



Retired Employees of Merced County Association, Inc.  
A 501(c)(7) Association (REMCOAI) **MARCH 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, March 10th** 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 March 1 deadline.** The following people will accept your reservation:

**Sandy Teague** (209) 769-7331  
**Lola Barnett** (209) 384-4185  
**David Baker** (209) 722-1494

## 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](mailto:jbc76@sbcglobal.net)

**REMCO WEBSITE:** [www.REMCOMerced.com](http://www.REMCOMerced.com)



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

Happy Spring Everyone!

It's the time of year for planting and growing both in the garden and in REMCOAI. In the springtime Merced becomes a beautiful and colorful portrayal of flower and vegetable gardens. We also will grow and prosper with new never-before-thought-of ideas and concepts by soliciting input from all members.

The Christmas Luncheon was attended by over 175 retirees and guests. Thank you for making this event a great success. The drawings for the gift baskets brought in more money than expected and a huge "Thank You" goes out to those who donated time, energy and money to make the baskets possible. Perhaps a faster method of drawing for the gifts can be determined, such as posting winning tickets on a big board for members to match their ticket for a prize. Additionally, REMCOAI is looking at establishing an online registration for the luncheons for those with an access to a computer, and a dedicated telephone line for those who do not.

The year 2014 was a busy one for REMCOAI, we completed our first year as a corporation, holding our very first corporation business meeting in September. We elected new Directors with nominations due for Officers by May 2015. At this point I would like to thank the retirees of Merced County for allowing me to be president this past year, with your cooperation and assistance I look forward to 2015. We managed to realize enough revenue to consider additional rainy day saving.

Our goal is to increase membership in REMCOAI as well as provide a "must go to" quarterly luncheon.

Don't forget that April 20<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for scholarship applications, which are available on our website: [www.remcomerced.org](http://www.remcomerced.org)

The year 2015 promises to be even better in all areas including researching new services and benefit increases. REMCOAI has been exploring possibilities of a discounted Rx Plan wherein REMCOAI members would be able to obtain prescription drugs with a discount by presenting a membership card. If this program proves successful we will issue membership cards. The County Risk Management is researching ways to increase our dental plan from the current \$1,000 allowance to \$2,500. Of course this would also increase our monthly premium to somewhere around \$31.00, still a bargain over current allow-

ances. The past REMCO success with the Vision Service Plan (VSP) will also be reviewed for possible increase.

There are lots of ideas presented above, some will prove productive and worthwhile while others will wind up on the cutting room floor. All of them depend entirely upon the membership support and comments on how to improve them. Without your continued involvement and support none of these will ever be realized. So please, support your retirement association either through serving or offering new directions/suggestions.

## REMCO LUNCH DEADLINE

**THE REMCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS VOTED TO INCREASE THE LUNCH PRICE TO \$12.00 EACH FOR ANY RESERVATION MADE AFTER THE MARCH 1ST DEADLINE.** Those without a reservation may not receive lunch, depending on the availability of food. This is been made necessary because of the large number of people who showed up at the December meeting without reservations. Please make your reservations as soon as you receive your newsletter.



## REMCO WEBSITE:

Find the REMCO Website:  
[www.REMCOMerced.com](http://www.REMCOMerced.com)

## ADDRESS REMINDER:

**PLEASE** remember to send written notice of any address change to **BOTH** the REMCO newsletter Editor **AND** MCERA.



## SILVER SLIPPERS



If you are over 65, you should have received a *Silver Slippers* card. REMCO members in Merced County are entitled to a membership in the In-Shape clubs! Membership includes initial workout program and consultation with a trainer. And the price is right – **FREE!**

Outside Merced County, check with United Health Care for local businesses that are included in Silver Sneakers to see what is offered.

## CAUTION

## ANTHEM (BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD) DATA THEFT AFFECTS MERCED COUNTY CLIENTS

As many of you know, Anthem recently revealed they had been the victims of a massive data breach, wherein customers, both past and present, had information about them stolen. This information included names, birthdays, addresses, email addresses, employment information, Social Security numbers and other information. Up to 80 million customers may be involved!

The FBI is investigating the theft of information and Anthem has hired a cyber security company, Mandiant, to assist them. Anthem has set up a website, [www.AnthemFacts.com](http://www.AnthemFacts.com), where members can receive information and they are offering free credit monitoring and identity theft protection services to those affected.

Merced County staff are obviously concerned about the breach of Anthem's files by unknown individuals – after all, it may include their information also. Through Assistant County Executive Officer Scott DeMoss and his staff, I have found that Anthem has set up a toll free phone number – **877-263-7995** – which is staffed by Anthem to provide information to Anthem customers regarding the data breach. Current and past Anthem members may use this number. However, from my personal investigation, staff there has little more information, other than that I have included here, to give out. As time goes on, I'm sure news sources will be able to update the public, as Anthem is VERY limited in what they will say – like whether or not the information was encrypted to start with!

