

**Coalition of Retired Employees (CORE) Member Meeting
September 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes
Como Community Center – 10:30 a.m.**

Committee Members in Attendance: Committee Appointments in Attendance:

Alison Letnes - 2 nd Vice President	Alison Letnes - Membership
Marolee Lunsford – Secretary	Yolanda Gonzalez – HBAC Representative
Deborah Duke – Treasurer	
Marsha Anderson – Past President	

Absent: Carol Brown – President and Program Chair, Joel Carranza
Communications

Guest Speaker: Jamie Harton – Sixty & Better Director of Community Initiatives
CFW Employee Retirement Fund: Linda Webb – Executive Director
Derrick Dagnan – CIO
Jeff Rodriguez – Public Relations

10:35 a.m. Welcome – Treasurer, Alison Letnes, welcomed members and guests to our September meeting. She began by informing those present of the passing of CORE President, Karen Van Leuvan. Carol Brown as 1st Vice President, has volunteered to fill the gap by assuming the role as President. However, Carol is in Physical Rehab and was unable to attend today. Alison asked for thoughts and prayers for Carol during her healing process.

Jeff Rodriguez, from the Employee Retirement Fund (ERF), made an announcement about a free seminar regarding wills, probates and trusts to be held at the ERF building at 11:00 a.m., Thursday October 12th. Jeff stated this an important part of estate planning. Several members stated this was a helpful seminar.

Past President, Marsha Anderson, introduced Linda Webb, ERF’s new Executive Director. Marsha recently stepped off the Retirement Fund Board and was part of the team that hired Linda.

Linda introduced herself and stated that she has 30 years of experience working with pensions. Originally from California, she is glad to be back in Texas after spending part of her college education in Texas. She said she likes to interact with members and retirees and appreciates an engaged group of retirees.

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ERF CIO, Derrick Dagnan, updated members on our pension fund current status. The Fund balance as of the end of June 2023 is \$2.7 billion. Last year was a rough year for stocks, investments, securities, etc. Currently, the economy is doing fairly well and the Fund performance is good considering. Derrick stated we have more paid out to retirees than coming in. But with the 2019 pension reform more money is coming out of employees' checks for retirement. Returns in 2021 were fabulous, 2022 a tough year and so far this year the Fund is up. Linda added that it takes a while for things to turn around and smooth contributions and earnings/benefits and expenses. She also stated that as the plan gets healthier we see improvements. The problem has been that COLAS didn't keep pace, but as economy improves everything starts to align and the ship turns around.

Marsha informed the members that Kara Shuror, former Assistant Director of Water will be replacing her on the Retirement Fund Board.

Treasurer's Report: Deborah Duke gave the Treasurer's report stating as of the end of August CORE has a total of \$97,440.36 total in all accounts. This is a little less than last month as we renewed our P.O. Box for \$248.00 and paid our website maintenance renewal of \$230.00. Currently, we have \$350.00 in our Special Emergency Fund.

Yolanda Gonzalez, HBAC representative stated Aetna won the RFP for Medicare insurance and the premium is slated to decrease about \$25.00 per month from last year. Alison stated non-Medicare has no changes, but the premium might go up for 2024. Yolanda stated there will be more information available in October during open enrollment. Alison said she will contact Debby Smith at the City on information regarding insurance.

Membership Report: Alison stated that CORE currently has 205 members. Membership runs January 1st through December 31st. You can pay annually, monthly deductible or \$100.00 for a lifetime membership. Deborah stated the Credit Union does not use ZELLE. Alison encouraged members to join the CORE Board.

Speaker: Jamie Harton, Director of Community Initiatives for Sixty & Better stated that prior to the COVID 19 Pandemic they provided meals and transportation to seniors. After the pandemic they transferred these responsibilities to Meals on

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Wheels. They got out in the community to see what services they could provide. Aging in place providing independence and dignity for seniors became the purpose.

During the pandemic isolation was also a problem because isolation can manifest in other health issues. They focused on health and wellness including fall prevention by providing an 8-week course as well as building balance training. Classes and services are offered according to need. She stated they have classes like Bingocize for the mind and body and information on diet, etc. Also popular is Walk with a Doc, an international program of monthly walks led by medical professionals. Sixty & Better also offers:

1. Health and wellness information
2. Mobile arts lab - simple projects brought to seniors at various sites to complete as a group.
3. Community field trips
4. Community dances
5. Support services
6. Home safety assessments

A calendar of events is available online. There are no fees, everything is free. Programs change based on need. Ms. Harton asked for questions and stated that Sixty & Better also needs volunteers to help with the programs.

A member stated that there are also volunteer opportunities at the UNT Health Center and you can get paid. Member will send the information to Alison.

Ms. Harton was asked to draw the names for the two \$25 VISA gift cards. The winners were Earl Ferguson and Esmirelda Cantu.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Marolee Lunsford, CORE Secretary