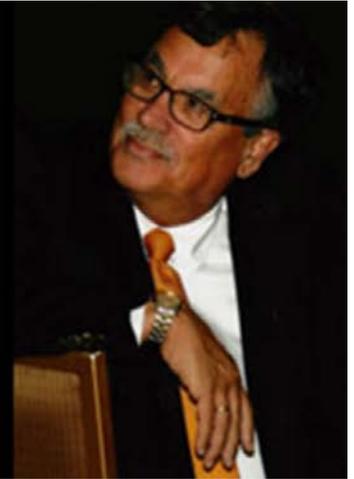


MY VIEW



Founder Wayne Fortin



THE MIGHTY 18

Soon, 18 TIP volunteers will begin serving the City of Long Beach, CA. I call them **TIP'S Mighty 18** for the following reasons... They are a very small group who will be providing comprehensive and immediate 24/7 service to a City of 467,000... the 7th largest City in California; none of the **Mighty 18** is paid to provide this sometimes emotionally wrenching service; they are busy residents with jobs and families; and they will labor behind the scenes with little recognition. In fact, the **Mighty 18** will go largely unnoticed.

Unnoticed????!!! **TIP'S Mighty 18** should be celebrated. Come November 1st, when they begin service, Long Beach should take notice. There should be headlines in the local paper, and November 1st should be declared "The TIP Mighty 18 Day" in Long Beach. Well... maybe I'm getting a little carried away.

But we should at least acknowledge the rise of the **Mighty 18** in Long Beach for two reasons... (1) They are a small group, providing a service they should not be able to provide given their numbers and the scope of the services they will be providing (2). We need the inspiration **The Mighty 18** provides us. There are so many depressing examples in the media of large organizations with many people and lots of resources who can't seem to get anything done. We need an inspiring example of a small group of volunteers who get a big things done.

I've certainly been inspired by **The Mighty 18**. I don't know each of them as individuals, but I've seen the group from afar. They are...

- "On Fire"
- Selfless

- Knowledgeable
- Confident (Bring it on!)

And they are ready to roll in Long Beach!

I know... I know. There are many small volunteer groups in the country doing big things. **The TIP Mighty 18** is just one of them. But it's one that is just getting started, and they need our admiration and encouragement.