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THE INTERCOM

Newsletter of the California Retired
County Employees Association (CRCEA)
January 2020

Issue #1-2020



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The new year is upon us. Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are in our rear view mirror. Where has the year gone? Just about the time I get used to writing "2019" on my checks, etc., I have to start making myself change to "2020".

Speaking about 2019 being behind us, a few words need to be put forth about the lack of our Fall Conference in Sonoma. As is always the case, a lot of work by the folks in Sonoma County (SCARE) went into the preparation and planning for that conference. At the 11th hour they had to put out notifications that the conference was cancelled. Clearly it was through no fault of theirs. Wildfire(s) in the area forced both evacuations and power outages throughout

the region. The host hotel was notified that they would not have electricity, and they in turn notified the folks in Sonoma that the conference was "off". Great effort was made by the SCARE folks to get the word out to everyone who had registered and anticipated to be at the event that the conference had to be cancelled.

So, even though we did not have the opportunity to spend some time in the Sonoma area, I must thank all those officers, volunteers, and others from SCARE for your time and efforts in trying to put together a meaningful conference for CRCEA.
THANK YOU TO ALL!

With the cancellation of the Fall Conference, we now turn our attention to the Spring Conference in Tulare. President Kevin Mizner and folks at TRCEA have been channeling their focus on making the April Spring Conference one that will keep with the mission of education, knowledge, and enjoyment that past conferences have proven to be. And, with not having had our Fall

Conference, there will be a lot of work that needs to be done by the delegates at our Business Meeting on Wednesday.

The proposal for a by-law change that would stagger the terms of the officers on the Executive Committee and the staggering of elections that should have taken place in October will need to be discussed and acted upon in April. The term of office would stay the same at two years, but might be compressed for the initial period if the action is implemented then. This proposal, and the rationale, have been sent to all associations for review and possible action. Our By-Laws Committee will have to weigh in.

The Executive Committee tried to set up an emergency meeting to replace the failed conference, but with so many things going on, and the questionable availability of a quorum of delegates, it did not happen. As we meet in January, all the alternatives about how, when, where to deal with situations like this will be discussed.

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As always, we each continue to monitor what has been going on across the state and across the nation. As matters come up, we share email or phone calls, sometimes getting to some solution, or preparing for the next meeting to have an in-depth discussion.

In that vein, back in 2012, CRCEA wrote a letter of support for a AB 1747 that would require life insurance companies give warnings to policy owners that their policies might lapse due to nonpayment of the premium through forgetfulness or ??????. AB 1747 became law January 1, 2013 as Section 10113.71 and 10113.72 of the Insurance Code.

Recently, a case came to our attention where an elderly person's beneficiary was refused payment of a benefit because there had been a lapsed premium payment, BUT the warning notice as required was never sent to the person. This resulted in a case titled *McHugh et al. v. Protective Life Insurance Company*. CRCEA has filed an Amicus Letter to the Supreme Court of California in support of a Petition for Review in the case. The insurance company is claiming that the notice only applied to policies written AFTER January 1, 2013.

Several courts have reached the conclusion that a life insurance policy that expired after January 1, 2013 for non-payment of premiums must have the correct notices of lapse and termination to be validly terminated. Many insurers did not comply with the notice requirements, and as a result, the death benefits were owed when the insured died, and remain owed now. This can help one recover those life insurance policy benefits and help the surviving family members. Hopefully this case, and our letter, can help those who are being denied the death benefits to which they are entitled.

The California Legislature is starting the second part of this two-year session. There is a bill submitted by SACRS, that all discussion has been centered on "technical cleanup" – and does clean up many open issues in the law, as well as correct some wrongly cited sections of law.

As I close, I want to thank each and every one who makes the time to serve their local association and/or the CRCEA organization to work on behalf of your retirees. We all know it takes time away from maybe other more pleasant tasks we would like to be

involved with. Clearly this organization could not be what it is without your help.

See you all at the conference in Tulare in April.

Until next time.....



SKIP MURPHY, President

RESCO/REMCO are working on plans for the Fall 2020 Conference, but we've been experiencing delays in securing a facility due to staffing changes at the facility. Tentative dates for the Fall Conference in Modesto (Stanislaus County) are Thursday, October 22 through Saturday, October 24, with attendees being able to arrive on Wednesday, October 21. More information to come!

Rhonda Biesemeier



CRCEA CONFERENCE COMMITTEE UPDATE by Mike Sloan, Chair Conference Committee

This report is intended to give the membership an update on conference planning by those associations who will be hosting conferences in the next couple of years. As there are changes planned for the scheduled dates, I wanted to give everyone as much time to plan for these adjustments as possible.

I have been working steadily with the Tulare County conference committee, who is scheduled to host the Spring Conference, as well as those from Stanislaus/Merced, Los Angeles, and Fresno counties. These counties, as well as those who have recently completed their conference, have stated that negotiating with hotels has become much more difficult with the economy being so good. With so many people traveling, hotels can be much more selective regarding how they book their properties, and for what price.

