



EDITORIAL

Trump vs conspiracy theorists

In one of the very rare times when former President Donald Trump spoke the truth, he finds himself under attack from some of his most loyal defenders of the past.

The subject, of course, is vaccines. Trump had been speaking out recently about how he believed the vaccines developed against COVID-19 were both necessary and helpful.

To his dismay, he was even booed during a rally when he said he had been vaccinated and everyone in attendance should do the same.

He is finding out that a wide spectrum of the American people are anti-vaxxers, and even those who were Trump fanatics before had their limits. Their loyalty to #45 ends where their belief in crackpot theories begins.

The anti-vaxxers believe that the vaccines developed by the multinational drug companies are inherently evil. They believe the medications are poisons which will not affect the vaccinated parties at first, but the deadly effects will emerge sooner or later.

This belief is commonplace not only in the US, but practically in every country in the world, including our motherland, the Republic of the Philippines.

In parts of Europe, there have been riots from anti-vaxxers after their governments made it all but mandatory for everyone to be inoculated against the coronavirus which caused the worst global pandemic in a century.

Anti-vaxxers will not be swayed in their beliefs, even after scores of their kind who were infected by the virus fell ill and publicly reversed their stands from their hospital beds. In some cases, their rejection of their original belief came shortly before they were felled by COVID-19.

Sad to say, today's anti-vaccination movement is nothing new. Variations have come and gone for more than a century, after the first vaccines were developed.

In a sense, anti-vaxxers are actually anti-science. They refuse to recognize scientific studies that show vaccines as necessary in conquering some of the deadliest medical conditions known to man.

Without vaccines, such blights as polio, tetanus, influenza, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis A, Rubella, and many others would still be around, ruining lives by the millions.

But don't tell that to the conspiracy theorists who will never, never accept hard facts even if you shoved it down their throats.

For them, the proven cures to dreaded diseases is nothing more than propaganda funded by the evil drug companies to control all of humanity. As such, they embark on what to them is a noble mission to inform the rest of the world of the dangers of being injected with man-made chemicals that will ultimately kill or cripple them somewhere down the road.

There is, in fact, only one thing that unites Presidents Joe Biden and Donald Trump, as well as all living former presidents of the US – they know that vaccines are necessary because vaccines work.

In a recent TV interview where he again voiced his strong support for vaccines, Trump was attacked for possibly being no longer of sound mind due to his age.

One ultra-right radio commentator even went to the extent of calling him one of the most evil men in modern times. All because of his pro-vaccine stand.

We have never hidden our dislike for Donald Trump, but where vaccines are concerned, we're behind him all the way. Unless he changes his tune for political expediency, of course.

ALLICE new male leader pledges more outreach

DALY CITY, Calif. – Longtime community advocate Anastacio Flores Jr. promises to broaden engagement with diverse Filipino American sectors as 2022 president of the all-volunteer violence prevention nonprofit ALLICE Alliance for Community Empowerment.

"We need to continue to take advantage of opportunities to reach folks far and wide and educate them on Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and how they too can become allies," said Flores, a project director at Asian American Recovery Services-Healthright 360.

The fifth male president of ALLICE came to this country at 8 years old with his family. He speaks fluent Ilocano, and cares for his father while raising his two children with his wife in their San Francisco home.

"What could be more masculine than being a devoted family man? Also being a dedicated community educator," Flores asserted his values.

MULTIGENERATIONAL

In their virtual year-end celebration early this month, ALLICE, elected "Junior," as Flores likes to be called, along with South San Francisco Vice Mayor Flor Nicolas as vice president and licensed marriage and family therapist Jennifer Jimenez Wong as secretary. San Mateo County Board of Supervisors President David Canepa officiated the installation.

Vice president Nicolas has hit the ground running.

"I am looking forward to helping our president Junior Flores attain our goals for the year and building on the work that has been done by the previous team led by former president Nan Santiago," said the Batangas native who immigrated in 1988, reminding of the compounded barriers IPV survivors face today.

"The pandemic has taken a toll on many relationships. As city council member, I received the confidential police log on a daily basis and had noted the increase in domestic violence. I am sure our City is not different from most in that the actual incidence is greater than what has been reported," said the biotech executive. "I am hopeful that my newfound knowledge about domestic violence, its prevention, and the available resources will come in handy to help mitigate the suffering of our most vulnerable. I will also be more aware and sensitive in developing policies and programs to address them. It is my sincere hope that all we do will save lives."

Flores succeeds 2020 president Nan Santiago, a seasoned therapist who held the team together through the new normal of cyber-meetings in a year rocked by the nationwide onslaught of heinous hate crimes against Asians. Santiago led a delegation at the rally for peace at the City Hall of Daly City that also denounced the political rhetoric-fueled targeted attacks.

In the summer Santiago steered the team's first virtual elder care and abuse prevention presentation in collaboration with the County of Marin Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Program through Director and ALLICE Kumpare Dr. Jei Africa. The event drew over 150 attendees from the US, Canada, (Continued on page 25)



CHERRIE M. QUEROL MORENO

Upside

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COLUMNISTS

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COVID-19 positive tests climb to a high of over 14% as LA County cases, hospitalization numbers are up

LOS ANGELES -- LA County reported continued high covid-19 case numbers along with rising hospitalizations. Most alarming is the increase in test positivity which has more than tripled since mid-December, indicating surging transmission across the county.

