



The Grapevine

JANUARY 2020

Representing all Fresno County retirees and their families

www.refco1.org • INCORPORATED 1978

SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE

**Thursday,
February 20
Luncheon**

**ALL RESERVATIONS
MUST BE MADE BY CHECK**

PARDINI'S

2257 W Shaw, Fresno
corner of W Shaw & Van Ness
Check-in: 10 a.m.

Sit-down luncheon served: 11:30 a.m.

Election of Officers

Crime Prevention

speaker: **Kate Woertman**
FPD Crime Prevention Specialist

Jacks in the Bag Raffle: \$130

50/50 Raffle • Food Drive

Books, CD & DVD Exchange

Reservations: \$15 members;
\$18 nonmembers.

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

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

Deadline for reservations is
Saturday, February 15. Your check
must reach us by that date, so
please mail it early to allow for the
USPS delivery.

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

You may cancel your reservation
by calling Marianne Messina at
559-439-9524 prior to the deadline
of February 15. 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**

**NEXT EVENT:
SPRING LUNCHEON
APRIL 16**

More Days, More Ways:

New Voting System in 2020



By Brandi Orth,

Fresno County Clerk/Registrar of Voters

The Voters Choice Act is an exciting new model for elections administration. California Senate Bill 450 was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in 2016, which authorizes counties to send every voter a mail ballot and provide ballot drop-off locations and Vote Centers throughout the County. In 2018, five counties successfully initiated the new law: Madera, Napa, Nevada, Sacramento and San Mateo. For the upcoming 2020 election, ten other counties will launch the modernized voting practice under the Voters Choice Act: Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Los Angeles, Mariposa, Orange, Santa Clara, Tuolumne – and Fresno! The Fresno County Board of Supervisors approved the new model in March 2019 beginning with the upcoming Presidential Primary in March 2020.

As we transition to Vote Centers for the March 2020 election, it means that Fresno County voters will have more choices on where, when and how they would like to cast their ballot. It is essential that Fresno County voters check their current voter registration (www.votefresnocounty.com – click on “check your registration status”) and ensure that they are set to vote in 2020. All registered voters will be sent a ballot in the mail 29 days before the election, so you won’t have to request a vote-by-mail ballot in advance. Voters will also be able to mail their ballot with no postage or drop it off at one of 53 Vote Centers or 43 secure drop boxes conveniently located throughout Fresno County. In addition to the drop-boxes, ten days before Election Day throughout Fresno County, ten Vote Centers will be open to the public. As Election Day gets closer, 53 Vote Centers and 43 secure

*Please see **Vote** on page 4*

GUEST EDITORIAL

No Party Preference Voters Have Options

By Brandi Orth,

Fresno County Clerk/Registrar of Voters

Voters will receive party ballots for the March 2020 Presidential Primary Election. If you are a registered to a specific political party, your ballot will include that party’s Presidential race and Central Committee race. However, if you are one of the more than 112,000 No Party Preference (sometimes called non-partisan or decline to state) your Primary election ballot will **not** include any Presidential candidates. No Party Preference voters will not be voting for President, unless you choose to crossover or re-register. No Party Preference Voters will be receiving a postcard in the mail



Brandi Orth

for them to request a crossover ballot.

Three parties (American Independent, Democratic and Libertarian) have chosen to allow No Party Preference voters to crossover or request their party’s presidential

ballot in the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Election.

Three parties (Green, Peace and Freedom and Republican) presidential

*Please see **Orth** on page 4*



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

REFCO559-431-5032

or refco.emails@gmail.com
 mail REFCO, P.O. Box 2684,
 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 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.

Congratulations, New Retirees!