With the above issue in mind, it has long been known that the week before Easter and the week after Easter have been slow times for the hotel industry. Because of this fact, there

is a higher likelihood that our associations who are scheduled to host the Spring Conference should be able to leverage this fact to their best advantage.

Through the Conference Manual, CRCEA has encouraged associations who are hosting a conference to be flexible. This allows the committees to negotiate with the hotels in their area to make sure they are able to book the best facilities for the best rate. This in turn will likely be a factor in how many members each association can afford to send, and thus, hopefully increase attendance.

SONOMA - While we were all disappointed that the Fall CRCEA Conference had to be cancelled, none were more so than the Sonoma County Conference Committee. I have personal knowledge of how hard they worked to make this conference special, and how stressed they were to have to make the decision to cancel.

Many of our fellow members were displaced from their homes for an extended period of time, and some suffered property losses. However, if there was a bright side to the story, the cancellation of the conference opened up

more than 100 room nights for those in need of shelter.

The Double Tree Hotel was very cooperative and helpful during this very difficult time. However, that may have been due to the fact that they knew they would fill the rooms at full price instead of a discounted rate.

TULARE – TCREA's conference is scheduled for April 6 – 8, 2020 at the Marriott Hotel in Visalia. This is the first of the upcoming changes from the customary mid-month schedule. Again, these changes to the traditional schedules are necessary due to the hotel's occupancy times, and their willingness to offer a better room rates for our ability to be flexible.

The room rate for this conference will be \$159.00 per night (plus taxes). This rate includes breakfast each morning for hotel guests, but there is a \$7.00 per day charge for parking.

TCREA plans to have the registration packets in the mail by the first part of February. However, it is not too early to make your hotel reservations now. **Please see TCREA's flyer and other information in this newsletter.**

STANISLAUS/MERCED – RESCO/REMCO's Conference Committee is negotiating with the Double Tree Hotel in Modesto for their conference, and this is where the change in scheduling will be the biggest.

To date, the conference is scheduled to be held on October 22 – 24, 2020. The best rate the hotel will offer is for a Thursday through Saturday conference. While this is a break from tradition, since we are all retired, it was thought that this change would not cause any major inconveniences. Additionally, this Double Tree hotel is the only facility in the two counties that is large enough to accommodate our needs. That situation limits the conference committee's ability negotiate with any other facility for better rates and our traditional schedule.

More information about this conference will be forthcoming at the April conference in Visalia.

LOS ANGELES – RELAC is scheduled to host the CRCEA Conference in the Spring of 2021, and they are well on their way with planning this event. They are currently under contract with the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Long Beach.

The room rate for this conference will be \$169.00 (plus taxes), and there is a discounted parking rate of \$15.00 per night. Breakfasts are included for hotel guests on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

As with the Stanislaus/Merced conference, RELAC will host their conference earlier in the year. The scheduled dates are March 29 – 31, 2021, however they will return to the Monday through Wednesday format.

To the best of my knowledge all the hotels listed above are offering free WiFi in the sleeping rooms, and all are extending the rate to a few days before the conference and a few days after, in case you would like to extend your stay.

FRESNO – In early January, I will be meeting with the REFCO conference committee to assist them with their hotel selection and negotiations.

ORANGE (Spring 2022), **SACRAMENTO** (Fall 2022), and **SAN BERNARDINO** (Spring 2023) – It is not too early to start pre-planning and beginning your site selection for your upcoming conferences.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I may assist in any way - mesloan1@aol.com or (925) 250-4796.

**PERCEPTION IS REALITY
(author unknown)**

As a group of frogs was traveling through the woods, two of them fell into a deep pit. When the other frogs crowded around the pit and saw how deep it was, they told the two frogs that there was no hope left for them.

However, the two frogs decided to ignore what the others were saying and they proceeded to try and jump out of the pit. Despite their efforts, the group of frogs at the top of the pit were still saying that they should just give up. That they would never make it out.

Eventually, one of the frogs took heed to what the others were saying and he gave up. The other frog continued to jump as hard as he could. Again, the crowd of frogs yelled at him to stop the pain and just give up.

He jumped even harder and finally made it out. When he got out, the other frogs said, "Did you not hear us?" The frog explained to them that he was deaf. He thought they were encouraging him the entire time!

SPIRIT AND PROFESSIONALISM IN THE FACE OF DISASTER
The Conference That Was, But For The Kincade Fire
by Lou Scarpino

It was Thursday before our planned Saturday early hotel check-in at Rohnert Park, California, the site of the October 27 to 30 CRCEA Fall Conference hosted by Sonoma County (SCARE). The wind was up, and PG&E scheduled electrical shutdowns were already proving disruptive. However, word came down late Friday October 25 that the conference site, the Double Tree Hotel, would have power. So, the conference was on.

