



Retired Employees of Merced County Association, Inc.
A 501(c)(7) Association (REMCOAI) *August 2024*

NEWSLETTER

The quarterly luncheon & business meeting of the Retired Employees of Merced County Association, Inc. will be held on **Tuesday, Septemer 10th** at the Merced Elks Lodge, 19th & "M" St, Merced.

Topic: Speaker will be Stephen Pettee from Pacific Group Agencies. Stephen attends our general membership meeting every September to review other types of insurance that his company provides and the Merced County supports. (i.e. pet, travel, life, dental. etc)

10:00 AM Doors Open
10:30 AM Presentation
11:30 AM Business Meeting
12:00 PM Lunch Served

RESERVATIONS ARE MANDATORY and REQUIRED by September 5th to have an accurate head count for food. The following people will accept your reservation:
Lori Norman (209) 769-5556
Lola Barnett (209) 658-5109

Please state if member or guest

Officers and Directors

President	Lori Norman	209-769-5556
Vice President	Open	
Secretary	LaVon Justice	209-722-8202
Treasurer	Richard St Marie	209-201-9057
Director - ByLaws Committee	Bernadette Castaneda	209-777-5118
Director - Registration, Trips	Open	
Director - Photographer/FB Live	Open	
Director - Events (Speakers/Presenters)	Gloria Keene	209-259-9870
Director - Communication/Newsletter/Facebook	Open	
Director - Elections	Open	
Past President	Lola Barnett	209-658-5109

REMCO WEBSITE: www.REMCOMerced.com
MercedCERA WEBSITE: www.mercedcera.com

President’s Corner

I can’t believe it is August already and school is about to start! I have a very busy fall schedule and wonder if I’m really retired? My husband and I escaped to Pismo Beach in July for a few days. It was during that 107-degree heat wave we had. It is amazing that you can drive 2-3 hours and the temperature goes down 40 degrees! Pismo Beach is one of those places we had stopped to have lunch or driven through, but never spent the night. I wonder why? We are so lucky to live in the Central Valley where we are so close to so many amazing areas and attractions. If you still travel, I recommend that you take at least one trip close to home and explore all the glory we have near us.

We are expanding the newsletter to include articles of interest to us as retirees. We hope you enjoy this new section and look forward to your comments.

It is election time again and I hope you have given some thought to joining our board. Our existing members are very welcoming and will be glad to show you the ropes. The time commitment is limited, and we understand if you can’t attend all of the 8 meetings throughout the year. (By the way I will be out of town for the September membership meeting. I will be attending a Tax Seminar in San Diego. You will be in good hands without me!) New board members bring new ideas that will only make our organization better.

I hope you can join us for our Social Event in October at Hunter Farms Pumpkin Patch. If you haven’t ever been there, this is a great time to visit! For those of you that visit regularly, this is a great opportunity to bring your family at a reduced price.

As always, feel free to reach out to any of the Board members with any questions or feedback you might have.

See you in December!

Lori

Elections

Our September Membership meeting is our “Annual Business Meeting”. We will be holding elections for Directors during this meeting. During the even years we elect directors and odd years we elect officers. We have a total of 6 directors and 4 are open for election.

-Registration, trips

-Photographer, FB live

-Communications/newsletters/Facebook

-Elections

If you would like to nominate someone for a director position, please send your nomination to our Secretary LaVon Justice at lavon1047@sbcglobal.net. Include a short reason as to why this person would be a good candidate. Please make sure your nominee has agreed to this position. If you would like to nominate yourself, follow the same process and send your information to LaVon. Elections will be held at the September meeting.

Monthly Draw Winner \$50 Visa Gift Card – Mary Womack

Newsletter Changes We have made some changes to the newsletter this month. We have added a Treasurer’s report, and we will begin sharing articles that might be interesting to us as a retiree. We hope you find these changes informative. If there is anything else you would like to see, please let any one of us know.

Attendance Door Prize The door prize this month will be a \$100 gas gift card. All members attending this meeting will receive a ticket for this drawing when they check in. Another great reason to attend our next meeting!

Social Calendar Remco will be sponsoring an evening at Hunter Farms Pumpkin Patch. Wednesday October 16th, for you and your family. The Patch is open from 4pm – 7:30pm. REMCO will be providing pizza and drinks for all that attend. A ticket for the **member** is free. Tickets for your family will be offered at a reduced price of \$15. (Children under 30 inches tall are free. The child will be measured when they come in) Tickets must be purchased in advance and will only be good for that evening.

