

Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

MARCH 2013



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

Marti Dennis, Managing Editor

Bob Dennis, Technical Support

Bill Geach, Eternal Editor

Deadline for announcements and articles is the **1st of the month**. Articles can be e-mailed to the Editor at:
mdennis1@att.net

Capitol Clarion CSCMVA Newsletter
PO Box 19956
Sacramento, CA 95819

President's Message

By Alex King

WOW !!! Time DOES fly when you're having fun!

We're already into mid-March, and we've held our Annual Meeting; Museum Day; Camellia Pin-On-Day, and a training session on the legislative process all fly past us, and a quarter of the year is already behind us.

Within days, Marilyn Thompson and Ann Rost are scheduling the first rehearsals for Earthquake Day on Sunday, April 21. If you don't already have an Earthquake Day assignment, and you'd like to participate – call one of them, and they will help you get involved.

That brings me to an important question for you. We volunteer at the amazingly beautiful and historic California State Capitol, partially because of our respect for the Building: its History, its Importance and, partially because it is so diverse, in the wonders that await visitors. We have fun being CSCMVA volunteers.

One of my goals this year is to find, and encourage, more opportunities for our members to have fun as members of CSCMVA. You have seen in previous Clarions that I was going to find a "questionnaire" for members to give us feedback about what they would like to see us doing. Well - this is it.

A questionnaire, without the typical options to answer or not answer: a question of each of you to share your thoughts and opinions about what "more" **you** would like to see from **your** association.

In this season of "March Madness," I'm throwing the ball into your court: how would you add, delete, improve, change, increase opportunities, or otherwise enhance the way we do things?

More training? Better volunteer scheduling processes? Better sharing of opportunities at the WI? More time in the Historic Events? Better time in the Legislative Galleries? More

Special Events? QUESTION: What do you think we need to look at to improve what CSCMVA members are able to do to show off our amazing building?

OK. Newer members: what more do you want to do? More senior members: what should we be doing that we're not currently providing? All members: what would you suggest we do to improve both our own enjoyment of our volunteering and improving the visitor's experience viewing our amazing building?

There are enough ways within this Clarion to identify someone to call, someone to talk to, and someone to share your thoughts with. Personally, I will commit that all ideas and thoughts will "see daylight" and will be considered as options to improve our association. Now, it's your turn ... your thoughts?

~ *Alex*



2013 Board of Directors

Back Row Left to Right: David Keck, Bob Dreyer, Bob Dennis, Marita Martin, Alex King

Front Row: Marilyn Thompson, Christine Tyler, Connie Clark.

Missing from the photo: Leslie Cooper

2013 Board of Directors

Alex King	President
David Keck	Vice President
Bob Dennis	Treasurer
Marilyn Thompson	Secretary
Connie Clark	Member
Leslie Cooper	Member
Bob Dreyer	Member
Marita Martin	Member
Christine Tyler	Member

CSCMVA Board Meeting Minutes:

March 6, 2013

By Marilyn Thompson

TREASURER'S REPORT: In the absence of Bob Dennis, Alex distributed the Treasurer's Report Bob prepared showing total net receipts after expenses of \$2,916 for the month of February.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Alex King

- Alex and Bob Dennis traveled to Shelly's new job site near Auburn to present her with the Association's farewell gift. They report she was thrilled and touched by everyone's good wishes and sends her thanks to all. She loves her new job with the California Conservation Corps.
- A reminder that parking passes must be renewed by March 31. Don't forget to pick up a form letter at the volunteer sign-in desk before you go.

STATE PARKS REPORT: Casey Hayden

- Casey reported that Dana Jones, the new Parks regional superintendent, will attend the next CSCMVA board meeting on April 3rd. They are working on filling the volunteer coordinator position.
- The Board is still planning on some type of summer social event. The Governor's Mansion is a possible location.