By this time the Kincade Fire, located well north of Rohnert Park and east of the 101 Freeway, was continuing to grow to around 25,000 acres with only minor containment. In addition, westerly winds were pushing smoke over the populated areas to the ocean, and evacuation orders were already forcing people out of their homes. Nevertheless, it looked like the conference was still a go and, as we had also planned other activities and business around the conference, the argument that I championed to make the trip prevailed.

Arriving mid-day Saturday, before the Sunday pre-conference activities, all initially seemed normal, though it was clear hotel staff and guests alike were at a heightened state of awareness. After a quick tour of the area in the vicinity of the hotel and an early dinner, my wife and I returned to the hotel to a rapidly changing scene. By 9:00 pm the lobby areas were filling up with families and pets that obviously were sensing their owner's stress. Tired, worried, and confused, with cell phones in hand, the shared theme was trying to make some sense out of the common, but different realities each faced. And, things were destined to get worse to the tune of nearly 200,000 evacuees, 78,000 acres scorched, and 352 structures, including 165 homes damaged or lost, before full containment.

Early Sunday we awoke to find a late Saturday phone message that the conference had to be cancelled. It was evident the Sonoma conference team was in full swing and hitting home runs, making the right calls to manage the emerging and worsening situation. Hotel staff noted that they had been requested to reserve a limited number of rooms for any conference goers that did not get the cancellation message in time. Good news is that we saw no other conference attendees by the time we checked out Sunday morning to help free up rooms for evacuees, and, since normal conference check in is Sunday and Monday, it was likely the word got out in time.

For all who have been involved with conference planning and operations, you innately will understand the bitter disappointment of having to effectively cancel out over a year of group efforts just one day before attendees were scheduled to arrive. Unwinding arrangements in place involving hotel, food, speakers, attendees, affiliates, conference fees, and more, are all fraught with their own list of tasks that had to be addressed in real time. And, this had to happen when some of those scheduled to work the conference were themselves evacuees.

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Making this very difficult and definitely “right call” in time is a testament to the professionalism and spirit of the fine retired public servants who worked on what will likely become known as the Sonoma Conference that was ...but for the Kincade Fire. Hopefully, in some small way, this will serve as a heartfelt THANK YOU from all CRCEA members for the many hours spent by the SCARE conference team of President Alix Shor and Vice President Phyris Tober, and especially conference co-chairs Carol Bauer and Kathy Young, and Treasurer Bill Robotka.

And, in case you were wondering, since it was my argument to make the trip that prevailed, one might conclude an “I told you so” was in order. Yes, wonder is a marvelous thing...



On behalf of Tulare County, we are so excited to host the CRCEA Spring Conference in Visalia, April 6-8, 2020. Our conference committee has been working overtime to get everything in place. If you come on Sunday, we have a small reception planned for that evening with a limited menu (no-host), hors d'oeuvres, and complimentary adult refreshments. For the conference, we have a variety of interesting speakers, lots of goodies, the ever-popular hospitality room, and the Tuesday evening banquet will feature live music and a host of door prizes. Our venue, the Visalia Marriott, has been so helpful with the conference planning, and has agreed to include a breakfast buffet for up to two persons per room each morning. With the unfortunate circumstances that led to Sonoma's cancellation, it will have been a year since our last conference, so pack your bags and come to Visalia in 2020!

LINK – Marriott Reservations:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1561671450416&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

or call: 800-798-6506

Rooms blocked for dates April 5, 6, 7.
If rooms needed outside these dates,
please call hotel directly.



Future CRCEA Conferences

Spring 2020
Tulare (TCREA)

Fall 2020
Stanislaus/Merced
(RESCO/REMCO)

Spring 2021
Los Angeles (RELAC)

Fall 2021
Fresno (REFCO)

Spring 2022
Orange (REAOC)

Fall 2022
Sacramento (SCREA)

Spring 2023
San Bernardino (RESBC)

Fall 2023
San Joaquin (RPESJC)

Spring 2024
Kern (REOKC)

Fall 2024
Contra Costa (CCCREA)

WE HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN US FOR GREAT INFORMATION, NETWORKING, AND, OF COURSE, FUN!



CRCEA Spring Conference

April 6—8, 2020

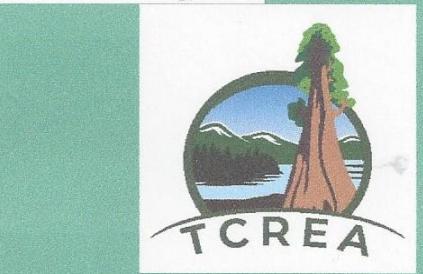


Visalia Marriott Hotel
300 South Court Street
Visalia, CA 93291

1-800-798-6506

ONLINE RESERVATION LINK

[https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/
reservation-link.mi?
id=1561671450416&key=GRP&app=resvlink](https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1561671450416&key=GRP&app=resvlink)



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