



Retired Employees of Merced County Association, Inc.  
A 501(c)(7) Association (REMCOAI) **SEPTEMBER 2016**

# 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 13th** 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 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:** Rebecca Reis 769-8456  
**Director:** Vacant  
**Director:** Ken Henn 357-3883  
**Retirement Bd Rep:** Ron Kinchloe 409-8394  
**Retirement Bd Alt:** Scott Johnston 617-2126

## Appointed Staff

**CRCEA Delegate:** Vacant  
**CRCEA Delegate:** Vacant  
**Newsletter Editor:** John Carlisle 722-9249  
[jbc76@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbc76@sbcglobal.net)  
**REMCO WEBSITE:** [www.REMCOMerced.com](http://www.REMCOMerced.com)



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Leon "Sandy" Teague, PhD

Well summer is rapidly coming to a close, along with all those exciting vacations and fun trips to your favorite sites. I sincerely hope your summer was as fulfilling as mine, I have my health and as of today I am still above ground, so all is well.

We should all step back as reassess our goals and how the fall and winter months will affect them. We, as retirees, are very fortunate in that we have a retirement income, some of us even have Social Security, and an adequate health program. Thanks to all the dedicated hard work you performed while an active county employee, all of us can relax, sit back, and enjoy the benefits, all the while smiling at those still hard at work to earn the American dream, and by the way paying into our retirement system.

Is that enough for you? Are you willing to relax and let someone else do all the work? If so, then you have no complaint with what transpires with our benefits. Believe it or not, there is still a dangerous and very active movement to abandon the retirement system in lieu of individual savings. We all know how that will play out, always an emergency to fund, so withdrawal of savings is inevitable, right?

Speaking of getting involved in a cause you are passionate or interested in, how about supporting your local retirement association, Nominations for Directors were requested to be submitted by the end of July with elections in September. Alas not one nomination was received. We are in need of a Delegate and Alternate to the annual California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA), if there is no interest the President of REMCOAI will have to attend as a voting member. Now is your chance to participate.

In the vein of participation, one of REMCO's past scholarship recipients, Gabrielle Nord, recently shared about her time spent living in Malawi and serving as a volunteer research assistant for Project Peanut Butter (PPB); a non-profit organization committed to treating children with moderate to severe malnutrition throughout sub-saharan Africa.

Moved by the fact that malnutrition takes the lives of more children than any other disease in the world today, Dr. Mark Manary founded PPB in 2004 and has committed his life to advancing the treatment of severe malnutrition. Through dedicated research, Dr. Manary and his team created a highly effective, locally produced, ready-to-use therapeutic food, known as

RUTF or "Chiponde". This peanut butter-like product consists of roasted peanuts (peanut paste), powdered milk, vegetable oil, sugar, and vitamins/minerals. RUTF has not only revolutionized the treatment of malnutrition worldwide, but has increased the recovery rates in children to 75-90%. The old standard treatment, a milk-based formula, required mothers to travel to crowded hospitals where their sick children were often exposed to a variety of diseases and only recovered 25-40% of the time. Since RUTF has been introduced and distributed, malnourished children are now recovering in 12 weeks' time and in the comfort of their own homes.

Volunteers, like Gabrielle, are responsible for traveling to surrounding villages with a team of Malawian nurses and drivers to screen children for malnutrition and enroll them in the 12-week long, RUTF treatment program. The team returns to clinics every two weeks to check the progress of enrolled children and screen any new ones who may have become malnourished in the time in between. PPB's team in Malawi screens and treats over 2,000 children a month and during "hunger season", when rural families wait for their crops to be harvested from January to May, that number nearly doubles.

If you are interested in learning more, volunteering, or donating to Project Peanut Butter to help them continue saving the lives of children, please visit their website at [www.projectpeanutbutter.org](http://www.projectpeanutbutter.org) or contact Gabrielle Nord at [gnord4@gmail.com](mailto:gnord4@gmail.com). Thank you for your time and consideration!

This is a worthwhile program to become associated with by either as an active volunteer or by a monetary donation, either way it will be appreciated.

Enjoy the coming fall season!!

