

REMCOAI Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

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

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

Secretary Report: The minutes of the July 17, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting were sent in draft format on July 25, 2024; after editing, the Final format was sent July 28, 2024. On September 12, 2024 the Final Minutes were sent to Ian at IMedia West to post, who confirmed their arrival. Action Item: Motion made Approve as submitted/sent/2nd/Passed.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer St. Marie reported he had been out of town, did not have the MERCOCO statements, which he would pick up at the Post Office after the meeting. President Norman noted that she would like to have a Treasurer Report on a quarterly basis to be posted in the Newsletter that is mailed about two weeks before General Member Meetings. Treasurer St. Marie noted he could provide that report digitally for the Newsletter.

President Norman inquired how the September 10, 2024 9th Annual Business Meeting went as she had been at a training session. Treasurer St. Marie reported that it went well, was well attended. Speaker Frank Quintero was very informative, and members had requested his return with updates on new businesses opening at Merced Mall, and on new buildings for Barnes and Noble, and the McCombs Youth Center and Merced Senior Citizens, Inc. Director Castaneda noted that the Senior Center had received unofficial notice of Purchase of the Senior Citizens Community building to be deconstructed that the City Council has on their agenda.

President Norman provided the new Board of Directors Meeting dates for 2025 would be Wednesday, January 15, 2025; Wednesday, April 30, 2025; Wednesday, July 30, 2025; and Tuesday, October 14, 2025. The REMCO General Meeting held at The Elk' Lodge in 2025 would be March 11, 2025; June 10, 2025; September 9, 2025; and December 9, 2025.

President Norman reported that she didn't have updated data on the Facebook page or IMedia West. President Norman did contact Victoria Murrietta who had volunteered to rate scholarship applications but was not interested in becoming a director.

Secretary Justice reported that two members had provided information on volunteering to become a Director by the October 14, 2024 deadline. Mary Brooks provided her resume and had called Secretary Justice to ask if she needed to attend today's meeting. President Norman stated she would contact Mary to find what duties she would choose. Director Castaneda reported that Michele Burroughs would be undergoing knee surgery and would not be available for some time to volunteer as a director. Treasurer

St. Marie asked how many vacancies need filling: Vice President, and possibly 3 directors if Michele Burroughs not available by the end of the year.

President Norman noted that she has a unique method of a creating a random draw winner from the Membership List. She will provide the winner of the random draw before the December 10, 2024 General Member Meeting.

Director Castaneda reported that she had not received submissions to donate up-to \$500 to local non-profit charities yet as her deadline is November 15, 2024. However, Director Gloria Keene and an unnamed lady had come to her at the September meeting with their submissions. Director Keene suggested The Salvation Army and the unnamed lady's submission was Reverend Metcalf's mission on D Street. Director Castaneda felt uncomfortable about splitting the Up-to- \$500 donation. Discussion was held that in prior years if there were two good submissions that the donation would be \$250 for each submission. As Director Keene was not present to answer the question if the money would remain in Merced County. President Norman requested Secretary Justice to connect with Director Keene to answer the question. If The Salvation Army donation does not remain in Merced County, REMCO would not be able to donate money as their donations are for local non-profit charities. Treasurer St. Marie reported that after he closes the Budget of October 2023 – September 30, 2024, he could review the new Budget to consider increasing the Up-to-\$500 donation to Up-to-\$600, which may support two local non-profit donations.

Director Castaneda reported that she had not received a Volunteer of the Year submission yet as the deadline is November 15, 2024. Discussion held that Volunteer of the Year would receive a \$50 gift card instead of a paper Certification.

President Norman suggested a \$100 gift card to Chicken Ranch for the Attendance prize. Member who wins can go when they want, and Dale mentioned that the old Bingo Hall was still available.

President Norman reported that 26 tickets had been purchased for October 16, 2024 for The Pumpkin Patch Social, which is open 4:00 – 7:30 PM. REMCO will provide drinks and pizza in the small barn. Ticket holders will also receive a bracelet to show when they enter the barn that they are REMCO members/guests.

President Norman noted that as Director Keene was not present to confirm that The Salvation Army Brass Band would be playing at December 10, 2024 General Meeting for about 15 minutes. Discussion held that a honorand of a \$50 gift card would be presented to The Salvation Army Brass Band when they finished playing. President Norman requested Secretary Justice to connect with Director Keene to confirm the attendance of The Salvation Army Brass Band.

President Norman reported that at the July 17, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting she wanted to address the December 10, 2024 meeting early to be able to handle all the pieces: identify someone to contact MERCOC to confirm if they are donating an iPad. If they donate an iPad, then there would be REMCO members-only Bingo games (can be played different ways, provide bags of candy for the different winners). Play the Pass-Around game, was a big hit last year, new banana game is another option; using

lottery tickets for different winners; Numbers under tables: everyone at table win; wear Christmas Sweaters or dress up: May think of something else like an Amazon gift card for a larger amount than other gift cards; Director Castaneda and Michele Burroughs will decorate tables. President Norman asked about Poinsettias Black Friday sales to decorate tables and as a prize; Since Director Castaneda cannot have them in her house, President Norman would house them if Director Castaneda purchased them. Past President Lola Barnett offered to take reservations, President Norman would cover Facebook reservations and provide information to Past President Barnett for list of attendees. Treasurer St. Marie offered to take registrations on December 10, 2024 and issue free lunch tickets to members, along with a different color ticket for the Attendance drawing and handle guests' tickets. Lunch tickets can be dropped into a container when picking up a plate for lunch. Cindy Ramirez offered to handle tickets for prize drawings. President Norman enjoys hunting for bargains at local stores and small businesses, when possible, to support local businesses. President Norman requested turkey for the December menu, with scalloped potatoes or sweet potatoes, green beans, salads, and cobblers or pumpkin pies.

President Norman was impressed by the service that the Area Agency on Aging staff provided when she needed to sign up for Medicare, very informative, discussed what were her needs and the different options available and set up an appointment for next year's open enrollment time.

Mai Yang and Amy Gonzales from Merced County Human Resources will be guest speakers at the December 10, 2024 about Under 65 and Medicare age members insurance benefits.

Guest speakers from MercedCERA rotate and we may not know who will attend the December 10, 2024 General Meeting prior to the meeting.

Treasurer St. Marie signed up and registered to attend the CRCEA Fall Conference held on November 3-6, 2024 in Walnut Creek as President Norman will be unable to attend. Treasurer St. Marie will report at the January 15, 2025 Board of Directors meeting what he had experienced and what subjects he had participated in.

President Norman reported the Newsletter will be mailed 2-3 weeks prior to the December 10, 2024 REMCO December 10, 2024 Meeting.

President Norman inquired about the Staples project for REMCOAI stationery was processing. Secretary Justice reported that there had been a glitch, with thumb drives not accepting the logo as well as considering a little better color for cards to be used as "Thank You "for speakers and as Welcoming new members, and possibly having return address embossed.

No other Business - Meeting closed at 10:50 AM (Motion made/ 2nd/passed)