

**Coalition of Retired Employees (CORE) Executive Board Meeting  
January 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes  
Como Community Center – 9:00 a.m.**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Karen Van Leuvan - President  
Alison Letnes - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Marolee Lunsford - Secretary  
Marsha Anderson - Past President

**Board Appointments in Attendance:**

Alison Letnes - Membership  
Yolanda Gonzalez - HBAC Representative

**Absent:** Carol Brown - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Program Chair, Deborah Duke - Treasurer, Joel Carranza - Communications

**9:15 a.m. Welcome** - President Karen Van Leuvan welcomed members. Karen stated that Deborah Duke, our Treasurer, was unable to attend, but we have the Treasurer's report that will be given at the member's meeting. She noted that our Member's Emergency Fund still has \$305.00. We had a very successful recruitment at the Retirement Fund Holiday Party. We now have a total of 182 members. Alison Letnes will give a full report at the member's meeting.

Marsha Anderson shared how much employees appreciated the Holiday Party being resumed after not having them because of COVID19. However, she further stated that front desk staff was a bit huffy with her and some other employees about the sign-in sheet if they walked in and didn't sign in. She shared this with Eleza Bennet, Interim ERF Executive Director. Marsha wanted to know if the sign-in sheet could be located inside the party room instead of at the front desk. She doesn't like that we can't walk in and feel welcomed in our building. The office has all kinds of security as well as a panic button. Others on the CORE Executive Board agreed with this observation.

Karen asked if there were any other items to discuss. She said she did reach out to Carol Brown, Vice President and Program Chair, regarding the meeting today. Marsha stated she went to the Jingle and Mingle party held at Como Community Center, that Carol mentioned at the November meeting. She said it was fun and welcoming.

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Eleza Bennet, ERF Interim Executive Director, will discuss the new portal. Marolee stated that her husband had been trying to get in and has been unable to get access. Eleza has been great about communicating with CORE Board. Eleza understands communication and Jeff Rodriguez has made a big difference in public relations as well.

Eleza has been great in dealing with the issues regarding the DROP program. ERF Board did approve many changes to their governing rules including two (2) minor changes that affected DROP, but that the current ERF Board was unaware of these changes. There is no paper trail regarding the changes that were made in 2016 and voted on in 2017. Even City Council was not aware of the changes regarding the DROP program. In one 48-page document and out of 1,000 changes, there were two (2) minor changes to the governing rules for the ERF Board. The changes regarding the DROP Program were implemented, but implementation had to cease or there would be trouble with the IRS. Approximately 300 retirees exercised the altered DROP benefit options.

Marsha stated things are good regarding the ERF Board and ERF staff. The ERF Board will bring on a new Executive Director in August. A special committee will interview and recommend five (5) candidates as a selection pool for the ERF Board. Karen asked if there is anything pressing that needs to be discussed by the ERF Board. Marsha stated she can email the agendas for the ERF Board to the CORE Board when they are posted. Karen stated the last meeting she attended had a very long Executive Session so many people left. Marsha stated it had to do with the Executive Director evaluation. Eleza doesn't have to have an evaluation as she is interim director. Marshal also stated that the ERF Board has not had any hot and bothered lawsuits. Most lawsuits are over denial of requests for benefits for disability with one gentleman continually suing after being denied.

Karen stated that TCU and TCCC has no representatives regarding adult education coming today. Karen will reach out to the members. Marsha stated seniors are interested in discounts. Alison stated the discount program still exists and you can get discounts mailed to you.

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Other concerns were that the new portal site is not ready. Marsha asked that when it was ready could another letter be mailed out as not all employees have portfolios or computers. She noted one-fourth (1/4) of our retirees live at poverty level. Karen stated it's a shame that the pensions can't keep up with inflation and Marsha wished the windfall penalty could be fixed. Karen mentioned our Lt. Governor's discussion on the reduction of property taxes.

Being no further items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Marolee Lunsford, CORE Secretary