## WHO IS RUNNING REMCO???

The short answer is easy - REMCO is run by its **MEMBERS - that includes every one of you!**

The more realistic answer is - a very small number of members runs REMCO. Why? It is simple - there are way too few REMCO members who volunteer to be Officers or Board Members. An excellent example of this is the fact it was recently time to elect new Board Members and **NO ONE WAS NOMINATED** by REMCO members! What does that mean? It means the same Board Members will continue for another term by what is known a "**White Ballot**". Theoretically, that *could*

mean it happened because everyone was happy with the current members. More realistically, in this Editor's rather biased opinion, it simply means *nobody gives a damn* - at least not enough to volunteer to help by running for office! I call it "terminal apathy". Next year the REMCO **Officers** will be up for reelection and I hope by then there are a few good soles out there who will step up and volunteer to help their fellow retirees. And my thanks to all those who have served as Officers and/or Board members for REMCO. They realize the importance of having an organization to speak for retirees.

## INTERESTING MCERA FACTS

Total number of retirees as of July 31, 2016: 2,231  
Tier 1 Retirees: 84% of total retirees  
Tier II Retirees: 16% of total retirees  
Female Retirees (includes survivors): 59%  
Male Retirees (includes survivors): 41%  
Number of Retirees and survivors living in California: 86%  
Number of Retirees and survivors living in Merced County: 68%

Also, of interest is that MCERA turned 66 in July 2016. July 2016 marked the 66th year since MCERA held our very first board meeting. The meeting was held on July 11, 1950 and had five Board of Retirement trustees.

In July 1946, the Merced County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt an ordinance giving county voters the opportunity to accept or reject the County Employees Retirement Law as the framework for retirement benefits for county employees. The measure was passed by the voters. MCERA began functioning on July 1950.

Sixty-six years ago there were approximately 547 employees participating in MCERA. Today, there are 4,257 members participating in MCERA (2,022 employees and 2,231 retirees).

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

If you actually attend the September 13th REMCO meeting and Luncheon you *may* be a **WINNER!**

First of all, there will be a presentation by **HICAP** regarding health insurance that may benefit you. Second, there **will be a lucky winner** of the raffle going home with a **free laptop computer!!** Will it be *you?*



**AN INTERESTING THOUGHT...**

"borrowed" from Kevin Mizner, President of *Tulare County Retired Employees Association*:

"As I continue to get older (as we all do), and hopefully become wiser (sometimes more of a challenge), I find that this world never ceases to amaze me. When you think that you have seen it all and that the world can only become a better place, we seem to be witnessing just the opposite. Our political situation demonstrated by the current Presidential election (Hillary or Donald...let's see, is there anyone else?), social issues ranging from mass murder (or is it too many guns?) to immigration (can you really build a wall?), a national debt reaching \$20 trillion (that's **tril**-lion, not billion) and a global environment that teeters on destruction (who will push the button first?). Like many of you, I cannot help but be concerned about what the future holds.

But I believe we still live in the greatest nation in the world. It is a nation that is in turmoil, but it is not the first time that our population has felt this way. There have been many times in history when an American has felt that the world is upside down. Imagine (many of you don't have to imagine) putting on a uniform in one of the many conflicts that have been fought over the past 200 years...some external and some internal. Many have personally faced conflict in the defense of Civil Rights, union organization, and balancing the will of the people versus the rights of the few. Critical issues that have been faced and will continue to be faced by a free nation including immigration reform, economic growth, globalism and a multitude of social justice issues. It's great to be an American!!

My encouragement to each of you is to continue to be involved. Pay attention to the world around you. Exercise your right to cast your vote and be willing to stand for what you believe. One never knows when their voice may be the one heard in the storm."



*Happy Retirement!*

**NEW RETIREES**

<u>Retiree</u>	<u>Date Retired</u>	<u>Department</u>
Nan Bunker	5/31/16	Sheriff-Court Security
Lois Coulson	12/29/12	Child Support Services
Jess Sittre	2/29/16	Environmental Health
Hawthorne Hunter	4/23/01	Health-Jail Health Program
Terri Smythe	6/30/16	HSA-Social Services Division
Hank Moore	7/31/16	Fire Prevention
John Reichmuth	6/30/16	DPW-Public Works Admin
Edward Baeza	5/31/16	DPW-Road Division
Carlos Fuentes	7/31/16	Juvenile Hall



<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Anna Herrera	5/12/16	24
Ralph J. Cook	6/8/16	29
Norma J. Varrelman	4/20/16	14



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 Merced CA 95344-3605

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