



The Grapevine

JULY 2024

Representing all Fresno County retirees and their families

www.refco1.org • INCORPORATED 1978

Thursday, July 18 Luncheon Reservations

**ALL RESERVATIONS
MUST BE MADE BY CHECK**

PARDINI'S

2257 W. Shaw, Fresno, CA
corner of W Shaw & Van Ness,
Fresno

Check-in: 10 a.m.
**Sit-down luncheon served
at 11:30 a.m.**

Donations Collected for Central Valley Honor Flight

Reservations: \$23 members;
\$25 nonmembers.

Please make your check
payable to REFCO,
and mail to:

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

Deadline for reservations is
Monday, July 8, 2024. Your
check must reach us by that
date, so please mail it early
to allow for USPS delivery.
**Note: Your check will not
be deposited until after the
July 8th deadline.**

**EXCEPT FOR FREE
LUNCHESE PHONE
RESERVATIONS WILL NOT
BE ACCEPTED**

To cancel reservations:

Call Mary Ann Rogozinski at
559-801-2171 prior to July 8.
If you get a voice mail, leave
your name, phone number,
and that you are canceling
your reservation. Cancellations
after the deadline cannot
be refunded.



Debbie Blankenship

President's Message

by *Debbie Blankenship, President*

As the temperatures go higher and the days stretch longer, we embrace the heart of summer. Mark your calendars for Thursday, July 18th, 2024 for our Summer Luncheon. It is a perfect opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones, all while enjoying a delightful meal together. Our sponsored organization in July will be the Central

Valley Honor Flight. In support of our Veterans, we are encouraging everyone attending the luncheon to wear their Red, White, and Blue.

We value your ideas and opinions! Our REFCO Events Coordinator, DeAnn VonBerg, has been busy brainstorming ideas on new ways to celebrate with our retirees. She has developed a survey that will be sent to you by email by the end of June. We look forward to hearing from you on all.

Do you receive The Grapevine by email? It is full-color, eco-friendly, and saves space. We would like to urge our members to go paperless by ensuring we have your current email address on file.

With the summer heat upon us, staying hydrated and protecting yourself from the sun is crucial. Remember to drink plenty of water, wear sunscreen, and don comfortable hats when you are out and about. Our health is our wealth, and taking these small steps can ensure you enjoy the season to its fullest.

Happy Fourth of July! May this day be a symbol of peace, prosperity, and happiness in your lives. God bless America and the people who live here!

REFCO Night at The Fresno Grizzlies

We are very excited to announce that we will have a REFCO Night at the Fresno Grizzlies baseball game when our hometown team takes on the Lake Elsinore Storm. All members and retirees as well as their family and friends are invited to join us.

Date: Friday, August 2, 2024

Time: Gates open at 6:05 p.m.; Game time is 7:05

Price: \$24 (Children 3 and under are free); Field Box seats; accessible seating available

Events/Promotion: Fireworks after the game, Grizzlies Baseball cap to each REFCO attendee, and raffle prize of Grizzlies Swag to a lucky REFCO attendee.

Purchase tickets and select seats: <https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Refco2>

Discounted Group Parking may be purchased by contacting Devan Brady, Grizzlies Membership Services Consultant at 559-214-0470 or dbrady@fresnogrizzlies.com. Any other questions relating to our event can also be directed to Devan.

We encourage you to use the provided link to directly purchase the

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OFFICERS

President.....Debbie Blankenship
 1st Vice President.....Christine Balbas
 2nd Vice President..... Irene Romero
 Recording Secretary..... Dick Estel
 Membership Secretary Vacant
 Treasurer..... Linda Robinson
 Assistant Treasurer.....Mary Ann Rogozinski
 Immediate Past President Kelly Woodard

DIRECTORS

Dawn Gallegos, James Hackett, Judy Lemos, Karen Sebilian,
 DeAnn VonBerg, Patrice White, Sue Wirt

RETIREMENT BOARD Laura Basua, Vicki Crow (alt)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advocacy.....James Hackett
 By-Laws Debbie Blankenship
 CRCEADelegate: James Hackett, Alternate: Chris Balbas
 Community Outreach Patrice White
 Employee Benefits..... Vacant
 Events.....DeAnn VonBerg
 Finance & Budget Linda Robinson
 Grapevine/Newsletter.....Christine Balbas
 Health.....Charlotte Tilkes
 Luncheon Reservations..... Mary Ann Rogozinski
 Luncheon Master of CeremoniesKen Smith
 Membership & Awards Vacant
 Nominating..... Dick Estel
 Parliamentarian Dick Estel
 Scholarship Liaison Julie Hornback
 Sunshine..... Dawn Gallegos
 Webmaster..... Daniel Moore

WHO TO CALL FOR HELP

RETIREMENT OFFICE559-457-0681
 Address Change, Retirement Check, Withholding Forms,
 Beneficiary Change, Retirement Board Meetings

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS 559-600-1810
 County Health Insurance

REFCO559-431-5032
 website: refco1.org email: refco.emails@gmail.com
 mailing: P.O. Box 26384, Fresno, CA 93729-6384
 Address Change, The Grapevine, Membership

Don Nelsonrefco.media_mgr@gmail.com

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS..... 559-801-2171

THE US POST OFFICE DOES NOT TELL US 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 and 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 list.

