

REMCOAI General Meeting Minutes
REMCO Luncheon Follows
Tuesday, March 8, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

President Sandy Teague called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM, with the Pledge of Allegiance, a Moment of Silence for those members lost to us and those in Military or Public Safety uniforms, the introduction of the Head Table: Secretary LaVon Justice, Treasurer Lola Barnett, Retirement Board Representative Ronald Kinchloe, Guests Assistant CEO Scott DeMoss and Speaker Gregg from Riggs Ambulance.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary Justice reported highlights of the minutes of the December 8, 2015 REMCOAI General Meeting. The full report is posted on the REMCO website and hard copies are available from the Secretary. Motion to accept report: *M/S/P

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Lola Barnett reported a cash balance of \$49,674.96: \$100 petty cash; deposits - \$21,761, expenses - \$11,045.49. Pension Protection fund: 3 CD's -\$75,000 investment with \$1085.25 interest to date. Treasurer Barnett mentioned she had Scholarship applications available at the front table. Motion to accept report: *M/S/P.

President Teague introduced Assistant CEO Scott DeMoss to report information on healthcare benefits. Assistant CEO DeMoss reported that a Dental Survey had been sent to 1,240 retirees with dental coverage and received 634 survey responses on the 3 options of an annual maximum coverage cap of 1) no change from \$1,150; 2) \$1,500 and 3) \$2,000. 290 responded No Change; 216 chose \$2,000 and 138 chose \$1,500. No change will occur now based on the single larger number of 290. However, in analyzing the data, it is apparent that the majority of responses wanted some change and in meeting with the REMCO Healthcare committee, change was discussed to improve the plan for the members. The County will receive a letter of renewal with the new premium rates later in the year, and if it is possible to increase coverage \$100-\$200 for an additional \$1 or \$2 per month to make the plan better, that option could be proposed to the Board of Supervisors later. The Federal Government guidelines have changed for the filing of Form 1095. It isn't needed to complete a 2015 tax filing but the Form will go out at the end of the month. The County is talking with active employees concerning their healthcare coverage. There was a 7.7% increase in premiums last year and caps on what is covered. The 3 plans are 1) the current plan, 2) a lower deductible (increase of \$5 per lab, physician, Physical Therapy visit) that would be a lower cost plan, and 3) higher deductible – out-of-pocket until deductible is reached, partnered with a Health Savings Account to help pay costs.

Retirement Board Representative Ronald Kinchloe reported COLAs (Cost of Living Adjustment) for Tier 1 retirees are based on the California CPI actuary. Based on the data, the County Retirement Board recommended a 3% adjustment to the Board of Supervisors to vote on. If the Board approves the adjustment, it will be in the April retirement check. Mr. Kinchloe responded to a question from the members on the current level of funding on the retirement fund answering that the fund is currently 59% funded, a 3% increase in funding since reporting 56% in December.

President Teague introduced Fire Department Engineers Daniel and Nathan to speak on home safety. Nathan stated that others were out training so there were only a few personnel here to introduce an exciting program that received grant funding for smoke alarms and Carbon Monoxide alarms for home use. Fire Department personnel will come to owner-occupied homes within the City limits to assess their alarms and change batteries on existing alarms or replace and/or add alarms if some are too old or not installed (usually the Carbon Monoxide alarms) for free. There should be one Carbon Monoxide alarm outside the living space (bedrooms), one near the furnace and water heater, and one in or near the garage; with one smoke alarm in each bedroom. Nathan explained Carbon Monoxide is the byproduct of gas with incomplete combustion of 50 parts per million, and the alarms have been required in residential homes for a few years. All alarms should be checked once a month; if a chirp is heard the battery is still working. Smoke alarms batteries should be changed during the daylight savings/standard time changes. Some Carbon Monoxide alarms have batteries good for 10 years. Smoke alarms are only good for 10 years and should be replaced with a new one. Some are plug-in wall socket Carbon Monoxide alarms with battery-backup and some are hardwired into a wall. They should be placed where they will be accessible to check batteries. They can be placed low as carbon monoxide rises while the smoke alarms should be placed high. For those outside of city limits they should contact Fire Headquarters on MLK Jr Way in Merced. Also, there is a County weatherization program that may also change/install smoke alarms. He directed members to the back corner to sign up with some Fire Technicians to have their city home checked.

President Teague introduced Gregg Peterson from Riggs Ambulance to speak. Gregg started as a volunteer with Mid-State Ambulance in 1983, went to Riggs in 1988 as an EMT/driver then a Paramedic, an office supervisor and now an Education Manager. He reported that Riggs Ambulance was founded in 1948 by Kenny Riggs, and purchased by Sierra Medical Services Alliance (SMAS) although the ambulances bear the name of Riggs. Changes were required, and SMAS became a non-profit. Although the bosses live in Reno, decisions are made in Merced. Of the 34,440 calls received last year 28,820 were emergencies, this all a by-product of the Affordable Care Act. There are 58 EMT1, 48 Paramedics, 14 emergency dispatchers, 2 mechanics, 26 support and admin staff and 8 supervisors, all committed to be of service to the community. He is proud to

serve all of Merced County; he isn't in it just for the paycheck. The best thank-you he received when he was called to a local doctor's office for a patient who was having problems. He evaluated him, got him on the gurney and began an IV with drugs and rushed him to the hospital. 8 years later he was called to transfer someone to Modesto. The patient recognized him, gave him a bear hug, and told him he saved his life on that first encounter. He reminded the members that CPR classes are provided by Riggs.

President Teague stated that at the December meeting Treasurer Barnett reported on a suggestion received that REMCO donate to a local non-profit/charity and asked members for non-profit suggestions which had been received for the Board to review if members approved to the action . Now it is time the members vote on whether they want to donate up to \$500 to a local non-profit. Members wanted to know some of the charities that had been received and were told New Beginnings Animal Rescue, COVE, Salvation Army, Valley Children's Hospital, Relay for Life had been suggested. A motion was made for REMCO to donate up to \$500 to a local charity and seconded, vote held with the majority of Ayes carrying the vote. *M/S/P Some members added the Rescue Mission on Canal St, the Boys & Girls Club on 15th and M, NAMI (Kristi Rug – President) and CASA to the list of charities. One member suggested Andrew Calderon, a high school culinary class teacher and Pampered Chef who could use sponsor money.

President Teague reported there will be 50/50 drawings after lunch, and that the elections for the Directors were coming up and anyone who wants to serve on the Board of Directors should submit their name to him or any of the Officers. Nominations needed to be in by the end of June to be on the ballot. He said it would be great to have new people to serve to bring new ideas to the members, and that he felt there were big plans for future meetings and events.

Receiving no additional business subjects, the meeting closed at 12:25 PM by President Sandy Teague. Lunch followed at 12:30 PM.