

## REMCOAI Board of Directors Zoom Meeting

January 16, 2023

President Jackie Walther-Parnell opened the meeting at 9:30 AM noting that there was a quorum. Roll call: President Walther-Parnell, Vice President Scott Johnston, Secretary LaVon Justice, Treasurer Lola Barnett and Directors Jim Pacheco, Lori Sears Norman, Mike Harris, Eric Swenson and Richard St Marie. Absent Past President John Carlisle and Director Bernedette Castaneda.

President Walther-Parnell asked the new Directors to introduce themselves and provide some information about themselves. Director Jim Pacheco reported he has been retired from the Sheriff's Department for 6-7 years and he became a Director to become more involved in REMCO. Director Lori Norman reported she retired from Child Support three years ago and has seasonally worked at H & R Block on tax preparations for 21 years. Director Eric Swenson reported he retired from Environmental Health as an engineer. He currently is on the Kings County Water Board. He is interested in learning about the funding Board (Retirement Board). Director Richard St. Marie retired from Merced County in 2017, and worked 32 years between Merced and Fresno Counties. He is interested in getting involved in REMCO.

Secretary LaVon Justice reported that the draft minutes of the October 19, 2022 Board of Directors Zoom Meeting was emailed on October 29, 2022. After receiving comments or edits the Final Minutes of the October 19, 2022 Board of Directors meeting were emailed on December 6, 2022, with the revised Final Minutes emailed on 12/22/2022 after receiving approval of a slight adjustment in the proposed Budget for 10/01/22 – 09/30/23. **\*M(SJ)/S(LB)/P**

Treasurer Barnett reported the MERCOC Checking Account had a carryover from Fiscal Year 21/22 of \$163,384.76, deposits of \$15,834, expenses of \$10,341 and interest of \$14.01 for a total of \$168,891.76. The Pension Protection Plan total is currently \$133,946.75. She reported that the Pension Protection Plan was created in 2014 when many Counties' pension plans were in jeopardy of either pending legislation to lower or eliminate public pensions or law suits that could drain a smaller organization. Creating a Pension Protection account allows a smaller organization to join a larger County in a law suit to protect their public pensions. Currently, REMCO has 5 CDs of \$125,000 each earning interest with varying maturity dates. Board of Directors can choose to open another CD of \$125,000 to increase the Pension Protection Plan with the approval of the members or keep the account with the 5 CDS or wait until interest rates increase. President Walther-Parnell reported that the benefits of our membership with CRCEA is the ability to learn from the Legislative Analyst the issues currently being monitored and/or reported, and access to the Legislative Report on the CRCEA.org website. The deadline for receiving Scholarship Applications is March 31, 2023. Report approved as reported. **\*M(MH)/S(LB)/P**

Secretary Justice reported that REMCO/REMCOAI's year-end is September 30th with a Tax filing deadline of February 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. REMCOAI selected Alice Contreras CPA to handle the tax filings. Alice requires that her Services Letter be signed and approved at a Board of Directors meeting each year and a copy of the minutes be provided to her for her files. **\*M(LB)/S(LJ)/P**

President Walther-Parnell reported that 2023 is election year for Officers and Directors in 2024 for a two-year term. Treasurer Barnett and Vice-President Scott Johnston gave their notice that they will not continue in their roles. Discussion was held that nominations can come from the members, splitting the number of Officers and Directors to be elected at one time so that Officers and Directors remain available to provide the history of REMCOAI to new Officers and Directors. President Walther-Parnell reported that a By-Law Committee meeting would be scheduled at a later date due to her current schedule. Vice-President Johnston and Treasurer Barnett reported

they would stay until their positions were filled. Directors Lori Norman and Eric Swenson noted they may be interested in the Treasurer position.

President Walther-Parnell reported that Committee Chairs report to the Board. The new Directors had temporarily been given the assignments of the previous Board members but they could be changed now if the Directors wished. Each Chair needs members to become involved or other Directors to be part of their committee to provide a report on meetings or actions taken if the Chair is not available or to provide a history of actions/meetings if a Director became unable to complete their term of service. Director Norman stated she would be Chair of Events (Speakers/Presenters). Director St. Marie stated he would be Chair of Elections. President Walther-Parnell reported reservations for quarterly General Meetings could be made on the Retired Employees of Merced County Association, Inc. Facebook page as well as by telephone. Several people can be added as Administrator to monitor the Facebook page and to post videos. Director Mike Harris is already listed and she could add Director Norman. Director Harris would post the video that President Walther-Parnell took of the December 13, 2022 meeting once he receives the video from her. Director Eric Swenson stated he would take pictures at the General Meetings to be posted on the website and Facebook page. Director Harris stated he could create public/private members-only pages for the website. Director Swenson provided another website provider, Dutch House Media, if needed. Other items to be posted on Facebook/website could be what is coming up such as speakers, events, menus for meetings, and items of interest to members. President Walther-Parnell reported that Treasurer Barnett receives the Membership list from MercedCERA each month which is in Excel that can be modified for what data needs to be highlighted to create an Ad Hoc report. Vice President Johnston noted that the Health Care Chair and Scholarship Chair would need to be filled after the Officers election.