Be vigilant and keep an eye out for *scam emails* offering to provide free credit monitoring, or anything else, by clicking on something in the email!

## REMCO SCHOLARSHIPS - HEADS UP!

REMCO is offering four scholarships for 2015. Two for graduating seniors and two for continuing education students. Scholarships are \$1,000.00 each. Applications may be obtained by going to the REMCO website [www.REMCOMerced.com](http://www.REMCOMerced.com) and click on "Newsletters and Forms" or contact a Board Member or the Scholarship Chair Lola Barnett. Any child or

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

PRSRSTD STD  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 PERMIT NO. 559  
 MERCED CA 95340

## NEW RETIREES

NOVEMBER 2014  
 Bruce Fry, Fire 11/02/2014  
 James Pichner, Castle 10/04/2014  
 Gregory Aveller, Pub Works 10/15/2014  
 Connie Clifford, MCMC 06/19/2014  
 Ana Cacho, MCMC 10/25/2014  
 Wayne Parrish, Counsel 10/31/2014

JANUARY 2015  
 Margaret Work, Sheriff 12/31/2014  
 Philip J. Bombolo, MCMC 10/05/2014  
 Jeff Rippee, JPA 11/29/2014  
 Carmen Uribe, H.S.A. 12/03/2014  
 Vick Loftin, Fire 12/31/2014  
 Vic Komane, H.S.A. 01/05/2015  
 Steven Treat, D.P.W. 01/03/2015  
 Patricia Wissert, D.A. 12/12/2014

FEBRUARY 2015  
 David Shields, Roads 01/01/2015  
 Annie Carlson, Health 01/24/2015  
 Marla Pettygrove, Risk 01/03/2015  
 Jacqueline Walther-Parnell, DWI 01/10/2015  
 Deborah Shaw, H.S.A. 01/24/2015  
 Thomas Cavallero, Sheriff 12/27/2014  
 Gregory Gonzales, Ag 12/10/2014  
 Jessie Moore, H.S.A. 12/27/2014  
 Darryl Davis, DA 02/07/2015  
 Thomas Trevino, MCMC 12/31/2014  
 Brian L. Cooley, Probation 01/24/2015

grandchild of a dues paying REMCO member is eligible. See the website for further details or requirements to apply. Properly completed applications must be postmarked by **April 30, 2015**, so there is plenty of notice to get an application! Winners will be announced at the June 2015 REMCO Luncheon.



### PRIZES AND SURPRISES!

The March REMCO meeting will feature prizes and surprises! If you have something wonderful to donate to the cause, please contact **Bobbie Baker** at (209) 777-6960.

### MARCH GUEST SPEAKERS

At the request of quite a few members we will be having Lt. Williams and Detective Dabney from the Merced Police Department to discuss high tech crimes and various scams that seem to affect seniors. It promises to be another informative presentation, as these are both highly competent, experienced and professional officers.

### SOMETHING NEW!

REMCO wants to introduce you to a different REMCO member in each newsletter. If you know someone that we should introduce, **please contact Board Member David Baker** and he will work on a very short biography to share with all!

### GOOD NEWS FOR MOST RETIREES!

By: **John Carlisle**

Most REMCO member retirees are entitled to a "Cost Of Living Allowance", or "COLA" as part of their retirement, up to a maximum of 3% per year. This is based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the San Francisco Bay Area, which is determined by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics and their calculations each year. According to their recent calculations, the CPI in the S.F. area increased 2.7% in 2014, despite a substantial late drop in energy costs - mostly from lower gasoline prices. It appears the Actuary is using a figure of 2.67%. REMCO retirees have any COLA rounded to the nearest half-percent with a maximum of a 3% yearly increase allowable. Therefore, it appears the COLA would be **2.5% this year**. **NOTE:** This **MUST** be confirmed by the Actuary and then voted on by the Retirement Board before it becomes official and final. But it appears we are looking at COLA raise of **2.5%** for most retirees. A bit of good news for this year. Those who have "points" in their "bank" can use a half point to increase it to the maximum 3%.

### *In Memoriam*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
<i>Eva Hogan</i>	<i>11/6/2014</i>
<i>Mary F. White</i>	<i>11/24/2014</i>
<i>Dorothy A. Wert</i>	<i>12/25/1963</i>
<i>Sandra Arnold</i>	<i>12/4/2014</i>
<i>Leonora M. Arguelles</i>	<i>12/11/2014</i>
<i>Ralph E. Mauldin</i>	<i>12/18/2014</i>
<i>Marie Barrera</i>	<i>1/10/2015</i>
<i>William Tolliver</i>	<i>1/27/2015</i>

