


# REMCO NEWSLETTER

Retired Employees of Merced County-March 2013

 The quarterly luncheon will be held on **Tuesday, March 12, 2013** 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:

**Karolyn Alvarez** (209) 358-9372 or  
Email: Karol\_retired\_95301@yahoo.com

**Lola Barnett** (209) 384-4185 (Office 8-5,  
Mon-Fri or leave message)

## Officers & Board of Directors

President: Lola Barnett	658-5109
<a href="mailto:niftyld@aol.com">niftyld@aol.com</a>	
Vice President: Kaye Greeley	394-9091
Secretary: Lavon Justice	722-8202
Treasurer: David Baker	722-1494
Director: Michael Sofranek	374-3465
Director: Marie McDonagh	723-0917
Director: Vivian Stierwalt	723-7065
Director: Linc Clendenin	722-1306
Director: Scott Johnston	617-2126
Director: Ron Kinchloe	409-8394
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
<a href="mailto:jbc76@sbcglobal.net">jbc76@sbcglobal.net</a>	



Greetings REMCO Members!

A new year is upon us and I wonder what it will bring:

From REMCO - new and re-elected officers, possibly a new healthcare plan, and maybe a cost of living (COLA) increase from MCERA? We did get a small increase in our Social Security checks in January, but I also saw my Medicare premium increase - oh well, in one hand, out the other!

David Baker has decided not to run for re-election as your Treasurer, due to some issues he is currently experiencing. I, the Board of Directors, and the members of REMCO will sorely miss David and his experience not only with REMCO but also with CRCEA. David's shoes will be hard to fill. We all wish David a speedy recovery and we hope to see David back in the thick of things sometime in the future.

Please remember that **Scholarship applications** are available on line at REMCOMERCED.com, or you can contact me at [niftyld@aol.com](mailto:niftyld@aol.com) and I will send you an application. All applications must be postmarked **by April 20, 2013** to be considered.

I again would like to thank MERCOCU Credit Union for their generous support to the CRCEA Conference that REMCO co-sponsored. We urge our members to support MERCOCU - if not a member, please consider joining. Just a side note, I recently helped my granddaughter get a car and MERCOCU had the lowest interest rates, even better than the other credit unions in town.

Although current legislation is not affecting current retirees, it could happen as pension obligations for Public Agencies are a big budget issue. Sacramento can still try to corrupt or erode our benefits by passing Legislative "reform" bills. So we must always keep an eye on any Pension reforms making their way through the halls of Sacramento. I strongly feel we must continue as

members of CRCEA to help protect our defined benefit plans.

I am almost at the end of two great years as your President. I have enjoyed every moment of it, from the monthly Board meetings, thinking up ideas to present to our members, to greeting and interacting with our members at the luncheons. But do you know what made this such an enjoyable experience? **You** - the members, and I wish to thank each of you for your help and support throughout the year. One thing I did learn was the success of any organization is dependent on the hard work and dedication of our Board of Directors. Your volunteer Directors are individuals who are truly committed to serving the retirees and they recognize that their top priority is to enhance and to protect our pensions and medical benefits. THANK YOU ALL!

I would like to start a *Retiree Corner* in the Newsletter. Do you have a favorite recipe, a poem, a joke (keep it clean), acknowledgement of a child or a family member graduating from high school or college you would like to share? Or just simply make a comment (i.e. Letters to the Editor). If so let your editor know. ([jbc76@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbc76@sbcglobal.net))

Here is a recipe I found and it sounds simple and fast. I have not tried it out yet, so if you make it let me know the results.



## CAKE IN A MUG

### INGREDIENTS:

One Angel food cake mix

One cake mix of your choice, lemon, spice, chocolate.

Mix all ingredients together in a gallon zip-lock bag, close and knead the bag gently to mix.

When ready to bake in a large mug, mix 1/3 cup of the cake mixture with 3 tablespoons of water, Cook in a microwave on high for one minute. Top with cool whip, fruit, nuts, ice cream or chocolate syrup.

Do you have an item you wish to sell or something to buy? Consider posting that request on the REMCOMERCED.com.

Our next REMCO Luncheon is **March 12, 2013**. Please make your reservations early so we may give a correct count to Meg at the Elks Club.

## REMCO ELECTION UPDATE

After an absolutely underwhelming response from REMCO members regarding the election of new officers, it turns out there was only one valid nomination for each of the positions!

Therefore, we have what is known as a **"WHITE BALLOT"**! (Look it up on Goggle!) That means no official election is needed, as there is no one competing for any position up for election. Therefore, the following are the officers for the next term of office, starting right after the March meeting:

**President: Leon "Sandy" Teague**

**Vice President: Kaye Greeley**

**Secretary: LaVon Justice**

**Treasurer: Lola Barnett**

## EDITOR COMMENTS

As I often see with many organizations, REMCO has a (very!) few people who seem to do all the work while the others do very little. That is fine, if the organization has paid staff - but REMCO pays none of it's officers or Board Members, they are all volunteers.

For REMCO to be a vibrant and worthwhile organization, we need broad participation by many members, as is true of most organizations. Many REMCO members have spare time and could contribute to making REMCO a more active organization - consider investing a little time to help yourself and other retirees - please!



## HEALTH INSURANCE UPDATE

Linc Clendenin and other REMCO members on the Insurance Committee have been meeting with Merced County officials regarding probable eventual changes to all retiree's health insurance benefits. This has been a fairly long-term process and we are hoping to do the best we possibly can for members. By the time you receive this newsletter, the County will have held a meeting exclusively for REMCO members to discuss possible changes and you all should have received an invitation to informational meetings. Changes are mostly designed to save the County money in the long run and may actually provide some retirees with better benefits at a cheaper price, but may also increase cost for others. It is important that you be aware of possible changes as none of the changes are yet in effect and nothing has been finalized. If you have questions contact a REMCO Board Member or call Marla Pettygrove at Merced County Risk Management.

There will be additional meetings in the future for information before any plan is finalized.

## SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

AS has been noted in previous newsletters, the **deadline for REMCO Scholarship applications is APRIL 30, 2013**. Go to the REMCO website

**www.REMCOMerced.com** for complete details on instructions, requirements and for application forms. If you have any questions, contact Lola Barnett. Don't let a deserving child or grandchild miss out on this chance for some financial support! Winners will be announced at the June 11 REMCO luncheon and/or in the June newsletter.



Susan Menagh  
Lenoara Costa  
Patricia Pietro  
Dwain Greggains  
Donald Mayeda  
Mary Migliazzo  
Roger Norris  
Deborah Lopez  
Eric Swenson  
Martin Gomez-Benitez



*Francis N. Herlitz*  
*Sally Reed*  
*Wilbert J. Kangas*  
*Johanna P. Wharen*  
*Wayne E. Sharp*  
*Mildred Ford*  
*Evelyn Robinson*



**REMCO**  
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Merced CA 95344-3605

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