

VISALIA TIMES-DELTA
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2008

BUSINESS

County realty group installs new officers

Luncheon message
about opportunities in
a down economy

Staff reports

Despite a difficult year, there was nothing downbeat in the attitudes of the hundreds of real estate professionals who gathered Wednesday to install new officers and celebrate the holiday season.

Nearly 400 people attended the Tulare County Association of Realtors luncheon at the Visalia Convention Center.

Opportunities, involvement

State association president Jim Liptak attended the luncheon and told the group that even in difficult markets there are opportunities, and that they need to get involved in their communities and local politics to stay successful.

He added that "California went into this market sooner than any other part of this country, and I believe it will also come out sooner."

Carlos Aleman, the association's new president, said 2008 was a "challenging" year

and 2009 would have its own share of challenges.

New year goals

Aleman told his colleagues he had three goals for the new year:

- ▶ Increase the number of professional educational opportunities for agents
- ▶ Raise the profile of the association
- ▶ Provide a better understanding of how their political contributions are spent.

New officers

The following new officers were installed:

- ▶ Jeremy Garcia, president-elect
- ▶ Brian Icenhower, secretary-treasurer

The following directors were installed: Mark Avedian, Robert Casey, Manya Choboian, Jahan Farhang, Gerrie Giotta, Tony Keller, Brad Maaske, Preston Miller, Nancy Riggs and Craig Smith.

Nancy Childress, of Countrywide Mortgage, was named Affiliate of the Year; Barbara Summers, of All Estates Realty, was named Realtor of the Year.