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*The Employee Benefits
Office Announces 2008
Medical and Dental
Premiums.*

Front Page RECOM News

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[Message from the President](#)

The outgoing president usually has so many people to thank for their help that it could get to be an academy awards speech, so let me thank the Board of Directors for their steady help this past year and for keeping me out of trouble when I embraced an idea too enthusiastically. But let me single out just three people, all involved with the creation of RECOM's website. First there was **Fred Conway** who wielded his paternal influence on his son, Ian, to create our first website. Given the lack of computer savvy on the Board at the time, this was a huge contribution to RECOM. When Ian moved away, we had to figure out a way to update the site! And **Les Olsen** came to our rescue. Les served on the Board of Directors for a year, but then continued to be our webmaster for several years patiently changing the site every time we changed our minds. Then the Board began to talk about completely revamping the site, and it was **Chuck Wennerlund**, whose experience with other websites and computer savvy got us to today's product. Thank you! We literally could not have come to this point without you!

It's been a privilege to serve RECOM as president for the year 2006/07. I look forward to it's continuing growth, and improvement in services to the membership under John Gendron's leadership.

Guest Speakers

Our guest speaker at the **June** membership meeting was Alexis Boyle from the Arizona Humane Society. They have been protecting and caring for abandoned animals of all kinds for 50 years. In 2006 alone they cared for 49,000 abused and abandoned animals. They have a "no kill" policy for animals that are healthy and have no major behavior problems. If you would like to adopt a pet, or volunteer, contact them at <http://www.azhumane.org>.

Our guest speakers at the **July** meeting were Win Holden and Kelly Mero from Arizona Highways. The magazine has been a wonderful source for information about

Arizona's natural beauty and history since 1925. Travel information and merchandise for sale are also available on their website and in their gift shop in Terminal 4 of Sky Harbor Airport.

At the **August meeting** Marc A. Beasley from the Red Mountain Multigenerational Center gave a lively presentation on the opportunities at the Center. A gentle exercise program for seniors called "Sliver Sneakers" and the fitness center with its very favorable rates are among the most popular offerings. Classrooms and meeting rooms for social functions are available for reasonable rental fees and are also well used by the community. The City of Mesa owns the building, but leases space to two other groups - the Sistine Adult Day Care Center and East Valley Senior Services. They also provide much needed services such as meals, classes, support groups and recreational activities. For more information contact the MultiGenerational Center at 480-644-4810.

Executive Board Notes:

As you see, the Board of Directors is trying something new. Along with the new website, we're trying a new format. We will still keep official minutes of the membership meetings, but we won't post them on the website. Instead, we are doing a newsletter format for less formal, quick information.

We plan to have a rolling 12 months of membership meeting minutes or newsletters on the website. So, for a few months you'll find both formats under "Newsletter", but eventually, there will be only the newsletter. The newsletter will be mailed by US mail to those members who do not have email.

The email addresses of all the board members and chairs of standing committees are under the heading "Who We Are". Please tell any or all of us if you would like to see changes in the news letter. What would you like to see added? Profiles of retirees, for example? What doesn't interest you?

What did you find redundant, or hard to find? It's a work in progress – and this is only our first step.

Committees:

Standing Committees:

Bylaws – Kathy Barrett

Issues – John Smoyer

Membership – Kathy Barrett

Nominations

Programs – Frank Mizner

The **Bylaws Committee** has been working diligently not only to update and revise our bylaws but also to write down and organize the various decisions and practices of the Board of Directors since RECOM's inception. Their work will soon be completed. A big thanks to Kathy Barrett, Tanya Collins, Jo Ferguson and John Gendron. It's not exciting work, but somebody has to do it!

Issues Committee is currently a committee of one. John Smoyer keeps an eye on insurance journals for trends in insurance coverage in the government and private sectors as well as local, state and national legislation that could affect our benefits.

Membership Committee will help us in recruiting new retirees and finding those from past years.

Do you know anyone who might become a new member?

Nominating Committee will soon be looking for candidates to fill open positions on the Board of Directors for the year 2008/09. Might you be interested?

Programs Committee has tried to expand the topics for speakers at the membership meetings to include a broader range of interests. Pat Drake has recently joined the committee.

[Benefits Task Force Update](#)

The Employee Benefits Office has announced the medical and dental premiums for 2008. The figures below are for retirees with twenty years of service. However, each retiree will receive an individual letter stating what his/her premiums will be depending on the years of service with the city.

Medical

Per month:

80/20 Choice Plan Single \$25.50 /Family 48.00

90/10 Choice Plus Plan Single \$175.50/Family \$218.00

Copay Plan Single \$225.50/ Family\$ 318.00

Basic Plan Single \$0.00 / Family \$0.00

Dental

Choice Plan Single \$9.50/ Family \$34.00

Choice Plus Single \$24.50/ Family \$114.00

Preventative Plan Single \$0.00/ Family \$6.00

The City is currently implementing a new philosophy in its subsidies of the premiums. The City will pay 80% of premiums for family coverage and 90% of premiums for individual coverage for all plans. This has resulted in a **one time reduction of premiums for some people**, because in previous years the city did not subsidize all

plans to the same percentage. Jody Topping will be our speaker for the September meeting, just before open enrollment for 2008. She will be able to answer any further questions.

Announcements

At the June membership meeting outgoing president, Barbara Seperich reviewed the past year's accomplishments which included:

- *Updating the bylaws
- *Development of policies & procedures
- *Development of Committees
- * Formalization of Policies& Procedures
- *Development of new website

She thanked the current Board of Directors and members for their continued support and interest in RECOM. Barbara then introduced the new president, John Gendron, and welcomed new Board member Jocelyn Ferguson who will replace retiring Board member John Smoyer.

Upcoming Events:

Next meeting:

Membership meetings are held at 9:00AM on the third Wednesday of each month in the community room of the Fire Station at First St. and Mesa Dr.

September 19 – Speaker: Jody Topping, City of Mesa Employee Benefits.