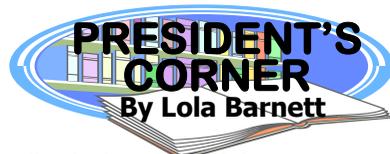


# REMCO NEWSLETTER

Retired Employees of Merced County December, 2011



Well, it's that time of the year again! The mountains are putting on their fall face, the leaves are turning, and the birds are flying south for the winter. The kids are getting ready for the great pumpkin, a Charlie Brown reminder for the young at heart.

The kids will soon be knocking at the door in their costumes of witches, goblins, Spiderman, and Power Rangers. They come one by one or in a group and we pass out so much candy we get a sugar high just from smelling all that candy!

However, this too shall pass and we start to see the mountains' winter face. We might see snow on the mountain tops and in the valley we may see rain. Of course, this will usually be followed by the fog. Yuk!

Then comes the holiday season, my favorite time of the year! The first, of course, is Thanksgiving, when we get together with our family and friends when we give thanks for the blessings we have: our families, our health and the fact that we live in one of the greatest countries of the world.

My most favorite holiday of the year is Christmas! When the children were younger you hung their stockings with care and after they went to bed you filled them with goodies. Then you stayed up late to put the toys together with all those difficult pieces that you swore you would never buy again! Is it "A" into "B", or is it "C" into "D"? But, when you saw their faces on Christmas morning, the joy you felt when you saw their happy smiles when they got the present they wanted most, you knew it was all worth it. Afterwards, you'd have family and friends over for the turkey dinner with all the fixings, of which you had too much to eat, and promised yourself you would not do it again! But, year after year, we did it all over again. Then there was the shopping and the crowds! But you know, I think I enjoyed that the most of all, because there is a sense of joy and magic and peace in the air at this time of the year.

Then comes the new year when we ring out the old and ring in the new, when we feel a new sense of purpose that things will get better: in the economy, in all aspects of our lives, and that the world will see less strife and



The quarterly luncheon will be held on **Tuesday, December 13, 2011** at the *Merced Elks Lodge*, 19th & "M" Streets, Merced. The doors will be open at 11:30 AM. The program will begin at 12 Noon and lunch will be served at 12:30 PM. Reservations are a must so the proper amount of food can be prepared. REMCO is required to pay for the number of meals ordered so unpaid reservations come from our treasury. The following people will accept your reservation:

Delores White 723-4002  
Shirley Winton 725-3151

## Officers & Board of Directors

**President:** Lola Barnett 658-5109  
[niftyld@aol.com](mailto:niftyld@aol.com)  
**Vice President:** Kaye Greeley 394-9091  
**Secretary:** Lavon Justice 722-8202  
**Treasurer:** David Baker 722-1494  
**Director:** Michael Sofranek 374-3465  
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**Director:** Scott Johnston 617-2126  
**Director:** Ron Kinchloe 409-8394  
**Past President:** John Carlisle 722-9249  
**Retirement Bd Rep:** Sandy Teague 722-2007  
**Retirement Bd Alt:** Ron Kinchloe 409-8394

### Appointed Staff

**CRCEA Delegate:** David Baker  
**CRCEA Delegate:** Sandy Teague  
**Newsletter Editor:** John Carlisle 722-9249  
[ibc76@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ibc76@sbcglobal.net)

conflicts. When we make our new year's resolutions we try to live up to them during the year. Sometimes the new year brings good news!

I just read in the paper that social security checks are going to increase by 3.5% at the first of the year. We should see that increase reflected in our February checks. This will be the first increase for social security since 2009. But, there may be a slight increase in our Medicare premiums.

David Baker and Sandy Teague attended the fall CRCEA conference in October. They always bring back the most current information regarding pensions on a state-wide basis to share with the REMCO members.

Marla Pettygrove is calculating the new insurance rates for 2012. By the time you receive the newsletter you should have received your insurance packet from Marla. Be informed! Please read the information contained in your packet.

Just a reminder - there are still people out there looking at and working toward major reforms to our government pension plans. The Board of Directors and I will keep you apprised of any major issue that we hear about regarding this issue.

The December meeting is on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Please make your reservations as early as possible so we can give an accurate count to the Elks Lodge. We expect a lot of retirees to attend and we want to make sure that we have enough tables set up to accommodate everyone.

