REFCO P.O. BOX 26384 Fresno, CA 93729-6384

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www.refco1.org · INCORPORATED 1978 · Representing 6,911 retirees and their families

## **President's** Message

Happy New Year to all my fellow retirees! I find it both surprising and **exciting** when a new year arrives. Surprising as the new year always seems to get here before we know it, and exciting because with a new year, Linda Hutcheson comes new beginnings, new challenges,



new experiences - the inevitable "unknown" that arrives with unlimited potential. Looking at the bigger picture, I'm hoping that 2016 will be a year devoid of mass shootings both in our country and around the world, that we will see an end to California's water shortage, as well as a resounding failure on the part of those individuals who are trying to reduce our retirement benefits.

On a more positive note, I'm happy to report that everyone seemed to enjoy REFCO's annual Christmas Luncheon last month. Complimentary margaritas were generously provided by Steve Pettee of the Pacific Group Agencies, and once again, Santa Claus and Mrs. Santa were a big hit. Our two Community Outreach efforts, the Marine Corp's "Toys for Tots" toy drive and our Food Drive for the Marjaree Mason Center received record numbers of donations. A total of 146 toys along with \$1,106 was donated to help needy children in Fresno County to have a better Christmas than they otherwise would have had. Additionally, \$691 and 514 items of non-perishable food were donated to the Marjaree Mason Center to help feed the women and children they provide food, shelter and other life-saving services to year round.

At our next luncheon, REFCO's Annual Meeting Luncheon on January 21, our community outreach efforts will take a new direction by focusing on helping the Valley Animal Center, a community supported no-kill shelter for dogs and cats. If you plan on attending the luncheon, please consider donating to this very good cause. Additional information on specific food and supplies needed by the Valley Animal Center can be found in this newsletter and on their website at www.valleyanimal.org.

In closing, I like these simple but direct words of encouragement for personal growth from the late Dr. Wayne Dyer for the new year - "Your goal should be to try and be better than you used to be, not better than anyone else." Sounds good to me.

## **New Luncheon Pricing**

Your REFCO Board is always looking for ways to thank our members and increase our membership. Instead of looking for outside benefits, we decided to try something that appears to work for other organizations and businesses. Why not offer a discounted lunch to our members - non-members pay full price, while members pay a discounted price. Your REFCO Board will subsidize our members' lunches.

We are also aware that there are always County retirees at our lunches that are not REFCO members. Although everyone is invited to attend our luncheons, it would benefit all of us if the County retirees would join REFCO. Since our dues are only \$1 per month, it is hard to understand why everyone doesn't join when they retire. Even if you are not interested in our social functions, you could keep abreast of what's happening with your pension, co-workers retiring or dying, etc by reading our quarterly Grapevine.

Beginning with our January 21, 2016 Luncheon, if you are a REFCO member, we will pay \$3 toward your \$15 lunch. Everyone else will pay the full price of \$15. This includes spouses, friends, and County retirees who are not REFCO members.

We would like to allow spouses to become Associate Members as some other counties do. We will work with FCERA to see if we can work out the details so as not to negatively impact either association. We will keep you posted.

## **REFCO Benefit Plans** Payroll Deducted

• Dental, Vision, Identity Theft, Car. Home, Life. Accident, Travel, Legal, Pet, & More

As most of you are aware, the REFCO benefit plans are now available to be deducted directly from your retirement check. No longer are you required to provide a checking account for automated monthly (ACH) debits. Payroll deduction for your benefit plans eliminates the possibility of your benefits being canceled due to insufficient funds or you forgetting to inform the Administrator of a change in your bank account. See Benefit Plans on page 2

## **January 21 Luncheon Reservations**

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY CHECK

Thursday, January 21, 2016

### INTERNATIONAL CATERING COMPANY

4277 N. West Avenue • Fresno, California Check-in: 10 a.m. Sit-down luncheon served at 11:30 a.m.

"JACKS IN THE BAG" Raffle • 50/50 Raffle

• Food Drive benefiting Valley Animal Center Books, CD & DVD Exchange

**Election of Officers** 

Reservations \$12-\$15. See NEW LUNCHEON PRICING ABOVE--. Please make your check payable to REFCO, and mail to: REFCO, P.O. BOX 26384, FRESNO, CA 93729-6384.