BOOKSTORE REPORT: Mary Geach reported income for February was \$2,131.97, a slight increase over last February. Mary displayed two new Sacramento history books she is ordering for the store both of which look like potential good-sellers.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: There are currently 111 dues-paying members. There is an ongoing project to purge the membership list of prior, non-dues-paying members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Camellia Day was a great success with volunteers making more than 400 corsages.
- Earthquake Day is on schedule. The 1906 San Francisco earthquake movie will be shown continuously during the day in the theater with 3D glasses provided.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A membership booklet with photographs of members is in the planning stages.
- Board members are working on a new long-range plan. Discussion included: how to best solicit member suggestions, how to document all the tasks members are now doing, how to manage staffing the WI desk efficiently, how best to communicate with members, and whether a CSCMVA website is feasible. Several board members will investigate software possibilities.

All members are encouraged to attend the monthly CSCMVA Board meetings normally held on the first Wednesday of the month. The meetings commence at 1:00 PM.

Sunshine Corner:

By Scotty Hodges

Since the last issue of the *Clarion*, we were not aware of any members who were in need of special greetings from our group.

What a wonderful month!

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 the group. Scotty can be contacted at hashhogg901@yahoo.com or by phone at 707- 425 -1909.



1906 Earthquake Day – Sunday, April 21

Thanks to the great response to our pleas, preparation for Earthquake Day Sunday April 21 is progressing well. All the acting roles and tour guide jobs have been assigned, as well as other essential rotunda positions. The script has been created electronically, thanks to Patty Wood's prodigious typing skills, and it now includes stage directions, thanks to Connie Clark. **Rehearsals** for actors and tour guides are scheduled for **Thursdays, April 4, 11, 18 at 5:00**. Please let Ann Rost (530-758-3194) or Marylin Thompson (530-666-3748) know if you cannot attend.

We are still in need of someone(s) to coordinate the morning coffee/snack buffet and the lunch. These jobs are not difficult, and we will gladly offer help and suggestions. It's not too late to participate! We can always use more Greeters (with or without a costume) and backups for those last minute emergencies. Give us a call!

Tours will be conducted between the hours of 10:30 and 3:00. If you are unable to participate, please be an enthusiastic voice encouraging friends and relatives to participate on April 21 reliving historical activities associated with the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

Reminder: Parking Permits Expire March 31

Please be sure to renew your parking permit before the end of March. Letters to validate your participation as a CSCMVA member and contributing volunteer are on the Volunteer Desk in Room B-27. Be certain to have one of those letters with you when you go to the Sacramento City Hall to renew your permit.



A Camellia Pin-On Day “Thank You”

From Alex King and Connie Clark

Once again, on Thursday, February 28th, CSCMVA carried on Sacramento’s Camellia tradition by offering camellia corsages to Capitol employees and visitors. A week before “the day” we had a minor rain event which threatened availability of flowers. It turned out, though, that the rain encouraged the newer buds to bloom, and we had some absolutely gorgeous flowers to give away.

Thank you to the Capitol Park staff for collecting around 400 blossoms for us to use. They were beautiful.

Our very successful event included volunteer members in a variety of tasks: making bows for the corsages; assembling the corsages; costumed distributors sharing decorated blossoms with visitors and legislative staff alike and; of course, members providing sustenance (snacks) to keep the crews going.

THANK YOU ALL to Diane Rich, Mary Geach, Patty Wood, Ann Rost, Kathryn Beckham, Ann Fox-Morgan, Rosemary Kirene, Marita Martin, Julie Mallett, Barbara Smith, Jan Geiger, Carolyn Martin, Lynn Cook, Bart Carlson, Karen Peart, Mary Spitzer, Bob Dreyer, Jan Forbes, Pat Rodoni, Susan Ches, Scotty Hodges, Sandy Metzger, Barb Souza, Laurie Dunlap, Chris Tyler, Leslie Cooper, Sheri Routh, Dick Lattimer, Mariane Bruening, Joan Lasak and Event Chair Connie Clark. (If we missed you, please let us know, so we may acknowledge you.)