President Walther-Parnell scheduled the dates for the Board of Directors Zoom Meetings for the rest of 2023 which are April 19, 2023 for the June 13<sup>th</sup> General Meeting; July 19, 2023 for the September 12<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting and October 18, 2023 for the December 12<sup>th</sup> General Meeting.

President Walther-Parnell reported that she has a tight schedule of appointments and would be unavailable after January 23<sup>rd</sup> for an unknown length of time.

President Walther-Parnell reported that some changes had been made on the REMCO Merced.com website, however her tight schedule had limited the amount of time for other changes. Director Jim Pacheco noted that the website's last update was in 2021. President Walther-Parnell reported the website vendor had made revisions to the formatting. REMCO pays \$600 annually for IMedia's services.

President Walther-Parnell reported that the Facebook page now has 177 members after the REMCO meeting of December 13<sup>th</sup>.

President Walther-Parnell reported that Vice-President Johnston will host the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting and attend the April 23-26 CRCEA Conference in her absence. Discussion held on who to take reservations on the phone and the Facebook page. Director Norman and Treasurer Barnett offered to take the calls. Treasurer Barnett reported she has a reservation master list for the Meeting and Director Norman could email the names of the members and guests that called in their reservation to her and that she can use the Membership Master list to confirm members' names and status. Treasurer Barnett would contact Karolyn Alvarez about volunteering to register those attending the meeting. Director Jim Pacheco offered to handle ticket sales and possibly gathering the lunch tickets to confirm the number of plates used.

President Walther-Parnell reported that Vice-President Johnston is the CRCEA Alternate and would attend the April Conference but she would like at least one Director to attend the April Conference in Ontario, CA to become familiar with CRCEA, noting Sunday is check-in, Monday

some sessions, Tuesday has all day meetings and Wednesday are action meetings. Possibly Directors St. Marie and Pacheco could attend in April and Directors Norman and Harris could attend the fall CRCEA Conference hosted by San Joaquin County October 1-4, 2023. A virtual conference had been held previously which became very expensive. Any participants can sit-in at Committee meetings to learn issues being discussed and to network. Treasurer Barnett stated that she would reimburse their expenditures (Hotel, mileage, food) by providing their receipts after their trip.

President Walther-Parnell led the discussion on options for prizes for the March 14, 2023 meeting such as gift cards, checks and actual items of interest to members. Treasurer Barnett reported that \$600 to \$700 was available to use, explaining that the amount was from ticket sales at prior REMCO General Meetings to keep the prizes self-funded rather than taking money from the general account, with the final decision to use half the amount in checks, and half to other options. Director Pacheco offered to get those prizes and would turn in his receipts to Treasurer Barnett.

President Walther-Parnell led the discussion on having a speaker before the actual meeting, asking for suggestions for speakers or if choosing none. Director Norman acknowledged she was Chair of this category and recommended as a speaker an estate attorney which may be of interest to most members.

President Walther-Parnell reported that the dates to hold the Board of Directors meetings had changed from the first part of the month before a REMCO General Meeting to approximately six weeks before a General Meeting to allow the new vendor for the Newsletter, The Addressers, to receive the articles and information provided to Director Harris, and to complete their process to create the Newsletter and mail out to members about 10-14 days prior to the General Meeting. Director Harris stated he would need the President's Corner and New Retirees information by February 16, 2023. Treasurer Barnett offered the information that the deadline for reservations would be March 6, 2023 and she would call Jesse for the menu for the March meeting and provide that information to the Board.

Treasurer Barnett reported that the \$50 winner of the quarterly Random Draw from the Membership List was Alice Balderas, Los Banos who had retired in 1977 and may be the oldest retiree. President Walther-Parnell reported that winning members didn't need to be present to win. They would receive a Congratulations letter and a check if not at the meeting.

President Walther-Parnell asked if any other business and went around the screens, if any suggestions for Newsletter information contact Director Harris; Secretary Justice asked MercedCERA Retirement Board Representative Scott Johnston if there would be a COLA for Tier 1 retirees with the response of yes, but without the COLA information being published yet the percentage has not been finalized; Director St. Marie stated he is willing to give help where needed.

No other Business – meeting closed at Noon \*M(SJ)/S(MH)/P