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# Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

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The **Capitol Clarion** is published monthly by the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association.

**Marti Dennis, Managing Editor**

Bill Geach, Editor Eternal

Deadline for announcements and articles is the **1<sup>st</sup> of the month.**

Articles can be e-mailed to the Editor at: [mdennis1@att.net](mailto:mdennis1@att.net)

Capitol Clarion CSCMVA Newsletter

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## President's Message

By Alex King

### It's Time....

It's time for all of us to slow down (*I know, it's the Holiday Season with all of the obligatory Holiday demands*) and allow ourselves to enjoy the Season; reflect upon what we've accomplished this past year and enjoy and submerge ourselves into where our individual Holiday traditions lead us. Whether we celebrate Christmas, or Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or no special holiday, it's time to reflect upon this past year and prepare to enjoy next year. Happy / Merry Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and all other special remembrances that this diverse Nation recognizes at the end of a year. Isn't it a blessing?

A "business" note: Our **annual CSCMVA Meeting** is approaching, on Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The meeting will be at the **IRON GRILL, at 13<sup>th</sup> and Broadway** -- at 11:30 AM. A new location, with wonderful efforts to make our visit special for all of us. You will be receiving requests to "RSVP" and to choose your entrée for the lunch. **PLEASE respond quickly**, and remember the entrée you choose. The restaurant is anxious to please, and will be giving each of us a colored ticket (when we enter the building) designating our entrée choice. If we do our part, and help them, they will do their part and provide us a gracious and comfortable Annual Event. At the least, right now, mark your calendars for the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January.

As I have implied in previous President's Messages, it's been a year that has gone by very quickly. As an organization, we have accomplished a number of things, and there are still new challenges to meet. Thank you for your support this past year. It has been a fun, and sometimes challenging, year. Without your support, the President, and the Board, could not accomplish what we have seen in the 2014 CSCMVA Year.

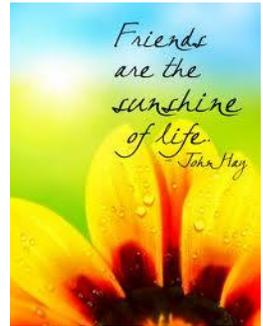
Enjoy the Holidays!

~ *Alex*

## Sunshine Corner:

Since the last issue of the *Clarion*,

- A basket of flowers was sent to the children of **Phyllis Davis** with condolences on their mother's passing, and
- Happy New Year wishes with encouragement for continued recovery were sent to **Richard and Suzanne Latimer**



Please remember that if you know of someone who could use a word of encouragement, comfort, or get well wishes, please contact **Scotty Hodges** who thoughtfully expresses CSCMVA support on behalf of our membership. Scotty can be contacted at [hashhogg901@yahoo.com](mailto:hashhogg901@yahoo.com) or by phone at 707- 425 -1909.

## Annual Volunteer Luncheon Meeting: January 22, 2015

Vice President **Bob Dreyer** is reminding members of the 2015 CSCMVA Annual Meeting which will be on **Thursday, January 22nd at 11:30 AM** at the **Iron Grill Restaurant**. Details will be mailed to each member along with menu choices shortly after Christmas.

## Election of Board Members:

The Nominating Committee (Bob Dreyer, Chair) consisted of both current and past board members who suggested that if the board members who were just finishing their three terms were eligible for another three year term that they be asked to accept another nomination to the board. The current CSCMVA rules allow for a person to serve two consecutive three year terms. All three Board members were approached and accepted nomination for another three year term with the provision that the second term include mentoring of other members of the organization to fill their roles as officers of the association. The three Board members put forward by the Nominating Committee are Marilyn Thompson, Bob Dennis, and Alex King. Confirmation of their nomination and the election will take place at the **Annual Meeting of the Association on January 22, 2015**.

Brief biographies of the candidates, proposed by the Nominating Committee, and their statements are included below. Please read them and cast a knowledgeable vote for the continued leadership of CSCMVA.

