



President: Lori Norman – ByLaws Cmte Chair	MercedCERA Ret Bd Rep ALT: Michael Harris
Vice-President: Dartine Solis: Healthcare Cmte Chair, ByLaws Cmte	Director: Mary Brooks: Chair- Election/Nomination
Secretary Karen Rodriguez: Scholarship, Healthcare & ByLaws Cmtes	Director: Michle Burroughs: Registration, greenTickets, Election Cmte
Treasurer: Richard St. Marie: Audit, Scholarship Chair	Director: Kelly Pedrozo: Trips/activities, door prizes
CRCEA Delegate: Lori Norman – Alt Richard St. Marie	Director: Bernedette Castaneda: ByLaws Cmtes, Scholarship Cmte
MercedCERA Retirement Bd Representative – Scott Johnston	Director: Gloria Keene: Events (Speakers/Presenters)
Past President: Lola Barnett	Director: <b>Vacant</b> : Communication/Newsletter/Facebook

## MINUTES

### REMCO General Meeting

**In-Person Meeting (1910 M Street) – 09/09/2025 10:30 AM**

**PRESENTATION – Gloria Keene introduced Carmen Ramirez, Esq., our speaker. Topic: Trust and Estate Planning.** The presentation was informative, and members had several questions.

**GENERAL MEETING CALL TO ORDER:** President Norman called the meeting to order at 11:30

- Pledge of allegiance
- Observed a moment of silence for Military, Public Safety personnel and REMCO members who have passed away.
- President Norman asked attendees who were attending their first REMCO meeting to introduce themselves.
- President Norman introduced the head table (Directors and guests)
- Reminded members to get their door prize tickets. Reminded members to contact any officer/director to recognize members for volunteerism, suggest trip destinations, speakers, presenters, or topics.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Election of Officers is held in odd number years. Election for Directors are held on even number years. Lori Norman will serve another two-year term as President, unless there was another volunteer for the office (none were identified). The REMCO President may fill any vacancies without a paper ballot when there is only one candidate.

- President (2 yr term): Lori Norman
- Vice President (2 yr term): Dartine Solis
- Secretary (2 yr term): Karen Rodriguez
- Treasurer (2 yr term): Richard St. Marie
- Kelly Pedrozo has volunteered to take the vacant Social Director position.

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President Norman requested the membership to ratify these appointments by voice vote. The membership was unanimous in favor of ratifying the plate of officers and appointment of Kelly Pedrozo to the vacant Social Director position.

**SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:** Kelly Pedrozo – New Social Director handed out a survey for members, which can be completed individually or by the table. President Norman asked members to identify activities that they would like to see planned in the future. President Norman informed the membership that Merced College is having a trip to Apple Hill (near Placerville) coming up on October 11<sup>th</sup>. President Norman will post information on the website.

**REPORT OUT on July 30, 2025, Director's meeting:**

- The Board voted to increase the costs for the quarterly luncheon from \$8 to \$10 and from \$12 to \$15 for guests effective 2026. REMCO currently pays \$27.08 for each plate (\$22.95 + \$4.13 (18% tip)). Costs for members will stay the same through the end of 2025.
- Attendance prize for September 09, 2025, 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting – group decided on \$100 cash prize. Lori Norman announced the winner – Janet McGuinness.
- Reminder to members of the assistance that is provided by HICAP for Medicare Supplement and Part D open enrollment, which is coming up soon.
- Local non-profit charity donation for December 9, 2025, meeting, deadline is October 14, 2025. Send your suggestions and/or nominations to the Board.
- Volunteer of the Year submissions deadline October 14, 2025 – Send your suggestions and/or nominations to the Board to be announced at the December 9, 2025, meeting.
- One Director vacancy left (Communication, Newsletter, Facebook). Opportunity for a member to step up. If anyone is interested, please contact President, Lori Norman.

**INFORMATION SHARING:**

- Mai Yang, Merced County Human Resources Benefits Analyst said that open enrollment will be open from October 15 – 29. HR will send out a newsletter at the end of the month with new rates (effective January 2026). Dental open enrollment only happens every three years, so this is your opportunity. Next dental open enrollment will be October 2028.
- Amy Gonzalez, Merced County Human Resources Benefits Analyst reminded everyone that they must enroll in Medicare about three months before they turn 65 to ensure uninterrupted coverage as the county discontinues medical coverage will end the last day of the month before you turn 65. If you choose United Health Care for the Medicare Supplemental, United Health Care issues a \$100 rebate.

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Amy recommended that retirees use a direct deposit for this reimbursement. The current dental benefit is \$1,700 per year through Delta Dental, although the County will be studying the cost of increased benefits in 2026.

- Brenda Mojica represented Merced CERA and reminded retirees to update their addresses to receive their monthly statements and the 1099R for tax purposes. To keep our retirement payments secure, Merced CERA has implemented a new direct deposit form effective September 2025 for any new deposits or changes to existing deposits. Change requests will require additional validation. Initial payments will be made via check, with direct deposits resuming the following month.
- Brenda also informed the membership that Merced CERA is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Thursday, October 23, 2025, starting at 11:00 am. Check Merced CERA website for more information. Brenda also introduced her new colleague Maria Luisa Rodriguez. Brenda brought several forms if anyone needed to update address, withholding, beneficiary, or direct deposit information.
- September 27<sup>th</sup> – Drug Awareness Day. Courthouse Park will host an event with booths and food trucks.
- October 4<sup>th</sup> – Courthouse Museum will be unveiling its renovation from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

**Next Board Meeting: October 14, 2025, 9:30 AM at MCERA, 690 W 19<sup>th</sup> St. Merced**

**Next General Meeting: December 09, 2025, 10:30 AM at Merced Elks - Wear your Ugly Christmas Sweater to the next meeting! Make your reservations early.**

For our lunch, please let those that need assistance go first, then the Head Table will go next. President Norman called tables to eat in order.

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15.

Prize drawings were held after lunch.

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