Deadline for reservations is Saturday, January 16. Your check must reach us by that date, so please mail it early to allow for the USPS delivery. Except for free lunches, PHONE RESERVA-TIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

You may cancel your reservation by calling Marianne Messina at 559-439-9524 prior to the deadline of January 16. If you get her answering machine, please leave your name, phone number and that you are canceling your reservation.

> **CANCELLATIONS AFTER THE DEADLINE** CANNOT BE REFUNDED.



#### Who to Call for Help

**Retirement Office** .559-457-0681

- Retirement Check
- Withholding Forms
- Beneficiary Change
- Address Change
- Retirement Board Meetings

**Employee Benefits** . 559-600-1810

• County Health Insurance

#### **REFCO**

Joy ......559-456-2697 or <u>ja-clark@pacbell.net</u> mail REFCO, P.O. Box 26384, Fresno, CA 93729-6384.

- Grapevine
- Membership
- Address Change

Don Nelson

refco.media.mgr@gmail.com

• New/Changed E-mail Address

Marianne ......559-439-9524

Luncheon Reservations

### Don't Expect the **US Post Office to Tell Us** When You've Moved

New US Post Office regulations require REFCO to maintain mailing addresses that are updated no later than 90 days. To help us keep costs down, we need you to immediately notify us when you move.

#### The Grapevine **Disclaimer Statement**

The information printed in "The Grapevine" is believed to be from reliable sources. However, no responsibility is assumed by "The Grapevine" for inaccuracies contained herein.

#### **Privacy Statement**

REFCO recognizes the need for the privacy of its members and is committed to protecting your personal information. The Officers Directors of REFCO restrict access to information about you to those who need to know the information to provide services to you.

The information that REFCO has about you is your name, mailing address and payment of membership dues. This list of members is provided to us by the Retirement Office.

REFCO does not disclose any of this information about our members and former members to third parties. The information is limited to those who assist us with mailings such as The Grapevine Newsletter. The companies who act on our behalf are obligated to keep this information that we provide them confidential.

REFCO does not sell or share our member lists.

## **2016 REFCO Activities Calendar**

**JANUARY** 

14: Board Mtg

21: Luncheon

**FEBRUARY** 11: Board Mtg

**MARCH** 

10: Board Mtg

**APRIL** 

14: Board Mtg 21: Luncheon

**MAY** 12: Board Mtg **JUNE** 

9: Board Mtg

JULY

14: Board Mtg

21: Luncheon

**AUGUST** 11: Board Mtg

**SEPTEMBER** 

1: Bingo Buffet 8: Board Mtg

**OCTOBER** 

13: Board Mtg 20: Hlth Fair Lunch

**NOVEMBER** 10: Board Mtg

**DECEMBER** 

8: Christmas Party

- Meetings 9:00am, FCFCU Admin Offices, 2580 W Shaw Ave
- Luncheons Lunch at 11:30am, International Catering, 4277 N West Ave
- **Bingo Buffet** Lunch at 11:30am, Bingo after lunch, International Catering, 4277 N West Ave
- Christmas Party Lunch at 11:30am, International Catering, 4277 N West Ave

## **Community Outreach**

#### **Charitable Food Drive Benefits** Valley Animal Center

The next REFCO Food Drive will be held on January 21, 2016, and will be a little different. We will be Highlighting the VALLEY ANIMAL **CENTER**. Located at 3934 N Hayston Ave. in Fresno, it is dedicated to providing care and shelter to dogs, puppies, cats and kittens. As a no-kill dog and cat adoption center, they provide humane educational services along with low-cost spay, neuter and vaccinations. They house thousands of dogs and cats each year until they are

placed in loving homes. Euthanasia is never performed unless the animal is suffering from a serious illness that cannot be cured, or a painful condition that cannot be alleviated.