**Marilyn Thompson** – “I was in the volunteer class in 2010. Since then I have served one term on the Board and have been secretary for the past two years. Besides being a room docent I have participated in almost all of the living history events and have co-chaired several of them. I grew up in Woodland where my family has lived since the 1850s. I think that fostered my interest in local history. I majored in Sociology/Anthropology at Mills College, because I have always had an interest in how people live their lives and how so many things converge to create “history,” e.g., geography, weather, economics, politics, science, etc. I have enjoyed learning about the capitol, its governors, and California politics and meeting people from around the world.

“I retired five years ago after working 29 years for Yolo County Library. For 10 of those years I ran the county historical archives and records management programs. For another 10 years, I was the

circulation supervisor at the Davis branch library where I supervised approximately 25 people and interacted with the public on a daily basis. I feel that I have learned how to work cooperatively and productively with colleagues and visitors.

“My husband is an attorney in private practice in Woodland and we have two married children and 4 grandchildren. I volunteer weekly at the Woodland library repairing books, and I am Historian of the Woodland Shakespeare Club. For fun, I play clarinet in the Sacramento Symphonic Winds. I enjoy reading, sewing, and gardening.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed all my activities with CSCMVA and I think the Museum docents provide a valuable, fun, and educational element to the “capitol experience” for visitors. I will continue to do whatever I can to add to that effort.”

**Bob Dennis:** “During the past three years, I have served in the capacity of Treasurer for our organization. Our financial status has continued to grow and has enabled the association to make major contributions toward the preservation of the Capitol Museum Rooms. In an effort to continue this pattern of growth, I have agreed to serve a second term as on the Board. If elected, and asked to continue as Treasurer, I would ask that another association volunteer step forward to work with me and learn about association finances, including our principal revenue-generating activities.

“I am a native Californian having grown up in Southern California. Marti and I have three grown children and six grandchildren. I am a graduate of the University of Southern California (USC) with a degree in Finance and Real Estate. My business career was in commercial real estate lending and mortgage banking, real estate asset management, and the development of several real estate properties. Through the years, I have voluntarily served on the Board of Directors of various home owners’ associations in the capacity of both treasurer and president and been active on various leadership committees for our church and the Boy Scouts. I enjoy travel, especially the exploration of historical sites, golf, volunteer work and our grandchildren.

“I have always had a strong interest in history, especially history of the west which extends to our travel adventures to historical places and state capitols throughout the United States. I have been a volunteer at the State Capitol for the past eight years and thoroughly enjoy meeting and greeting all the people who visit the Capitol and other California landmarks.”

**Alex King –** “Three years ago, when I first asked to join the CSCMVA Board, I commented that Museum Volunteers who share our Building with visitors, not only show them a beautifully restored California Capitol, but they introduce visitors to the working center of government of the eighth largest economy in the World. I still feel that way.

“In the past three years, I believe the Board and the Association have accomplished several events and activities and I would like to continue to serve that effort.

“Many of you know that I have a background in government relations and that I served on the staff of a State Senator many (not quite a hundred) years ago. I feel that background only accounts for about 20% of what I share with visitors. The balance comes not just from what I learned in training, but from what I continue to learn from you, my fellow CSCMVA members. Each of us has a vibrant view of what to share with visitors and that vision and commitment continues to broaden my ability to be effective with our guests.

“Maybe it’s my being a native San Franciscan, that I identify so much with that year – 1906. Maybe it’s just my respect for the legislative process and the government that the Building represents that enthuses me. Not sure which. Or, maybe it’s the fun we all have as we each give our time and talents to the people of the State of California. The diversity of visitors to the Building and the diversity in our membership are gifts to me each time I’m in the Capitol. Thank you.”

## State Capitols Across the U.S.A.: Hawaii

By: Alex King

Our newest state capitol, in Honolulu, is majestic, inspiring, open, transparent and certainly representative of its Island heritage.

