



The Grapevine

SEPTEMBER 2024

Representing all Fresno County retirees and their families

www.refco1.org • INCORPORATED 1978

Thursday, October 17 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 Valley Veterans

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, October 7, 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
October 7 deadline.**

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

To cancel reservations:

Call Mary Ann Rogozinski at
559-801-2171 prior to October
7. 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

Summer seems to have flown by, I hope you've all been enjoying it and spending quality time with your families and friends. I am looking forward to cooler weather!

Our July luncheon was a big success, our luncheon attendees were honored to have representatives from Central Valley Honor Flight give us a presentation of their wonderful organization. The group raised \$793. There were also lots of prizes and money won by our members during our raffles.

Important dates for benefits:

FCERA Benefits: The open enrollment period for benefits through FCERA will be from October 7 through October 25.

Pacific Group Agencies Benefits: Booklets should arrive in your mailboxes on or around October 10th. Remember, this is your once-a-year chance to enroll in or make changes to your dental and vision coverages. If you do not make changes, your enrolled coverage will continue for 2025.

Reminders

REFCO is a voluntary organization and does not have office staff that man our phone lines so it is very important to leave a message, and we will return your call as soon as we can. It is also important to get your luncheon checks in by the deadline so we can ensure Pardini's has our final number of attendees by their deadline.

Take care, and I hope to see you soon at one of our luncheons!

Retiree Health Insurance Summer Update

by Charlotte Tilkes

The Fresno County contract for the 'Medicare Supplemental Option' health plan provided through United American Insurance Company/United Health Care Rx ends this calendar year. Fresno County, in collaboration with the health plan consultant and REFCO representatives are beginning the process of selecting a health plan provider beginning January 1, 2025. This is the normal process that happens every few years and does not interrupt nor result in a gap in Medicare supplemental insurance coverage for those enrolled in this health plan. The County will be providing updates as we get closer to health plan open enrollment this fall. Note: this process does not impact dental and vision, nor pre-65 retiree health plans. All retirees are encouraged to attend the REFCO's October 17, 2024 Health Luncheon at Pardini's. County Benefits staff and health plan providers will be on hand to answer your health plan questions to assist you in making informed health insurance decisions.



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/NewsletterChristine 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

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Charitable Food Drive Targets Veterans

by Patrice White

The next REFCO Food and Money Drive will be held at our luncheon on Thursday October 17, 2024. We are pleased to announce that the Central Valley Veterans, a local non-profit organization that we have donated to in the past, will again receive our food and monetary donations and provide everyone an opportunity to make difference in helping local veterans in need.

In addition to food, Central Valley Veterans provides a wide array of services to needy veterans: emergency housing, furniture, car repairs, utility payments, etc. They collaborate with several other veterans' organizations that are equally committed to improving the lives of our valley veterans.

We anticipate and encourage strong support for veterans by our REFCO members with generous donations of non-perishable food at our upcoming luncheon. If you forget to bring food, donations of cash or checks are more than welcome.

Business Sponsor Membership

You can advertise your business to REFCO members by becoming a REFCO Business Sponsor Member. You'll receive a free advertisement in each issue of The Grapevine, as well as include a news article, if desired. You can also attend REFCO functions at the regular member rate. Request a Business Sponsor Membership application by emailing to REFCO.emails@gmail.com. Please include information for follow-up phone contact.

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 (daliaromerol@gmail.com). We may also have an incorrect email address for you. Please send your current email address to refco.emails@gmail.com, and let us know that you're not getting the emailed Grapevine.

