

NEWSLETTER

FOCWA Board Meeting Highlights

FOCWA board members Brad Schall, John Nevins, Bob Hubbs, Jeffrey Vaillant, Don VanAuker, Steve Johnson, and member Constance Smith met with Ranger John Cantwell on Alcatraz for a meeting of the board on February 9th. Here are the highlights of the meeting:

1. Frank Avila was welcomed as a member of FOCWA. Frank is an active member of the ACWA, SUVCW; at re-enactments at Ft. Point and Alcatraz he interprets the work of Civil War medical orderlies.
2. John Cantwell confirmed that a canon expert from Gettysburg will be coming to Alcatraz this summer to bore out the fuse hole on the 24-lb cannon. The board approved paying for his time and 1 night at a hotel.
3. Jim Breeden, of the Conservancy night staff, showed his painting of Fort Alcatraz to the board; it is a handsome watercolor rendition of the fort in the 1870's. A transparency of the painting will be enlarged and hung in the Civil War Room. The original will be given as a donation to the NPS from FOCWA.
4. The board approved sending changes in the by-laws to the general membership for a vote.
5. Bob Hubbs and Brad Schall, through diligent work at the National Archives, were able to find original drawings of Fort Alcatraz done by the Army engineers. Copies will be made and will be used in co-operation with the National Park Service in interpreting the fort's history.
5. Ranger Cantwell announced that the Citadel will be open to guided tours on April 1st. There will be displays in A-block, including the model of Fort Alcatraz (now in the sallyport) and large period photos of the fort, among other things. Member Constance Smith has graciously offered to donate materials to furnish a kitchen and an officer's quarters as a living history exhibit in two of the Citadel rooms.
6. The board approved the budget for 2014, with the proviso that additional money be allocated to make a brochure about FOCWA that can be passed out at events. Jeffrey and Steve will work on this.
7. After hearing a report from the Civil War Room Committee, the board agreed we should go ahead and get design proposals for the room; once that is done we can approach the NPS and Conservancy for funding.

Citadel to Open April 1

Ranger Cantwell announced that the Citadel will open April 1st. A guide will be prepared so that volunteers and interns can correctly interpret its history. Exhibits will be set up in A Block that will help tell the story.

Anniversary of the Battle of Picacho Pass

Well, it wasn't really a battle but re-enactors have turned what was more of a skirmish into a full fledged engagement with artillery, cavalry charges, and infantry. The actual skirmish took place in spring of 1862 when Confederate scouts under Capt. Hunter were repulsed by Union troops at Picacho Pass (near Tucson). The significance for us is that the Union troops were volunteers from Colorado and California, who were responsible for keeping the Southwest in Union hands - which they did. The re-enactment will take place this year on March 15 and 16. Some of the re-enactors are soldiers from Fort Huachuca. For info and photos go to: <http://azstateparks.com/Parks/PIPE/index.html>



Re-enactment of the battle, Pichaco State Park

Credit: <http://leonids.us/arizona/picacho-peak-civil-war-reenactment/>