

The CAO Weekly Report

The week of November 2, 2015



Monterey County Administrative Office

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In this edition:

- RMA celebrates staff
- Elections recognizes long-time poll workers
- Best of County Halloween



Resource Management Agency Celebrates Staff

Each year, the Resource Management Agency (RMA) celebrates its staff's hard work with a Recognition Day luncheon.

This year's luncheon was held October 29th in the cafeteria in the Schilling Place facility. This provided the opportunity for agency staff to get together for an afternoon of food and fun plus see where the agency and its divisions will be moving once renovations are complete in spring 2017.



The Recognition Day theme this year was sports, and many came wearing clothing featuring their favorite teams.

Staff had the opportunity to share successes of the past year and hear the future vision for the department from newly appointed RMA Director Carl Holm.

“Our focus will be on continuing to improve customer service and continuing to provide high quality services to the community,” explained Holm. “We hope to accomplish this through streamlining the organizational structure and focusing on support to staff who provide those services to the community. This new facility provides great opportunity for improved service through the establishment of a “One-Stop Permit Center.”



Carl Holm (l), Wendi Reed (center) and Shawne Ellerbee (right) show the RMA’s first Employee of the Year Award.

Third District Supervisor and Board Chair Simon Salinas and Assistant CAO Nick Chiulos also attended and shared a few words about their appreciation of the work that RMA staff do for Monterey County.

Employees who reached significant milestones were recognized and awarded service pins. The Agency also gave special recognition to those who were identified as Employees of the Quarter throughout the year; and for the first time, the Agency gave an Employee of the Year Award. The first winner is Wendi Reed, who was honored for her hard work and dedication to her colleagues and community.

Holding an event of this size (RMA has approximately 270 on staff) would not be possible without a team effort, including those who volunteered to stay behind and keep offices open since the public counters for Planning and Building Services did not close during the event.



Elections Honors Long-Time Poll Workers

The Monterey County Elections Department is in an enviable position. At a time when other counties are struggling to recruit poll workers, the Department happily reports a high retention rate with poll workers who were ready to serve on Election Day this week.

“We are proud to have this commitment to service in our county,” says Claudio Valenzuela. “Poll workers are the unsung heroes of our democratic electoral process. Their efforts allow so many to enjoy the essential right of being a citizen in the United States.”



Claudio Valenzuela, Registrar of Voters recognizing longest serving poll workers. Left to right, Joe Rivers, Jorge Vargas, Kevin Hanstick and Claudio Valenzuela.

Poll workers are responsible for all polling place operations, including setting up equipment and supplies, assisting and processing voters, and assisting in the closing procedures. They typically attend a minimum of two hours of training each election in preparation for a 16-hour work day.

In most elections, poll workers receive a commemorative pin noting their participation. A number have amassed quite a collection over the years. In 2015, Monterey County Elections instituted the Integrity, Dedication, and Service Recognition Pin. Those poll workers who have served five years or longer will receive one.

The longest serving poll workers recognized for outstanding service include:

- Kevin Hanstick, 32 years of service, now trains poll workers.
- Jorge Vargas, with more than 20 years of service, now supervises a polling place.
- Roy Locatelli, with more than 20 years of service, began working as a poll worker in high school and is now a field inspector overseeing operations at several polling places.
- Joe Rivers, with more than 20 years of service, began serving as a poll worker after ending his service in the military. Rivers continues to serve his country in honor of those who couldn't return.



Many thanks to the more than 300 poll workers who served our community during this week's election.



Staff Acting Strangely? Ghouls Rule On Halloween

It only happens on Halloween in county offices. Concerned about legal aspects of child support? Ask the 60's era housewife. Constituent in District 2? Call the bumblebee. Questions about a permit or planning problem? Talk to the snack machine.

Halloween brings out a creative and sometimes wacky side of employees that is (mostly) kept in check the rest of the year. Some departments throw down the Halloween gauntlet with costume competitions; others just enjoy the chance to dress up and delight co-workers and the public. Here are some of the "Best of Halloween" images from county departments.



The Clerk of the Board's annual Halloween event draws competitors from all departments. Here are some of the winners: 1st Place Most Original: "Snack Machine," Jacqueline Onciano (RMA, above left). 1st Place What are You Supposed to Be: "Bee-Yonce," Claudia Link (District 2, upper right). 1st Place Best Group: Cruella DeVille and Company. (Patty Babine, Frances Scheiber and Carlos Gomez (Treasurer-Tax Collectors Office, left).



“Robbers” submitted by the Treasurer-Tax Collector’s Office took 1st Place in the Group Photo Category for the Clerk of the Board Halloween contest (above). There was also a pumpkin carving competition, check out some of the entries below.



Child Support Services invited staff to have a costume contest. The winner? Scary nostalgia! 1st place went to Kari Sanders (above) for her “60s housewife.” Terror awaits at Information Technology, where staff gets into the spirit of the day. (L-r) Chetna Patel, Rob Kam and Cindy Calmus (below). Cindy’s black dress features “Little White Lies.”

