

## REMCO General Meeting with Luncheon Following

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

11:35 AM

Call to Order: President Jackie Walther-Parnell called the meeting to order at 11:35 AM after microphones had been synched, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our Military, Public Service Personnel and for REMCO members who have passed.

President Walther-Parnell introduced the Head Table: Officers: President Walther-Parnell, Secretary LaVon Justice, Treasurer Lola Barnett and acknowledged Vice President Scott Johnston working in the back corner. She introduced new Directors Richard St. Marie and Jim Pacheco and acknowledged Director Bernedette Castaneda in the middle of the room, who with her team provided the table decorations and noted that Director Michael Harris was unable to attend as he was on a cruise. President Walther-Parnell reported that Director Harris had provided a video of the September meeting on Facebook Live for members to view for 30 days on the Retired Employees of Merced County Facebook page for members unable to come to a meeting or for members that wanted to watch or listen to the meeting again in case they missed hearing an item at the meeting. President Walther-Parnell reported that she was videoing today's meeting which would be posted on the Facebook page in 24-48 hours after the meeting. President Walther-Parnell asked if two new Directors, Eric Swenson and Lori Sears Norman were in attendance. Eric Swenson was present but Lori Sears Norman was not. President Walther-Parnell introduced Guests Sheri Villagrana and Monica Gallegos from MercedCERA retirement office.

President Walther-Parnell reminded members to get tickets before drawings are called, and noted that the Suggestion Box was available at the Head Table to recognize members for volunteering, trip destinations, or speakers/Presenters/Topics of interest. She noted that reservations can be made on the Retired Employees of Merced County Association, Inc. Facebook page and if not a member of the Facebook Page, please join to remain up-to-date.

President Walther-Parnell reported that MERCOC had donated an iPad and REMCO had donated a 55-inch Toshiba TV for a members-only bingo game. Members can pick up a bingo card and crayon at the registration table or at the Head Table.

President Walther-Parnell announced that the Membership Quarterly random draw \$50 winner was Jorge Perez of Atwater, CA. A letter of congratulations would be mailed with the \$50 check as he was not in attendance.

President Walther-Parnell reported that there were no submissions for a REMCO member Volunteer of the year for 2022. She reminded members that if they are interested in volunteering for a position that REMCO has an Emergency Fill List for Directors in case someone can't complete their term, just let an Officer know of your interest to volunteer. **Note:** Mary Ellen Arana came forward as the meeting ended to acknowledge her interest in volunteering. Her name was added to the Emergency Fill List.

President Walther-Parnell reported that two submissions from local non-profit Charitable agencies were submitted for the REMCOAI up-to-\$500 Charitable donation. The Board of Directors chose

to donate \$250 to the Food Bank of Merced County (non-profit #8000093563) and to donate \$250 to the Friends of the Merced County Library to augment fundraising goals for the bookmobile to reach its full potential by being properly outfitted for meeting needs of both children and adults and becoming permitted and licensed to serve various stations throughout the County as well as being regularly maintained. (Tax ID: 23-7394587).

President Walther-Parnell introduced Sheri Villagrana and Monica Gallegos of MercedCERA Retirement Office. Sheri introduced herself noting there were three Staff Services Analysts able to assist the members with their pension needs. Brenda Mojica was unable to attend as she was receiving her 20-year service pin. Members congratulated this mile-stone by clapping. Sheri noted that changes in the tax law would occur in January 2023. New forms were designed for Federal and State tax withholdings on two separate forms. Members that do not need to make changes need to worry but those that need to make changes would need to complete the new forms. The pension system will transition a members' prior information to the new 2023 requirements which should stay the same but a few might see a slight difference of either an increase or a decrease. Sheri reminded members that 1099's will go out at the end of January and the system will use the addresses on file as of December 31<sup>st</sup> and if a member has a change of address, they need to contact the Retirement Office to ensure the delivery of the 1099 form in January. Sheri reminded members to check who they have listed as the beneficiary to ensure it is the correct person. She relayed one member's beneficiary had passed seven years prior and they had not updated that information which made it difficult for their current loved ones to claim the last payment. They wished the members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

President Walther-Parnell reported that Mai Yang and Amy Gonzales from Human Resources were unable to attend the meeting. They had intended to discuss Retiree Life Insurance and VSP TruHearing hearing aids.

President Walther-Parnell reported the CRCEA Spring Conference would occur late April, 2023 and she hoped Directors would attend a part of the Conference.

President Walther-Parnell reminded members that the next General Meeting would be March 14, 2023 and to make reservations early. President Walther-Parnell reminded members that Scholarship applications for 2023 are available at the head table.

President Walther-Parnell stated she would announce when lunch would be ready and reminded members that those needing assistance would go first, then the Head Table, and then the table on the left side of the room going to the far-right side of the room.

No other business the meeting was closed at 11:55 AM