

**Retired Employees of Fresno County  
Board of Directors Minutes – July 10, 2025**

**1. Call to Order – Christine Balbas, President**

**Present:**

Christine Balbas	Laura Basua	Debbie Blankenship
Dawn Gallegos	James Hackett	Nicole Ohanian
Linda Robinson	Sue Wirt	Mary Ann Rogozinski
Karen Sebilian	DeAnn VonBerg	Patrice White
Kelly Woodard		

**Absent:**

**Judy Lemos**

**Irene Romero**

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Introductions:**

Christine Balbas, President opened the meeting.

**3. Additions/Changes to the Agenda:**

No changes made.

**4. Minutes – Kelly Woodard, Recording Secretary**

June 12, 2025, Minutes, submitted by Kelly Woodard, Secretary. The minutes were discussed, and a motion was made to approve & seconded. Minutes approved.

**5. Treasurer's Report – Linda Robinson Treasurer**

Linda submitted the Treasurers Report. Disbursements discussed and the grapevine was a big expense along with scholarships. Zelle payments for luncheons is now set up. Legal fund had a typo; it should be \$65,000. Motion to approved as amended, second was made and carried to receive and file the June Treasurers report.

**6. President's Report – Christine Balbas, President**

Noble Credit Union needs five minutes at the luncheon to update members as their system will be going through an upgrade and how members will be briefly impacted. DeAnne VonBerg discussed the timing of their presentation; honoring veterans on that date. Options included Mariah Walton can do a raffle and then possibly do it then. They only need five minutes or so.

Chris Balbas spoke to Pacific Group. She asked that the current membership rate of 2.00/person be corrected. Sue Wirt and DeAnn Vonberg volunteered to take a second look at the packet.

**7. Old Business:**

**Zelle Set up. A passthrough account has been set up.**

[Refcoevents@gmail.com](mailto:Refcoevents@gmail.com) It also has a QR code.

**8. New Business:**

None.

**9. Committee Reports:**

**a. Technology – Irene Romero, Chair**

No report, Irene, not present.

**b. Budget & Finance – Linda Robinson, Chair**

No report.

**c. Events – DeAnn VonBerg, Chair**

DeAnn VonBerg. Discussed need for a DJ for July event. Debbie Blankenship volunteered.

DeAnn VonBerg and Karen Seblan met. They have a card for Veterans/5-dollar McDonald's card and a veteran's pin. All Veterans will be honored. The front table will ask if they are veterans. They are spending \$6.15/veteran. Additionally, they have extras for future years. Discussed Agenda discussed to include the Pledge of Allegiance, Honor Flight Veteran – Steve Weil; Noble, to discuss update at about 12:30; FCERA Introduced; Recognition of Veterans/their area of service. They will have an honor flight photo gallery. FCERA will do a presentation. Recognition of Veteran and Honor Flight, Steve Weil. Four Honor Flight members are expected to attend. Discussed patriotic Colors for table. One quilt will be for this event.

DeeAnn discuss the budget, it is slightly over with gifts for veterans.  
About \$230 over with Christmas expenses. She is working on going  
backwards on how many people attended historically.  
Discussed timing for food and program.

**d. Newsletter , Chris Balbas, Chair**

Grapevine out and issued. Some asking it to be mailed.  
The bingo bash will be on a postcard.

**e. Membership/Awards – Chair, vacant –**

**No report, prospective employee seminar same date as luncheon**

Slate of officers/nominating committee will make recommendations on  
who/if position filled. Still vacant.

**f. Scholarship Liaison – Julie Hornback**

No report.

**g. Health Insurance – Charlotte Tilkes, Chair**

No report – meeting upcoming.

**h. Sunshine – Dawn Gallegos, Chair**

Debbie Blankenship & Patty Soto - July birthdays. No condolences sent.

**i. Advocacy – James Hackett, Chair**

Still paying attention to PEPRA, CRCEA is waiting as well.

A new matter, some of our members are going to get an increase with  
social security. One big, beautiful bill. 3 years. Must be 65, there is an  
income limit. Some members will benefit. Further, there is a 6,000  
benefit.

**j. Community Outreach – Patrice White, Chair**

No report.

**k. By-laws/Policies and Procedures – James Hackett, Chair**

By-laws did not close out last time, now a standing item. Dick Estel had  
some suggestions; James will get back to us.

**l. Nominating Committee – Judy Lemos, Chair.**

No report.

**M. Employee Benefits – Inactive**

**10. Other Reports:**

**a. FCERA – Laura Basua – elected retired member & DeAnn VonBerg,  
alternate retired member.**

Laura Basua reported FCERA is at 7 billion. No meetings in July 2025.  
Actuarial study discussed. Did first reading of fraudulent banking. Looked

at applicable laws. Document is 105 pages. Asset value discussed, it went up from last year.

DeAnn VonBerg advised electronic approaches may require a look at processes. Next week they are heading to Berkeley, classes for SACRS for fiduciaries, topics will include AI and Bitcoin.

**b. SACRS – Laura Basua**

Next meeting in November 2025.

**c. CRCEA – James Hackett**

CRCEA Executive meeting cancelled this month. He did not attend the division meeting.

Still monitoring court matters. Information from AMBA. Steve Petee and PGA merging with AMBA. The plan is that more services will be available. Association Member Benefit Association. When they met with them; our costs in Fresno went up and other counties went down. All agreed they can be invited to upcoming meetings.

**d. Webmaster – Daniel Moore**

Daniel Moore provided the Secretary an update via email. The Website has been updated to include today's Board meeting.

**c. Announcements**

No announcements

**d. Adjourned 10:30 am**