

## REMCOAI Board of Directors Zoom Meeting

October 19, 2022

President Jackie Walther-Parnell opened the meeting at 9:55 AM noting that there was a quorum after enduring technological issues on Zoom and Secretary LaVon Justice calling-in as unable to access the Zoom link. Roll call: President Walther-Parnell, Vice President Scott Johnston, Secretary Justice, Treasurer Lola Barnett and Directors Bernedette Castaneda and Mike Harris. Absent Past President John Carlisle and Director Barbara Carbonaro.

Secretary Justice reported that on July 18, 2022 there was not a quorum with only four attending the Board of Directors Zoom meeting. No actions were taken and only notes on subjects discussed were sent to the Board of Directors afterwards.

Treasurer Barnett reported the MERCO Checking Account had a total of \$163,302.06 before interest and \$163,384.76 with \$82.70 interest. The Pension Protection Plan total is currently \$129,695.62. She reported Certificate Number 4 matured this month and was rolled over with an interest rate of 0.800%. Report approved as reported. \* **M(LJ)/S(SJ)/P**

**Note:** At 12:51 PM Treasurer Barnett sent the purposed Budget for 10/01/22 – 09/30/23 to the Board of Directors for their review and approval. **Motion** to accept as received **(SJ)/S(LJ)/P\***. On 11/20/22 Treasurer Barnett noted there was a slight adjustment made to USPS expenditures. M/JWP/S/P\*

President Walther-Parnell reported that after placing a notice in the Newsletter and on the Facebook page regarding not receiving nominations by the election deadline, Volunteers posted on the Facebook page and by telephone expressing interest in serving as a Director: Richard St Marie, Jim Pacheco, Lori Sears Norman and Eric Swenson. Mary Ellen Arana and Michele Burroughs were considering serving. President Walther-Parnell proposed that the first four volunteers be considered to fill the 4 vacancies. The two volunteers considering to serve will be added to the Emergency Fill List in case someone is unable to complete their term. \***M(SJ)/S(LB)/P**. President Walther-Parnell reported she would notify the four volunteers they were selected under the By-Laws that the President can fill a vacant position if no nominations are received to have an election (White-Paper election). Treasurer Barnett and Director Harris requested the volunteers' contact information for the REMCOAI Contact Information Report and to update the Newsletter information.

President Walther-Parnell reported that there were little updates on the REMCO Website from the last update reported. She requested to get together with Director Harris to go over items, and mentioned that someone had come forward after the REMCOAI 7<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting that was interested in volunteering in updating the website.

President Walther-Parnell reported that after the REMCOAI 7<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting additional members had requested to join the Facebook page, with a new total of 171 members. She reported that along with Director Castaneda, admin rights have been given to Vice President Johnston and Director Harris, to have additional people who can post and update. Treasurer Barnett stated that now she is retired she plans to join, with President Walther-Parnell acknowledging that she will send an invitation-to-join to her.

President Walther-Parnell reported on the CRCEA Fall Conference held on October 10-12, 2022, that she attended the Membership Committee meeting and the CRCEA Conference Committee meeting. The membership meeting was approximately 1 hour long in which ideas to increase membership were discussed. Other Counties reported they created videos that could be shown in segments on their websites. San Diego County has a PowerPoint presentation. Some divide their information to be seen only by members (like the additional benefits provided by Steve Pettee's association) and the front section be

for the public. Some Counties have Associate memberships that may be active six months before they retire so they can participate without voting rights. Other Counties have a column in their Newsletter such as "Did You Know", that provide information of what may be available to them if they activated their membership. President Walther-Parnell noted that some Counties do report the passing of their members, which REMCO can't post as MercedCERA's attorney states the information is considered a privacy issue. She will contact other Counties to see how many can and can't post that information in their Newsletters although it is alright if that information is posted on our Facebook page. She discussed having a "Welcoming" letter be sent to new retirees and updating the REMCO packet letter to include the Facebook page information. In the CRCEA Conference Committee meeting, the questions were how many Conferences per year; 1 Conference virtual (Business Meetings) or 1 or 2 in-person and asked the opinion of the Board which did we support. The majority was two in-person Conferences per year. She reported that the Virtual Conference held in May 2022 cost the hosts \$35,000 which was a surprise to all in attendance. She noted that other Counties can post their Newsletters on the CRCEA website. Some Counties have Fraud prevention sessions, or Pension information, Staying-in-home presentations, or legal information on Wills and Trusts that might be an interesting speaker in the future for REMCO. She reported the Fall 2023 CRCEA Conference would be in Stockton, easy for Board members to attend with the April 2024 CRCEA Conference being held in Bakersfield, about 3 hours away.

