

NEWSLETTER

Friends of Civil War Alcatraz

March 2019

Steve Johnson, Editor

Meeting of the Board occurred on Alcatraz last February 17th. Present were Steve Johnson, Gary Hormel (via conference call), Constance Smith, and Frank Avila. The topics for discussion were finances, memberships, recruitment, and planning for the year. Constance gave the treasurer's report, which is available to any member who requests it. Our finances are stable if everyone renews their membership. If not, we may have to stop providing lunches for re-enactors and FOCWA volunteers on Living History Days. We all need to do more to recruit new members, which is why a number of us will be at the San Francisco History Days at the old Mint March 2-3, where we will have a table set up to pass out brochures and flyers. We discussed setting up tables at college campuses to possibly attract history students. The date for the next Living History Day on Alcatraz was set for Saturday May 11, 2019. We discussed getting a new sponge for the Alcatraz cannon; Steve will look into the cost. We will also repair the hinge on the box in the cannon room and will assess what cannon implements need to be replaced. Steve will offer a workshop for new interns and rangers on how to do a cannon drill; Ranger John Cantwell will help with that.

Fort Point Living History Day on February 23rd had fewer visitors — about 1,000 — due to the weather and other events going on in the city. Nevertheless, the visitors were obviously interested in the exhibits, flag ceremonies, lectures, tours, and military drills held throughout the day. FOCWA members were an important part of the event.

Dates to Remember

Saturday & Sunday, Mar. 2-3, 2019, 10 am to 5 pm
SF History Days at the Mint, 5th and Mission Streets

Tuesday, March 19, 2019
Peninsula CW Roundtable
Lecture "Civil War Vets in Palo Alto" by Joan Larrabee, 11:30 a.m. at Harry's Hoffbrau, Redwood City

Thursday, March 21, 2019
San Francisco CW Roundtable
Lecture "A Virginian's Experience in the Civil War", 6:30 pm Gold Mirror Restaurant, 800 Taraval, S.F.



Steve Johnson gave a lecture on "California and the Civil War" and helped **Jeffrey Vaillant** man the FOCWA recruitment table. Steve is wearing his new Ordinance Sergeant frock coat.

Frank Avila drew many visitors as he talked about medicine during the Civil War era. He recruited for FOCWA and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.





Constance Smith showed visitors how cooking and baking was done during the Civil War, and the roles of women during that era. She treated the volunteers to corn fritters which she made, making her very popular with the troops.

Michelle Atno-Hall gave a lecture as Harriet Beecher Stow, explaining how she (as Harriet) came to write “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” and how the success of the novel changed her life. Michelle also gave an insight into the life of a woman in the 19th century as she talked about motherhood, the limited choices for women to make money, and how women greatly helped the Abolitionist movement.



Ranger Wendy Solis has been appointed as permanent ranger volunteer co-ordinator for Alcatraz. She has been a ranger on the island for seven years and her appointment is most welcome to the volunteers who have worked with her. Ranger Wendy is well-liked and is very supportive of the FOCWA programs. She has recently issued a new and very informative volunteer newsletter which will be sent out monthly. If you are not on the volunteer email list for the newsletter, email Ranger Wendy at wendy_solis@nps.gov

Resources:

Photos by Dave Rauenbuehler. For more of his photos go to <https://www.flickr.com/photos/daver6/>

<http://www.peninsulacivilwarroundtable.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/SanFranciscoCivilWarRoundTable/>