Hawaii became the 50<sup>th</sup> State in 1959, and its new capitol Building was dedicated in March of 1969. The building's architecture represents many of the geographic features of its State. An approaching visitor walks along walkways over a shallow fountain of water completely surrounding the building, just as the islands are surrounded by the Pacific. The exterior design includes eight columns, on each of its four sides, representing both the island palm trees and the number of islands in the State.

The Capitol itself is open to the sky as are the state's volcanoes. As one enters the building, only a few steps above street level, the five working floors are built around an open "plaza". Legislative visitor galleries are accessed directly through doors at the ground (or plaza) level and look down upon the Senate or House of Representatives floors on a lower level below. The public is given quick and very open access to their state legislature's chambers.

The Senate, with 25 members, meets on a blue floor representing the surrounding oceans. The chamber walls slope inward, like the interior of a volcano, and are covered in a light blue fabric representing the sky. A sea shell chandelier represents the moon.

Across the plaza, the House, with 51 members, meets in an earth tone chamber, like the island's volcanic soils. The walls in the House also slope inward, like a volcano, and a gold-plated chandelier represents the sun.

Above the plaza level, the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors house meeting rooms and legislative member offices. The Executive Branch, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor's offices, is on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, largely decorated with koa wood walls and furnishings, using one of Hawaii's native trees. A Ceremonial Room, also with koa wood, is used for official functions like bill signings, press conferences and meetings with visiting dignitaries. Visiting the Hawaii State Capitol is a lovely experience.



**Hawaii State Capitol**

*(Editor's Note: This article is one of a series on State Capitols. This feature section is set aside for articles and information regarding state capitols and for historic information about the state of California. If you have an article you'd like to share, contact me at [mdennis1@att.net](mailto:mdennis1@att.net))*

## A PORTS Thank You:

From: Richard Levin  
Interpreter Department of Parks and Recreation  
California State Capitol Museum

I would like to personally thank the many volunteers who participated in our recent (After School) PORTS Program with the Santa Maria-Bonita School District. The volunteers successfully engaged the students with demonstrations of artifacts, presented living history as actors and actresses, traveled through our time machine, starred in an iPad video, and set up and removed the equipment. They showed great care to protect the set when bringing guests through the Historic Governor's Office. We presented the program to more than 1,000 children in the 21 programs of which the CSCMVA volunteers took part.

Your dedication is appreciated and more opportunities are opening for March and April for other schools throughout the state. Please contact me, Rich Levin, with your interest in scheduling these upcoming PORTS Programs. I can be contacted at [richard.levin@parks.ca.gov](mailto:richard.levin@parks.ca.gov)

## Period- Appropriate Christmas Trees:

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of **Marylin Thompson, Jan Forbes** and others, several of the Capitol Museum rooms have been decorated with period-appropriate Christmas trees. ("Period appropriate" means that no lighted Christmas strands were included, but candles (unlit) were used instead.) In addition, Victorian decorations were researched, purchased and placed on the trees to bring holiday magic to the Capitol during this special time of the year. Thanks to Marylin and Jan for shopping for the trees and decorations, and to members for their help in decorating the trees. The decorations have provided a gala touch to the museum rooms and have been appreciated by the many Capitol Visitors during the month of December.



**Volunteers David Keck, Julie Mallett and Bob Dreyer decorating in Victorian fashion**  
Photos courtesy of Lou Below.

## Holiday Music Program

Once again, our CSCMVA volunteers acted as hosts / hostesses for this annual holiday musical program. Many even dressed up in costume to provide an historic touch to this entertaining and inspirational event. Some of these same volunteers, along with others, gathered together for a performance on Saturday, December 20 to share the holiday spirit with Capitol visitors.



**Holiday Music Program**  
December 1 – 23  
Capitol Rotunda



## Volunteer Spotlight

By Asleain "Scotty" Hodges

**Editor's Note:** For the sake of our newer members, we are republishing and updating "Spotlights" run several years ago about our active and faithful long time volunteers.