With high rates of transmission, unfortunately, even those who are vaccinated can become infected and infect others. And while the hope is that Omicron symptoms are milder, the current rise in hospitalizations is a cause for concern. Hospitalizations have increased by 30% since last Tuesday; the alarming rise in hospitalizations follows an alarming increase in cases last week.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) released the latest data on COVID-19.

9,473 new COVID-19 cases (1,632,893 cases to date)
22 new deaths due to COVID-19 (27,576 deaths to date)
966 people currently hospitalized

with COVID-19

More than 9,960,000 individuals tested; 15% of people tested positive

"As we approach the new year, with the staggering reality that over 27,000 LA County residents have lost their lives to Omicron, we extend our thoughts and prayers to those who have lost their love ones," said Dr. Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health.

"And while we all wish that 2022 would begin without the continued tragedy of serious illness and death associated with COVID, we are instead facing the prospect of an alarming surge that requires every person to act with intentionality: get vaccinated and boosted, get tested, and please, always wear a mask around others. These are the tools we have to try to keep each other safe over the holidays," Ferrer said.

The Department of Public Health earlier reported a high proportion of healthcare workers, across a variety of settings, are fully vaccinated (with either

two doses of an mRNA vaccine, or one dose of Johnson and Johnson vaccine).

As of mid-November, 91% of hospital workers, 93% of dialysis workers, and 83% of EMS workers were vaccinated; as of December 12th, 96% of skilled nursing facility staff were also fully vaccinated. Nevertheless, with increased community transmission, cases among healthcare workers are now rising.

During the week ending on December 18th, a total 292 cases were identified among L.A. County healthcare workers, an increase of 26% from the previous week. Meanwhile, 46% of hospitals in the county are reporting staffing shortages, compared with 20% at the outset of last winter's case surge.

In alignment with the State of California, LA County's new Health Officer Order requiring booster doses for all healthcare workers is a key protective step aimed at reducing infections by increasing the numbers of workers with the optimal safety provided by the

booster does.

And while health care workers are generally highly vaccinated, many have not yet received their booster dose; for example, though fully vaccinated staff rates remain very high in the skilled nursing facility setting, the proportion of those who have received booster doses lags behind at approximately 50-60%.

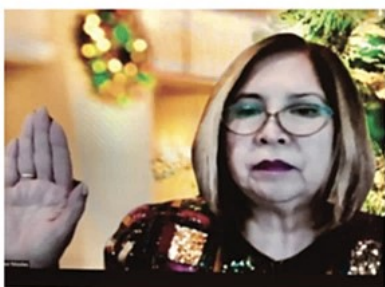
The revised order, issued December 23rd, requires booster-eligible workers in healthcare settings be boosted by February 1st, 2022 or be tested for COVID-19 twice a week beginning December 27th (if in acute health care or long-term care settings). The order also recommends all workers upgrade their face coverings to surgical masks or higher-level respirators (such as an N95 mask). The goal of this order is to protect LA County's healthcare workers, patients, facility residents, and community at large by ensuring an essential workforce remains as healthy and protected as possible.

Upside...

(From Page 11)



Supervisor David Canepa commends ALLICE.



Vice president Flor Nicolas

applied for and received a grant for outreach and education from Colma.

RESILIENCE PREVAILS

"Despite the challenges brought on by the pandemic, we managed to spread the word about healthy and unhealthy relationships to help the community distinguish between the two and prevent abusive interaction," said Bettina Santos Yap, founding president. "Our success in the midst of crises is testament to the resilience and dedication of our Kumares and Kumpares and the generosity of our allies like Peninsula Family Service. To them we offer our deepest gratitude."

ALLICE was formed in 2003 as the FilAm Task Force of CORA. Called Kumares and Kumpares, the group coalesced with organizations seeking justice for Claire Joyce Tempongko, the San Francisco mother tortured and stabbed dead in front of her son and daughter in 2000. An independent all-volunteer nonprofit with a new name since 2009, ALLICE envisions a community coming together to prevent IPV and family abuse through shared sentiments and resources.



Secretary Jennifer Jimenez Wong.

"All of our activities are free and accessible to the public, thanks to our allies who donate whatever we need to stage an event," said Kumare Malou Aclan. "Every two years we publish our A-List directory of resources for individuals and families. A digital version is available on our website www.allicekumares.com."

A focus of ALLICE efforts to reach the new generation as it nears its 20th year, the website is in the loving hands of former president and now secretary Jen Jimenez Wong and her techie husband Chris Wong.

"Since I have been both a vice president and president, I would like to contribute my knowledge of what has been successful in the past as well as brainstorm new ideas of how we can touch the community especially during the pandemic," said Jimenez Wong, US-born mother to three girls. "We are currently working on revamping our website, and I would also like ALLICE to have a bigger presence on social media beyond our current visibility



ALLICE president Junior Flores

on Facebook and Instagram.

Cherie M. Querol Moreno is founder-executive director of ALLICE.

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