated that we all should meet with HiCap during the open enrollment period each year as changes can occur year to year.

Vice-President Kaye Greeley stated she had secured Funeral Alliance as the Speaker for the March luncheon meeting.

Director Reis asked about the dress code for the December luncheon meeting, which is casual dress; some will wear Christmas-themed clothing, others will wear everyday wear.

Treasurer Barnett, Secretary Justice, Directors Henn and Norris had nothing to report. With no further items to discuss, the meeting was closed at 11:06 A.M.

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

After the meeting adjourned, Plan Administrator Kristen (Kristie) Santos came in to introduce herself to the Officers and Directors who remained in the room. She plans to attend the December meeting, and possibly be a speaker at the June meeting when she has been in office for awhile and would have more to report.