

REMCO

Retired Employees of Merced County Association, Inc.
A 501(c)(7) Association (REMCOAI) **MARCH 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, March 8th** 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
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: Rebecca Reis 769-8456
Director: Bobbie Baker 777-6960
Director: Ken Henn 357-3883
Retirement Bd Rep: Ron Kinchloe 409-8394
Retirement Bd Alt: Scott Johnston 617-2126

Appointed Staff

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

REMCO WEBSITE: www.REMCOMerced.com



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Leon "Sandy" Teague, PhD

Happy New Year everyone and welcome to 2016. Remembering 2015 is an exercise of thinking what I could have done to make REMCOAI a better Association. There were good moments and there were not so good moments, things I wish I could change and those special moments that I will always remember. The great thing is that 2016 is an opportunity to correct wrongs and make new memories into our retirement years. Anyway that is a goal for this year.

As an association, we had another good year. No major issues came up, our Board had good health. We ended the year with our Christmas luncheon with about 125 members and guests in attendance. Background music was provided and door prizes were won by many who attended. I have enjoyed working with this Board and look forward to another good year.

We do not have a lot of changes planned for the upcoming year. We are in the planning stages of organizing bus trips for sightseeing and shopping, stay tuned for upcoming tours. This is one of many new and exciting events planned for this year. We are and should always be, searching for new ideas and suggestions from all our members for the advancement of fun and enjoyment of everyone, so if you have an idea on how to improve REMCOAI please do not hesitate to write it down and place in suggestion box or e-mail me at leon5652@comcast.net. I look forward to reading your suggestions and ideas. We will have a box located at the check-in table at our luncheons where you can drop in suggestions on ways of making our luncheons the best they can be. Additionally, we welcome suggestions and/or comments for our newsletter and bus trips. You may also mail your suggestions to P.O. Box 3605 Merced, CA 95340. Your Elected Board welcome all comments, concerns or questions and will address each one individually.

We will have our traditional lunch meetings at the Elk's Lodge, on March 8, 2016, which is really a great deal at \$6.00 per person. The lunch is a full plated meal with dessert and drink which costs \$14.00, but the Association makes up the difference. The price applies for each member and a guest. I guarantee that you won't find a better meal for the price.

An increasing number of our retirees use the internet regularly and would benefit from on-line infor-

mation. A simple webpage would allow us to post current and previous copies of the newsletter, maintain updated information on upcoming events, and information on supplemental insurance programs. Again, best wishes in 2016 as we get another "do-over." Hope you are able to make the very best of this year. I look forward to seeing you soon!

SCHOLARSHIPS

We are now taking applications for scholarship awards for the upcoming year.

Do you have a high school family member who will be a SENIOR for 2015/2016 school year and wants to better their education, or a continuing education college student currently enrolled in college?

They may be eligible to apply for a \$1,000.00 cash scholarship for college. They must be related to a member of the Retired Employees of Merced County Association, Incorporated. **Applications MUST be received no later than April 30, 2016.** Applications may be picked up at the March REMCO luncheon or from Lola Barnett. Applications are also available on the REMCO website.

The Scholarship Committee will review applications in May and the selected winners will be invited to the June REMCO luncheon.



INTRODUCING: KAYE GREELEY

Kaye Greeley moved from Orange County to Merced in 1978 with her husband to start a business called, "Gateway Rentals". Kaye went to work for the courts in 1981, and was eventually hired as a Family Support Officer for the District Attorney's office, where she retired in 2001. Kaye did some modeling in her thirties and is a former Home Economics Sewing Instructor. Since retirement...Kaye finds joy in designing clothes, purses, aprons, and other crafts. In Jan 2016 Kaye will be teaching again, through the Livingston Recreation Department, a beginner's sewing class. Kaye continues to volunteer at her church as an elder, deacon, choir member, and for the past 11 years has led a Woman's Bible Study. Kaye sits on the board of Crime Stoppers, and the Livingston School Board Oversight Committee. Kaye loves to dance, write poetry, play dominoes, and word games. Kaye is our REMCOAI vice president, and an alternate delegate to CRCEA. Kaye is thankful that God has blessed her

with good health, good friends, and a wonderful family of two daughters, their spouses, six grandchildren, and a great granddaughter that calls her "Great!" Kaye has been a great REMCO Board Member and contributes greatly to the organization!

