

# Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

NOVEMBER 2013



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

**Marti Dennis, Managing Editor**

Bill Geach, Eternal Editor

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**

Capitol Clarion CSCMVA Newsletter  
PO Box 19956  
Sacramento, CA 95819

## President's Message

By Alex King



### Where Does The Time Go?

It is already mid-November. In a few days, Chanukah begins, then Thanksgiving. Right after that Christmas Music will be heard in the rotunda through December 23. Chanukah ends on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December, Then come the holidays of Christmas, Kwanzaa and then New Years. Wow!

The weather has changed. Look at the leaves everywhere. CSCMVA continues to operate at a fast pace.

Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, we again reminded Capitol visitors that **Women's Suffrage** was achieved in 1911 in California. We counted over 250 visitors that enjoyed the controversies and the conflicts that put California ahead of most of the rest of the Nation in granting the vote to women. I try to thank, by name, members that contribute to our activities. This time, however, if I listed everyone that played a role in the Suffrage success, it would take up the entire newsletter. Special thanks to the Chairs, Lynn Cook and Leslie Cooper, the Director, Connie Clark and the many, many people who made the day a wonderful and fun event.

Last month I mentioned that CSCMVA was planning to contribute the refinishing of the counter in the historic Treasurer's office and purchase new docent chairs for the historic rooms. Both those projects are now complete. We are still exploring new floor matting for the historic Secretary of State's office and a few other projects in line with our mission.

This coming Thursday, the 21st, Capitol Curator Koren Benoit, will join us and share her expertise about Capitol art works. She will begin her program in the Theater at 10 AM.

Let's all enjoy the approaching Holidays!

~ Alex



### 2013 Board of Directors

*Front (L to R): Marylin Thompson, Bob Dennis, Alex King, David Keck; Back (L to R): Gary Stonehouse, Chris Tyler, Marita Martin, Leslie Cooper, Connie Clark, Bob Dreyer*

### 2013 Board of Directors

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

would make good educational tools. There was too much food left over, which is often the case for living history events. The suggestion was made to (1) Cut down a lot on the amount of food provided in future, and (2) To sell the excess to volunteers rather than giving it all to state park staff in light of their limited refrigerator space. This would require having a person to manage the whole endeavor at the end of the day, around 4:30. Food for thought.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

**Support of Museum Rooms:** The Treasurer's office counter will be resurfaced on Friday by DeSouza's Furniture Restoration. They have done work for the State before, so they have a good track record. The total cost is \$1,840. An e-mail poll of the Board for project approval had been conducted, and the project received unanimous support. There was discussion about how to protect the countertop in the future. Glass is very expensive, Plexiglas isn't really historic looking; green desk blotters might work, but are difficult to find. Issue was not resolved.

## CSCMVA Board Meeting Minutes:

November 6, 2013

By Marylin Thompson

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** **Bob Dennis** reported that despite two large expenses in October: the insurance premium (paid every two years) and the purchase of five new chairs for the Museum rooms, as well as a slightly lower level of book sales, we still have a positive cash flow, and the budget is in positive shape.

**BOOKSTORE:** **Mary Geach** reported that Sept. and Oct. are typically slow for book sales, but our income for Oct. was still \$100 more than Oct. 2012. Mary commented that Koren Benoit wondered why the book store does not sell posters (of the capitol) as so many other museums do. The poster sold at the time of the 1982 renovation has long ago sold out. Mary would like to reproduce the DVD "A Legacy Restored" which chronicles the Capitol renovation which also has sold out. She and Connie Clark will look into how that might be accomplished. Proceeds would have to be split 50/50 with DDSO (the operators of the Gift Shop / Bookstore).

**MEMBERSHIP:** No report.

**STATE PARKS REPORT:** **Rachel Martinez** expressed appreciation, on behalf of State Parks, for the new chairs and the project to resurface the Treasurer's Office countertop.

**SUFFRAGE DAY REPORT:** Leslie Cooper reported that 254 people attended, and the day was a great success. The suggestion was made to film future living history days, especially Suffrage Day, and to sell the DVDs as they

Five new historic-looking chairs have been ordered and received. They were purchased for a total of \$728 from a company with which Jan Forbes has previously done business. It was decided that this was more cost effective than re-caning the damaged (non-historical) bentwood chairs. The new chairs will be distributed in the museum rooms for volunteers to sit on. One of them is high enough to be used at the Treasurer's counter.

Bob Dennis reminded Rachel that there is a line item in the budget of \$1,200 available for State Park's use which doesn't require a Board vote for expenditure. It was suggested that perhaps it could be used to produce bookmarks to pass out to the public with capitol and special event information.