**Indicates a deferred member. Listed alphabetically by last name.*

Jane L AlchianSoc Servs.....38.49	Robert W Johnson.....Beh Hlth..... 11.38
John Alviso	Linda J Laine.....Soc Servs.....20.71
Pamela AndersonCA Sup Ct 19.54	Jeffrey N LeeAssr-Rec 10.81
Dirk Agueros.....Prob25.12	Mariaiscela Lopez.....Pub Wks & Plan..... 17.55
Joyce Arguelles.....Soc Servs 10.01	Evelyn R Lotter.....Comm Hlth..... 8.52
Damon Bagley.....Sheriff..... 7.12*	Jamie L LudwigSoc Servs 18.30
Peggy D BakemanFMAAA..... 19.51	Vikkie Luna.....Beh Hlth..... 14.46
Bruce W Barnes.....LAFCO2.54*	Lorena Macias.....Soc Servs 15.26
William BeigheyFacility Servs..... 10.44*	Margarita Macias.....Comm Hlth..... 18.48
Juan Benavides.....Fresno Mosq/V Cont.21.22	Melinda S Marks.....Comm Hlth.....6.03*
Frances BermanSoc Servs23.52	Lori Sigala MarquezSheriff..... 14.38
Douglas A Bolton.....Dist Atty..... 19.59	Sandra MartinFMAAA..... 19.50
Dan Boria	David S MartinezSheriff.....21.40
Chelsie Lynn Bovard.....Sheriff..... 5.57	Diana C MartinezCA Sup Ct 13.98*
Carol Ann BowersSoc Servs20.32	Mary Kathleen Martinez...Child Supp..... 10.20
Christopher Boyd.....Sheriff.....25.01	Sonia Yvette MillsFacility Servs.....23.63*
Jalaine Christine Bradley..Dist Atty..... 13.77	Crisilda MontanezSoc Servs26.58
Charles BrainerdITSD..... 27.99	Damiana Montemayor.....Soc Servs 12.62
Rodolfo BrambilaInternal Servs 10.48	Freda Montez-Soleno.....Soc Servs 33.75
Linda Brosi.....Pub Wks & Plan..... 19.51	Allen R Moore.....Internal Servs8.06*
Benita BushProb 27.69	William Hulme Nebeker....Pub Wks & Plan..... 5.00
Kathrine J Buxton.....Library..... 4.08*	Rosa E NegreteBeh Hlth..... 11.32
John R ByasSheriff..... 10.31	Jacquelyn NelsonSoc Servs26.51
Cheryl CessnaSoc Servs4.79*	Colette Okawaki.....Soc Servs 11.76
DeWayne L Chatman.....Dist Atty..... 17.90	Darrel J Olivas.....Sheriff.....20.00
Josefina Chavez.....Beh Hlth..... 37.90	Dirk PaloutzianDist Atty.....5.52*
Scot Cheney.....Dist Atty.....30.79	John Wesley Pierson.....CA Sup Ct 12.95
Hyang W Chun.....A-C/T-TC..... 11.25	Darryl PilotProb24.37
Delores Cox.....Beh Hlth..... 15.80	Oscar Plata.....VMC..... 15.93*
Robert DackawichPub Wks & Plan..... 16.87	Deanna B Ramirez.....CA Sup Ct22.18
Frank L Daniele.....Pub Wks & Plan..... 18.34	James A RamirezBeh Hlth..... 16.86
Cathy J Davis-Rey.....Sheriff..... 19.31	Stephanie A RamirezSheriff..... 19.71
Kimberly S DayCA Sup Ct 17.19	Charron Eva Marie Ream..Sheriff.....21.77
Fadia Doty.....Library..... 17.20	Lisa Renteria.....Comm Hlth.....36.85
Tammy L Edgell.....Soc Servs28.24	Maribel Reyes.....Soc Servs 11.39
Carlos EsquerriaAgric2.79*	Colleen A RiceCA Sup Ct26.82
Cheryl FarrBeh Hlth.....6.11*	Michael C Ricker.....Pub Wks & Plan..... 1.07*
Henry Faz.....Soc Servs24.81	Patricia Rios-Lopez.....Soc Servs 11.41
Timothy R Fillpot.....Soc Servs20.11	Belsa RodriguezSoc Servs25.04
Raquel Flores (Gamez)Child Supp Servs 10.43	Margarita Rodriguez.....Comm Hlth..... 13.33
Rueben FuentesSheriff.....8.17*	Bruce RohnAgric 15.22
Eric Garcia.....Sheriff.....30.95	Gregory A RutherfordCA Sup Ct35.59
Rosie Garcia.....Soc Servs 17.64	Stephanie Scarbrough....Beh Hlth..... 12.00*
Shelly Garza	Barbara Semien.....ITSD..... 14.88
David Geil.....ITSD..... 10.43	Susan Shamblin.....Beh Hlth..... 18.33
Nick Gonzales.....Soc Servs25.46	Pamela SlaterVMC..... 10.98*
Abel J Gonzalez.....Soc Servs 15.76	Julie Slaughter.....Comm Hlth.....25.85
Rene Gonzalez.....Facility Servs..... 18.07	Olga Soledad VelaProb28.51
Alicia Graves.....Child Supp..... 17.79*	Kenneth Solis.....Soc Servs24.50
Iqbal S GrewalBeh Hlth.....36.11	Douglas SullivanSheriff.....21.21
Blake GundersonSheriff.....20.59	Nouly Thao.....Soc Servs 27.04
Elena M GuzmanChild Supp.....25.90	Clarissa Thomas.....Comm Hlth.....8.82*
Elizabeth Guzman.....Child Supp.....35.01	Walter R Toner.....Facility Servs.....4.53*
Michelle A Haney.....FCERA.....29.32	Mary E Torres.....Soc Servs21.72
Anita J HarperBeh Hlth21.82	Randall Waltz.....Sheriff..... 11.54
Mark A Harris.....Sheriff.....25.18	Allen Weathers
Carla N HawksSoc Servs 11.25	Marn-Jung C WenA-C/T-TC.....24.69
Lee Heeren.....Soc Servs20.57	Patricia WhiteSoc Servs 17.56
Monica J Henry.....Soc Servs26.50	Dane Wildey.....Sheriff..... 16.20
Jerry Her.....Sheriff..... 18.14	Jo WilkersonSoc Servs24.31
Jennifer R Hirstein-Crow ..Library.....4.44*	Karen M WilsonSoc Servs 18.09
Theresa HubertLibrary.....9.90*	Derek P Wisheart.....Dist Atty.....5.77*
Ana HurtadoSheriff.....4.96	David WootenSoc Servs5.06
Ernie JaimeSheriff.....22.01	Pamela YeagerSoc Servs 15.80

