



The Grapevine

AUGUST 2021

Representing all Fresno County retirees and their families

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President's Message

by Kelly Woodard, President REFCO

As the summer months are upon us; it is my hope that the Pandemic is fading into our rearview mirrors and that we are all beginning to safely enjoy our families, friends, and activities that bring us camaraderie and joy! This summer I have a mini vacation planned in Cayucos. I am looking forward to a couple of nice fish dinners in restaurants; enjoying the company of a few friends; beach walks and the cooler weather!



Kelly Woodard

REFCO continues to meet monthly via Zoom. As the State and Nation begin to open, your Board is having conversations about in person Board Meetings and Luncheons. Over this quarter, the REFCO Board is likely going to continue meeting via Zoom. What I have learned through this last 1.5 years is how resilient and resourceful we can be! Virtual meetings have ensured that the business of your Board has continued. I suspect, that even when the Pandemic

is fully behind us, Virtual meetings will continue to be used intermittently because they are efficient and practical. However, I for one miss meeting in person with colleagues and friends and look forward to routine, in person Board meetings resuming.

The Events Committee is having planning discussions with Pardini's Banquets about scheduling upcoming luncheons. Pardini's is looking forward to having us back! As the dust settles, and our luncheons are back on the calendar, we can all expect some adjustments will be made to the approach and accommodations to ensure the safety of those in attendance. More to come in the next Quarters Newsletter!

These have been very trying times. Many in our REFCO family have lost friends and loved ones! People within our realms have struggled with approaches and policies tied to the Pandemic; the world has felt disjointed and at odds within itself. As we anticipate coming back together; it is my hope that we come back together in Celebration for what we have together endured and the resumption of our normal events.

Best to each of you!

From the Fresno County Employees' Retirement Association

by Donald C. Kendig, CPA | Retirement Administrator
Fresno County Employees' Retirement Association

Back on March 18, 2020, FCERA closed its doors to the public in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are happy to announce that our office has reopened to our membership for full services. **Our office hours are Monday through Friday from 9am-12pm and 1pm-5pm.**



Public board meetings are being held in our boardroom and the public may participate in these meetings. Board meetings are generally held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. You can view Board meeting instructions and agendas on our website. If you would like to make a public comment for a board meeting, you can email FCERA at FCERA@FresnoCountyCa.gov.

Counseling appointments are being conducted in

person by appointment only. FCERA is also continuing to offer phone and video conferencing options as well to our members who do not wish to visit us in person. At this time we are only scheduling counseling appointments for members who are processing their retirement. Walk-in appointments are not available. If you are looking to retire in the near future please contact our office.

Currently in person public outreach is still postponed. This includes FCERA's Pre-Retirement Seminars and Workshops. We are looking at offering smaller capacity options and look forward to hosting our in person Pre-Retirement Seminars back in full capacity beginning January 2022. Online educational webinars such as our Lunch and Learn Webinars and Mid-Career Webinars are being offered. If you have any questions about our webinars you can send us an email at FCERA@FresnoCountyCa.gov or you can call our office at (559) 457-0681 and speak to Jared Wong, our Communications Analyst.

Please see **Kendig** on page 7

Meet Your REFCO Board Member: Dick Estel

At a recent REFCO board meeting we were discussing ideas for material to put in the newsletter. Some fool (OK, it was me) suggested a series of board member biographies, and everyone immediately pointed at me to be first. Actually I can't prove they pointed, because the meeting was virtual, but it is certain that no one was raising a hand and saying "me first!"



Dick Estel

Once you've lived 80 plus years, you have a lot of biography, more than anyone would care to read at a single sitting. Therefore I decided to focus on the time period that roughly corresponds with my county service.

I actually had two main careers in my adult life. From roughly 1961 to 1972 I worked in several radio and TV stations in Fresno, Bakersfield, Coalinga, Tulare and Salinas. When that came to an end I spent a little over a year without a regular job, during which time I held a number of short-term jobs that did not provide a living.

Perhaps the most unusual was collecting signatures for a ballot proposition to legalize greyhound racing in California. I can't recall if the plan made it on to the ballot, but if it did, it was defeated.

During this time I applied for many jobs, without success. Finally a woman I had known for several years told me I should apply to be an eligibility worker at the Welfare Department, where she was an eligibility supervisor. I was skeptical, but I put in my application, and also applied at Madera County.

I took the written tests, and finished number six in Madera and seven in Fresno. I knew that turnover was such that I had a good chance of at least being called for an interview. I received two or three letters from Madera asking if I was still interested, but to the best of my memory, never got called for an interview.

Eventually Fresno County came through and in 1976 I made my way to the third floor of the main building (the OLD old County Hospital) and met Grant Grieves. After telling me I was hired, he explained the six-month probation period. "And she doesn't have to wait that long if you're not cutting it." (Social work was a "woman's job," and the majority of supervisors were female.)

