



Brush up on Christmas carols

November – December 2013

Tim Knudsen, Editor



FRIENDSHIP • UNITY • STRENGTH • GROWTH

# THE CONNECTION

## AMCRE: Annual Christmas Luncheon

**Date:** Wednesday December 11, 2013

**Time:** 11:30 A.M.,

**Place:** Ukiah Garden Cafe  
1090 So. State St.  
Ukiah, California

See menu inside this newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, the frost is on the pumpkin now and things are starting to move indoors. What an amazing Summer and Fall we've had, and although we need the rains to come, it is hard to complain about drought weather.

Great picnic this year. I think we are starting to get the hang of it. Everyone seemed to have a really good time! We are looking forward to next year. And wouldn't you know it, it is time for another meal!

The AMCRE Christmas luncheon is coming up soon and we hope that you all will come. We really tried to find another venue that would appeal to more of our members, but most places require a larger group than we have. There was some talk of having a dinner instead of a luncheon, allowing us to do something at The Broiler, for example. If this appeals to you, let us know for the future, although you will still be on the hook for singing Christmas carols.

Also, at our upcoming luncheon, we will be electing/installing new officers. Cyndi Montesonti is running for Secretary which will allow Sue Thornhill to "just" be Vice-President. We are all looking forward to having some new energy on the board and my parliamentary procedure will get a serious tighten-up. We hope you can come and welcome/elect Cyndi to the board.

Recently, I've been allowed use of Sandy MacNab's 1934 Ford dirt track racer that happens to have a license plate on it. I pulled up in front of Joe Toste's house, rang the bell, no response, so I rang it again and from inside Joe bellowed "hold your horses, I've only got one leg!". When he got the door open, he was delighted to see what I was driving, having built many such cars in his youth.

So, with the help of his caregiver, we got him belted into Sandy's racer and took off on an "auto thrill ride" down Redemeyer Road. It was the best! We had such a good time, reliving the past and getting away with it. Driving a race vehicle on the street is something like strapping yourself to a rocket and lighting the fuse. I bet we'll do it again.



**Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Me**

***Sincere appreciation to each of you for making it so wonderful!***

***Thank you for the warm wishes, calls and cards - It has been MY Pleasure  
to be a part of AMCRE since our first recorded meeting January 20, 1992!***

***BEST Wishes for Good Health, Happiness and Love***

**FOR THE REST OF FOREVER**

**Irene**

Minutes of January 20, 1992 (copy of original)

MESSAGE FROM IRENE LANGE, President

One year has passed since the first steps were taken to form an organization for Retired County Employees. We made a lot of progress during that year – held four organizational meetings, adopted Bylaws, elected officers, appointed committees, held our first Regular meeting on January 20, 1992.

There have been renewals of acquaintances, opportunities to make new friends, concerns shared. I feel very confident that this organization will continue to grow and I encourage each and every one of you to participate, express your interests and contribute your experience.

REMEMBER OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD MARCH 16, 1992 AT 1:30 P.M., CUMMUNITY MEETING ROOM OF AMERICAN SAVINGS BANK, CORNER OF STATE AND GOBBI STREETS, UKIAH. (please be sure to park in the outer area parking lot – plenty of room!)

**AMCRE OFFICERS:**

Irene Lange, President

Bill Gross, Vice President

LaVonne Decker, Secretary

Cora King, Treasurer

Walt Willcut, 2 yr. Director

E.M. (Bert) Banfill, 2 yr. Director

Dennis Denny, 1 yr. Director

Nicholas Lapkass, Historian

**AMCRE COMMITTEE Chairpersons:**

Bill Gross, Program

John Kucz, Insurance

Dave Long, Legislation

Phyllis Harrison, Membership

Mary June Rose, Newsletter

Betty Austin, Publicity

Sara Smart, Hospitality

Joy Oswell, Parliamentarian

# AMCRE'S 2013 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Where: Ukiah Garden Café, 1090 South State St. Ukiah  
When: Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 2013  
Lunch will be served at 12 noon (Sign in around 11:30 a.m.)  
Guests are invited and welcome  
Music: To be announced....  
Price: \$17.50 PER PERSON (Includes Tax and Tip)  
Menu Choices: (Choose one per person)

Chicken Delight (Chicken topped with cheese, ham and sauce)	Deep Fried Prawns
Pasta Pomodoro	Waldorf Salad

Includes Salad, potatoes or steamed vegies Coffee or Tea and Rolls

Wine & Dessert compliments of AMCRE  
Chocolate Mousse Cake

OUR TRADITIONAL CASH DRAWINGS WILL BE HELD  
We hope to see you there for fun, socialization and good food

**RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY WEDNESDAY DEC. 4, 2013**

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*SEND THIS COMPLETED FORM WITH CHECK PAYABLE TO AMCRE TO:*

AMCRE  
P.O. Box 903  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Please list number of each meal ordered