This is a farm, so closed toed shoes are highly recommended. If you have any questions regarding what attractions are offered at Hunter Farms, please see their website at [Hunter Family Farms of Atwater](#) We will have a dedicated party area just for REMCO members. The farm will be open to the public that night.

Tickets can be purchased from Lori Norman, 209-769-5556 (you can text or call) or at our September membership meeting. We will be accepting cash or checks for the purchase. The tickets must be purchased no later than September 27th.

Volunteer of the Year REMCO recognizes a member each year for their dedication to the community through their volunteer efforts. This year the award will come with a \$50 cash prize. Please send your nominations (including a brief write up) to Bernadette Castaneda at bcastaneda3217@comcast.net no later than November 15th. The winner will be announced at our December Membership meeting.

Organization of the Year REMCO recognizes local non-profit organizations located throughout Merced County each year. Please verify that the money will stay local and be used within the local community. REMCO’s total donation is \$500 and can be used for one organization or divided between several organizations. Please send your nomination (including a brief write up) to Bernadette Castaneda at bcastaneda3217@comcast.net no later than November 15th. The winner(s) will be announced at our December Membership meeting.

By-Laws Clarification Since becoming President. I have had several questions about what qualifications you must have to serve as a Directo or Officer of our organization. The By-Law committee met, and it is defined in our By-Lawa. If you have any additional questions regarding this topic, please feel free to reach out to me to discuss further.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERS

SECTION 1. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP.

Active membership ("**Active Members**") in the corporation is available to:

- a. Any person retired from employment by the County of Merced and those special Districts who are members of the Merced County Retirement Association ("**MCERA**"), who receives retired allowances under the Retired Employees Retirement law of 1937; or
- b. Any person who is a surviving spouse or a designated beneficiary of such employee receiving retirement benefits from MCERA.

SECTION 6. GOOD STANDING.

Members who have paid the required dues, fees, and assessments in accordance with these Bylaws and who are not suspended shall be members in good standing.

- b. The Directors of the corporation shall be residents of the State of California. Each Director shall be an Active Member of the corporation in good standing.

Petition to Replace Merced Community Activity Centers That Will Soon Be Lost

We, the undersigned residents of Merced County, California hereby petition City Council for the replacement of the Merced Senior Community Center and the McCombs Youth Center that will soon both be lost due to acquisition by the California High-Speed Rail Authority Project.

Funds obtained from the California High-Speed Rail Authority for the impending sale of these city-owned properties by 2025/26 should be entirely dedicated to the immediate development of a new Merced Senior Activities Center and a new McCombs Youth Center, or dedicate all the funds to a combined Multigenerational Activities Center, in a new, centrally located, easily accessible, and safe area of our city.

For nearly three decades, the Merced Senior Community Center has been a vital hub, hosting a wide array of activities including mat and chair yoga, line dance, belly dance, ballroom dance, wood carving, crafting, readers theater, a writer’s group, dominos, Pinochle, Bridge, Mahjong, Senior Social & Bingo gatherings, AARP meetings, and numerous weekend community events such as weddings and receptions, baby showers and birthday parties, fundraising events and community breakfasts with Santa. Additionally, our center has served essential community functions such as hosting the annual Tax Aide program, Highway Patrol Award Ceremonies, City Employees Annual Recognition lunch, acting as a 2023 flood emergency supply distribution center, and accommodating jury selection overflow for the courts during the pandemic.

The nonprofit organization Merced Senior Citizens Inc. fundraised a significant portion of the current building’s construction cost, underscoring the community’s commitment and investment in this important resource which led to a unique building use agreement with the city. Given this history of support and the pressing need for a new facility, we strongly believe that dedicating High-Speed Rail funds towards a new Merced Senior Activities Center and a McCombs Youth Center, or a Multigenerational Activities Center, aligns perfectly with our community’s objectives and promotes the mental, physical, and social well-being of our residents for generations to come.

We urge our elected officials and city decision-makers to prioritize the needs of our community and act swiftly to mitigate the loss caused by the High-Speed Rail acquisition. Together, let’s preserve and enhance the quality of life in our community by reinstating our beloved activities centers.

NOTE: By signing this petition, you certify that you are 18 years of age or older and a resident of Merced County, California.

REMINDER: If you are on **Facebook**, please join the REMCO Group. You'll find the latest information as well as videos and live stream broadcasts of our Quarterly meetings. Here is a link to the group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/527512874350767> . The group is a private group so an admin will approve your membership. Be sure and answer the simple questions when prompted.