I vowed that I would "cut it," and apparently I did, for I spent 27 years at the department, as it changed from Welfare to Social Services to Human Services to Employment & Temporary Assistance. Many of my colleagues hit the 30 year mark before retirement age. They started young, while I started "old" – 37 years old.

I enjoyed the duties of an eligibility worker so much that I decided I would never want to be a supervisor. However, I eventually realized I needed to have more

*Please see **Estel** on page 7*

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Congratulations, New Retirees: March-June 2021

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

Cheryl Anderson	Community Hlth	30.06	Eulalio Gomez	Sheriff	30.12
Cindy Anderson	Security Servs	17.25	Timoteo Gomez	Social Servs	31.01
Francis Arevalo-Hernandez	District Attny	32.28	Armando Gonzalez	Sheriff	.46*
Hovannes Ashkharian	Social Servs	29.47	Patricia Guerrero	Public Works & Plann	24.52
Connie Ayala	Probation	21.35	Ashot Hagopian	Sheriff	18.50
Sherrie L Badertscher	Social Servs	.30*	Jouakao V Hang	Social Servs	17.04
Iqbal Brar	Agriculture	14.30	Patrick Hanson	Sheriff	24.60
Tamara L Brown	Community Hlth	18.74	Sheila Hatfield	Assessor	35.17
Ernest Campos	Behavior Hlth	19.90	Karen Heffron	Sup Court of CA, Fresno Co	25.50
Diana Capps	Library	27.80*	Pa Laurie Her-Hays	Social Servs	17.21
Leticia D Castellanos	Public Defender	15.41	Carmen J Hernandez	Sheriff	16.12
Jacqueline Anne Cavallaro	Behavioral Hlth	11.10*	Daniel R Hernandez	Building Mtce	3.72*
Cheong-Yew Cheng	Public Works	18.32*	Louis Hernandez	Sheriff	28.33
Ursula L Clemons	County Counsel	.30*	Patricia Hernandez	Social Servs	20.44
Leticia Contreras	Social Servs	22.53	Travis Herr	Sheriff	8.02
Sonia Cortez-Perez	Social Servs	1.64	Hao Ho	Social Servs	33.50
Marcy Crabtree	Social Servs	30.32	Terence Holly	District Attny	30.48
Diane Cruz		5.46	Stephanie Inskeep	Social Servs	22.62
Brian Dau	Sheriff	21.08	Guillermo Jalomo	Probation	34.53
Gary Davenport	Sheriff	30.33	Ivan Janssens	Sheriff	11.02
Robert D Davis	Public Works & Plann	12.30	Dale Jenike	Internal Tech Servs	22.48
Robert Delmare	Public Defender	25.96	Joy S Jensen	Social Servs	33.05
Elizabeth Diaz	Public Defender	30.66	Shannon W Kirby	Gen Servs Purchasing	17.88
Tracie A Emmersen	Behavioral Hlth	28.40	Dennis P Koch	Behavioral Hlth	16.84
Francine D Encinas	Social Servs	20.05	Christine Kulina	Social Servs	5.02
Shawn Erwin	Sheriff	31.60	Thomas Laird	Public Works & Plann	23.70
Elizabeth Barg Finkle	Library	20.21	Lorenzo Lara	Sheriff	31.01
Alfred Frausto	Probation	6.82*	Rafaela Leal	Public Defender	8.59*
Dawn E Gallegos	Social Servs	19.36	John Lee	Social Servs	17.02
Erich D Garringer	Sheriff	32.62	Wade M Leshner	Public Works	31.32
Thomas H Gattie Jr	Sheriff	50.07	Lori Liles	District Attny	20.09
Monique Gentry	Sup Court of CA, Fresno Co	7.65*	Sharol D Lloyd-Gridiron	Public Hlth	12.86*
Donovan Gleason	Sheriff	27.11	Diana J Lopez	Social Servs	31.62
Nancy Goertzen	Public Works & Plann	14.74			