Discussion was held that members of the Board should be attendees of CRCEA Conferences, that the new Directors should attend a CRCEA Conference, with two attending the 2023 Spring CRCEA Conference and two attending the Fall CRCEA Conference. President Walther-Parnell reported that she would like Director Castaneda to attend a CRCEA Conference to attend a Membership Committee meeting.

President Walther-Parnell reported that other Counties send their Newsletters by email for a quicker response and to save some costs. The membership list can be modified to list email addresses of members to email the Newsletter, and emails can be collected at the in-person REMCO General Meeting to increase the number of emailed Newsletters.

President Walther-Parnell reported while at the CRCEA 2022 Fall Conference she attended the CRCEA Technology Committee meeting learning their software program was expensive, around \$200 a month for reports, spreadsheets, etc. The REMCO Membership Report can be put into Access for the Newsletters, mail-merge to send letters to members on their anniversaries of being members, or other reports. She is very familiar with Access from her prior job and Director Harris confirmed he is familiar with Access.

President Walther-Parnell reported recruiting members, two to four members to be Committee members with Directors as Chairs is more productive, as a committee member could provide a report on a project if the Director is not able to attend a Board meeting, to help with details of an event/project, and if a director has to step down, there is someone else that has the knowledge/history of the project or event as well as getting members to become involved. President Walther-Parnell asked Director Harris if he would Chair Communications-Newsletters/Facebook, he replied yes or Technology- Website/Other. Other Chairs are Membership/Outreach and Events/Entertainment.

President Walther-Parnell reported that the CRCEA 2023 Spring Conference hosted by San Bernadino County on April 23-26 in Ontario, CA expenses were less than other Conferences with hotel costs of \$119 plus taxes per night, free parking and free breakfast, and with sponsors like Voya and Pacific Group Agencies covering meals, and with attendees paying for the Banquet (\$75 attendee/delegate, \$35 spouse) which helps the County hosts recover the costs to host a Conference.

Discussion was held on the December 13, 2022 REMCO General Meeting: Two guests per organization unless a plausible reason (new staffer to gain familiarity), use Gracey Room at Library as a Conference room for in-person Board Meetings for January 18, 2023 (Director Castaneda to check with head librarian

on availability, Treasurer Barnett to check with Paul's Place for 9:30 – 11:30 AM), MERCO Conference (President Walther-Parnell will check on Conference Room and possibility of iPad Grand Door Prize), Merced County Conference Room (VP Johnston will check). If a Conference room is available, President Walther-Parnell will provide a complete schedule of Board of Directors meeting dates. Treasurer Barnett reported to President Walther-Parnell that a post box spare key was available so that she could pick up mail at the Post Office rather than Treasurer Barnett mailing it to her. **Note:** Director Castaneda asked MERCO personnel if REMCOAI could use their Conference room and reported that MERCO does not have a board room for community use. VP Johnston checked with the County if REMCOAI could use their conference rooms and was told that as retirees, not current employees, it would be a liability issue as REMCOAI is considered an "outside entity".

Decisions were made that President Walther-Parnell and Treasurer Barnett will take reservations for the December 13, 2022 meeting; Treasurer Barnett suggested Karolyn Alvarez for registrations; members are free, guests are \$12; if MERCO donates an iPad, Bingo will be played by members-only for the Grand Door Prize; if they chose not to donate this year, President Walther-Parnell will purchase a Grand Door Prize from Costco's Black Friday sales, possibly a Television. VP Johnston will handle ticket sales, Director Castaneda and volunteers will decorate tables, who will provide an estimate of funds needed to Treasurer Barnett who will provide a check for that amount. If there is money left after purchases, Director Castaneda will return that to Treasurer Barnett. If President Walther-Parnell decides to use the decorations as door prizes she will handle that process. Treasurer Barnett will set up the cash prizes to be provided, and notify the Board of Directors before the December meeting. There will be no speakers for the December meeting. President Walther-Parnell will post an announcement for nominations for REMCO Volunteer of 2022 (deadline November 15<sup>th</sup>) and for nominations of a local non-profit (deadline November 30<sup>th</sup>) in the President's Corner for the Newspaper and the Facebook page and to be ratified at the January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. **\*M(LB)/S(BC)/P**

President Walther-Parnell reported that REMCOAI is subsidizing guests that are brought to the meeting by members. Limit 2 guests at \$12 each, guests beyond the limit would be charged \$19, the amount charged by the Elks Lodge.

President Walther-Parnell reported that the deadline for articles to be posted in the Newsletter by Director Harris is October 31, 2022. Director Harris reported that he had posted the Scholarship Application on the Facebook page.

Treasurer Barnett reported that the \$50 winner of the random draw for December is Jorge Perez.

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