2020 REFCO Activities Calendar

JANUARY 9: Board Mtg	FEBRUARY 13: Board Mtg 20: Luncheon	MARCH 12: Board Mtg
APRIL 9: Board Mtg 16: Luncheon	MAY 14: Board Mtg	JUNE 11: Board Mtg
JULY 9: Board Mtg 16: Luncheon	AUGUST 13: Board Mtg	SEPTEMBER 3: Bingo Bash 10: Board Meeting
OCTOBER 8: Board Mtg 15: Hlth Fair Lunch	NOVEMBER 12: Board Mtg	DECEMBER 3: Christmas Party

- **Meetings** – 9:00 am, Noble Credit Union, Admin Offices, 2550 W Shaw Ave
- **Luncheons** – Lunch at 11:30 am, Pardini’s, 2257 W Shaw Ave
- **Christmas Party** – Lunch at 11:30 am, Pardini’s, 2257 W Shaw Ave

2020 REFCO Officers Election Held During February 20 Meeting

At the September board meeting, the Nominating Committee submitted, and the Board approved, the following slate of candidates for 2020.

Voting will be held at the annual luncheon meeting February 20, 2020, at which time nominations from the floor will also be accepted.

All candidates are incumbents.

- **President:**
Judy Lemos
(2nd year of two-year term)
 - **1st Vice President:**
Kelly Woodard
(2nd year of two-year term)
 - **2nd Vice President:**
Regina Wheeler
 - **Membership Secretary:**
Joy Clark
 - **Recording Secretary:**
Dick Estel
 - **Treasurer:** Linda Robinson
 - **Assistant Treasurer:**
Marianne Messina
- Board of Directors**
(terms expire end of 2021)
- Debbie Blankenship
 - Julie Hornback
 - Don Nelson
 - Sue Wirt

DIRECTORY OF REFCO OFFICIALS/VOLUNTEERS

PO Box 26384 • Fresno CA 93729-6384
 Website: refco1.org
 Contact Information:
 Phone: 559.431-5032
 Email: refco.emails@gmail.com

Officers

President Judy Lemos
 1st Vice President..... Kelly Woodard
 2nd Vice President Regina Wheeler
 Recording Secretary..... Dick Estel
 Membership Secretary Joy Clark
 Treasurer..... Linda Robinson
 Asst Treasurer Marianne Messina
 Imm Past President..... Bob Dowell

Directors

Debbie Blankenship
 June Breese-McClellan
 Julie Hornback Janet Smith
 Gayle Johnson Don Nelson
 Sue Wirt

Retirement Bd

Laura Basua Doug Papagni (alt)

