

REMCO

Retired Employees of Merced County Association, Inc.
A 501(c)(7) Association (REMCOAI) **SEPTEMBER 2015**

NEWSLETTER

Join Us

The quarterly luncheon and business meeting of the **Retired Employees of Merced County Association, Inc.**, a 501(c)(7) Association, will be held on **Tuesday, September 11th** at the **Merced Elks Lodge**, 19th & "M" Streets, Merced. Doors open at **11:00 AM**. The program will begin at **11:30** and lunch will be served at **12:00 Noon**. **RESERVATIONS ARE MANDATORY** to allow the Elks Lodge to order/prepare enough food. **The lunch price will be \$12.00 each for any reservation made after the June 2nd deadline.** The following people will accept your reservation:

Sandy Teague (209) 769-7331
Lola Barnett (209) 384-4185

Officers & Board of Directors

President: Sandy Teague, PhD (209) 769-7331
Vice President: Kaye Greeley 394-9091
Secretary: Lavon Justice 722-8202
Treasurer: Lola Barnett 384-4185
Director: Michael Sofranek 374-3465
Director: Scott Johnston 617-2126
Director: Ron Kinchloe 409-8394
Director: Walter Lopes 723-8938
Director: Bobbie Baker 777-6960
Retirement Bd Rep: Ron Kinchloe 409-8394
Retirement Bd Alt: Scott Johnston 617-2126

Appointed Staff

CRCEA Delegate: David Baker
CRCEA Delegate: Kaye Greeley
Newsletter Editor: John Carlisle 722-9249
jbc76@sbcglobal.net



PRESIDENT'S CORNER By Leon "Sandy" Teague, PhD

The Fall Season is approaching rapidly. Although the heat is still here it is on a downward spiral and eventually we will have cooler weather and an end to the drought, I hope.

This means schools will soon be in session and there will be students everywhere, so driving will have to be a little more cautious and aware. It's also a time to prepare for the holiday season which will be upon us before we know it. As we near the end of 2015, a year filled with all sorts of events, some good and some not so good, let's hope the year was a good one to remember as we look forward to 2016.

Ever wonder what our Grandchildren will inherit as the years roll by? They will be faced with the successes and failures of our generation. So far, I think we have done a pretty good job on most fronts. As we enter the later years I believe the best is yet to come. Somehow society has it backwards, we should have the time and money to travel, see exciting new parts of the world and do all the wild and wacky stuff the younger generation does; then when we are older we have to work to pay for everything we did. Maybe not, but the idea sounds good.

September also marks the end of the fiscal year for the *Retired Employees of Merced County Association, Incorporated, (REMCOAI)*. The Association Officers are at the end of their term and I want to take this opportunity to thank the *Vice President, Kaye Greeley; Secretary LaVon Justice; Treasurer Lola Barnett*, for a great job in ensuring we had a productive and rewarding two years.

Now it is time to elect new officers who will do their best to enhance REMCOAI and present new and exciting programs for the next term. All members are encouraged to make suggestions for the new year and hopefully we see them through to fruition. We all enjoy being members and seeing colleagues we used to work with, telling the same old stories over and over that we love to hear about. Our quarterly get together is fun and I look forward to each session.

Thank you for making it so easy to be President, everyone should give it a go. Apart from the quarterly luncheons there is very little to do. Official business consists of writing several letters, financial accounting and scheduling speakers for the luncheons that are dynamic so members are willing to come and listen. The business meeting in September will have as speaker, *Mr. Skip Murphy, President of California Re-*

tired County Employees Association, who will speak of the future of retiree organizations and why they are an important part of our life.

There have been all sorts of propositions affecting retiree benefits and we must remain ever diligent in making sure we are protected. Wishing everyone a safe and joyous approaching holiday season.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as President of REMCOAI!

GUEST SPEAKER:

SKIP MURPHY, President of the California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA) will be the September guest speaker. CRCEA is the umbrella organization that represents the 20 California counties in the "1937 Act" retirement program. Among other things he will speak about retirement security - don't miss it! REMCO is a member of CRCEA.

2015 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

The following great students are winners of a **\$1,000.00 scholarship from REMCO:**

Gabrielle Nord, Continuing Education, Parent/REMCO Member: Rita Nord

Jordan Nunes, Continuing Education, Parents: John & Kelly Nunes, REMCO Member: Mike Tanner

Megan Kravec, Graduating Senior, Parents: Brian & Mary Kravec, REMCO Member: John Fowler

Jane Eckles, Graduating Senior, Parents: Robert & Marilyn Eckles, REMCO Member: Leon Teague

All applicants were outstanding students and choices were very difficult for the Scholarship Committee to make.

CONGRATULATIONS OUTSTANDING STUDENTS!

Important

!!! THEFT ALERT !!!