2024 REFCO EVENTS CALENDAR

LUNCHEONS – **SEE MEETING NOTICE DETAILS ON PAGE 1**

| JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 11 BOARD MTG | 8 BOARD MTG 15 LUNCHEON | 14 BOARD MTG |
| APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
| 11 BOARD MTG 25 LUNCHEON | 9 BOARD MTG | 13 BOARD MTG |
| JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER |
| 11 BOARD MTG 18 LUNCHEON | 8 BOARD MTG | 5 LUNCHEON 12 BOARD MTG |
| OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER |
| 10 BOARD MTG 17 LUNCHEON | 14 BOARD MTG | 5 LUNCHEON |

April's Sponsored Organization:

Central Valley Honor Flight

by Patrice White

Central Valley Honor Flight is committed to honoring local WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans by sending them to see their memorials in Washington D.C. Since its inaugural flight in October 2013, our non-profit organization has sent over 1800 World War II veterans, Korean War veterans, and Vietnam War veterans and their travel "Guardians" on 27 separate trips and counting.

Help us continue to commemorate their sacrifice and honor their service to our country. One hundred percent of all donations fund these flights at no cost to the veterans. Please join us in giving back to those who made many great sacrifices so that we could be free.

Each trip costs roughly \$1,500 per veteran for the charter aircraft, tour buses, lodging and meals – an expense covered by Central Valley Honor Flight entirely through donations from more than 1,000 individuals, small businesses and service clubs from Modesto to Porterville. All donations to our federal, nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization are tax deductible. Contributors should consult their tax advisor concerning the financial benefits of making such a donation.

For the Veteran, this is an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C.

While priority has and will continue to be given to World War II veterans, we honor Korean and Vietnam War veterans on a space available basis. Central Valley Honor Flight believes all veterans should have this kind of opportunity and encourages them to apply now.

Please give generously at the July luncheon. We will only collect money, no canned goods at this luncheon.

Missing Grapevines

If you aren't getting your emailed copy of *The Grapevine*, check the spam folder on your computer. It may be there. If so, try adding REFCO Membership Team to your contacts (daliaromero1@gmail.com).

Fresno Grizzlies

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tickets and select your own seats within our reserved group seating area. You may purchase tickets this way all the way up until game time at the group rate and will receive an electronic ticket or will be able to print your own tickets. Payment by check will be available if necessary, but unfortunately, you will not be able to pick your own seats and must mail a check to us by Monday, July 22 to ensure that we receive it in time to purchase your ticket(s). Tickets purchased by check will then be available at Will Call at the stadium on the night of the game.

Questions or to purchase tickets by Check contact DeAnn VonBerg, REFCO Events Committee Chair at 559-978-3808 or email us at REFCO.emails@gmail.com.

Event flier and more information on our website: <http://www.refcol.org>

Grizzlies Team Website: <https://www.milb.com/fresno/team>

THE FRESNO GRIZZLIES #GROWLIFORNIA

FRESNO GRIZZLIES CHUKCHANSI PARK DOWNTOWN FRESNO

FRESNO GRIZZLIES vs. **LAKE ELSINORE STORM**

GAME INFORMATION

Date: Friday, August 2nd
Game Time: Gates open 5:50, Start time 7:05
Promotion: Living the Meme Night

In Memoriam

The surviving spouse of a member is eligible for REFCO membership. The application is available on the REFCO website at www.refcol.org.

- Henry V Lopez
- Cecil P Ray Jr
- Kristi A Jacobie
- Donald L Hogner
- Rosario Taylor
- Deborah L. Kuest

- John Fuchs
- Shirley Paganucci
- Donald Page
- Robert J Moucka
- Janet E Yarnell
- Carmela A Willingham

Your Family Is Our Family



Where you're all worth more.

Fresno | Clovis | Madera | Selma
559-252-5000 NobleCU.com

Federally Insured by NCUA



NOBLE CREDIT UNION

April 2024 Luncheon Highlights

Luncheon Raffle Winners Awarded

The lucky winners from the April luncheon are as follows:

50/50: Isabel Ibarra (\$266)

Food Drive: Gayle DeLateur (\$50)

Noble CU Gift Cards: Zahra Hamadeh, Mary Smith, Janet Smith, Nancy Beltran (\$25 each)

REFCO \$20: Janet Smith, Natalie Nino, Ruby Waller, DeAnn VonBerg, Debra Beard

Jacks In The Bag: Marsha Allen (\$10)



Luncheon Photos Available on the REFCO Website

Remember that the photos from our REFCO luncheons are available on the REFCO website. Many members have commented that they enjoy seeing old friends and former colleagues who attended the luncheons. We will continue to post these photos after each event.



