

# REMCO NEWSLETTER

Retired Employees of Merced County - June 2012



The quarterly luncheon will be held on **Tuesday, June 12, 2012** at the *Merced Elks Lodge, 19th & "M"*

Streets, Merced. The doors will be open at 11:30 AM. The program will begin at 12 Noon and lunch will be served at 12:30 PM. Reservations are a must so the proper amount of food can be prepared. REMCO is required to pay for the number of meals ordered so unpaid reservations come from our treasury. The following people will accept your reservation:

Shirley Winton 725-3151  
Lola Barnett 384-4185 (Office 8-5,  
Mon-Fri or leave message)

## Officers & Board of Directors

**President:** Lola Barnett 658-5109  
[niftyld@aol.com](mailto:niftyld@aol.com)  
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**Past President:** John Carlisle 722-9249  
**Retirement Bd Rep:** Sandy Teague 722-2007  
**Retirement Bd Alt:** Ron Kinchloe 409-8394

### Appointed Staff

**CRCEA Delegate:** David Baker  
**CRCEA Delegate:** Sandy Teague  
**Newsletter Editor:** John Carlisle 722-9249  
[jbc76@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbc76@sbcglobal.net)



I am again sitting at my computer drinking my third cup of coffee and thinking up ideas for the newsletter.

The first thought that comes to mind is that it's spring and the flowers are in bloom, the grass is green and the trees are in their spring colors, the sun is shining and out comes the tank tops and shorts. Ah! How I love this time of the year, even with the sneezing and coughing from allergies.

The bad and the ugly (The tax man) has come and gone for another year - The good is that we received a cost of living increase in our Social Security and Retirement checks, and with no major cost increases in benefit plans.

In reading newsletters from various retirement associations I find that there is a recurrent theme PENSION REFORM. Today's political and economic landscape provides difficult challenges for Retirees in forms of proposed legislation and possible pension reform ballot measures. In my last letter I mentioned a ballot initiative by a group called *California For Pension Reform*. If these initiatives had made it onto the November ballot and had they passed they could have had a major impact on retirees and our families. While it appears that these initiatives would apply to current and future employees, the language appears to include limiting the cost of living for all current and future retirees. Thankfully this group did not raise the funding they needed to get it on the ballot. Just remember before you sign any ballot initiatives please read and fully understand the facts and the impact of the initiative. Right now there is Governor Brown 12 point Pension Reform Plan, which is currently languishing in the legislative process.

Just because the initiatives did not make it on the ballot and the Governor's plan has not processed out of the Legislature this does not mean pension reform is dead. Almost every day I read that another state is looking at some form of reform. In my opinion current retirees should be concerned about any pension reform that places limits on our costs of living increases and our medical benefits. Again in my opinion they will try for reducing our monthly benefits check, but they will not succeed. In my opinion we need to be very aware of what the Governor and the Legislative will do after the election.

CRECA representatives David Baker and Sandy Teague and Your Board of Directors will be watching any issues involving pension reform and any other legislative actions that may affect you. They will keep you the members apprised of any developments.

October 2012 CRECA will be holding their *Fall Conference* in Modesto at the Doubletree Inn. Please feel free to attend. Further information regarding the conference can be obtained from either Sandy or David.

If any member wishes to contribute to or make comments in the newsletter please contact our Editor John Carlisle at [jbc76@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbc76@sbcglobal.net).

**REMINDERS:** Visit our website [REMCOMerced.com](http://REMCOMerced.com). Make your reservations for the luncheon for June 12<sup>th</sup> 2012 as soon as possible. Any questions or concerns please contact any Board member listed on the front of your newsletter. If you move, please let the Retirement Office know so that we can get your newsletter and any other information to you on a timely base.

Remember this is your organization and we need your help to keep REMCO strong. Your voice matters in regards to maintaining your retirement benefits.

Members, I would like your concurrence to start a Charitable Food Drive at our September meeting. Please e-mail me your thoughts on this matter at [niftyld@aol.com](mailto:niftyld@aol.com). This would be non-perishable food items, no money or stale dated products

Members let me know if you would like to have quest speakers and if so the topics you would be interested in hearing about. Please make your reservations early and hope to see you at the luncheon on June 12<sup>th</sup> 2012.

## CRCEA SPRING CONFERENCE

By David Baker

REMCO delegates Sandy Teague and David Baker attended the CRCEA Spring Conference held in Visalia, April 16-18th, hosted by Tulare County Retired Employees Association. As you know all REMCO members are members of the statewide association, CRCEA, which is comprised of the twenty 1937 Act County retirement systems and has become a strong and viable lobbying force in Sacramento, representing over 160,000 retirees.