The volunteer selected for this month grew up in Carlsbad, a small beach town along the coast in North San Diego County. He graduated from beautiful San Diego State University in 1973, and subsequently moved to Sacramento to work for the State of California and loved it so much that he never left. His career with the State spanned over 34 years during which **Phil Noble** served in a variety of positions.

Initially Phil worked as a Policy Analyst, but was ultimately promoted to a management position. Later he attended law school, and became an Attorney for the State. Upon his retirement he took advantage of the opportunity to join the CSCMVA. He says that given his career in State government, combined with a love of history, becoming a Capitol volunteer was the perfect transition into retirement. He was especially motivated since he has always marveled at the Capitol and considers it historically and architecturally one of the greatest buildings in the country.

Phil's background and his love of history (he considers himself a "history buff"), proved a perfect fit for the docent position. He is very knowledgeable about CA State government. As a Staff Counsel for the State, he analyzed legislation, drafted bill language and, of course, is very well versed in the legislative process. As well, he enjoys meeting and interacting with all kinds of people which is integral to being an effective volunteer.

At the Capitol, Phil has continued to volunteer at the busy West Information Desk. He also provides occasional room interpretations and has taken the training class for conducting Capitol tours and says that eventually he will phase into that duty. He has participated in living history events, the mentoring of new docents, been a recipient of the Horizon Award, served as a CSCMVA Board member and along the way has given more than 500 hours to the Capitol as a docent.

Like so many of our volunteers, Phil enjoys his interaction with Capitol visitors, sharing with them what he has learned about the Capitol. In short, Phil describes his docent activity as a "dream volunteer job." In his spare time Phil enjoys volunteering at the Leland Stanford Mansion, running and skiing.

## Highlights of the Minutes of the CSCMVA Board Meeting:

**December 3, 2014**

By Marilyn Thompson, Secretary

**Call to Order:** President Alex King at 1:04 PM, Room 127 of the Capitol

**Bookstore:** Mary Geach reported that net income for November was \$1,627, \$100 less than November of 2013. She has received estimates from TC Printing Co. for reproduction of a popular capitol coloring book. Discussion ensued regarding quantity, format, size and cost. Mary generously offered to pay for the printing of 1,000 copies and to donate them to the association. It was decided that Mary will get an estimate from another vendor (River City Printing) suggested by Koren Benoit and report back to the Board.

## 2014 Board of Directors

Alex King	President
Bob Dreyer	Vice President
Bob Dennis	Treasurer
Marylin Thompson	Secretary
Connie Clark	Member
David Keck	Member
Julie Mallett	Member
Christine Tyler	Member
P.J. Jones	Member

**Treasurer's Report:** **Bob Dennis** reported that our expenses for November exceeded our budget by \$5, but are still under budget for the year to date. Total Christmas tree expenses were approximately \$1,800. Jones moved, Tyler seconded to accept report.

Bob then presented a proposed budget for 2015. Expenses and projected income are essentially unchanged from 2014. Several social events are included as possibilities, and \$750 is included for the purchase of additional Christmas decorations. Keck moved and Dreyer seconded to accept the budget. The Board unanimously approved.

Bob pointed out that we pay dues (\$60/yr) to the Conference of California Societies which is holding three conferences during the year on historical

subjects, as well as several webinars. They also publish an excellent magazine, the *California Historian*, which will be added to the volunteer library. Further information is available from Bob.

**State Parks Report:** **Rachel Martinez** reported that services for Phyllis Davis will be held December 12<sup>th</sup> at First United Methodist Church at 21<sup>st</sup> and J Streets. She requested ushers for some of the Holiday Musical Programs, especially on the weekends. Rachel asked for potential dates for the next training class, reminded volunteers of the upcoming CSCMVA "choir" rehearsal, and complimented CSCMVA on the Christmas trees. **Matt Bellah** reported that the Governor's Mansion will be closed during 2015 for extensive infrastructure renovations. The goal is to update all systems in order to make it a better functioning and safe event venue. New museum room shades (at the Capitol) are to be hung in the next few weeks.