Committee Chairs

Advocacy Kelly Woodard
 Benefits Les Jorgensen
 By-Laws..... Kelly Woodard
 CRCEA Delegate Chris Balbas
 CRCEA Alternate Dick Estel
 Community Outreach Gayle Johnson
 Events Regina Wheeler
 Co Chairs Pati Ann Soto & Gloria Jackson
 Finance & Budget Linda Robinson
 Grapevine Joy Clark
 Health Annie Lee
 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 Debbie Blankenship
 Webmaster..... Daniel Moore

In Memoriam

RETIREES

Cyndie Adame
 S G Allen
 Phyllis Alviso
 Steven Andrada
 Thomas Barrans
 Betty Bogosian
 Patricia Borders
 Joy Boyce
 Melvin J Brooks
 Yvonne Bullock
 William C Carmichael Jr
 Steven Carrillo
 Marilyn Castanon
 Sa Chandavong
 Sheri H Chrisco
 Darrell Coates
 Gloria L Crombie
 Catherine DeFehr
 Ruben De Santiago
 Polly Diaz
 Betty Eden
 Carol J Elvington
 Cynthia Ferry
 Fred W Fitchhorn
 Antonia Flores
 Robert Flores
 Anthony Fortunato
 Jose Franco
 Ruby O Freitas

Terry Fry
 Patricia A Gentry
 James Goldstein
 Mary L Gonzales
 Paula Groves-Coleman
 Mark A Guardado
 Raye L Hedgpeth
 Charles Hiigel
 David W Huerta
 Michael Johnson
 Mary Kachadoorian
 Raymond Kazmierski
 Ben Kelley
 Dianne Kelso
 Julie Kindrick
 Elanore Kurtz
 Melinda Loveland
 Lorraine Luna
 Esther Martinez
 Dalauna McCoy
 Evelyn McGinity
 Vernon Meyer
 Dianna Meyers
 Robert Moody
 Dennis H Morgan
 Andrew F Murphy
 Tanya Newson
 Henry Nguyen
 Vu Nguyen
 Annamae E Nichols

Marie Oaxaca
 Larry I Pearson
 Helena W Pietro
 Lisa Poletti
 Rita Prado
 Gloria J Robinson
 Marsha Ross
 Leroy Schafer
 Mark Sciaroni
 Harold E D Shumate
 Arthur Smith
 Manuel J Souza
 Joseph Spellins
 James L Spradling
 Arthur Stewart
 Carmen Stoner
 Gloria Swan
 Evert A Turner
 Sharon A Vandercook
 Peter Y Vang
 Joan G Von Renner
 Ruth Waller
 Carleen West
 Darla Wilson

DEFERRED

Randy Eugene Bell
 Tammy Chumley
 Matthew C Dergarabedian
 Taneaia Chanti Piorro

ACTIVE

Patricia Strattman Clay
 Miles Jordan Diaz
 Paul E Freeburg
 Tony De La Torre Garcia
 Bonny Watson
 Linda J Wiens

BENEFICIARIES

Henry Ball of Colleen
 Laura L Barnard of Doug
 F Rick Gonzalez of Reina B
 Martha Hoard of Harold
 Denise A Jackson of Donald
 Corrine Lamb of Harold
 Mary Longstaff of Everett
 Victor McLane of Marcia
 Hazel Owens of Marvin
 M D Partain of Margaret F
 Jackie Les Perance of William
 Laura Ransier of Wallace
 Lena I Senke of
 Edward Schramm
 Sally Silva of Jesse
 Alvin Sisk of Lois
 Joann Walden of Joe R
 James Weyant of Diane
 Mary Worstein of Robert

Vote

Continued from page 1

drop boxes will be open three days before and on Election Day. Community members have been very involved in the process of selecting locations for Vote Centers and drop boxes. We have several committees which will continue to meet through this process and we encourage public participation.

With the new model, traditional polling places will be replaced by Vote Centers. Instead of being assigned a single polling place, voters will have the freedom to cast a ballot in-person at any Vote Center in the county. The Vote Centers will look and feel like polling places, but they will provide additional enhanced features to make voting easier and more convenient.

At any Vote Center in Fresno County, a voter may vote in-person, drop off their ballot, get a replacement ballot, vote using an accessible voting machine, and register to vote or update their voter registration. This new process will make it easier to vote where and when it's convenient. Additionally, Vote Centers

Starting with the March 2020 primary, there's a new way to vote in Fresno County. Read more about the convenient new choices available to voters below.

MAIL IT.