**Training Opportunities:** Koren Benoit will give a tour of capitol artwork at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 21. Meet in the theatre for a short PowerPoint presentation before a walking tour. Koren is flexible so let her know if there is anything you would especially like to see.

For the future, there has been a request for a tour of the newly refurbished third floor of the Governor's Mansion. The newly renovated State Library building is another possibility, but it is not quite ready for visitors.

A request was made for a tour up to the top of the capitol dome, but Rachel advised that State Parks no longer has authority to set up these tours.

**Christmas Music:** The schedule of performers is almost complete. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Tour Office for volunteer "ushers". David Keck will coordinate this with help from Alex.

## NEW BUSINESS:

**Holiday Decorations:** It would be nice to have larger Rotunda Christmas wreaths, but DGS is completely in charge of those decorations. We will offer whatever assistance we might provide for the future: 2014.

**Membership Recordkeeping:** The Board would like to have information in Volgistics (the Volunteer database) showing the training class / year for each volunteer. Mary Geach will include a place on the membership renewal form for this information and will ask each member to enter their information. It will subsequently be entered into Volgistics.

**All members are encouraged to attend the monthly CSCMVA Board meetings held on the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be on December 4 at 1:00 PM in Room 127.**

## Sunshine Corner:

Since the last issue of the *Clarion*, a card has been sent to the following member:

**Sandy Metzgar** – With sympathy on the loss of her brother

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.





## Parking Alert!

Recently one of our members almost lost her Capitol parking privileges. As a caution from her experience, please note that in obtaining the special (reduced rate) parking pass from City Hall for the parking garage at 10<sup>th</sup> and L Streets, each of us signed an agreement to a set of Sacramento City terms and conditions. Of utmost importance is item number 10 (of 11) which states as follows:

***“Parking Programs: Participants in any Parking Administration program agree to abide by all rules and restrictions governing the individual programs. Abuse of any program, including attempts to validate and use a discount on the same day, will result in the immediate and permanent cancellation of all program privileges.”*** Translation: if you attempt to combine your Capitol parking privilege (green card) with any other offer, i.e., a credit coupon from a vendor (i.e., See’s Candy) in the area, your parking pass privilege will be taken immediately from you!

## Volunteer Training: An Art Walk on Thursday, November 21

**Koren Benoit** has offered to provide volunteers with an interesting tour of some of the beautiful art work which decorates the Capitol. Pieces of special interest may include “An Artists Reverie” by Jules Tavernier which is hung in Room 127. This 1876 oil painting depicts an artist looking out over a Monterey, CA landscape at twilight. “Tavernier was never one to let natural facts stand in the way of an imaginative composition.” (*Source: S. Shields, Artists at Continent’s End: The Monterey Peninsula Art Colony 1875 – 1907.*) The full beauty of this piece of art – like others in the Capitol collection – will be more fully appreciated with the professional expertise of Koren. Join CSCMVA volunteers at **10:00 AM in the Theater** for some introductory information followed by a walking tour of the Capitol.

## Holiday Music Program

By Dave Keck

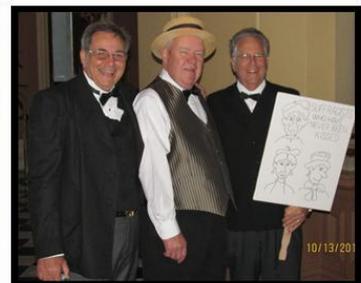


Once again Erin Renfree has done a great job in scheduling performers to participate in the Annual Capitol Rotunda Holiday Music Extravaganza. Now it is our part to make sure it is successful. We need CSCMVA volunteers to sign up to assist in greeting and ushering visitors who will be attending the free concerts. The performances begin on **December 1<sup>st</sup> and run through December 23**. The times are around the noon hour, but they vary daily. I have posted volunteer sign-up sheets on the bulletin board next to the volunteer desk in room B-27. You may wear a period costume if you like, but it is not necessary.

In addition, the CSCMVA Chorale (that includes you, Rod, Barb, me and everyone else) will be performing on **Saturday December 21<sup>st</sup> at noon**. Lip synching is acceptable so come and join our fun – it is a “hoot.” If you are going to great grandma’s for the holidays, you are excused. Note, there will be a rehearsal to make sure everyone is on the same page.

## California Women’s Suffrage Living History Day

The Committee thanks each of the Suffrage Day participants for helping make this living history event such a success. Kudos to Rachel Martinez for all her hard work, and special thanks to our director, the academy award winning actors and actresses, lead guides and important support personnel.



