

REMCOAI Board of Directors Meeting

In-Person-meeting at 815 18th Street, Merced in MERCOCO Conference Room

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

President Lori Norman called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM, noting there is a quorum with President Norman, Secretary LaVon Justice, Directors Bernedette Castaneda and Gloria Keene, and Past President Lola Barnett on the telephone. Absent: Treasurer Richard St. Marie. President Norman introduced Dale Petrowski, a member of REMCO, who was attending to learn more about our responsibilities.

President Norman requested Secretary Justice to report the status of the minutes of April 17, 2024. Secretary Justice reported that the minutes of the April 17, 2024 meeting were sent in draft form to the REMCOAI Board of Directors on April 25, 2024 and after receiving comments, identifying and correcting typos, the April 17, 2024 minutes were finalized on May 15, 2024. On May 24, 2024 the Final minutes were sent to Ian of IMediaWest to post on the website. President Norman requested the Final minutes of today's meeting be sent to Ian to update the website. Director Keene made motion to approve minutes as submitted, seconded by Past President Barnett. Motion Passed.

President Norman noted that Treasurer St. Marie was not available to provide a budget report, therefore there would be no action item on the Budget. However, she had received the MERCOCO statement and provided the information that the total of assets was \$195,387.78. There was some discussion about the interest rate of the current CD's at MERCOCO. President Norman would look into options while ensuring that it would not endanger non-profit status and noted that MERCOCO has a financial planner and she would look into that as well.

President Norman reported there are four vacancies for Directors and one for Vice President. President Norman reported that Mary Ellen Arana was on the Emergency Fill List for Directors, however, Mary Ellen had been offered a fulltime position and was no longer on the list. Who had additional information to provide to consider how to get members interested in volunteering? Director Keene suggested writing letters to those who participated in rating the scholarships or the members whose children had received a scholarship to become involved in volunteering. Victoria Murrietta's name was identified as one of the raters. President Norman reported she would contact Victoria Murrietta about volunteering as Vickie had contacted President Norman with questions previously.

President Norman reported that the Fall CRCEA Conference was November 3- 6, 2024 in Walnut Creek, which she would not be available to attend. However, Treasurer St. Marie is Alternate Delegate and planned to attend. Director Keene expressed an interest in attending as well. Anyone who attends a CRCEA Conference are to report at the next REMCOAI meeting what they attended and what information they had gathered. President Norman reported that the option of annual meetings was approved, with meetings rotating between Northern and Southern conferences: Merced would host approximately in 2028. Other changes: the registration fee was increased to \$150 versus the prior \$75 fee, with the funds put in a separate bank account; and a small increase of \$0.33 fee per each member. Discussion held on three day or less conferences, other ways to get information out instead.

President Norman reported that the April 17, 2024 REMCOAI Board of Directors meeting item regarding By-Laws changes had been tabled with a need to call a meeting of the By-Laws Committee to discuss member status of those who receive retirement benefits through divorce or designated beneficiary.

President Norman provided several dates to meet, with August 5, 2024 at Noon at the Elks Lodge acceptable to the By-Laws Committee consisting of President Norman, Secretary LaVon Justice and Director Bernedette Castaneda.

President Norman announced that there is a new prize category, Attendance, for those members who attend a General Meeting in-person. The prize for June was a \$100 gift card for the Rainbird Restaurant. Discussion held on what prize would it be for the 9th Annual Business Meeting on September 10, 2024, with the unanimous decision of a \$100 gas card. President Norman noted she would take care of the gift card.

President Norman reported that she had discussed with other Counties about what they use for their IT programs and was given a name to call, spoke to an individual whose option includes the website which allows members and guests to make a reservation and pay in advance which could lessen the time in line when members check in. The cons are that we currently don't have anyone to manage a new website and members without computers wouldn't have the option to pay in advance or to use the website. She hadn't had the opportunity to count the number of new Facebook members yet.

President Norman announced she would not be available for the 9th Annual September Business meeting. Treasurer Richard St. Marie will be hosting the meeting. Kelly Pedrozo offered to handle registrations. Kelly will help; however, she doesn't wish to be committed to ongoing duties. Someone to film the meeting on Facebook Live is needed; Past President Lola Barnett will take reservations calls and collect lunch tickets; Cindy Ramirez would handle tickets for drawings. President would handle Facebook reservations.

President Norman would provide Director Gloria Keene the phone number for Steve Pettee. Director Keene will contact Steve Pettee to confirm that he will be the speaker for the 9th Annual September Business Meeting Workshop. Steve Pettee is an affiliate of CRCEA who will speak about additional benefits available for REMCO members of different types of insurance, at the Workshop beginning around 10:30 AM on the 10th of September. Director Keene had suggested to Secretary Justice that investing in card-sized stationary with letterhead as appropriate for Thank You notes for speakers or other folks, would be more professional than random Thank You cards. Secretary Justice noted that she was going to Staples in the next few weeks to see what options would be available and offered that another place to check out is Bright-Dart at 515 Main Street.

President Norman noted that the first social event in June was canceled. She provided two options for a new Social event for October at the Hunter Farm Pumpkin Patch: Member is free and other tickets are sold at discount price, family goes whatever day they want; or Member is free, discounted tickets on a date selected, October 9th – 16th, and have food, drinks in back barn. Hunter Farm Pumpkin Patch opens 4-8 PM, Wednesday – Thursday good days, haven't seen contract to know what price per ticket will be, last year the price was \$17.

9th Annual September Business Meeting random draw for \$50 gift card winner – Treasurer St. Marie will provide name drawn.

President Norman announced that she would like to address the December meeting early to be able to handle all the pieces; need someone to contact MERCO to see if they are donating an iPad; if so then members-only playing bingo for prize; Play pass-around-game, decide what to use to pass; invite youth group to sing? Director Keene suggested The Salvation Army brass band to play for 5-15 minutes, put a

blurb in the newsletter for December. Another suggestion was considering The Salvation Army for the local non-profit up to \$500 from REMCO to be distributed at the December meeting. Someone needs to confirm that the money would stay local, not distributed to a distant headquarters, plus their non-profit number is required for tax purposes. Another suggestion is splitting the donation to \$250 for The Salvation Army, which leaves \$250 for another local non-profit to be nominated by the members before November 12, 2024.

President Norman reported she would handle the prizes, may do gift cards for gas, food and other items.

President Norman announced that MercedCERA would rotate who they send as a guest.

President Norman would like to add an addition page of informational articles that she has received from other CRCEA counties and to add a Treasurers Report to the newsletter that will go out 2-3 weeks before September 10, 2024 General Meeting which might promote more interest from the members. Discussion on what other events would the members enjoy. Director Keene mentioned The Playhouse could perform a skit as prequal to what is playing at The Playhouse for March 2025.

No other Business: Meeting closed 11:10 AM Motion made (LB)/2nd (GK)/passed