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THE INTERCOM

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County Employees Association (CRCEA)
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By the time you get this message, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year 2021 will all be behind us. As we began the 2020 holiday season, it was much like the Labor Day holiday referenced in my last message. But, even more restricted. We are still at home. Barricaded or confined or both. Our options for dining outside of home are pretty much shut down. However, we are becoming more proficient in Zoom, Skype, or Team meetings. And, one of two options is happening – our clothes are more comfortable, or they seem to have gotten smaller.

But, it is my hope that each of you had an opportunity to be with your immediate family, and for those of you with family spread out to the four corners of wherever, that

you were able to communicate with them by some sort of technology during the holiday.

Now as we enter this new year of 2021, let us hope that with the medical breakthroughs going on we can look forward to slowly returning to some sort of better times and back to “normal”. Without hope, we do not have much going for us.

This may sound like you have heard it before, and you have. Yet another conference is being delayed, making it over two years since we have been able to be physically together. The virtual meeting in October seemed to work, but it cannot compare to an opportunity to socialize together and in person hellos, handshakes, and hugs. We can only hope that this situation will be behind us as we prepare for the Fall 2021 Conference hosted by Los Angeles (RELAC).

The proposal for a by-law change that would stagger the terms of the officers on the Executive Committee and the staggering of elec-

tions was accepted by the delegates during our October meeting and is operational. It is not too early to be looking ahead to October when the elections will include election of the President and the Treasurer. If there is a desire by any member to run for either of these offices, or any of the offices for that matter, now is the time to really think about it. You will have time to give it some thought, review the duties in the bylaws and then get in touch with Will Hoag, the Nominations Committee Chair.

The Executive Committee also asked for input on a more global look at our bylaws, and that will be reviewed to try to do some “clean-up” to keep us up to date. This item needs your input in order to be reviewed and ultimately presented. A couple of suggestions have come in, but each extra set of eyes may pick up something else. These bylaws need to be workable for today's organization, not just some words in a document.

As I close, once again I want to urge you to be careful and

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stay safe while at the same time keeping your mental health and your physical health in check. As we go deeper into 2021, opportunities for obtaining a “shot” to protect us (or at least minimize infection) will be out there. Clearly this organization could not be what it is without you.

Until next time.....



SKIP MURPHY, President

Another Batch of Interesting, Timely, and Useful Websites

www.hss.gov:

US Department of Health and Human Services

www.wikihow.com:

How-to-instructions on just about anything and everything

www.agoodmovietowatch:

Film recommendations

www.howstuffworks:

How stuff works...

www.ancient.eu:

Encyclopedia of ancient history

www.thisamericanlife.org:

Collection of stories

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME TO ENJOY A FEW SILLY CHUCKLES? YES, IT IS!

- If you hadn't done foolish things when you were young, what would you have to laugh about now?
- The first time I got a universal remote control, I thought, "Well, this changes everything."
- Kleptomaniacs take things literally.
- My father was from Iceland and my mother was from Cuba. I'm an ice cube.
- Having one child makes you a parent; having two makes you a referee.
- Regular naps prevent old age; especially if you take them while driving.
- My wife accused me of being immature. I told her to get out of my fort!
- Parallel lines have so much in common. It's a shame they will never meet.
- Evening news is where they begin with, "Good Evening", and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
- Always borrow money from a pessimist. They won't expect it back.
- My memory is so poor, I changed my password to 'incorrect'. That way when I try to login with the wrong password, my computer will tell me my password is incorrect.

Future CRCEA Conferences

There will come a day when, again, we'll be able to safely gather together. In that spirit, following is the schedule for the next several conferences:

Fall 2021
Los Angeles (RELAC)

Spring 2022
Orange (REAOC)

Fall 2022
Sacramento (SCREA)

Spring 2023
San Bernardino (RESBC)

Fall 2023
San Joaquin (RPESJC)

Spring 2024
Kern (REOKC)

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



FRESNO PLANS FOR VIRTUAL BOARD ELECTION
by Dick Estel
Fresno County CRCEA Alternate Delegate

Recently I read an article that posited that the real divide in our country is between political junkies and everyone else – about a 20/80 split. This resonated with me because the board of the Retired Employees of Fresno County (REFCO) have been struggling with how to hold an election for board officers without having an annual meeting/lunch.

Our bylaws call for the election to be held at the Annual Meeting, which is our February lunch. We talked about mail-in ballots, voting via email and on the web site. Then I started thinking about past elections.

At the meeting the chair of the Nominating Committee announces the names (which have previously been reported in our newsletter), and calls for nominations from the floor. There are never any such nominations. Then by pre-arrangement a member moves to elect the slate of officers by acclamation. motion passes unanimously. The electorate at these lunches is less than 200 people, while our total membership is close to 3,000.

My analysis: As long as the checks arrive on time, a newsletter comes out, and those who choose to can get together for lunch six times a year, 99% of our membership does not care who the president or board members are.

With this in mind, we decided not to spend \$1,500 to mail paper ballots, but instead to conduct the election via our website. In our newsletter article naming the candidates, we invited members to nominate via email or phone (in lieu of “from the floor”). Two months later we have matched the usual number of such nominations – zero.

Our next newsletter will explain the on-line voting process, which will start about mid-January. Although this does not match up with requirements in the bylaws, we have decided that the unforeseen, and hopefully once a century, conditions we are dealing with call for extraordinary flexibility.

At some point we want to amend the bylaws to allow for unusual events. But, to do so, we have to have a vote of the membership at a regular meeting (one of the six lunches). It's a regular Catch 22 – can't meet and can't amend without a meeting. Stay tuned for the next chapter of “COVID-19 vs the World.”

**Link below is for *Los Angeles Times* article, dated January 1, 2021,
regarding new laws in California for 2021**

http://enewspaper.latimes.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=e5f817ec-064c-4e0b-b3e5-c4fe5d987067

**CRCEA
Executive Committee**

E.F. "Skip" Murphy
President

Doug Fletcher
Vice President

Carlos Gonzalez
Treasurer

Vacant
Secretary

William "Bill" de la Garza
Immediate Past President

**CRCEA
Committees/Chairs**

Affiliate
Mike Sloan

Audit/Finance
Jerry Jacobs

Bylaws
David Muir

Communications
Virginia Adams

Conference
Mike Sloan

Executive
E.F. "Skip" Murphy

Legislative
Art Goulet

Legislative Advisory
E.F. "Skip" Murphy

Membership/Benefits
Rhonda Bieseimeier

**CRCEA
Committees/Chairs
(continued)**

Nominating
Will Hoag

Retirement Security
George Shoemaker

Technology Steering
Gene Pennington

**CRCEA
Member
Associations/
Presidents**

Alameda County
Marian Breitbart, Acting

Contra Costa County
Petreyana Boykins

Fresno County
Judy Lemos

Imperial County
David Prince

Kern County
Robb Seibly

Los Angeles County
David Muir

Marin County
Gene Pennington

Mendocino County
Sue Thornhill

Merced County
Jacqueline Walther-Parnell

**CRCEA
Member
Assocs/Presidents
(continued)**

Orange County
Linda Robinson and
Doug Storm

Sacramento County
Randal Angeloni

San Bernardino County
Deborah Barmack

San Diego County
Stan Coombs

San Joaquin County
William Mitchell

San Mateo County
Linda Bruzzon

Santa Barbara County
Annette Paladino

Sonoma County
Alix Shor

Stanislaus County
Ron Grider and
Myrna Lebert

Tulare County
Kevin Mizner

Ventura County
Nancy Settle

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