At the recent conference there were a variety of speakers addressing issues about the CA High Speed Rail, Gov. Brown's pension reform measures, Sac politics and investment/real estate issues.

Public pensions are still the major topic in the state for pension reform. Governor

Brown's 12 point reform proposal consists of: 1) Equal share of pension costs, 2) Hybrid Plan 401k, 3) Increase Retirement Age, 4) 3-year final average compensation, 5) Benefits based on regular pay (recurring), 6) Limit post-retirement employment, 7) Felony conviction - forfeit pension, 8) No retroactive pension increases, 9) No pension contribution

"holidays", 10) No "airtime" purchases, 11) Increase pension board independence and expertise and 12) Reduce retiree health care costs.

Believe it or not the Republican Party blasted the Governors 12 point plan for not going far enough, but the Democratic Party has shied away, stating it is unnecessarily harsh.

A CRCEA subcommittee was formed as a Retirement Security Committee. They put together a database of pension related documents (and material) to assist CRCEA members by providing "information to respond to negative pension articles," and misunderstandings associated with current pension reform proposals. What is the committee asking you to do as a retiree? Educate yourself on pensions issues, myths and truths. The attacks continue, and your knowledge and persuasive voice can help to counter threats to our and our children's retirement future. Talk to your friends and neighbors, or clubs, about your many years of work and experiences. You worked hard for your pension, and paid into it, and are still paying taxes on it! And you strengthen your local economy by spending your hard earned money.

For more information on this training we received in Visalia go to [www.crceasearch.com](http://www.crceasearch.com) I encourage you to look at the material on line and enlighten yourself on the ideas of "Getting the Message Out".

Mark your calendar, REMCO members October 22, 23, & 24th the next CRCEA Fall conference will be hosted by the Retired Employees of San Joaquin County, along with a neighboring county.

## NOTICE! By John Carlisle

If you change your address, please do not forget to notify MCERA **AND** REMCO. If you want your REMCO newsletter by email, which are better looking and easier to read than the printed version, please provide an accurate email address to John Carlisle at: [jbc76@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbc76@sbcglobal.net). The emailed newsletter will arrive a week or more before the printed version!

Rather than using space in the newsletter to discuss ongoing assaults on the "1937 Act" retirees (which all REMCO members are), I want to acknowledge that there are some negative issues getting publicity these days for retirees. One that may be somewhat justified in some counties is the issue of "pension spiking". Although the possibility of "spiking" is possible to some degree in Merced County, there do not seem to be the ma-

job abuses that some counties experience, because the rules are different from county to county. The important thing to remember is that each county sets its own rules for retirement issues, including possibilities of "spiking". There is a decent article on "spiking" at calpensions.com. You can access the article at: <http://calpensions.com/2012/04/16/county-legacy-court-ordered-pension-spiking>



## WELCOME

Those who have joined the ranks of the retired:

ANDREA BAKER 10/22/11  
DOUGLAS HABECK 10/22/11  
SYLVIA MEOGROSSI 10/30/11  
MARY KRAMP 11/05/11  
LARRY COMBS 12/3/11  
FRED CONTRERAS 12/3/11  
KATHLEEN GAITHER 11/26/11  
MANUEL HERNANDEZ 11/29/11  
RAMON FIGUEROA 11/29/11  
BERNICE AGUILAR 12/17/11  
SYLVIA LAGUNA 12/17/11  
ROXANNE COUNCIL 12/17/11  
FOUHEY SAELEE 12/17/11  
BETTY PEREZ 12/17/11  
ANGELA RESENDEZ 12/17/11  
KELLY PEDROZO 12/17/11  
JUDY HAYNES 12/17/11  
CAROL CASADOS 12/17/11  
JULIA CORBIN 12/17/11  
THOMAS PEREIRA 12/17/11  
PATRICIA HIGHLANDER 12/17/11  
ARTHUR BOYD 12/17/11  
ANITA BROWN 12/17/11  
SUSAN FOWLE 12/17/11  
MASONIA DAVIS 12/17/11  
SCOTT PETTY GROVE 12/17/11  
MICHAEL PRO 12/17/11  
ROBERT KING 12/17/11  
REBECCA REIS 12/10/11  
GUADALUPE ACOSTA 12/17/11  
JERRI FRANKS 12/17/11  
SUZ CERVANTES 12/17/11  
JACQUELINE STALE 12/31/11  
LYDIA BEISWANGER 12/17/11  
SANDRA CASTLER 12/17/11  
THERESA SCHOETTLER 12/17/11  
TERESA GARCIA 12/17/11  
KELLY THOMAS 12/17/11  
CATHY COLE 12/16/11  
LLOYD MCCOLLUM 12/17/11  
SHIRLEY FARR 12/16/11  
HARRY JACOBS 1/3/12  
LINDA PEREIRA 12/17/11  
MARIA ALFERES 12/17/11  
AJ SMITH 12/17/11  
JESSIE GUERRERO 12/17/11  
CYNTHIA CARVAJAL 12/17/11  
FRANCIS RODRIGUEZ 12/17/11  
DAVID LATONA 12/17/11  
CELESTE ROHRBACK 12/17/11  
ROBERTA ANDERSON 12/17/11  
RICHARD GRAVES 12/17/11  
VIRGINIA ROMERO 12/17/11  
MARYANN HARDING 12/17/11  
LANA SPURLOCK 12/17/11  
DALE HIGGINBOTHAM 12/17/11  
KIA LEE 12/17/11  
EDWARD HARDING 12/17/11  
JOHN RICHARDSON 12/17/11  
VELTA BROWN 12/17/11  
EUNICE BUSH 12/17/11  
DEBRA STRONG 12/17/11  
SUSAN ROBERTS 12/17/11  
PETRA MORENO 12/17/11