**Women's Suffrage Day – October 13, 2013**  
Photos courtesy of Lou Below; Collage courtesy of Rachel Martinez



**Women's Suffrage Day – October 13, 2013**  
 Photos courtesy of Lou Below; Collage courtesy of Rachel Martinez

## Finding Friendly CSCMVA Volunteers Away from the Capitol:

On occasion we have the unexpected pleasure of finding “one of our own” in a place and time when we least expect it. Such was the case on November 15 when Rod Lukins and Bob Dennis saw each other at the Sacramento Airport. Both were flying to southern California for the USC – Stanford football game at the Los Angeles Coliseum. The chance meeting offered an opportunity to learn more about each other and to share football strategies and hopes for a USC victory. (Rod’s son is on the faculty at USC, Bob is a USC alumnus, and Andrew (Bob’s grandson) is a potential future Trojan.)



Bob Dennis, and Rod Lukins  
with Andrew Goozen

### Volunteer Spotlight:

By Marti Dennis

After years of diligently interviewing CSCMVA volunteers and preparing interesting biographical articles featuring them, I prevailed upon a reluctant **Asleain “Scotty” Hodges** to allow me to write about her. In other words, it was time to put the Volunteer Spotlight on this friendly, gracious, warm and dedicated volunteer. Credit goes to Diane Rich who previously interviewed Scotty and whose earlier research and write up are a major factor in the following biographical piece.

Scotty was **born in a small town in Louisiana**, but she always had big dreams (and confidence) that she would ultimately live in California and, at some point, have the opportunity to visit Hawaii. She grew up in Detroit, and after graduating from high school in 1970, she moved west to California to fulfill her promise to herself. Expanding her sights to a global level, she joined the Air Force on her way to see the world. It did not take her long to realize the Air Force was not the right fit for her, and she left the service after 2 ½ years.



Scotty Hodges

Scotty attended the University of Detroit and Arizona State University en route to a **Bachelor of Arts in Zoology from the University of Hawaii and a Masters of Public Administration from San Francisco State** in 1985. Her **career was in Human Resources** for the City of San Leandro. Scotty retired when her husband, Alphonso (the “Big Guy”), was diagnosed with a terminal illness. Scotty and Alphonso (retired from the Navy and AT&T management) celebrated 30 happy years of marriage before he passed away in 2003.

In 2004 Scotty and her cousins came to Sacramento to pay their respects to Congressman Matsui when he lay in state at the Capitol. Having recently lost Alphonso, she was especially sensitive to the loss of Congressman Matsui. Patty Wood was in the Capitol that day and in her gracious way, she offered Scotty an application to become a volunteer. Scotty left the Capitol having been interviewed on Channel 31 regarding her thoughts about Congressman Matsui and on track to becoming a volunteer.

Scotty has given more than 1,000 hours to CSCMVA and along the way has participated in Art Walks, Earthquake Days, Women’s Suffrage events, Camellia Day, served as a Board member, mentored new volunteers, and ushered at the Holiday Music program (where she heard the Vienna Boy’s Choir perform). She continues to make regular CSCMVA contributions through the provision of comfort to members through her “Sunshine Corner” activities and through the introduction of members via the “Volunteer Spotlight” pieces in the *Clarion*.

While her Capitol activities satisfy her interest in history and government, they also highlight Scotty's "people skills" which she attributes to her career experience in labor relations, testing, advising, problem solving, training, mentoring new employees, and representing management in the public forum. She modestly omits mention of her outgoing and caring personality.

Scotty is also very active in her church and is finalizing training to become a Eucharistic Minister.

Having realized – and exceeded – many of her dreams, Scotty continues to love to travel and wishes to expand her previous experiences in Spain, Portugal, Mexico and Canada to include additional sights in Europe. "I must see Paris!" she enthusiastically proclaims.

And when she chooses to relax and "escape the city," Scotty plans to occasionally return to her roots in Louisiana to 9 ½ acres – an inheritance from her grandfather who owned "some 2,000 acres back in the early 1900s" -- and a new modular home.

## Did You Know? By Clem Dougherty

...that the Russians played a crucial role in the Spanish decision to colonize California? Yes, it's true. The year was 1769. At that time California was a frontier province of the Spanish Empire. New Spain was centered in Mexico City and governed from there by the Spanish Viceroy, the representative of the Spanish King, then Carlos III. For the 250 year period prior to 1769, the Spanish had ignored California. But in 1769 Spain suddenly focused its full attention on California. Why? The Spanish Ambassador in St. Petersburg informed Madrid that the Russians in Alaska were seriously interested in coming to California. Why? The Russians were starving in Alaska and needed some place to grow fruit, vegetables, meat, and grain for the colony in Alaska. As a result the Russians were looking at California. The Spanish viewed Russian expansion as a real threat to their silver mines in northern Mexico and decided to colonize California.