Our website is up and running! Make sure to check it out at [www.remcomerced.com](http://www.remcomerced.com). Scholarship applications are now posted on the website and there will be applications at the meeting. Remember they must be returned to REMCO by April 20, 2012 to be accepted.

I hope you and your family have the very best holiday season!



## CREA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

*A comment from the CRCEA  
Legislative report by Art Goulet:*

"A case of importance was heard at the California Supreme Court on October 3. At issue is whether or not, under California law, there can be an implied contract. Retirees in Orange County, who had historically been in a commingled pool with active employees for the purpose of establishing health insurance premiums, were separated into their own pool which resulted in significant premium increases. The Retired Employees Association of Orange County (REAOC) sued in Federal Court, alleging they had a vested right to remain in a commingled pool. Since there doesn't appear to be any specific written contract stating that a commingled pool was perpetual, the Federal Court asked the California Supreme Court to rule on whether there could be an implied contract. If the Supreme Court says "yes," the Federal Court will then rule on whether the documents submitted by REAOC constitute an implied contract providing for a vested right. If the Supreme Court says "no," I suspect the Federal Court will definitely say there is no vested right. This case is important because many retiree health plans are not based on specific written contracts."

## PENSION WATCH!



While there are many different versions of "pension reform" floating around, most are centered on employees who have not yet been hired or employees still working. As has been stated here before, there is little being done to pursue the idea, raised by some, of reducing pensions of those already retired. That would be changing a recognized "vested right" and would, I'm sure, set off a whirlwind of litigation. But we need to remember there are those folks out there who want to "get back" from those currently retired and we need to be vigilant and resist those efforts as best we can!

## REMCO MEMBERS PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

**UPDATE!** 

Based on a number of Court cases from several other counties, it appears MCERA, our retirement board made the appropriate decision when they reluctantly released retiree pension information pursuant to a public records request a few months ago. Several counties have resisted the requests and have lost in Court, so it appears MCERA has avoided the cost of a lawsuit on this issue.

### RETIREMENT BOARD ELECTION DECEMBER 13TH

MCERA will be holding an election for the 8<sup>th</sup> Member of the MCERA Retirement Board on December 13, 2011. All retirees should receive a ballot from the Merced County Elections Department.

**REMCO recommends** a vote for **Leon "Sandy" Teague as the 8<sup>th</sup> Member** and a vote for **Ron Kinchloe as Alternate Retired Member**, as both are REMCO Members and both have been doing a good job to date in those positions. Please be sure to return your ballots!

**WELCOME**  


*Those who have joined the ranks of the retired:*

TORRES, RUBEN  
WILDE, WILLIAM  
LAWRIE, GERALD  
WIGHT, STEVEN  
CROW, DARLENE  
MOLHER, KAREN  
GRAHAM, PAMELA  
STANNARD, LYNNETTE  
SCHLOSSER, LORETTA  
LEE, BLONG  
ORTEGA, OSCAR  
CARDENAS, JOSEPH  
WRIGHT, MARY

### NEW RETIREES (Cont'd):



TAYLOR, ANTHONY  
ANDREWS, RODNEY  
OKAMOTO, NEIL  
TAYLOR, KAREN  
MCGARVEY, THOMAS  
HOLT, JOHN L. SR.  
SCOTT, JAMES  
MOONEYHAM, SANDRA  
SANCHEZ, STELLA  
HOLMES, GEORGE  
BONDS, BETTIE  
PETROWSKI, DALE  
PRICE, RUSSELL  
TARHALLA, JAMES  
PARE, PAT  
BAUCOM, CHARLES  
TAYLOR, TOMMY  
SOMSEN, KATHY  
BONDS, BETTIE  
LOPES, VICKI  
PARGA, DIANE  
DANIEL, RICHARD



### *In Memoriam*

Sandra E. Robledo	08/25/2011
Jerry Brockman	08/31/2011
Steven J. Wight	09/01/2011
Todd A. Jezek	09/03/2011
Gus Kiliveros	09/11/2011
Everett Duane Shively	09/24/2011
Robert S. Shaver	09/23/2011
Catherine Chadwell	10/03/2011
Robert Hand	10/07/2011
Carmaletta Eastetby	10/08/2011
Joe Martin, Jr.	10/17/2011
Edna Twitty	10/19/2011



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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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