Chicken Delight \_\_\_\_\_  
Pasta Pomodoro \_\_\_\_\_

Deep Fried Prawns \_\_\_\_\_  
Waldorf Salad \_\_\_\_\_

Number of desserts (limit one per meal)

Chocolate Mousse Cake \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*THANK YOU\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*SEE YOU THERE\*\*

## CRCEA CONFERENCE AND SURVEY

As has been reported in previous issues of this newsletter, AMCRE is one of twenty retiree associations in the State of California (the 20 counties that have formed retirement plans under the 1937 Retirement Act). Each of these associations is also a member to a statewide organization called CRCEA (California Retired County Employees Association). CRCEA held a conference in Fresno in mid October, 2013. Most of the topics presented at the conference dealt with issues relative to the aging process, estate planning (think of life estates, etc.) and issues relating to the future of retirement systems in California and the U.S, with the bankruptcy of Detroit and various California cities fresh in mind.

Perhaps more important than some of the topics of the conference was a survey completed by twelve of the 20 CRCEA associations. The survey dealt with a variety of issues, but one of the top issues was the changes that have occurred in counties/retirement systems dealing with retiree health insurance.

Unfortunately not all the associations answered all the questions, but ten of the surveys did respond to the questions of whether health insurance is provided by the county (since the mid to late 1990's the IRS has stated that retirement systems cannot be responsible for health insurance) with seven indicating the county did make health insurance available and three (including Mendocino) indicating it is not available.

The other interesting question was who pays the premiums for the retiree health insurance with five indicating that the retirees pay the full cost of the premiums, one that the county pays the total cost, one that the cost is split between county and retiree (don't know how this is split) and one pays a flat monthly amount (2 did not respond to question).

It is unfortunate that eight associations did not respond to the survey, and that those who did respond did not answer all the questions, as the survey had some interesting and important topics. After reading the newsletters of most of the associations and going over the above mentioned survey it has become quite obvious that most retirees are not receiving their health insurance from their respective counties anymore and if they are they are not receiving any subsidy from the county or retirement system to help make the coverage more affordable.

Although there are a number of lawsuits on going in the state where retiree associations have filed suit against their counties for changes in the health insurance provisions, there does not seem to be a good indication that any of these suits are going to have the weight to force all counties to revert to their previous practices of providing and or paying for retiree health insurance. More on this issue in future newsletters.

Tom Liberatore, President  
Vernlyn Farnsworth, Treasurer

Sue Thornhill, Vice President/Secretary  
Tim Knudsen, C.R.C.E.A. Delegate/Connection Editor

3 Yr. Directors: Doug Sawyer/Tom Desroches

2 Yr. Directors: Marilyn Heath/Pat Vetzadian

1 Yr. Director: Shirley Christensen/Ned Walsh

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
HELD OCTOBER 16, 2013 AT 1:00 PM  
720 NORTH STATE STREET, UKIAH, CALIFORNIA 95482

1. President Tom Liberatore called the meeting to order at 1:20

2. REPORTS:

- a) Treasurer/Presenter: Vernlyn Farnsworth reported there is currently \$7,570.16 in the treasury and \$1,497.38 in the legal fund. Vice President Sue Thornhill reminded the Board that of the balance in the treasury \$520.00 is designated for the scholarship fund.
- b) Minutes of the General Membership Meeting held August 21, 2013. Motion by Marilyn Heath, seconded by Pat Vetzadian to approve the minutes as presented
- c) Committee reports
  - Tim Knudsen reported the annual actuarial report is due soon to the Mendocino County Retirement Board.
  - He also reported there is still a suit in Los Angeles County over the health insurance issues facing all counties in the state.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

- a) Discussion and possible action regarding "The Connection" preparation

Information Cut-Off Date \_\_\_November 17, 2013\_\_\_\_\_

Assembly Date and Location \_November 20, 2013\_\_\_\_\_

Slam Dunk Pizza, 720 N. State Street, Ukiah

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Discussion and possible action regarding the location of the annual Christmas luncheon. After some discussion the Board voted to try and make reservations with North State Street Café for Wednesday December 11, 2013.
- b) Treasurer Vernlyn requested that she be allowed to move the General Fund to Savings Bank of Mendocino County in January 2014. After further discussion a motion was made by Sue seconded by Tim to move the General Fund to SBMC and leave the legal fund at Redwood Credit Union. All votes favorable, motion carried.
- c) Discussion and possible action regarding the nominations for the 2014 Board of Directors. After some discussion the following were nominated:

President:	Tom Liberatore
Vice President:	Sue Thornhill
Treasurer:	Vernlyn Farnsworth
Secretary:	Cyndi Montesonti
3 yr. Directors:	Doug Sawyer and Tom Desroches
2 yr. Directors:	Marilyn Heath and Pat Vetzadian
1 yr. Directors: S	Shirley Christensen and Ned Walsh

5. ADJOURN: 2:30