What is needed most in donations? Wet Canned Cat Food, 33 gallon trash bags, Laundry Detergent, anti-Bacterial Dish soap, Hydrogen Peroxide, Distilled Water, Rubbing Alcohol, Moist & Meaty dog treats. White Bath towels. Dry dog and cat food they get at a reduced price from Science Diet, so no dry food please. Of course, \$\$ donations are always appreciated!

## **Benefit Plans**

Continued from page 1

While most of the members who were enrolled have opted to switch to payroll deduction, there are still those who did not return their signed authorization. You cannot be switched to payroll deduction unless you submit a signed authorization form.

While our Benefit Plans Administrator, Pacific Group Agencies, has agreed to extend ACH deductions through the end of 2016, we strongly suggest that if you have not yet done so, you complete and submit a signed authorization form.

If you need a form, please contact our Administrator at 800.511.9065 or

REFCO@pgagencies.com.

## **DIRECTORY OF REFCO OFFICIALS/VOLUNTEERS**

PO Box 26384 • Fresno CA 93729-6384

Website: refcol.org

Contact Information: Joy Clark Phone & Fax: 559.456.2697

Email: ja-clark@pacbell.net **Officers** 

President.....Linda Hutcheson 1st Vice President.....Bob Dowell 2nd Vice President ......Regina Wheeler Recording Secretary......Dick Estel Membership Secretary ......Joy Clark Treasurer .....Linda Robinson Asst Treasurer......Marianne Messina Imm Past President......Julie Hornback

**Directors** 

Annie Lee Virginia Quintana Don Nelson Janet Smith Diann Phelps Sue Wirt

Patrice White Retirement Bd

Bob Dowell Mary Ann Rogozinski (alt)

**Committee Chairs** 

Advocacy.....Bob Dowell Benefits.....Les Jorgensen By-Laws.....Bob Dowell Community Outreach ......Patrice White Events ......Regina Wheeler Finance & Budget ......Linda Robinson Grapevine ......Jov Clark Health ......Annie Lee Legislation ......Bob Dowell Luncheon Reservations ......Marianne Messina Luncheon Master of Ceremonies......Ken Smith

Media Manager......Don Nelson Membership ......Joy Clark Nominating......Dick Estel Parliamentarian......Dick Estel Scholarship ......Janet Smith Sunshine ......Virginia Quintana Webmaster.....Jeannine Geare

### **Congratulations, New Retirees** & New Members!

New REFCO members are **bolded**. \*Indicates a deferred member. Listed alphabetically by last name.

**Note:** Note: Missing info on some new REFCO members indicates the info could not be verified by the *Grapevine* deadline.