The means by which the Spanish chose to colonize California was the mission system. Some centuries earlier the Popes had given to Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand, and their successors, the "Patronato" which included the right to send missionaries into territories of the New World. So in 1769 the Spanish chose Father Junipero Serra and the Franciscan Order (then staffing the missions in Baja) to establish the missions in California. Serra's purpose, though, was different from the Spanish military purpose. His purpose was religious -- to found the kingdom of God here on earth based upon Christian principles, and to prepare for the second coming of Christ at the end of time. Father Serra's religious purpose would conflict with the military purpose, and there would be constant warfare between Serra and the Spanish governors during Serra's lifetime in California.

To reach California the Spanish could not come from central Mexico because of warlike Indian tribes along the Colorado River and in northern Mexico. Instead, to enter California the Spanish had to come up from Baja. Thus, in Baja the Spanish organized what they called the "Sacred Expedition," or, in Spanish, "La Sagrada Expedición." The Sacred Expedition consisted of five elements: three ships and two land divisions. The three ships were the San Carlos, the San Antonio, and the San Jose. The Sacred Expedition as a whole was under the command of Don Gaspar de Portola, the military governor of Baja and a native of Catalonia in Spain. Father Junipero Serra took charge of the religious part of the Sacred Expedition. Serra shared Portola's Catalanian heritage. The purpose of the expedition was to found a presidio and mission at San Diego, at Monterey and, midway between those locations, at San Buenaventura. In addition, Portola's orders were to place the capital at Monterey.

As a Catalonian, Portola was determined to give Catalonia a place in history by recruiting other Catalonians and Majorcans for the expedition in addition to Serra. Thus, the Sacred Expedition took on a Catalonian character.

Sailing north from Mexico up to California was not easy in those days. The ocean currents adjacent to the Mexican/California coast flowed from north to south, that is, from California down to Mexico. Thus, sailing up from Mexico to California against the contrary currents often took three to four months. Scurvy was a constant and very deadly problem. The San Carlos departed first. By the time it arrived approximately four months later in San Diego, two sailors had died from scurvy; the majority of the sailors and half of the soldiers were sick from the same disease; and only four seamen were able to work on the ship. The San Antonio sailed one month after the San Carlos, but due to favorable winds, arrived in San Diego first on April 11, 1769. The San Antonio also had two deaths due to scurvy, and one-half of the crew was incapacitated by the same disease. The third ship, the San Jose, left Baja, was lost at sea, and was never heard from again. Of about 300 men on board the three ships, not more than 150 survived to reach San Diego.

The first land division departed from Velicata in Baja for San Diego on March 24, 1769. Captain Fernando Rivera y Moncada led this land division with 27 soldados de cuera, or leather jacket soldiers, who were among the best light cavalry in the world. This division drove a large herd of cattle, horses, and mules and arrived in San Diego on May 14, 1769, only to learn of the terrible death rate suffered on the San Antonio and the San Carlos.

The second land division included Portola and Serra and followed the trail left by Rivera. Serra had an ulcerated leg due to a deadly mosquito bite he had incurred years earlier and which had never healed properly. Serra's leg threatened to disable him completely, and Portola urged him to turn back. Serra refused, and with the help of a muleteer applying a successful homemade remedy, Serra made the rest of the journey. The second land division arrived in San Diego on July 1, 1769.

Thus, by July of 1769 the Scared Expedition had arrived in San Diego and now stood ready to make the journey north to Monterey.

(Sources: Rawls and Bean: California, An Interpretive History, 9ed., pp.36-39;Carner- Ribalta: Gaspar De Portola, Explorer of California, pp135-136;Kent Lightfoot: Indians, Missionaries, and Merchants, pp.135-136, Kyle, Douglas E., Ed., Historic Spots In California, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, pp.315-316.)

*(Editor's Note: The Special Features column is dedicated to interesting articles about California, our CA State Capitol or visits to other state capitols. CSCMVA members are encouraged to share experiences and/or researched information in this column. For inclusion in the **Clarion**, please send articles to Marti Dennis at [mdennis1@att.net](mailto:mdennis1@att.net))*

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## Upcoming Events:

Capitol Art Work Training:	Thursday, November 21 at 10 AM
Capitol Holiday Music:	Daily, December 1 through 23
Board Meeting:	Wednesday, December 4 at 1 PM
CSCMVA Holiday Sing Along	Saturday, December 21 at 12 Noon
Annual Meeting & Luncheon:	TBD, January 2014

**Capitol Museum website:**

<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**