Congratulations, New Retirees: March-June 2021

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

Shenifer Malloy	Social Servs	10.86*	Laurel C Prysiaczny	Library	6.63
Lauren L Martinez	Probation	30.94	Sharlene Ramey-Cross	Sheriff	32.59
Leticia Martinez	Social Servs	30.98	Tracy Lynn Ramirez	Social Servs	32.46
Roselaury Martins-Critser	Social Servs	23.58	George Razo	Sheriff	20.89
Diane Ortiz Mata	Library	5.46*	James A Ritchie	Behavioral Hlth	9.04
Terrance McArthur	Library	22.50	Delvin W Robertson	Public Works	22.47
Dwayne McCoy	Probation	.21*	Andres Rodriguez	Child Support Servs	18.93
Darryl L McDonald	Public Works & Plann	30.03	Eva Ross	Social Servs	19.09
Rosemary Mejia	Social Servs	20.30	Jose L Salinas	Sheriff	27.11
Kathryn Mendoza	Social Servs	7.08*	Toamalama Scanlan	Sheriff	22.66
Kathleen Miller	Sup Courts	.29	Margaret Singleton	County Counsel	3.11*
Deidra Mitchell	Social Servs	29.00	La Shelle Tarver	Sheriff	19.75
Daniel Munoz	Probation	20.83*	Pamela A Taylor	Social Servs	20.11
Mary Ann Munoz	FMAAA	15.45	Ronda Taylor	Social Servs	17.53
Pamela Nelson	FMAAA	1.59*	Bryan Thomas	Probation	28.98*
Albert Ng	Social Servs	33.28	Julie Thurston	Behavioral Hlth	21.70
Raed Nijmeddin	Child Support Servs	20.81	Kristi Lynn Tillery	Library	8.51
Thomas R Nunes	Public Works & Plann	22.55*	Jose Tovar	Social Servs	18.37
Santiago Oceguela	Social Servs	30.90	Jeffrey L Truschel	District Attny	19.71
Donald Ockey	North Central Fire PD	6.11	Walter Tucker	Public Wks & Plann	31.01
Roy (Rick) F Orrin Jr	Public Works & Plann	25.36	Maria Valdez	Sup Court of CA, Fresno Co	13.42*
Brandi Orth	County Clerk	26.94	Gloria F Valles	Social Servs	31.44
Ralph Paolinelli	Sheriff	24.27	Cheryl Vang	Community Hlth	21.69
Felipe Pardo	Sheriff	22.72	Ronald Vega	Sheriff	31.43
Eric Parker	VMC	10.87	Andrew Veneman	Sheriff	21.06
Monique Parker	Social Servs	29.53	Leslie A Wiersma	Public Wks & Plann	5.10*
Teresa L Parks	Social Servs	24.15	Thomas Win	District Attny	10.68*
Faye V Parra	Probation	21.70	Cheng Xiong	Social Servs	15.71
Stanton Perkins	Informational Tech	6.42	Shawna Yang	Social Servs	27.41
Darlene H Pineda	Social Servs	28.08	Diane Ybarra	Social Servs	32.36
Martha Plenert	Probation	32.88	Michael Zapata	Assessor	20.38
Victor Prado	Sheriff	20.04			
Terry F Pruett	Agriculture	7.51			

IN MEMORIAM – March-June 2021

RETIREES

Mary Alvarado
 Mayurkumar Amin
 Margaret Armenta
 Pernilla Baker
 Rodney Bell
 Charles Berberian
 James Biglione
 Stanley Dale Boyd
 Paul A Burgan
 Shirley Carlson
 Mee M Chang
 Rosemary Chin
 Venus Cleofe
 John E Cooley
 Audrey Collins
 Ronald L Crawford
 Brian Davis
 James Dickson
 Joe Dixon
 John D Duchscher
 Bobby Evans
 Lloyd Evans
 Mike C Flores
 Penelope Foreman
 Emma French
 Jacquelyn French
 Coralyn Gilker

Mary Gilmore
 Vera Harralson
 Riad Hawari
 Helen K Hendrix
 Janie Hernandez
 Sandy Herrera
 Charles W Hodge
 Dennis C Hoffman
 Joanna Jameson
 Joyce D Jensen
 Helen Lamb
 Gwendolyn Larkin
 Shirley M Lauters
 Howard D LeBar
 Ron Lencioni
 Leroy Lindsay
 Johnnie Littlefield
 Alex Lujan
 Lyn Maceachron
 D Sylvia Mann
 Abby Miller
 Mildred Moens
 Judith C Moreida
 Bernadine Myers
 Gary W Nielsen
 Frank C Orvis
 Ruth Ozaeta
 Juan Palafox

Barbara Jean Peoples
 Alberto Perez Jr
 Phyllis Petersen
 Victoria Ragland
 Ray J Ramos
 Virginia Reid
 Elgee Robison
 Jose Rodriguez
 Robert H Rose
 Patricia Seibert
 Kenneth Shurtliff
 Richard E Sickels
 David C Smith
 Dorathea Sparks
 Gloria Summerfield-Strong
 Florence O Tanaka
 Christine T Thomas
 Esther L Thompson
 Renee Torres
 Steven G Vlasis
 Howard Vollman
 Joan Waller
 Vivian L Walls
 Carol Westernen
 Geraldine Williams
 David V Wyatt
 Kou Yang

Christine M Zavala

BENEFICIARIES

Frances Andrade
 of Elwayne Andrade
 Burma Gunther
 of Joseph Gunther
 Adah Jones
 of Stillman Jones
 Rudolph Ramos
 of Raudelina Ramos
 Betty Roth
 of George Roth

ACTIVE

Robert Arroyo Jr
 Tou H Cha
 Lisa V Mitchell
 Kene Phommavanah
 Lorri Roscom
 Amanda L Smith
 Jesus J Suarez

DEFERRED

Harvey Scott Harris
 Penny Renee Ward

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Signs of dental disease by age 3:



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Small dogs, BIGGER dental issues?

