

REMCO NEWSLETTER

Retired Employees of Merced County-September 2012



Greetings REMCO Members



So to begin, the 4th of July has passed in a blaze of glory as America celebrates another birthday with parades, fireworks and lots of good food. I hope you and your family had a glorious and HAPPY 4TH OF JULY. To paraphrase the comments of the Tulare County Retirement President Kevin Mizner, I may not like everything that is happening in our country today, but it is still the greatest country in the world and I choose not to live anywhere else.

Pension reform is still very much alive and kicking in this as well as in other states. However the people making our laws, reporters who write their editorials citing how much money public retirees costs the taxpayer forget that as retirees we also pay taxes. There are some retirees that pay taxes on their Social Security as well as taxes on their retirement checks. They forget that retirees also paid into our retirement systems over years so it was not a "free ride" in which the employer paid the full costs into the system. We need to remind people that every full time paid employee for the County of Merced makes a regular contribution into the retirement system. They also forget that retirees spend a lot of money in their communities, which helps the local economy.

Just remember that two cities in California have already passed measures that would impact their defined benefits retirement plans. We need to let our Board of Supervisors and elected officials know that doing away with defined benefits plans is not in the best interest of the employer or the employee. I have read several articles that very clearly state that 401 K plans are risky. In fact, a detailed report was done in Feb of this year by a Joint Legislative Committee that clearly shows that a "Hybrid plan", as proposed by Governor Brown is not effective, would actually cost more and would create a much poorer older retiree group. Remember, you spend a lot of money in this community and everyone needs to know that, to review this study go to www.lao.ca.gov If you know a Merced County retiree who has not become a member of REMCO, please urge them to do so. People listen to the numbers, so the more members we have the bigger our voice is.

Another big topic affecting retirees is Group health coverage. I, along with Linc Clendenin, Chair of the Health Committee and members of the committee have been involved in several meetings with the County and others regarding Health benefits for our retirees. I

have been very impressed with the information that has been presented at these informational meetings. As more information is received regarding any Health programs, Linc will pass that on to our members.

Just a reminder: at our December meeting we are holding a canned food drive and any food collected will be donated to local charity that feeds the less fortunate. I wish to thank each of you in advance for your contributions in this effort. If you have items that you wish to pass on to other members, such as articles of interest, making a comment or writing a letter to the editor, please let us know and we will consider it for publication.

CRECEA Fall Conference is being held in Modesto this year October 22, 23, 24th. If you are interested in attending please contact David Baker your CRCEA Delegate, go to www.crcea.org, or contact me for more details. Pre-registration is a must.

Just a reminder that we will be accepting Nomination Forms for upcoming elections. Each person elected to any office serves a two year term. The President, Vice President, as well Board Members Vivian Stierwalt and Marie McDonagh seats are up for election this year. If you or someone you know who wants to run for a position please make sure to ask the nominated person if they want to be nominated before placing their name for nomination. Those elected will be installed early next year.

NOTE: Eligibility for office is limited to retired REMCO members only.

NOMINATION FORM (Sample)

YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR PHONE NUMBER: _____

POSITION OF NOMINEE: _____

NOMINEES NAME: _____

NOMINEE PHONE NUMBER: _____

SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 31, 2012!

Send to: REMCO P O Box 3065 Merced CA 95344, Attention Nomination Committee. Nominations will also be taken at the December meeting.



REMCO ELECTIONS

Please read President Lola Barnett's article again and consider running for a seat on the REMCO Board, or even becoming an officer in REMCO – we need your participation! We know you are retired, but there is a great need for member involvement. Election nominations will happen in December – sign up or get a friend to sign up!

THANK YOU, SANDY TEAGUE!

Because of other commitments, "Sandy" Teague recently resigned from the Merced County Employees Retirement Association's (MCERA) Board of Directors, where he has been representing Merced County retirees – especially REMCO members. REMCO wants to thank Sandy for his regular attendance, diligence and his efforts to represent retirees and we acknowledge his good job! THANKS, SANDY!



Ron Kinchloe, the Alternate Board member (and a REMCO member) has replaced Sandy as the voting Board Member. That means there is an opening for a new Alternate. This position will be filled by the MCERA Board from a list provided to MCERA by REMCO. If you are available two Thursdays a month, have some knowledge of retirement finances and issues, as well as a burning desire to be a strong advocate for retirees, let us know at the September 11 REMCO luncheon, or **immediately** send President Lola Barnett a letter (to the REMCO PO Box) indicating your desire to be considered for the list. These are not usually the most exciting meetings, but their work is of major importance to all retirees. And training is available.

CRCEA CONFERENCE

The CRCEA conference will be held in Modesto in October. This gives REMCO members the chance to attend without having to travel a substantial distance and pay for a motel. Consider checking it out, even if you only go one or two days – there will be some good information available.

The quarterly luncheon will be held on **Tuesday, September 11, 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:

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
niftyld@aol.com
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
jbc76@sbcglobal.net

SB1382

SB 1382 is legislation sponsored by the California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA) and accomplishes several important objectives. It would assist retiree organizations in their communications by mail to retirees it represents. It also allows retirees to authorize and have deducted from their checks payments for retiree benefit programs. It further makes technical changes to the County Employees Retirement Law (CERL) in order to provide consistency throughout the statute. This bill is sitting on the Governor's desk for signing, after actually passing out of our dysfunctional Legislature with bipartisan support, so it appears Sacramento *can* actually accomplish something occasionally!! Now it just needs an autograph.



!! BEWARE !!

The current economic atmosphere is hard on almost everyone, including retirees.

In the past retirees were generally comfortable in the feeling they actually knew what was ahead for them financially and that was (usually!) a good feeling. That is no longer the case. While those of us who have already retired feel a bit more secure than those who are not yet retired, we must still remain alert to the many attacks against us. And do not fool yourself – there are substantial efforts afoot to come after YOUR benefits! That is why it is important for REMCO and every individual retiree to remain alert and aware of the efforts of those who want to take back what we have all worked so long and hard for. Educate yourself and your friends. There are frequent news articles about some of these efforts and there are websites, like www.calpensions.com and others that can keep you up to date. All we are asking as retirees is for employers to honor their contracts and their promises by providing what we worked for all those years.

WELCOME

Those who have joined the ranks of the retired:

Linda Kusunoki	5/7/12
Linda S. Garcia	4/24/12
Rose Borrecco	7/1/12
Betty Dawson	5/9/12
Randy Summers	7/7/12
Maria C. Cavazos-Ragsdale	7/14/12
William Saupe	6/30/12
Mary E. Van Ryte	7/14/12
Frank Demattos	7/3/12

In Memoriam

Jean M. Welch	5/2/12
Marion Latorraca	5/7/12
Leo L. Pettit	5/19/12
Walter N Mitchell	6/16/12
Bernard C. Winn	6/21/12
Dorothea M. Blythe	6/28/12
Theodore Rizzonelli	6/28/12
Kenneth D. Pierce	6/29/12
Richard D. Leuschner	7/6/12
Jean M. Deans	7/14/12
William M. Benham	7/29/12

Special Recognition!

With special recognition to all the victims of September 11th, their families as well as members of our military service who have been killed or wounded in action.



REMCO
Retired Employees of Merced County
PO Box 3605
Merced CA 95344-3605

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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