

## Workshop – Fun and Games

At 10:55 AM, after microphone issues had been resolved, Vice President Lori Norman introduced herself to the members noting that President Jackie Walther-Parnell was unable to attend and she would be standing in for her today. Vice President Norman relayed that this meeting would be a little different as there would be Trivia questions for the members to answer and other fun and games. However, guests are here to provide updates that could be of interest to the members. Vice President Norman asked the members if the guests could go first which the members approved so she introduced two guests from Human Resources Benefits Department, Human Resources Analysts Mai Yang and Amy Gonzales with information on retiree health updates.

Mai and Amy introduced themselves and reported that survey responses for Delta Dental's annual maximum increasing was the overwhelming response so they were pleased to report that the 2024 annual maximum would be \$1700.00 if your dentist is in the network and a PPO for \$7.82 per month. Diagnostic and preventative services are not included in the annual maximum amount and are 100% covered with other services 80% covered. Out-of-network dentists' annual maximum would be \$1600.00 and are 80% covered. Members can set up an online account to get information on their plan, print an ID card if they prefer to have one, and find a network dentist at [deltadentalins.com](http://deltadentalins.com). They reported that a Delta Dental ID card is not necessary when visiting a dentist, they just provide their name, birth date and enrollee ID or Social Security number. Forms for Standard Insurance Company were available to members if they need to make changes to their Life Insurance coverage. They also provided a Management Life Insurance chart for those retirees who were hired before 03/01/01 and served in a position of A Level, B Level, C Level, D Level or E Level which identified their benefits at retirement, at age 70, and at age 75. Those retirees who were hired after 03/01/01 and served in a position in the A Level to E Level benefits were also identified at retirement, at age 70, and at age 75. Also available was the Retiree Medical and Dental Monthly rates effective January 1, 2024. They would have the papers at the front table and would be available to answer any questions. The members applauded Mai and Amy.

Vice President Norman introduced the next two guests from MercedCERA, our Retirement department.

Sheri Villagrana greeted the members by introducing herself and introducing the newest Staff Services Analyst Nikki Barraza who was being trained to take their place when they get to retire and join us at these meetings. Sheri reminded the members that several things need to be covered now that we are going into the new year. First, we need to have members' current address as the 1099's will be sent out at the end of January. They want to make sure that each member receives their monthly earnings statement in a timely manner. The next topic is wellness checks for those age 75+. Please be aware that they have begun to reach out to each of those 75+ for a wellness check. This is something that has been on their radar for a long time and with sufficient staff, they have the opportunity to do so. With the abundance of scams and fraud targeting those in the 75+ age bracket, they want to protect all members in every way possible. A letter will be sent out to those members that will require the member to either come to the office or to give them a call to discuss the specifics on their account. They also need to be sure that they are not paying someone who has passed away. If they don't have the correct address or

they are receiving constant mail-returns, this may prompt them to place a temporary hold on the member's benefit payment until they verify your information. Sheri reminded members that if their beneficiary has passed away, please update your beneficiary as soon as possible. Something possibly may be owed upon the member's passing and without a current beneficiary on file, they may not be able to give the payment to the member's loved ones. Your passing will be a difficult time for your loved ones and the last thing we wish to be is considered insensitive. Sheri reported that they have a brand-new website that is super easy and convenient to use. There are address change forms, tax change forms, health benefit information, working after retirement information, and even 2024 pay dates as well. This website has information about our upcoming and past board meetings and shows who serves as the Board of Retirement Trustees', including their pictures and all of the staff pictures as well. The website is MercedCERA.com. Lastly, they are in the process of building a new building just one block from the Elk's Lodge, on the corner of 19<sup>th</sup> and N Street. They will be located next to the Merced College Resource Center and on the backside of the UC Merced Downtown Campus Center, just one block from the City of Merced Civic Center. This will be a two-story building and the top floor will be dedicated as a training room. REMCO will be allowed to meet there just as soon as it is finished. They are about 2 years away from completion, and hopefully sooner. The members applauded Sheri and Nikki as they wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Vice President Norman thanked the guests for coming and giving the members updates. Vice President Norman suggested that we play Trivia and learn more about you, the members.

