

**Coalition of Retired Employees (CORE) Member Meeting
January 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes
Como Community Center – 10:30 a.m.**

Committee Members in Attendance: Committee Appointments in Attendance:

Karen Van Leuvan - President	Alison Letnes - Membership
Alison Letnes - 2 nd Vice President	Yolanda Gonzalez - HBAC Representative
Marolee Lunsford - Secretary	
Marsha Anderson - Past President	

Absent: Carol Brown - 1st VP and Program Chair, Deborah Duke - Treasurer, Joel Carranza - Communications

CFW Retirement Fund: Eleza Bennet - ERF Interim Executive Director
(Speaker)
Jeff Rodriguez - ERF Public Relations
Toccaro Oxford – ERF Benefits Analyst

10:33 a.m. Welcome - President Karen Van Leuvan welcomed those in attendance. Since there were some new members, she asked everyone to introduce themselves and state which city department they were working for when they retired.

Treasurer's Report: Deborah Duke was unable to attend so Karen gave the Treasurer's report: As of January 31st, CORE has \$4,667 in Savings, \$89,830 in the 24-Month CD, \$1,455 in Checking, and \$305 in our Member Emergency Fund.

Membership Report – Alison stated that CORE has been reaching out to retirees at functions like the ERF Holiday Party, the Health Fair and the CORE Insurance meeting to recruit new members. Alison reported that we now have 182 members including 27 Life members, 77 Monthly Deductible members, and 78 Regular members, including two more Life members that signed up today. She asked members to please let other retirees know about CORE. CORE shirts are available too. T-Shirts are \$15.00, Polo shirts are \$20.00 and if you sign up for a Life membership you will receive a FREE shirt.

Marsha stated the ERF Board is in the process of hiring a new ERF Executive Director. Eleza Bennet is currently serving as the Interim Executive Director. Marsha serves on the Personnel Committee. They are having a meeting Friday, January 13th, to narrow down the top five candidates for the ERF Board's selection

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pool. Jane Ballard is the ERF's new Director of Operations. There are also new members on the ERF Board and other new ERF employees.

Our speaker, Eleza Bennet, was introduced. She discussed the new member portal and the handling of the changes in the DROP Program.

Ms. Bennet began with a review of the new Member Portal Guide for First-time Users that was passed out to all. Eleza stated if you want physical statements you don't have to participate, but you have to opt in in order to NOT get statements in the mail. There are a significant number of employees that do not want statements mailed to them, they prefer online access only.

Eleza then began a discussion regarding the DROP Program changes and how people can participate. There were too many options before and bad directions. You can do many things on the new portal like figure out your taxes might be, make personal information changes, etc. instead of coming into the office. Also, your 1099 will still come in the mail this year, but moving forward it will be on the portal. Marsha stated that if you don't opt to do the portal you must give permission to let ERF use your email on record as a way to communicate.

If you don't register on line, call or come in to say you don't want to sign up for the portal or you want to opt in for receiving statements by mail. If you decide later that you want to register to be in the portal, you can. Eleza reviewed how to sign up for the portal and answered questions from the members. The portal is secure so not incredibly easy for security reasons. Retirees do not need to know their date of hire to get in. More questions were taken and answered. Eleza stated that this year even if you do nothing your 1099 will come in the mail. ERF will help register those that need help. Eliza provided her direct work number to members.

Alison Letnes then discussed different senior education programs provided by TCU and TCC as well as Sixty & Better's volunteer opportunities and programs for seniors. Fees are minimal or free for course work from the colleges. CORE is planning to have representatives from these organizations make presentations at one of our future meetings.

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Karen thanked everyone for coming and stated our next CORE meeting will be in March. Being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Marolee Lunsford, CORE Secretary