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of Northern California**

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## **United Way Elects New Board Leaders**

*Sonia Aery to serve as Chair and Scott Fredrick as Vice Chair for 2022-23 term*

REDDING, CA (June 14, 2022) – A Butte County business owner and California Highway Patrol (CHP) commander have been elected as leaders of the United Way of Northern California Board of Directors, the agency announced today.

Sonia Aery, owner of an Allstate Insurance agency in Chico, will serve as Board Chair for the 2022-23 term, succeeding Jim Cloney, superintendent of the Shasta Unified High School District. Cloney, chair since 2019, will remain on the Board’s Executive Committee.

Capt. Scott Fredrick was elected Vice Chair. Fredrick leads the CHP Northern Division Special Services Command, serving 13 northern counties. He succeeds Wendi West, Northern Region Executive Director for Partnership HealthPlan of California (PHC).

PHC will continue to be represented on the Board, as Amy Agle, Human Resources Director, was elected to a seat. Other new Board members include Michelle Ridley, a crisis counselor from Plumas County, and Dr. Marie Dotson, a clinical psychologist from Tehama County.

“Jim and Wendi have provided outstanding leadership, guiding the agency to unprecedented growth,” said Larry Olmstead, President and CEO of United Way of Northern California (UWNC). “Sonia and Scott bring expertise, energy, and innovative thinking that will take the Board and the organization to the next level.”

Aery joined the Board in 2020 and has led its disaster fund committee. Fredrick, a Board member since 2016, will continue to serve as chair of its Community Impact Committee. Both are active in a variety of community organizations and endeavors.

Two other Board officers – Secretary Kristin Behrens (Owens Healthcare) and Treasurer Joanna Padilla-Mitchell (Wells Fargo) – will continue to serve in those roles.

UWNC’s mission is to fight for the health, education, and financial stability of all North State residents, and to be there in times of crisis. Tax-deductible donations to UWNC can be made by visiting [norcalunitedway.org](http://norcalunitedway.org) and clicking the “Donate” button.

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**About United Way of Northern California:** United Way of Northern California (UWNC) was established in Redding in 1953 and serves nine counties: Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity. UWNC is active in disaster relief and recovery, raises funds for non-profit agencies, and operates human services helplines in Shasta, Siskiyou, and Tehama counties, accessed by dialing 211. For more information about United Way of Northern California, visit [www.norcalunitedway.org](http://www.norcalunitedway.org).