Job well done! Close to 400 corsages were distributed to very delighted recipients.

And While We are Speaking of Thank You.....



Shelly Reimers sent out an electronic thank you to all members for the Eisley Nursery gift certificate she received as a “farewell” gift from the Association in recognition of her many contributions.

Alex King and Bob Dennis had the pleasure of representing the membership and delivering the gift certificate to Shelly in early March. Shelly appreciated the certificate to her “favorite nursery”, and reminded us that planting is her favorite activity.

Membership Roster:

Diane Rich has taken on the task of updating and maintaining our CSCMVA Membership List which is electronically organized in a program called “Vologistics.” Diane is requesting that anyone who would like to have a copy of the updated list please contact her at dfrizrich@yahoo.com.

Volunteer Spotlight

By Asleain Scotty Hodges

Have you ever had the opportunity to meet a true **CalKansan**? (Yes, I just made up the word.) Well, you are meeting one now, and you'll understand as you read on. He is, **Randall Williams**, one of our newer members. This kind gentleman spent most of his childhood absorbing rural Kansas attributes in Western and Central Kansas. However, he was born in San Francisco and embodies, as well as enjoys, his status as a '**native born Californian**.' His early education was, of course, obtained in the state of Kansas, including the first two years of his university study. He stresses that the highlight from his Kansas heritage is that of crossing paths with his lovely wife **Margaret**, which set up the possibility – now a reality -- of celebrating their **50th Wedding Anniversary** later this year!



Randall Williams

Randall's early life experiences included military service with responsibilities as a **Personnel Specialist for Army Alaska during the Vietnam Era**. Then he was off to Los Angeles, a move which provided a number of stepping-stones throughout the decade of the 1970s. Those years, he says, enabled him to complete undergraduate studies; allowed him to begin a lengthy and rewarding career in the banking industry; and provided enrichment to his life with the birth of a daughter and son. Career opportunity brought the family to Sacramento in 1980, and he says that it didn't take long to recognize that this was **home** for them.

Most of his banking career involved duties as a Senior Officer responsible for retail services. During this period, he also completed Graduate work at the **University of California at Davis**. By the year 2000, he felt it was time to make his departure from the world of commercial banking. So his last several years before retirement were dedicated to the position of **Chief Operating Officer** with responsibilities for a private, non-profit, K-12 institution in the Elk Grove area.

He adds that 'retirement' has afforded him meaningful volunteer opportunities that include travel along the West Coast; camaraderie and study available with the Renaissance Society at CSUS; walking, hiking, and camping; working on his limited photography and carving skills; writing and researching pursuits, primarily focused on family history; involvement in the faith community; and the immense benefit of quality time with four grandchildren!

Randall says he learned of the Docent Program while he was doing some research on the Secretary of State's website and accessed the California State Capitol Museum site as well. The information he found there led him to the details on the volunteer program, and from that information, he says he decided such an enterprise could be a good match for his interests in both Public Service and History. The Docent Program was also a good match for his expertise in Public Relations, Service Delivery, Event Coordination, and Leadership which were integral to his career responsibilities. He frequently made presentations to community groups, clients, associates, and trainees. He explains that he became adept at identifying customer interests and needs; and developed the type of steady hand required for normal or trying circumstances.

When Randall responds to what he enjoys most about being a Docent at the Capitol and what keeps his interest going, he offers a new perspective on docent life at the Capitol. (This is one of the reasons I love presenting the life history and views of our CSCMVA members!) He emphasizes that the more time he spends at the capitol, the longer the list becomes, but he stresses that two items are constant. He feels that whether visitors are from California, another state, or other countries, they have a regard for the Capitol that he has never encountered elsewhere! Also, there is the warmth of friendship and contagious enthusiasm among the volunteers and staff that, both, encourages and motivates him.