1<sup>st</sup> question: Who is the oldest? Answer: MaryAnn Hohenbrink - 90 years young.

2<sup>nd</sup> question: Who is the youngest? Answer: Kerin Coe – 54 years young.

3<sup>rd</sup> question: Who has come the farthest? Answer: Mary Ann Green – Mariposa CA

4<sup>th</sup> question: Who lives closest to this building? Answer: Vickie Murrieta –West Santa Fe

5<sup>th</sup> question: Newest retiree? Answer: Maryann Navarra – February 28, 2023 – 9.5 mos.

6<sup>th</sup> question: Longest retiree? Answer: Connie Verderber – 12/01/1990 -33 years

7<sup>th</sup> question: Who is attending their 1<sup>st</sup> meeting? Answer Esther Kayser – 6/30/20

Directions Game: left, right and all around: each table had 8 chairs with scratchers for all members at the table. Director Jim Pacheco narrated a Christmas story: when he said left, members pass their scratcher to the left, when he said right, members pass their scratcher to the right and when he said all around, the members pass their scratcher to the member across the table. This generated a lot of laughing and shifting around the table and no one knew which scratcher they would end up with until the final direction was given.

The next game was Bingo with a card that had 4 ways to win: Vertical (Linda David), Horizontal (Kathleen Reyes), Diagonal (Phyllis Logan) and Blackout (Priscilla Hise)

Vice President Norman let the members know that it was social time until the business meeting began.

## REMCO General Meeting with Luncheon Following

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 - 12:06 PM

Call to Order: Vice President Lori Norman called the meeting to order at 12:06 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the Military and Public Safety personnel and REMCO members who have passed. Vice President Norman introduced the Head Table: Vice President Norman, Secretary LaVon Justice, Treasurer Lola Barnett, Treasurer-Elect Richard St. Marie, Director Jim Pacheo in the back, and Director Bernedette Castaneda. Vice President Norman reminded members to get tickets before drawings are called, that they can use the suggestion box or talk to Officers to recognize members for volunteerism, trip destinations or speakers/Presenters/topics they would be interested in, and to join the REMCOAI Facebook page to stay informed. Vice President Norman acknowledged MERCOC for providing the Grand door prize, an iPad, for the members-only drawing. A letter of Thanks will be sent to MERCOC with our appreciation of their support of REMCO.

Vice President Norman informed the members that there are currently two vacancies for Directors, with two more in the near future. Two members have expressed interest in being a Director, MaryEllen Arana and Michele Burroughs: any others wishing to serve a two-year term as a Director can contact VP Norman or other Officers by submitting their name. The By-Laws permit President Jackie Walther-Parnell to appoint members to vacant positions.

Vice President Norman reported the quarterly random draw of the REMCO Membership report's winner of the \$50 gift card is Frank Rybka of Merced. If not present to receive the gift card a congratulatory letter with the gift card will be sent to him.

Vice President Norman reported that REMCO members submitted two local non-profit charities by the 10/18/2023 deadline. Submissions were voted on by the Board of Directors for the Merced Senior Citizens, Inc.(501(c)3) to receive the up-to-\$500 REMCO donation (Received by Director Castaneda & Michele Burroughs)

Vice President Norman reported that REMCO members submitted by the 10/18/2023 deadline to recognize Volunteer of the Year Don Lee with a Certificate for all he does for the community and the Seniors at the Merced Senior Community Center on 755 W.15<sup>th</sup> Street after serving 20 plus years as Superior Court Clerk (Received Certificate by Director Bernedette Castaneda and Michele Burroughs)

Vice President Norman reported that the next meeting is March 12, 2024 and to make reservations early. No Other Business – meeting closed at 12:13 PM Action Item (Motion made/Seconded/Passed). Vice President Norman stated when lunch is ready, those needing assistance go first, then the Head Table, then the order of table's release.