On Tuesday March 21, 2017, the Tulare Leadership class had its “Federal and State” Government Day. The session included four guest speakers; Sean Doherty, office of Assemblyman Devon Mathis; Captain Keith Douglass, for Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux; Rudy Mendoza, office of Congressman Devin Nunes office; and, Presiding Judge Bret Hillman.

Sean Doherty, Chief of staff for Assemblyman Devon Mathis spoke to the class and discussed how bills are written and become law. He covered this in detail speaking of the support needed, the coalitions that are required, and the hurdles encountered as bills become law. We learned that it costs approximately $185,000.00 for a bill to be authored and in the last legislative cycle there were approximately 3209 bills authored. He spoke of the bills Assemblyman Mathis has worked on, specifically his water bills and veteran’s court bill.

Captain Keith Douglass presented on behalf of Sheriff Mike Boudreaux. He spoke of the recruiting, hiring, training and retaining of qualified Deputy and Correctional Deputy Sheriffs. Captain Douglass detailed the departmental changes taking place within the Sheriff’s Office and how Deputies and Correctional Staff are being challenged to be the difference. He touched on the exciting and innovative use of technology within the Office of the Sheriff, specifically the use of body worn cameras, and how Deputies working in both operations and corrections are fully outfitted with these body worn cameras which provide another level of transparency to the Sheriff’s office. The Captain further discussed the benefits of the effective use of social media.

Rudy Mendoza presented on the many changes taking place at the federal level as well as the two major issues facing all Californians today. The modification of the Affordable Health Care Act and how this would or could impact us. He also spoke of comprehensive immigration reform. He advised how none of the local leaders wished to negatively impact any family, and that the current argument between the state and federal levels of government could impact our local region. He reminded us that for any change to truly take place, we the leaders of our community need to get out and help make that change, that simply talking amongst ourselves was not going to make change happen.

Judge Hillman spoke to us regarding the current court structure, costs of the courts and how the court budget process works. He described all of the current courts in Tulare County, to include our specialty courts such as drug court, recovery court, mental health court and veteran’s court.

We would like to thank all four of our guest speakers for taking time out of their schedules to speak to us and educate us all on these topics.  These four leaders and their representatives coming to Tulare and spending time has proven that leadership classes like this are advantageous for future leaders to take. Participation of current proven leaders is what makes this class eventful and truly successful.