With respect to what keeps his interest going, he offers this insight, and I quote: “ **The “aliveness” of the Capitol atmosphere; interesting conversations; the variety of activities that have been made available for volunteers; the acceptance and guidance provided by staff; quality training opportunities; a virtually endless resource for historical study and research; participation in “Living History” days; the information and connection provided by the monthly *Capitol Clarion*; and the collegial relationship with other volunteers.**”

Among the rewards, that he cites for being a Capitol Volunteer are interaction with the public as they encounter the splendor of the Capitol; volunteer access to individual education, whether through conversation or the literature that is available in the volunteer library and the bookstore; the recognition/award program for the accumulation of volunteer hours and work performed; and membership in a California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association whose primary goals are focused on the pursuit and application of quality.

At this early phase in his volunteering, he says that he has benefitted from: the superb 2012 volunteer training sessions; the informative and entertaining “Quirks of the Capitol” tour conducted by Bill White; the fascinating California EPA Building visit; the 1906 Election “Living History” day; the Historic Tours Training conducted by Erin Renfree; and the 2012 Holiday Music Program under the Rotunda. In this his rookie season, he will soon qualify for the initial 100-Hour Pin, but in the meantime, he proudly wears that decorative Capitol nametag awarded for completion of the Volunteer Training Program.

Randall informs me that he looks forward to the variety and stimulation provided by: ongoing interpretation of the historic rooms; facilitating historic tours; training for and hosting group visits to the Legislative Chambers; upcoming “Living History” days; assisting with special events or projects for organizational awareness; attending the monthly Board meetings; and training sessions encompassing the rich history of the Capitol. He is also interested in becoming more knowledgeable about possibilities where Volunteers may be of service to the Staff in assisting with identified initiatives that cannot be achieved within the boundaries of current resources. He promises that he will be attendant to activities designed to maintain and strengthen the exemplary *esprit de corps* that characterizes the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association.

Last, but not least, in the ‘Did You Know’ category; did you know that Randall, in his increasingly ancient history (his words, not mine), competed as a distance runner all throughout his High School days and College years? It’s good to know that he is one who stays the course as the Association certainly would like him to utilize his many talents for the benefit of the Capitol and go the distance with us!

Special Feature: Additional Research on the Isabella Statue

By Bill White

The recent article on the **Christopher Columbus / Queen Isabella statue** by longtime volunteer Bob Chan peaked my curiosity and set me on a mission of discovery.....

Most of us are aware that the statue is the work of Larkin Goldsmith Mead, and that it was carved over a 6 year period between 1868 and 1874, so I started researching him. It turns out that Mead was a fairly famous artist in his day. In addition to our statue, he is responsible for numerous works of art, some adorning the cupolas of state capitols and gracing the gardens of parks and museums, as well as Lincoln’s tomb. He worked not only in stone but bronze as well. If you look him up on the internet, you will be amazed at the volume of his work. But back to “Chris.” I had been told that the statue was commissioned by an east coast financier by the name of LeGrand Lockwood but later was purchased by our own D. O. Mills. The Lockwood estate is located in Connecticut and is now a museum. I contacted the Chair of the Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum Curatorial Commission, Mary Findlay,

to see if she could shed any light on the circumstances surrounding the statue. Sure enough she was a wealth of information. Apparently the Lockwoods traveled to Florence Italy in 1867 and commissioned Mead to create the statue. However, Lockwood died two years before the statue was completed, and Mrs. Lockwood apparently still owed Mead payment. At the same time the Lockwood estate was in deep financial trouble and eventually went into bankruptcy. It is at that this point that D.O. Mills stepped



Queen Isabella Statue

in and purchased the statue from the widow. Mary is sure that the statue never reached the Lockwood estate and thought if anything it may have stayed in New York after Mills acquired it. However, according to the 1907 California Blue Book, page 221, the statue was shipped directly to Sacramento from Florence after Mills secured assurances from state representatives that the statue would be accepted as a gift. The statue was formally presented to the State by Edgar Mills, representing his brother D.O. Mills. D. O. Mills was living in New York at the time and did not attend the ceremony. On December 22, 1883 the statue was accepted on behalf of the State by Governor George Stoneman. I was not able to find any reference that the statue was ever at the Mills estate on the east coast; all indications are that it stayed in Italy until Mills was able to arrange for it to be shipped to Sacramento.