the info could not be ve	erified by the Grapevine deadline	e.
Acosta, Nina	Coroner/Pub Admin	8.05*
Almaraz, Yolanda	District Attorney	23.94
Anaya, Jose M	Sheriff	25.74
Barrera, Sylvia	Probation	15.47
Borges, James	Social Services	13.58*
Burris, Monica	Behavior Health	13.22
Cabrera, Carlos A	CA Superior Court	7.70*
Cantu, Leticia S	Social Services	<b>25.19</b>
Carlson, Cheryl	Personnel Services	16.91*
Chavez, Karel A	Library	14.55
Chrisco, Sheri H	Social Services	15.11
Christensen, Alice		
Colsch, Eliza A	Probation	
Contreras, Jose J	Social services	35.41
Coronado, Francis	Social Services	13.65
Crosby, Jeffrey E Cross, Annie	Library Behavioral Health	8.05 17.33
Cuadros, Alfred R	Probation	6.62*
Cunningham, Lee Ann	Valley Medical Center	8.21*
Davidow, Susan	Agriculture	0.21
Davis, L Fletcher	Behavioral Health	32.43
De La Cruz, Diana A	Social Services	15.44
Esparza, Frances	Social Services	13.30
Fairman, Patricia	Behavioral Health	26.15
Fernandez, Maria	Library	13.90
Ford, Garri A	Social Services	22.06
Galinda, Maria Dora	Social Services	13.50
Garcia, Raymond	Sheriff	8.78*
Hedstrom, Tina	Behavioral Health	14.92
Hemmitt-Patton, Wanda		11.78
Herrman, Steven	Valley Medical Center	5.10*
Imahori-Ng, Catherine Ingvaldson, Gary R	Administration	5.84*
Johnson III, Frank L	Public Works & Planning	10.01
Jones, Boyd	General Services	10.01
-		25.88
Karagozian, Karen	Community Health	20.00
<b>Karagozian, Karen</b> King, David A	Community Health Assessor/Recorder	23.39
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King, David A Lochbaum, Teresa Manriques, Daniel	Assessor/Recorder Social Services Sheriff	23.39 13.84 21.09
King, David A Lochbaum, Teresa Manriques, Daniel Martin, Daniel	Assessor/Recorder Social Services Sheriff <b>Sheriff</b>	23.39 13.84 21.09 <b>10.20</b>
King, David A Lochbaum, Teresa Manriques, Daniel Martin, Daniel Martinez, Sandra	Assessor/Recorder Social Services Sheriff Sheriff Social Services	23.39 13.84 21.09
King, David A Lochbaum, Teresa Manriques, Daniel Martin, Daniel Martinez, Sandra Mc Anulty, Dale W	Assessor/Recorder Social Services Sheriff Sheriff Social Services Probation	23.39 13.84 21.09 <b>10.20</b> 21.37
King, David A Lochbaum, Teresa Manriques, Daniel Martin, Daniel Martinez, Sandra Mc Anulty, Dale W Mc Graw, Mary Elaine	Assessor/Recorder Social Services Sheriff Sheriff Social Services Probation Probation	23.39 13.84 21.09 <b>10.20</b> 21.37
King, David A Lochbaum, Teresa Manriques, Daniel Martin, Daniel Martinez, Sandra Mc Anulty, Dale W Mc Graw, Mary Elaine Mc Kee, Janet E	Assessor/Recorder Social Services Sheriff Sheriff Social Services Probation Probation Behavior Health	23.39 13.84 21.09 <b>10.20</b> 21.37 16.40* <b>9.75</b> *
King, David A Lochbaum, Teresa Manriques, Daniel Martin, Daniel Martinez, Sandra Mc Anulty, Dale W Mc Graw, Mary Elaine Mc Kee, Janet E Mc Quillian, Janet M	Assessor/Recorder Social Services Sheriff Sheriff Social Services Probation Probation Probation Behavior Health Valley Medical Center	23.39 13.84 21.09 <b>10.20</b> 21.37 16.40* <b>9.75</b> * 11.10*
King, David A Lochbaum, Teresa Manriques, Daniel Martin, Daniel Martinez, Sandra Mc Anulty, Dale W Mc Graw, Mary Elaine Mc Kee, Janet E Mc Quillian, Janet M Moran, Loretta J	Assessor/Recorder Social Services Sheriff Sheriff Social Services Probation Probation Behavior Health Valley Medical Center Social Services	23.39 13.84 21.09 <b>10.20</b> 21.37 16.40* <b>9.75</b> * 11.10* 11.62
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Social Services

Yang, Maysee

### Christmas 2015 Raffle Winners **50/50**, \$610 ......Shahla Rahmani

<b>Food Drive</b> , \$50	Shirley Boling
<b>Jacks in the Bag</b> , \$10	Dolores Edelbrock
FCFCU \$25 Gift Cards	
• Bed, Bath and Beyond	Audrey Brouwer
Cheesecake Factory	Elena Perez
• Macy's	June McClellan
• Outback Steak House	Judy Alvarez
• Panera Bread	Pat Flaherty
REFCO \$20	·

