

REMCOAI Board of Directors In-Person Meeting
815 W. 18th Street MERCO Conference Room
July 19, 2023

Vice President Scott Johnston opened the meeting at 9:30 AM noting there was a quorum.

Roll Call: Vice President Johnston, Treasurer Lola Barnett, Secretary LaVon Justice, Directors Jim Pacheco, Eric Swenson and Lori Norman and Past President John Carlisle. President Jackie Walther-Parnell and Directors Bernedette Castaneda, Mike Harris and Richard St. Marie were unable to attend.

Secretary LaVon Justice reported that the January 16, 2023 Board of Directors minutes were not given at the April 19, 2023 meeting as her computer was off line. She reported that the draft minutes were sent out on January 19, 2023 and after receiving comments and suggestions the Final Minutes were emailed February 14, 2023. The draft minutes of the April 19, 2023 Board of Directors meeting had several revisions (4/26/23, 5/3/23) and the final draft was sent out 5/07/23, with the Final Minutes of the Board of Directors 4/19/23 meeting sent out 5/23/23. *M(LB)S(JP)P.

Treasurer Lola Barnett reported that the summary Final of the 10/01/22 through 7/16/23 consisted of the prior year balance forwarded amount of \$163,384.76; Deposits of \$44,756 for a total of \$208,140.76, minus expenses of \$26,963.52 and adding \$49.53 interest for a grand total of \$181,226.77. The Pension Protection Fund's current value with interest is \$134,576.42. Report approved as reported. *M(L)S(LN)P.

Vice President noted that there would be two Directors vacancies after the September 12, 2023 confirmation of the new term for the President and Secretary and new Vice President and Treasurer. Currently Mary Ellen Arana is still on the Emergency Fill List, and if she is still interested in being a director would fill one vacancy, however, at this period of time, there are not additional volunteers for the second vacancy. Discussion of placing this information into the upcoming Newsletter and on the REMCOAI Facebook page may lead to additional volunteers. Vice President asked Secretary Justice to contact Mary Ellen for an update on her interest in being a Director and report back to the Board of the outcome. Note: Mary Ellen Arana would be interested in being a Director after September.

Vice President Johnston reported that he and Directors Jim Pacheco and Richard St. Marie attended the CRCEA Spring Conference April 23-26, 2023. Director Pacheco reported that he attended the Tech Securities meeting and that he enjoyed the networking. Vice President Johnston reported one of the meetings he attended was discussing Long-Term Care Insurance, which is very expensive and should be bought at an earlier time frame such as in your 50's-60's. The speaker had also discussed healthy meals, and exercise to keep a person as healthy and fit as possible as they age. Another meeting was discussing whether to have two in-person meetings or one online and one in-person. Director Eric Swenson asked if there was new information from the Legislative Meeting. Vice President Johnston noted that bills had not been passed at the time of the Conference. PEPPRA established a variety of requirements and restrictions on public employers offering defined benefit pension plans, including limiting the benefits that may be provided to new members such as 4th tier members receiving less benefits than those on 1-3 tiers.

Vice President Johnston noted that Treasurer Barnett had brought up the question of procedure if REMCOAI disbanded, what happens to the funds? Suggestions to speak with Alice Contreras, CPA or the President of CRCEA or a member of Stanislaus County if such procedures have been investigated or put into place. As President Walther-Parnell had attended many CRCEA conferences over the years, she may have knowledge of some Counties who have personal experience which could be useful for REMCOAI. Table item until able to speak with President Walther-Parnell about subject.

Vice President Johnston inquired if anyone knew the current membership on the Facebook page. Director Norman replied she thought it was over 200 members currently.

Vice President Johnston noted that the September in-person meeting may be the same as the June meeting with him hosting, Treasurer Barnett and Director Norman taking reservations, Director Pacheco manning the registration table with another person, possibly Karolyn Alvarez, if her phone number can be found. Vice President Johnston noted that others in CASA may have her current phone number. Director Pacheco also collected lunch tickets and the ticket sales with Vice President Johnston assisting.

Director Pacheco offered to provide door prizes for the September meeting. Director Norman offered to provide some fun ways to gain a prize. Director Swenson noted that the US Post Office has sent notices to not send checks in the mail as there have been many incidences where the check is stolen, name of intended recipient is scrubbed and another name inserted and amount of check altered as well. Discussion about methods to replace checks with another source of a prize such as gift cards, including for those who are the winners of the quarterly Random Draw of the Membership List. Directors Pacheco and Norman would split the amount that Treasurer Barnett said was available for the September meeting. Director Norman would search for no-activation-fee gift cards and Director Pacheco would search for items that would be useful for the time of year (early fall). Treasurer Barnett reported that she was authorized to sign checks herself for \$1,000 up to \$1,500. Amounts beyond usually require two signatures, that is the Board of Directors authority and if REMCOAI wants to begin utilizing online banking there may need to be a new account that would not have a lot of funds in the account in case a check was stolen or altered. MERCO is not requiring those limits, the Treasurer can withdraw \$600 in cash and no requirements for additional signatures. Some changes should include Director St. Marie as he may have some suggestions when he is confirmed as the new Treasurer. Currently at MERCO, only the President, Treasurer and Secretary are on the account. That will be updated when Richard St. Marie is Treasurer.

Vice President Johnston noted that President Walther-Parnell had planned on Steve Pettee being at the September meeting to discuss the additional benefits for dental, Personal Accident, Life Insurance, Pet Insurance, Travel Guard, Legal Shield, Amplifon Hearing through Pacific Group Agencies for REMCO members. If he was not available, she suggested a HICAP Counselor could be invited to provide information for the members. Discussion held that both could attend as the HICAP Counselor usually does not speak longer than 15 minutes.

As Director Harris was not available, a date needed to have any articles to Director Harris to complete the Newsletter was not available. Director Norman noted that the website could store newsletters, pictures, Facebook live. Director Swenson noted that Facebook Live is posted for 30 days unless it is noted as permanent. Note: Director Harris sent an email that bios and articles need to be to him by July 31, 2023.

Treasurer Barnett reported that the \$50 winner of the Quarterly Random Draw was Gladys Dove from Atwater.

Discussion on continuing in-person Board of Directors meetings was held with the consensus that as MERCO was willing to schedule our meetings into their calendar that Vice President Johnston would schedule the October 18, 2023 meeting. Trips/activities options provided by members by putting a survey on each table at September 12, 2023 Business Meeting.

No Other Business brought forward; meeting closed at 10:36 AM