While digging into the statue's history, I also uncovered some very interesting information about its life here in the Capitol. Eric Thomsen who is one of our State Parks guides has done extensive research of his own and uncovered much of the information I relied on for this article. It turns out that the statue has taken quite a beating over the years. In 1899 someone broke off two fingers from the hand of the page. In 1950 someone stole a section of the Queens beads, one of her fingers and another finger from the page. The statue was repaired, but then in 1952 another finger was stolen from the page. Repairs were again made. Apparently in the 1950/60's it was the practice of the legislature to celebrate the end of session by lighting off firecrackers in the trash cans in the chambers as well as dropping firecrackers from the second floor onto the first floor rotunda. One year Assemblyman Jack Schrade was engaging in this practice when one of the firecrackers landed in the Queens hand blowing off ½ of her baby finger. That too was repaired. Once again in 1969 a finger from the Queen's hand was stolen and later repaired. Since the statue's return to the Capitol, no further damage has been reported.

Erik also located several articles dealing with the cleaning of the statue. It seems our recent controversy was nothing new. Apparently the statue would go years without cleaning and would discolor and be covered with cobwebs. At times it was cleaned with water and bleach; other times with Ivory soap and scrub brushes. One time it was done by a professional who took 8 days to complete the cleaning.

In researching this article I also came upon several other bits of information on the statue. I found four sources listing the weight of the statue anywhere from 5, 6, 6 ½ or 9 tons, and its cost from \$30,000 to \$33,000 to \$35,000, depending on which source you believe. As to the identity of the page, despite Dick Getz insisting that it's him as a child, I was able to find one article that indicated that the page would have been the child of "some grand high up in the Spanish peerage roll."

Also of interest is the controversy surrounding the return of the statue upon completion of the Capitol restoration. In 1976 editorials were published urging that the statue not be returned to the restored Capitol making the case that there was no connection to California. When it was time to return the statue, the Assembly was set against its return, but the Senate was in favor of bringing it back. As we know the Senate won out....

As you might guess, researching subjects such as our statue are made difficult by the passage of time and with different period sources you obtain different information. Nevertheless, it was a fun project.

I used files that Erik compiled, and they are available for anyone to review. They are located in the grey four drawer file cabinet behind the "I" desk in the basement along with other information on the building. Feel free to review the files, but Erik requests that the files not be removed and that they be kept in chronological order.

Editor's Note: The "Special Features" column is dedicated to interesting articles about California, our CA State Capitol, and other state capitols. CSCMVA members are encouraged to share experiences and / or researched information in this column in order to promote the educational and interpretive activities of the CA State Capitol Museum. Such information will continue to add to our understanding and knowledge base. For inclusion in the **Clarion**, please send articles to Marti Dennis at mdennis1@att.net.

Upcoming Events:*

1906 Earthquake Living History:	Sunday, April 21
California Admission Day:	Monday, September 9
Women's Suffrage Living History:	Sunday, October 13
Capitol Holiday Music:	Daily, December 1 through 23
Annual Meeting & Luncheon:	TBD, January 2014

* In addition to the events listed above, the Board is considering a social event for all members in mid to late June.

Volunteer Program website:
<http://capitolmuseum.tem.parks.ca.gov/volunteerprogram>

Capitol Museum website: <http://www.capitolmuseum.ca.gov/>

Volunteer Coordinator: 324-2405

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