All registered voters in Fresno County will be mailed a ballot prior to the election, so you won't have to request a vote-by-mail ballot in advance. You can mail your ballot with no postage.

DROP IT.

Vote early by dropping off your ballot! You'll have more flexibility to vote on a day and time that fit your schedule.

VISIT.

You can register to vote, update your address, change your political party or receive a replacement ballot at any Vote Center, even on Election Day.

votefresnocounty.com

will have staff who will be available to support all voters, including those with disabilities and those who may need translation and language assistance. Free public transportation to Vote Centers will be provided in the Cities of Fresno and Clovis and rural parts of Fresno County, including FAX, Handy Ride, Clovis Transit and Fresno County Rural Transit Agency.

Increased voter participation is expected by providing voters with increased flexibility to vote when and where it is most convenient for them. The new process also modernizes elections

in Fresno County. Overall, the Voter's Choice Act gives voters more options so voters can choose when, where and how they vote. Based on experience in other Counties, Vote Centers will be busy on the last two days (Monday and Tuesday, March 2nd and 3rd), to avoid waiting time consider mailing your ballot, using a drop box or visiting a Vote Center before Monday.

If you have questions, please contact the Fresno County Elections office at (559) 600-VOTE (8683), at:

Clerk-Elections@fresnocountyca.gov or visit VoteFresnoCounty.com.



ELECTION WORKERS NEEDED!

GET PAID FOR SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY

Would you like to be a part of history? March 2020 marks Fresno County's first election under the Voter's Choice Act, and the County Clerk – Elections Office needs your help as an extra-help worker. Positions will be available as Elections Outreach Coordinators as well as Elections Workers.

For more information, visit us at FresnoCountyJobs.com or contact us at **559-600-1830**.

[f @VoteFresnoCounty](https://www.facebook.com/VoteFresnoCounty) | [t @VoteFresnoCo](https://twitter.com/VoteFresnoCo) | [i @VoteFresnoCounty](https://www.instagram.com/VoteFresnoCounty)

Orth

Continued from page 1

primaries are open only to voters registered with their respective parties. You can re-register up to and including election day to vote in their primaries.

CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION

The link "Check your registration status" is located on our website (www.votefresnocounty.com). This site can also be easily accessed from your mobile device! To start, you will be asked to enter specific information into our secure website to verify your identity. This information will locate your current voter registration profile and make it available for your review. We encourage you to update your information, if necessary; instructions are provided on how to do so. Your voter registration information must reflect your current residential address.

The races you are eligible to vote on and what issues appear on your ballot are determined solely on your residential address. For example, if you live in the City of Clovis you are **not** eligible to vote on the city council races for the City of Fresno. A little known fact, in November 2018 Fresno County had 81 different political districts participate in the election. Each unique combination of races generated 273 customized versions of the ballot to ensure that each voter receives the correct ballot material regarding candidates and measures on which you can vote.

If you registered many years ago, you may need to update your signature used to verify your Vote-by-Mail ballot. Over time, you may have acquired stylistic changes to your handwriting or illness may have forced you to adjust your signature. If you think your signature may have changed, contact our office for assistance. A paper voter registration

card can be mailed to you and you can easily re-register so that we have a current signature. Every signature is compared before a Vote-by-Mail ballot is counted.

We hope that you will verify your party choice and update your voter information by using our website. If you have any questions or problems accessing this technology, please contact the election office at 559-600-8683 or by email at clerk-elections@fresnocountyca.gov. We want you to receive the ballot related to your choice of party and County Voter Information Guide that is specific to you at your current residential address. Let us help you get ready to make your voice heard in the important upcoming elections.

If you are not a registered voter but would like to be, you may register to vote if you are: a United States citizen; a resident of California; 18 years of age or older on or before Election Day; not currently imprisoned or on parole for the conviction of a felony; or not found by a court to be mentally incompetent. The California Secretary of State offers an on-line voter registration tool which can be found at www.registertovote.ca.gov. You can register to vote on this website by entering your specific information. It's convenient, efficient, and includes a unique way of collecting your signature. Working in conjunction with the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), by providing your California driver's license number, your specific information will be compared with your information on file with the DMV. Once a match is found, it will pull your signature from the DMV files and send it to the Fresno County Clerk's office via an encrypted electronic transmission. This signature will become your signature of record for election purposes and will be used to compare your signature on any elections petition you may sign, or ballot you return by mail.