Congratulations, New Retirees

through July 2024

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

RETIREE	DEPARTMENT	YRS OF SERVICE
Mark Allen Anderson	DSS	8.0932
Annabel Baldwin	Sheriff	25.3954
Raymond J Beye	Cnty Clerk	5.0164
Jill Marie Bowie	Sheriff	11.4142
Daniel N Buie	Sheriff	30.0329
Juan Bustamante	DSS	23.5064
Richard Cuevas	Roads	6.9562
Lisa A Curtis	Prob-Juv	1.0932
Brian David Davis	DA-Crim	2.2
Manuel Delgado	Payroll	28.6082
Valerie L Devine	DSS	15.7644
Eric P Essman	Library	28.2653
Rose M Flores	Admin	35.2268
Isabel R Flores	Assessor	10.6466
Rudolph J Flores	Security	23.927
Alan A Franco	DSS	13.7315
Gerardo Gonzalez	Roads	18.348
Jim Handcock	Probation	24.7841
Jeffrey T Janes	Dvlpmt Svc	11.3109
Deborah Kilner	VMC	9.1863
Celia Marie Lopez	Comm Hlth	35.3121
Sheila M Matousek	VMC	9.5014
Amy S Mendez	DSS	13.7369
Patricia Montes-Araujo	Sheriff	10.3644
Yolanda Murillo Martinez	Coop Ext	12.4745
Natalie Marie Ortiz	CAO	10.8548
Mina Roshan	DSS	5.0422
Juan S Sustaita	Library	16.1042
Seng Thao	DSS	19.7918
Karen Lynn Tombs	Behav Hlth	1.8411
Phyllis Torres	DSS	15.7808
Sandra Hernandez Torres	DSS	24.0438
Darla White	AC/TTC	20.5342

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.

Patricia M Bruington
Gilbert Delapena
Jolene M Edwards
Lillie M Kelley

Sandra B Lynch
Thomas Mendoza
Mildred L Snyder

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

July 2024 Luncheon Highlights

Luncheon Raffle Winners Awarded

The lucky winners from the April luncheon are as follows:

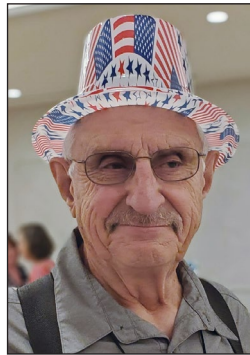
50/50: Sally Lopez (\$245)

Food Drive: Patrice White (\$50)

Noble CU Gift Cards: Ricci Torres, Herbert Peterson, Betty Massa, Maria Grace Moreno

REFCO \$20: Linda Robinson, Irene Martinez, Andrea Alvarez, Don McClellan, Gloria Rodriguez

Jacks In The Bag: Dick Estel (\$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.





REFCO Health and Wellness Fair Luncheon

Please join us for our Health and Wellness Fair luncheon on Thursday, October 17, 2024. This event provides you an opportunity to ask representatives any questions that you may have to make informed choices for the 2025 open enrollment period for health insurance and other benefits. Representatives from the County of Fresno and Pacific Group will be there, as well as representatives from Noble Credit Union and the FCERA office. This year we have extended invitations to a number of other community organizations that provide recreational and other services to seniors. We will update our website to list the participating organizations as they are confirmed.



We are pleased that the Fresno County Veterans Service Officer, Kyle Pennington will be there for our veteran retirees.

In addition, representatives from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Fresno State will be there to provide information about the wonderful learning opportunities they provide.



For your information, the County of Fresno will have their Health Fairs that retirees are also welcome to attend as follows:

- **Tuesday, October 15th** – Fresno County Plaza Ballroom (2220 Tulare St, Suite 1400, Fresno, CA 93721)
- **Wednesday, October 16th** – Fresno County Department of Social Services – Building 5 (380 W Ashlan Ave, Clovis, CA 93612)

If retirees attend the County Health Fairs between the hours of 8:00 am and 1:00 pm, there should be flu shots available.



REFCO Open Enrollment Begins Soon !!!

*by Stephen F. Pettee,
Pacific Group Agencies, Inc.*

We're excited to announce that the 2025 Open Enrollment period for REFCO benefit plans is coming soon! This is your annual opportunity to enroll in or update your coverage options, including two high-benefit dental plans (PPO & HMO), a VSP vision plan, legal services, identity theft protection, pet care, travel protection, life insurance, accident coverage, and more. Details of any changes and the current rates will be detailed in the Benefits Guide.

Keep an eye out for your annual Open Enrollment Benefits Guide, which **will arrive in the mail by October 15**. This guide will provide all the details about the benefit plans available exclusively to REFCO members. It's

important to note that the guide will be sent to the address FCERA (the retirement system) has on file, so please ensure they have your current address if you've recently moved.

If you are NOT making changes to your coverages, you do NOT need to return the Enrollment Form; your current coverage will automatically continue for 2025. However, if you do wish to make changes or enroll for the first time, please be sure to return your Enrollment Form by November 10. We're here to help if you have any questions or need assistance!