### RETIREES (CONTINUED)

BETTY CLAY 12/17/11  
RACHEL CASILLAS 12/17/11  
ALFRED MIGUEL 12/17/11  
EVA HITCHCOCK 12/3/11  
PAUL ROSEMAN 12/17/11  
DAN BOBROWSKI 12/17/11  
SHARON HASSLER 12/17/11  
VICKEY FRANK 12/17/11  
JESSIE THOMPSON 12/17/11  
MARLENE HAGERMAN 12/17/11  
VANPHENG LEE 12/17/11  
RONALD DUGDALE 12/17/11  
LOURDES PENALOZA 12/17/11  
GARY SPEARS 12/17/11  
BRUCE GILBERT 12/17/11  
KIP LOVING 12/28/11  
LINDA NICHOLAS 12/3/11  
JERRY LUNA 12/17/11  
WILLIAM PEELER 12/17/11  
CYNTHIA SPENCER 12/17/11  
STEVEN CLINTON 11/24/11  
ROCKIE XIONG 12/3/11  
MARY COAKLEY 12/17/11  
MARITA CARLSON 12/18/11  
SANDRA LEMAS 12/17/11  
SHARON RICHARDS 12/17/11  
GLORIA CAMPOS-CARDENAS 12/17/11  
LOUISE TILSTON 12/17/11  
GENEVIEVE GARCIA 1/3/12  
ROBERT SPIERS 12/17/11  
FRANCES SLAUGHTER 12/17/11  
JANET WARREN 12/17/11  
JAMES CAVALLA 1/4/12  
DWAYNE GROVE 12/17/12  
JOSEPH FASIG 2/11/12  
HEIDI PROWS 3/7/12  
PAMELA PEREIRA 2/4/12  
EVAN RAHILLY 1/8/12  
ROBERT PRENTISS 1/12/12  
STEVEN NUNES 2/1/12  
LARRY LOVELL 2/24/12  
KATHRYN HASSETT 3/31/12  
THOMAS SCHIFFLER 3/1/12  
PAUL FILLEBROWN 3/31/12  
DWAIN MIDDLETON 3/24/12  
JILL IRISH 3/10/12  
DOREEN FAIELLO-BURNETT 3/16/12  
LINDA NICHOLAS 3/29/12  
JEREMIAH MESSICK 3/26/12  
DAYLE CONROY 3/18/12



### In Memoriam

Phillip Herrero, 12/20/2011  
Ross Farthing, 01/05/2012  
Helen J. Mitchell, 01/13/2012  
Hazel Slater, 2012  
Lorene Jueneman, 01/24/2012  
Virginia M. Lee, 01/12/2012  
Leon R. Sutherland, 01/28/2012  
Dovie Brady, 02/04/2012  
Norman R. Bertalotto, 02/07/2012  
Josephine Morabe, 02/06/2012  
Rosemarie C. George, 02/27/2012  
Hershel Pruett, 02/21/2012  
Marcheta Miller, 02/25/2012  
Rosemarie Martinez, 03/01/2012  
Sam Gutierrez, 03/04/2012  
Eddie Johnson, 02/17/2012  
Loretta Ritter, 02/24/2012  
John C. Douglas, Jr., 03/26/2012  
Antonio Sanchez, 03/24/2012  
Naomi Kilgore, 04/02/2012  
Joe Agulera, 04/05/2012  
Pauline Hansen, 04/13/2012  
Zeda E. Corcoran, 04/17/2012  
Robert F. Beltz, 04/14/2012



**REMCO**  
Retired Employees of Merced County  
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