Anne Strattman, Maria Guglielmino, Laura Martin, Darlene Morris, Suzanne Kostrub

#### **Steve Pettee Gift Baskets:**

Don McClellan, Janice Sumler

#### **Ancilla Creek Homemade Christmas Trees:**

Dolores Reed, Cathy Staroscik

#### **REFCO Annual Raffles:**

- Referring new member, \$100 Joy Clark
- Opting for email *Grapevine*, \$100 (did not get name of winner)
- Providing email to REFCO, \$50 Wanda Shafer

### **REFCO Photos Online**

Did you know that REFCO has a web page where you can see photos from our lunches and other events?

It's on the Shutterfly web site at:

http://refcophotos.shutterfly.com.

You will need to create an account (user name and password) to view the site, but there is no charge for this. Also, if you have previously created a Shutterfly account the logon and password from that account will probably still work.

You can download photos to your computer; instructions are on the web page. For members who do not have a PC, we will be happy to make a print and bring it to the next lunch, or make other arrangements for delivery.

There are photos from lunches ranging from Christmas 2004 to the latest one. REFCO members who have photos they'd like to include can upload them to an existing album or create a new album. The procedure is somewhat obvious, but if any help is needed, get in touch with Dick Estel.

Messages may be posted on the site by sending email to refcophotos@sfly.com. All persons designated as members of the site will receive a copy of this Email. If you'd like to be a member, let Dick know. If you are listed as a member on the site, your Email address is NOT displayed.

### MEMORIAM

REFCO extends our condolences to the family and friends of the following deceased, as reported by the Retirement Office:

RETIREES
Abundis, Bertha
Acosta, Homer
Aleru, Caleb O
Bartlett, Bonnie
Bratton, Betty L
Brooks, Oran D
Brown, Sylvia J
Carson, Esther
Castro, Eleanor
Cavazos, Sonya
Davis, L Fletcher
Driscoll, Roger W
Flood, Elizabeth
Flores, Albert D
Forbes, Glen A
Garabedian, Doris
Guess, Lorees
Johnson, D E
Johnson, Virginia
Kazmi, Bobbie
Kiehlmeier, Cynthia S
Lee, Edward A
Lombardo, Marcia M
Mahe, Fepaki M
Margosian, Leo
Morrell, Julia
Oliveri, Melinda

Padua, Antonio

20.99

Papin, Clare E Pedersen, Gwyn W Riley, Geneva Robison, Ruth Sanchez, Mary L Seay, Joanne Smith, Kenneth D Vallejo, Antonia C Wildey, James A Wroten, Reuben B

### **BENEFICIARIES**

Anderson, Betty of Robert Anderson, Virginia of Charles Lamonica, Margaret of Joseph Minamoto, Kay of Minoru Muhly, Lois of Louis People, Veatrice of Claud Schletewitz, Debra of Bobbie Vrolyk, Edith of John Wyatt, Bernice of Brady Yamamoto, Yoshiko of Masao

### **ACTIVE** Taylor, Chad

## **Impending Challenge for REFCO Members**

Fresno County retirees may soon find ourselves in precarious circumstances when it comes to retaining the retirement benefits we earned while employed by any governmental agency in California. Holiday season or not, there is no lack of private employee pension envy and resentment, biased media attention or menacing special interest groups attempting to alter the terms under which public employees retire.

As stated in the previous edition of *The* Grapevine, continued attempts to slash defined benefit plans for public employees continue vis-à-vis the proposed "Voter Empowerment Act of 2016." Because the authors of this initiative were not happy with the Attorney General's review and written Title and Summary of this measure, the proposal was withdrawn. However, no less than two additional initiatives have been filed to replace the withdrawn original proposal.

Your REFCO board members and other 37 Act retiree associations are currently engaged in research and discussions to ascertain the impact of the new proposals on the future funding of our pensions and retirement system. As further information is available, we will provide updates to you through our Grapevine newsletter and emails when necessary, so please keep your email and mailing addresses up to date with REFCO.



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