## Ongoing Business:

- **Christmas decorations:** Consensus was that the trees are a nice addition to seasonal décor within the building. Marylin thanked those who helped assemble trees and reported that Jan Forbes is willing to chair next year and has more ideas. Koren has many photos of the capitol at Christmas and would like the committee to look at them in order to be sure decorations are period appropriate and suitable for public office. Her guiding words are "less is more."
- **Penny Smasher Proposal:** This item has been forwarded to Joint Rules for consideration.
- **Nominating Committee:** Dreyer reported that the three board members with expiring terms (Dennis, King, Thompson) have agreed to stay for an additional term, but he is looking for "backups" to learn the positions they fill, especially for a smooth future transition for Treasurer.

## New Business:

- **Memorial for Phyllis Davis:** It had been suggested that CSCMVA pay to have Phyllis' name added to the memorial plaque in the Capitol Rose Garden in recognition of her respect and affection for the capitol. The cost is \$150. Keck moved, and Jones seconded that we fund this plaque. After discussion, much of it regarding precedent, and input from Matt and Rachel, motion was amended to read that CSCMVA would contribute \$50, and the State parks staff would pay the remainder of the cost. Passed unanimously.
- **Year End Events:** Annual Meeting will be January 22 at the Iron Grill, located at 13<sup>th</sup> and Broadway. Price is just under \$22, and includes tax, tip and dessert. We will charge the same amount as last year: \$12 for members and \$22 for nonmembers. Dreyer will send the invitation out soon and include a deadline for response, after which date refunds will not be given for cancellations.

- **Holiday Music:** Cover of program includes photo of Christmas trees with costumed volunteers Julie Mallett, David Keck, and Bob Dreyer. Thanks to Lou Below for photos. Ushers are still needed.

#### 2015 Calendar Dates:

- **Museum Day: February 7th**
- **Camellia Day: Plan on February 25<sup>th</sup>**, but consult with DGS as to optimum date for flowers and adjust as necessary. DGS is requesting empty flat boxes two weeks in advance to collect blooms.
- **Earthquake Day: April 18<sup>th</sup>**
- **Suffrage Day: October 17<sup>th</sup>**
- **Volunteer Training Class:** after discussion it was agreed to plan the next training class for **July / August**

**Pending Business:** Standing Rules: still need to clarify requirements for lifetime memberships. Held over for discussion at next meeting.

**Reminder:** Minutes of the Board meetings are posted on the CSCMVA website. For prompt information about the Board's discussion and action, please refer to the website at:

<http://portal.parks.ca.gov/CapitalDistrict/CapitolMuseum/CapitolMuseumVolunteers>

#### Upcoming Events 2015:

<b>Board of Director's Meeting</b>	<b>Wednesday, January 7 at 1 PM</b>
<b>Annual Meeting</b>	<b>Thursday January 22</b>
<b>Museum Day</b>	<b>Saturday, February 7</b>
<b>Camellia Day</b>	<b>Wednesday, February 25 (Tentative)</b>
<b>New Member Training Class</b>	<b>July / August (6 week session)</b>
<b>Earthquake Day</b>	<b>Saturday, April 18</b>
<b>Suffrage Living History Day</b>	<b>Saturday, October 17</b>



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

**REMINDER:** This *Clarion* issue is a combined **December 2014 – January 2015** publication following our annual custom. The next issue of the *Clarion* will be published in mid-February 2015.

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**To use the Capitol Museum website, below: Copy the address to your web browser and then save the website to your list of “Favorites” or “Bookmark” it.**

<http://portal.parks.ca.gov/CapitalDistrict/CapitolMuseum/CapitolMuseumVolunteers>

**Volunteer Coordinator: 324-0319**  
**Rachel Martinez**

**Tour Guide Office: 324-0333**

**Scheduler’s Desk: 324-2088**

**Capitol Tours daily 9 am – 4 pm, closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day**