



Retired Employees of Merced County Association, Inc.
A 501(c)(7) Association (REMCOAI) *August 2026*

NEWSLETTER

The quarterly luncheon & business meeting of the Retired Employees of Merced County Association, Inc. will be held on **Tuesday, September 8th** at the Merced Elks Lodge, 19th & "M" St, Merced.

Topic: TBD

- 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 Thursday, September 3rd to have an accurate head count for food. The following people will accept your reservation:

Lori Norman (209) 769-5556
Michele Burroughs (209) 769-0367
(call or text include name in text)
or our Facebook Page.

Please state if member or guest

Officers and Directors

President	Lori Norman	209-769-5556
Vice President	Dartine Solis	209-617-4821
Secretary	Karen Rodriguez	209-777-8129
Treasurer	Richard St Marie	209-201-9057
Director - By-Laws	Mary Brooks	209-617-2199
Director Social	Kelly Pedrozo	209-761-4970
Director - Commuincations Newsletter/FB	Open	
Director - Events (Speakers)	Gloria Keene	209-259-9870
Director - Scholarships	Bernadette Castaneda	209-725-1929
Director - Registration	Michle Burroughs	209-769-0367

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

President’s Corner

It’s summer and we sure have had a few sweltering days! Although it could be so much worse. Hope you are all staying inside and comfortable.

It has been quite a summer for myself and family. My mother passed away in June. She was 90 years old and was ready to go. She lived in Kansas City in a lovely assisted living community. Her goal was to make it to her 90th last October. We made sure it was a special day for her. She was the youngest of 4 siblings and the only one still living. I have twelve cousins that live all over the country. We were lucky that 4 of them were able to make the trip to Kansas for her Celebration of Life. I had no idea of how hard her passing would be for me. It is me and my brother. I’m usually the one who works to get things done and he is the emotional one. I feel like we may have changes places for this one. I know that many of you have already been through this and I have a new appreciation for what you are going through or went through. My mom believed that she would be spending the next part of her life with my dad, her parents and her siblings. I know she is happy.

I have 2 grandchildren that will be starting their last year of college. One at UC Santa Barbara and one at the University of ID. Wow, does time fly! It is hard to think of them being responsible adults and planning their careers and life after college. I’m so proud of them.

I just applied for my Social Security Retirement. I was waiting until I was 67, as I am still working and earning more than the amount where they start reducing your benefit. The website stated that it usually takes 30 days for them to process your application. It has been more than 30 days and it states that my application is sitting on someone’s desk in San Leandro. Wish me luck!

Hope you are having a great summer and thanks for listening to me life!

Lori

New Retirees

Name	Years	Deparment	Eff. Date
Carol Ash	4	Superior Court	3/31/2026
Jeffrey Coburn	30	Sheriff	4/1/2026
Barbara Glaze	22	Probation	4/4/2026
Yang Her	30	Workforce Investment	4/4/2026
Jerry Howard, Jr	3	Probation	4/15/2026
Michael Wilson	1	BHRS	3/31/2026
Julissa Cervantes	25	DCSS	4/3/2024
Charlene Jones	20	HSA	5/2/2026
Maria Maldonado	16	HSA	4/23/2024
Rachel Potter	21	Probation	4/29/2026
Carmen Segura	9	BHRS	12/18/2024
Carolyn Strong	27	Sheriff	5/23/2026
Mario Vergara, Jr	23	Sheriff	5/16/2026
Genevieve Dunlap	14	BHRS	5/28/2026
Melissa Salyers	20	Sheriff	5/30/2026
Kane Chang	24	Sheriff	7/11/2026
Billy Gatlin	13	DCSS	6/30/2026
Jesus Meraz	10	Sheriff	7/16/2026
Pauline Rodriguez	20	HSA	7/1/2026
Lisa Turner-Cross	9	Probation-Juvenile	7/21/2026
Jamal Turner	23	BHRS	7/6/2026
Joann Tweed	16	HSA	7/18/2026

Elections: REMCO Elections are held every year in September. The even number years are for the director positions and the odd number years are for officers. All of our current directors are going to stay in their positions for next 2 years. We still have an open director position. Please reach out to the President if you are interested in running for this position.

Pumpkin Patch Socia: On Wednesday October14th, REMCO will be sponsoring a social at Hunter Farms Pumpkin Patch. The hours are 4-7pm. The cost will be \$10 per person, which includes all the rides and attractions, a hot dog meal for all guests and a bag of kettle corn for the REMCO member. You and all your family members are welcome. Tickets need to be purchased in advance, and will be available at our September luncheon or reach out to Lori Norman (209-769-5556) to purchase. If you have been to the patch before, there are 2 new attractions this year. If you have never been, this is a real jewel in our community and something you should visit at least once. To learn more about the patch, please visit their website at <http://hunterfamilyfarms.com/>

Phone/email updates: Have you changed your phone number or email since you retired? Have you turned off your home phone and only use a cell now? Please update your phone number and/or email with MercedCERA. If you attend our meetings, you can provide that information there. If you are unable to attend a meeting, please call them at 209-726-2724.

By-Laws: The REMCOIA Board has worked with an attorney to revise our by-laws to update sections to add clarifying language and improve consistency with California law governing nonprofit mutual benefit corporations. These changes require a vote by the membership at our September 8, 2026, general meeting. Two copies of the by-laws are being shared on the website. One copy is a red-line version with track changes and the other is a clean copy which is easier to read.

Many of the changes are corrections to formatting and removing sections that are not applicable. These changes remove reference to Associate Members and different classes of membership, tightening language related to member notice and voting provisions, termination of membership, board composition, vacancy and quorum provisions, committee authority, and director voting.

Please review and reach out if you have any questions.

Karen Rodriguez, REMCOIA Secretary
karenr5408@att.net

MORE PERKS FOR COSTCO MEMBERS

What? Another Costco Perk?

Short answer: YES. Our friends at Reader’s Digest come up with all kinds of interesting (and not so interesting) ideas and articles. This one is pretty nifty-----

A Costco card gets you access to some great benefits, and we’re not just talking about cheap rotisserie chicken or food court. Cardholders can send in their old electronics in exchange for a Costco Shop Card. Members can use their Shop Card to make purchases at Costco, either in-store or online. That’s a step up from dropping them off at the next e-waste event or your local recycler!

This electronics trade-in program is the result of Costco’s partnership with **Phobio**, a third-party tech-recycling outfit. **Phobio** handles the nitty-gritty of the trade-in process, evaluating, cleaning, wiping and refurbishing (or recycling) the used electronics.

Costco’s trade-in website emphasizes Apple products, but cardholders can trade in a variety of devices from other brands. Costco accepts smartphones, laptops, tablets, smartwatches and certain desktop PC’s and media players. Along with Apple, brands eligible for the trade-in program include Samsung, Mortorola, LG, Huawei, OnePlus, Dell, Microsoft and HP.

Here’s how to offload your pre-owned electronics for Costco cash:

- Visit the online trade-in portal by going to <https://trade.phobio.com/costco>
- Select your device type and brand
- Complete a short assessment of your device’s condition and receive an instant quote for the trade-in value. Pack and ship your item with the provided shipping label or request a prepaid shipping box from **Phobio**.

And that’s it. After receiving your trade-in item, **Phobio** will inspect and evaluate it. **Phobio** also securely wipes all data on your old device, so you don’t need to worry about any of your personal information falling in the wrong hands.