Counting On: After the Polls Close at Elections Office

You will be hearing about the Elections Department quite often over the next several weeks as it wraps up the results from the November 6th election.

There is a tremendous amount of work preparing for the election, as well as facilitating voting throughout the county on Election Day. Registrar of Voters Claudio Valenzuela says everything ran smoothly on Tuesday thanks to rigorous planning and well-trained staff.
“It really boils down to planning, preparation and having the right people, motivated and properly trained, with the tools they need to serve the voters.”

And some of those ‘right people’ turned out to be County employees who went above and beyond to help when the Department was in dire need of assistance. Valenzuela says this year, many longtime poll workers retired.

“I’d like to give special recognition to some of our County colleagues who really came through for us this week,” says Valenzuela. “Our County Counsel Anne Brereton not only donated her time as a courier, she recruited others. Many thanks also to Jeff Cleek, Celeste Jimenez and Pascula Rios who rearranged their work schedules and donated their time for critical election pickups. Recognition also goes to our neighbors in the Civil Rights Office and Juan Rodriguez in particular. Juan not only donated his time as a courier but also allowed us to use their lobby as a waiting area for voters taking advantage of the conditional voter registration process and voting on Election Day.”

Valenzuela says the conditional voter registration mentioned above could be one of the big successes of this election. His office issued 614 of these registrations, mostly to young, first-time voters who missed the voter registration deadline but were still able to vote on Election Day.

As for overall election numbers, the current turnout figure is 37.85% but is expected to climb and possibly set a new record after processing the 41,000 provisional and vote-by-mail ballots delivered at the polls and at the multiple drop-off locations.

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**Tunzi Named Natividad Physician of the Year**

**Congratulations to Dr. Marc Tunzi, who has been named Natividad’s 2018 Physician of the Year.**

This is a peer nominated and selected award to honor an exceptional physician.

As chair of the hospital’s Bioethics Committee, Tunzi is part of the decision-making team when Natividad is presented with challenging medical cases.
He also plays a vital role in the development of future physicians through the Natividad Family Medicine Residency Program, serving as faculty for more than half of the program’s 45-year history. He is a past hospital Chief of Staff and a sought-after mentor and adviser.

Additionally, for the last 20 years, Tunzi has worked with Salinas’ homeless population and is a co-medical director for Dorothy’s Place.

“Dr. Tunzi has made a profound impact on everyone he has come into contact with in his 25 years with Natividad,” says Natividad CEO Gary Gray. “He is one of our longest tenured physicians and certainly one of the most accomplished.”

“Salinas is a working person’s community and people here work hard. I remain fully committed to public service medicine and taking care of our very special population of patients and families,” Dr. Tunzi said.

Congratulations Dr. Tunzi!

**Contracts Purchasing Staff Earn National Leadership Positions**

The Contract and Purchasing Division has been honored in the past by the National Procurement Institute and now key staff in the division have earned leadership positions in the organization.

Mike Derr, Contracts/Purchasing Officer, was named President of the National Procurement Institute (NPI) for 2018-19 at the organization’s annual conference last month. At the same meeting, Tom Skinner, a Contracts/Purchasing Management Analyst, was also sworn in as a director.
NPI is an important organization for those in the procurement side of government, developing best practices for those in this field and honoring excellence among members. Monterey County has won the organization’s Achievement in Excellence in Procurement Award for the last four consecutive years.

Derr’s responsibilities as President will be to provide oversight, direction and vision for the organization. Skinner’s responsibilities as a director are to assist NPI committees which oversee the organization’s various activities such as the annual conference, scholarship program, policies and membership.

Contracts/Purchasing Officer Mike Derr is sworn in as NPI President (left) and Tom Skinner (at right in photo) is sworn in as an organization director.