CAUTION

PROPOSITION UPDATES

In the last newsletter, we warned Members about the most recent attempts by Chuck Reed and Carl DeMaio to hijack public employee retirement benefits. They were successful in getting their deceptively named proposition, entitled "**THE VOTER EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2016**" and another called the "**GOVERNMENT PENSION CAP OF 2016**" to the point where they could gather voter signatures to get it placed on the 2016 ballot. These are major efforts to pass new laws that would have a major impact on public employee retirement benefits throughout California.

It appears that Reed and DeMaio have not been successful in raising the millions of dollars needed to gather enough signatures to qualify these proposals for the ballot. (They needed substantial money in order to hire paid signature gatherers to get the required voter signatures to qualify for the ballot.) If this is correct, that is very good news!

HOWEVER, PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES MUST REMAIN VIGILANT! These idiots don't seem to get the message and this Editor believes they will continue on their year's long quest to eliminate the "defined benefits" retirement programs, in favor of "501(k)" programs.

REMCO will continue to keep an eye on these attempts to go after retiree benefits and will keep the membership informed of future efforts to reduce your rightfully earned benefits.

MARCH LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

Both the City of Merced Fire Department and Riggs Ambulance are scheduled to make an informative presentation at the March REMCO Luncheon.



Happy Retirement!

NEW RETIREES

<u>Retiree</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Date Retired</u>
Marci Dantzler	Child Support	11/14/2015
John O'Neill	Health	12/01/2015
Noah Lor	Mental Health	11/14/2015
Carlos Lopez	Sheriff	11/04/2015
Patricia Gentry Kee	H.S.A.	01/02/2016
Richard Hamilton	Fire	12/29/2015
Julianne Brantley	H.S.A.	12/16/2015
Tena Williams	Mental Health	12/01/2015
Edward Benton	Mental Health	01/02/2016
Vickie Willhite	D.W.I.	12/26/2015
Michael C. Zdanowski	Mental Health	01/02/2016
Anna-Marie Bandoni	DCSS	01/05/2016
Norma Brighella	H.S.A.	01/08/2016
Debbie Richards	Court	01/08/2016
Kathleen Cadden	H.S.A.	01/09/2016
Jane Norwood	H.S.A.	01/21/2016
Connie Garcia	Health	01/22/2016
Jackie Hicks	Sheriff	01/28/2016

ADDRESS CHANGES AND EMAIL RETURNS:

After the last Newsletter went out, the U.S. Postal Service returned a much larger number of "undeliverable" newsletters (at a cost of 49 cents each to REMCO). PLEASE REMEMBER TO ADVISE MCERA (Retirement Office) any time your mailing address changes. Important information (like your tax reports!) may not reach you. Additionally, the Newsletter Editor has received a number of emailed newsletters being returned. Therefore, starting this month, any time an email is returned as undeliverable for any reason that email address will be removed from the REMCO email list. It is the member's responsibility to advise the Editor of any email address changes.



<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Retired</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
William ("Bill") Blake	05/29/1950	12/19/2009	1/10/2016
Marie Greco	12/28/1914	01/01/1980	01/14/2016
Mary Bonta	02/09/1942	05/05/1980	01/06/2016
Linda Bombard	12/09/1941	08/06/2001	01/26/2016

DO YOU HAVE A (COUNTY) SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITY RETIREMENT?

If your Merced County retirement is a Service Connected Disability retirement, it is *possible* the taxable amounts reflected on recently mailed tax documents may be incorrect. Check Box 2b and contact MCERA if Box 2a is blank. MCERA recently put their long awaited new computer system into action and they are still discovering an occasional issue. They are working hard to fix those issues as quickly as possible. If there is an error that goes uncorrected it could seriously affect your tax returns accuracy, which could cost you money!

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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