Congratulations, New Retirees

through May 2024

* REFCO members in **bold**; listed alphabetically by last name

| RETIREE | DEPARTMENT | YRS OF SERVICE | RETIREE | DEPARTMENT | YRS OF SERVICE |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Lupe Aispuro | DSS | 29.2747 | Mary E Kennedy | Payroll | 23.1616 |
| Lakeisha S Akins | DSS | 20.2055 | Aly Khattab | Prob-Juv | 26.4609 |
| David W Amezcua | Prob-Juv | 29.1096 | Victoria M Klassen | DSS | 26.4609 |
| Lorena Arellano | DSS | 22.0548 | Hector H Lara | Payroll | 29.5493 |
| Martha Arreazola | DSS | 35.5096 | Bryan A Lehman | Payroll | 20.611 |
| Ruben J Arroyo | Agriculture | 5.5591 | David D Licon | DSS | 26.8055 |
| Richard J Avina | DSS | 35.9019 | Jose G Lomeli | Payroll | 20.4822 |
| Teresa C Avina | Probate | 23.9151 | Diane Michele Martinez | DSS | 36.4726 |
| Brian Landon Becker | Facility | 5.8137 | Lidia Molano | Library Op | 39.6932 |
| Shirley Beers | DSS | 28.8795 | Lao Mouanoutoua | DSS | 30.1808 |
| Trevor D Birkholz | Behav Hlth | 28.2247 | Patrick L Murphy | HR | 8.3873 |
| Beth A Brown | Assessor | 20.4822 | Sandra L Nelson | Behav Hlth | 10.811 |
| Steven D Buller | Interprete | 16.7534 | Dennis Michael Nichols | Agriculture | 9.0082 |
| Mark A Cardoza | Roads | 20.7452 | Sheila D Ownsbey | Payroll | 30.6028 |
| Robert J Carey | Payroll CI | 24.2295 | Grace Rochelle Palomino | Facility | 22.7014 |
| Linda J Casey | HR-Risk | 18.3671 | Daisy Galvan Quigley | Child Supp | 5.337 |
| Floyd D Causey III | DSS | 29.3185 | Nancy Reyna | Criminal | 22.9479 |
| Pete Anthony Cervantes | Archives | 16.3372 | Richard Rios | Comm Health | 3.7151 |
| Angela Sue Chapman | ITSD | 22.3945 | Virginia Rodriguez | DA-Crim | 21.2795 |
| Deborah Sue Cooley | DSS | 28.8384 | Robert G Sabroe | Library Op | 11.2575 |
| Gary Elliot Cornuelle | Purchasing | 11.6164 | Mark Serrano | VMC | 13.394 |
| Lisa K Craft | Board Sup | 8.2953 | Robert W Shields | DSS | 25.7315 |
| Linda Lorraine Delgado | Behav Hlth | 8.7836 | Rose A Slonski | Payroll | 21.4357 |
| Deborah Dexter-Mendez | Agriculture | 24.9012 | Rachel V Soltrero | Pub Defender | 6.8011 |
| Amy Dobrinin | Comm Health | 31.5331 | Alexander Wallace Sosin | Payroll | 11.0521 |
| Dale K Dotson | Comm Health | 23.0142 | Norma Jean Sutton | Assessor | 32.82 |
| Michael S Downing | Fleet | 27.726 | David Mark Swickard | FMAAA | 15.6781 |
| Lonnie Engelman | Payroll | 28.3781 | Emilia Torres | DSS | 30.99 |
| Eric Wendell Ewing | Library Op | 9.0822 | Melissa A Townsend | Sheriff Jail | 6.063 |
| Karen E Ewing | ITSD | 25.6548 | Danette Lynn Tull | HR-Risk | 10.0438 |
| Janice Machele Freund | DSS | 14.474 | Neng X Vang | DSS | 23.592 |
| Lucia D Fuentez | Payroll | 23.8384 | Tou Thomas Vang | DSS | 11.8849 |
| Angela Rose Gillispie | Recorder | 8.2795 | Vamie Vang | DSS | 19.474 |
| Baltimore J Gonzalez | Behav Hlth | 18.5644 | Denise M White | Payroll | 23.1307 |
| Benjamin Gonzalez | Payroll | 7.5238 | James White | Payroll | 24.1014 |
| Elizabeth Gordon | Assessor | 21.4795 | Thai X Xiong | DSS | 18.8274 |
| Jonathan W Hunt II | DSS | 33.7863 | | | |



Armadillo

Home Warranty, Reinvented

A home repair service plan covers the cost of repairs and replacements of certain appliances and systems in a home caused by everyday wear and tear, or from old age.

- Old HVAC system? \$5,000 cost to replace
- Old Water Heater? \$2,000 cost to replace
- Old Appliances? Over \$1,000 to replace

Exclusive program created for REFCO retired employees.

Ensure your HVAC system is covered BEFORE it breaks down during the hot summer months!

- ✓ We can dispatch a qualified technician to your home, but you also have the option to **use your own trusted pro.**
- ✓ **No gotchas!** 80% fewer exclusions than typical home warranty.
- ✓ **100% US-based service.** We won't send your claims overseas!

To Learn More and Enroll visit www.pgagencies.com/REAVC/home

Call PGA
(800) 511-9065

Call Armadillo
(844) 403-2123