For those who haven't seen it in local papers and especially for the many REMCO members living out of California there is important information regarding your hard earned retiree benefits. Former San Jose Mayor Check Reed and former San Diego Councilman Carl DeMaio are at it once again, trying to steal your benefits by trying to get enough signatures to qualify a proposition for the November, 2016 ballot in California. They plan to spend millions of dollars to cut public pensions and force new hires in government to be in "defined contribution" plans, rather than "defined benefits" plans. Their proposal could possibly also affect our Cost Of Living Allow-

ance (COLA) benefit. When you hear from a supporter of this fiasco they will tell you it is only aimed at future government employees, but that is simply a lie and it isn't a "little white lie"! It is a lie that could affect every current government retiree - **INCLUDING YOU!** It can do that simply by eliminating future government employees from being in and contributing to the current retirement system. That means your system can eventually run out of money to continue paying your current and future retirement benefits - benefits you have worked for already. If you are approached to sign a petition to get a new retirement system on the ballot in 2016 - **DO NOT SIGN IT!** If it makes it to the ballot in 2016, **DO NOT VOTE FOR IT AND ASK YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS NOT TO VOTE FOR IT!** **EDITOR'S OPINION FOR THE DAY!**

ELECTION RESULTS

As you should be aware, it was very recently election time for REMCO OFFICERS. This was advertised and nominations were open for months. There was an **underwhelming** lack of nominations! In fact there were **NO** nominations. As a result we have what is referred to as a "white ballot", or "blank ballot". In effect, because nominations have been closed, the current officers will remain in office.

At the September membership meeting, a motion will be made to accept the "white ballot" and confirm the reelection of those officers. The lack of nominations could mean the members are satisfied with the current officers. It could also mean other members don't want to be involved in participating in running this group. Or it could simply be the result of apathy! Whatever it is, lets hope there is more interest next year when Board Members are up for reelection! Like vampires, we need new blood! We need members to be willing to invest a little time and effort to keep REMCO on track - so think about it and decide if you are willing to help your fellow retirees next year!

REMINDER: SILVER SNEAKERS

(not Silver Slippers!) fitness program is a FREE service offered by United Health Care and many other insurance companies nationwide. If you live in the U.S. and are 65 years of age or older, you may be eligible for free membership in a gym or fitness program near you - check with your insurance company for details, or go to WWW.SILVERSNEAKERS.COM for all the details. This is a great program for most retirees.



BITS & PIECES

Pam Sofranek retired from the Merced County Sheriff's Department in 2007. During her career Pam enjoyed the challenges of working as a Correctional Officer, and was very honored to receive Officer of the Year, along with a

promotion to Corporal. Since retirementPam loves to travel, "With or without my husband!" (retired Sgt. Mike Sofranek). Pam enjoys photography, and has won many awards, including a ribbon from the State fair. Pam spends her time reading and is rarely without a book. She enjoys making quilts, embroidery, and many other crafts. Nonetheless, Pam does admit that her biggest job in retirement is keeping Mike out of trouble! and adds, "Those of you that know my husband, understand what I am talking about ..love you Michael !" Pam and Mike live in Cathy's Valley when they aren't traveling.

This "Bits & Pieces" is a new feature that will occur occasionally in future REMCO Newsletters, as space permits. REMCO Board Member David Baker wrote this one. If you have a REMCO Member who you would like to see a very brief bio on, let us know!

Happy Retirement!

NEW RETIREES

MAY 2015

Ernie Schmidt, H.S.A.	3/10/15
Robert Cervantes, H.S.A	4/1/15
Frank Martin, Health	3/21/15
Maria Vega, H.S.A.	3/31/15
Cheryl Meyer, Health	4/11/15
Brenda Burger, Admin	4/9/15
Sherrill Foster, Courts	4/30/15
Patrick Gunn, Library	4/30/15
Star Thomas, MCMC	5/4/15
James C. Geroge, Sheriff	1/21/15
Barbara Candler, H.S.A.	4/23/15
Jill McMullin, D.A.	5/2/15

JUNE 2015

Patricia Warkentin, Probation	5/28/15
Joseph Gomes, Jr., Roads	5/16/15

JULY 2015

Alma Contreras, H.S.A.	6/27/15
Lizabeth Piper, DCSS	6/15/15
Joann Willmes, Sheriff	6/2/15
Elsa Perez, DPW	6/12/15
Sharyn Higgins, Mental Health	5/30/15
Lucas Hukill, Sheriff	2/17/15
Ann Osugi, MCMC	7/1/15
Margaret Anderson, Health	7/1/15



In Memoriam

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Blaze Savage	5/22/15
John Coronas	5/31/15
Walter F. Williams	5/31/15
James M. Fuller	6/9/15
Mary (Sue) Waskiewicz	6/9/15
David L. Ferrell	6/16/15
William King	6/24/15
Charlie Buendia	6/24/15
LoraLee Curnow	6/9/15
Frances G. Rubio	7/14/15
Joe A. Giannone	7/22/15
Willie O. Bostick	7/20/15
Susanne Fultz	7/18/15
Mervin P. Pyorre	7/7/15



September



REMCO
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Merced CA 95344-3605

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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