

Tuolumne County Committee on Aging

Minutes of Meeting on Monday, September 11, 2023, 1:30 pm

Meeting held via Zoom

1. Call to Order / Introductions

A. Establishment of Quorum

- i. Quorum established – 12 members present
- ii. COA Chairman David Goldemberg, Melody Brotby, Britne Gose, Zandra Bietz, Kristi Conforti, Tim Gillespie, Catherine Driver, John Featherstone, Jackie Sample, Ted Michaud, Cathie Peacock, Emily Fife
- iii. Meeting called to order at 1:54 pm

B. Introductions

- i. No introductions needed

2. Public Comments:

- A. COA Member Cathie announced that the upcoming Centenarian Event will be held on October 26th.

3. Approval of Minutes:

- A. Two sets of minutes were attached to be approved at this meeting. These minutes were from the July 10th meeting and the August 14th meeting.
- B. COA member Ted Michaud motioned to approve both sets of draft minutes. Second from COA Member John Featherstone. Motion carried 12 – 0.

4. Chairman's Report:

- A. COA alternate Chairman Kathleen Haff summarized the issues that the county is facing with PG&E with the Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS) shutoff events. These shutoffs are multiplying in number and scale, and are beginning to take much longer to resolve. There are multiple temperature related risks involved with loss of power, especially among seniors. Discussion ensued regarding whether the risks imposed to seniors from EPSS shutoff events could be taken up by the COA as a central issue to pursue. This led to a continued discussion

surrounding the responsibility borne by PG&E for how quickly these outages are corrected.

- B. Offshoot discussion on surveys and data collection from different sub-demographics of seniors. Different locations and options were discussed to strengthen the data that can be collected from seniors across the county.

5. Treasurer's Report:

- A. The current COA balance is \$9,738.18
- B. COA member Ted Michaud summarized slight fluctuations evident in the COA budget as tracked by the Auditor-Controller's office. COA member Cathie Peacock explained she has a credit card that draws from the COA budget. COA member Michaud said he will follow up with the Auditor-Controller's office to determine the status of any credit cards and balance discrepancies.

6. CAO Staff Report:

- A. CAO staff reported the departure of Assistant County Administrative Officer Eric Erhardt.
- B. CAO staff explained the details of rules for the expenditure of public funds from the COA budget. For general operations such as funding events, purchasing materials, or paying fees or permits, the COA has discretion on how funds are spent and Board approval is not required. For making donations to charitable organizations or non-profits, since the COA is a Board approved advisory committee, they would need to first declare their intent to use funds that way in a formal committee vote. Then, CAO staff support would need to add an item to a Board of Supervisors meeting agenda requesting that they analyze the request and make a finding of public benefit.

7. Presentation on the Wish of a Lifetime program and consideration of utilizing COA funds to make a charitable donation:

- A. Wish of a Lifetime is an affiliate of AARP that grants wishes to older adults in a similar fashion to the Make a Wish Foundation.
 - i. COA member Cathie Peacock asked if there is a newsletter or list for the activities that they do.

1. The website has a webpage of “Wish Stories” that summarize previous wishes that were granted by the organization.
 - a. <https://wishofalifetime.org/wish-stories/>
 - ii. CAO staff asked if there is an obvious way to donate to this organization. Discussion ensued regarding the various links that exist on the website such as those to donate, volunteer, and assist in wish planning.
 - iii. COA alternate chair Kathleen Haff asked if there is a specific way to donate to a person who lives in Tuolumne county. Discussion ensued.
 1. COA member Kristi Conforti mentioned that she knows the person who runs the charity and would reach out to see if it’s possible to donate to a specific person.
 - B. Vote: The committee opted not to vote on making a donation. Discussion tabled until next meeting.
8. Work Groups Liaison:
- A. COA member Cathie Peacock summarized the status of the upcoming Centenarian event. She described the sponsors of the event and that she and other COA members would continue their work collaborating with the sponsors to put on the event.
 - B. Numerous invitations are being sent out.
 - C. COA member Tim Gillespie is looking into special commendations for those 100 years old and older.
 - D. COA member Kristi Conforti is examining options for photography coverage of the event.
 - E. Discussion ensued at the end of the workgroups update regarding work options for the committee to pursue in 2024.
9. Unfinished Business:
- A. COVID’s continued impact on seniors
 - i. COA member Ted Michaud explained that he believes the COA has a role to play in the level of knowledge about COVID amongst seniors.
 - ii. COA member Cathie Peacock stated that she had joined a new committee with the health department. She stated her intent to assess whether this

committee would explore concerns about COVID as they may specifically relate to the older population.

10. New Business:

A. Consideration of reducing the number of seats in the Committee on Aging

- i. A brief discussion ensued about the reasoning of reducing the number of committee seats.

B. Vote:

- i. COA member Cathie Peacock motioned to reduce the number of seats on the COA from 20 to 14. Second by COA member Kristi Conforti.
- ii. Motion passed 12 – 0.

11. Additional Comments/Questions:

- A. CAO staff explained that the scheduling of future COA meetings would be handled by CAO staff. This entails scheduling the Agenda planning meetings to occur on the last Friday of each month, and the regular COA meetings that occur on the second Monday of each month.

12. Adjournment

- A. Meeting adjourned at 2:51