It's a fact: Nationwide pet insurance members with small dog breeds filed **10% more dental claims** than those with large dogs. Small dogs are prone to tartar formation, gum recession and loss of teeth.

Average claim amount for pet dental cleaning

\$178



Average claim amount for treating dental disease

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Nationwide® offers coverage for pet dental care ranging from annual cleanings to treatment of periodontal disease.

Kendig

Continued from page 1

Members are still welcome to send in documents through the mail or use our drop box in front of our building. Currently we are following state and local health guidelines and allow vaccinated members to enter our building without wearing a face mask. If you are not vaccinated we kindly ask you to continue wearing a face mask. If you have any questions please feel free to contact our office. We look forward to seeing everyone again!

New REFCO Sponsor:

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If you know a business that would be interested in advertising and interacting with our members, please ask them to become a Business Sponsor Member.

Request a Business Sponsor Membership application from Joy Clark – email her at: ja-clark@pacbell.net



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 MySeniorHealthPlan.com

Estel

Continued from page 3

input on how things worked, and applied for the supervisory job, being promoted some time around 1985. I held four jobs in that classification, supervising an ongoing AFDC unit (staff who maintained active cases), then the training unit, and then an intake unit.

Most of my last five years were spent as a Program Interpretation Specialist, a job function, not a classification. This involved reviewing new regulations and helping explain them to staff, answering questions about the interpretation of regulations, and communicating with state officials when a question came up that I could not answer with confidence.

For the final six months I became a temporary acting Program Manager (thank you Don Pierce!). Previously I had thought of people holding an “acting” position as kind of coasting along enjoying their temporary salary increase. In fact, my immediate boss expected me to ACT like a real Program Manager from day one, and I soon settled into the demands of being responsible not for eight or ten people in a unit, but for eight units and over 100 line staff.

When I retired in 2002 and looked back over my career, I realized that there were bad days and frustrating periods of time, but there was never a time when I hated the job or dreaded going to work. And there's never been a day since when I did not enjoy being retired.



What Happened to Fresno's Mosquitos?

We used to be able to see them and hear them. Although I am 80 years old, I can do neither. I hear things I don't want to hear, but the mosquitoes are not one of them

I have had a monthly pest control service for the past at least 40 years. There is no standing water, visible or invisible. All my empty pots are turned bottom side up and there are no signs of standing water anywhere. However, I cannot vouch for my neighbor's yards or any of the surrounding neighborhood yards.

I walk my dog Daisy every morning from 6 a.m. to at least 7 a.m. I wear long sleeve shirts and long pants. I spray OFF on my hands, neck, face and ears. I have never seen or heard a mosquito on these walks. So, I'm probably okay while I am walking.

So I guess I am getting bitten when I go in the backyard in the early morning and again in the early evening to take care of my pets - cats and dogs. I woke up this morning with 2 bites - one below my left ear and another a few inches lower on my neck.

If you have any suggestions, other than that I move, please contact me by email at ja-clark@pacbell.net. It is not an option for me to stay inside all the time.



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SAVE THE DATE:

**OCTOBER
28**

REFCO HEALTH FAIR LUNCHEON

The Health Fair Luncheon is scheduled for **Thursday, October 28, 2021**, at **Pardini's**. A flyer will be mailed to you in September. The flyer will include reservation information in time for you to mail your check to REFCO. As usual, personnel from Employee Benefits, Retirement, Health Providers, and our Sponsors will be in attendance.

Voter's Choice Act Advisory Committee: JOIN NOW!

This is a great opportunity for Retirees, and anyone else who has some free time, to help make the Elections experience better. I have participated for previous Elections and it is a real eye opener. Participants are presented with information and are asked to comment and/or make suggestions to make the process easier and encourage more citizens to vote.

Meetings are currently planned for the third Wednesday of each month, but those dates might be adjusted after participant feedback from our first meeting, which was on July 21. Each meeting will be held twice, once at 4:00pm and then again at 5:30pm. The 5:30pm meeting will have online access options. Each in-person meeting will be held at the Election Warehouse Training room, 4525 E Hamilton Ave., Fresno 93702. Additional community-based meetings will be held in the Fall throughout the County.

Voter's Choice Act Advisory Committee meetings work best when they get a large turnout of interested and varied community voices. Along with asking you to "Save the Date" for future meetings, please share this info with your friends, colleagues, and associates that are invested in how Elections will be conducted in Fresno County going forward.

- by Joy Clark, The Grapevine Editor