

Friends of Civil War Alcatraz Board Meeting 08/15/2020

Via Zoom

Present: Gary Hormel, Steve Johnson, Robert Mayer, Michael Bennett, Evelyn Mar, Brad Schall, Jeffrey V, Greg Tracy

NOTE: Thanks to Robert we were able to have the Zoom conference without cost to FOCWA. Brad reminded us that as camp commander of The Sons of Union Veterans Camp, he has a free membership to FOCWA.

Steve reviewed the information provided at online meetings with the National Park Service. Alcatraz remains closed to volunteers. It will be opening for no more than 500 visitors a day. All buildings remain closed. Angel Island is also closed; hiking trails are open, but reservations are required for the ferry and the number of people allowed will be limited. There are no firm reopening dates as the COVID 19 quarantine is ongoing and the infection rate is not declining.

Evelyn reported that 19 members renewed their memberships and reported decision to extend the memberships to 12/31/2021 as no events have taken place in 2020 due to COVID 19 restrictions. Gary will send an e-mail to all members with this information.

Constance presented the treasurer's report, see attached.

There was an unexpected charge of \$37.00 caused when a member's dues cheque had to be resubmitted by the bank. Constance was unable to have this waived by Wells Fargo. Total dues received and deposited by Constance were \$875.00. Gary remembered a larger amount; Evelyn stated some people paid for multiple years. Constance and Evelyn will meet separately to discuss.

Report was proposed as accepted by Gary; seconded by Evelyn and unanimously accepted with Constance abstaining

Brad stated there had been no charge by the webmaster as there has been no activity other than posting the newsletter.

Minutes were summarized from 03/08/2020; Mike proposed they be accepted, seconded by Greg and approved unanimously with Constance abstaining.

Steve reviewed his actions taken re: The removal of the statue of Gen. Grant from Golden Gate Park following protests and damage to the statue. It is owned by the Arts Commission of San Francisco. He has written them with a history of the man and stated he had some proposals for the preservation of the statue. He "received some flack" from the Sons of Union Veterans National HQ because of potential repercussions. He will monitor he responses from all entities.

Gary explained the Rangers on Alcatraz are proposing virtual programs for visitors. GPS is available within 5 feet of actual sites if anyone needs / wants a photo of a site to add to an individual program. Requests for already existing pictures in the Alcatraz library can be made through a Ranger. Steve pointed out the difficulty of getting a response from a Ranger. He is working with photographer Tim Bresil (sp??) in order to get specific shots. Steve will assist Constance in preparing a program on the women and children living on The Rock during the Civil War and volunteered to assist anyone else who wants to create a program.

Constance and Steve proposed making speakers and/or prerecorded programs available for schools. After discussion it was decided that offering prerecorded programs at first would be best, and making interactive programs available after the schools have solved the logistics of online teaching. Steve proposed making the programs free, but adding that donations would be accepted. It was suggested that each presenter research online for images for use with school group programs, rather than using NPS pictures. This would separate the FOCWA only programs from the programs produced for the NPS.

San Francisco Living History Days at the Mint were canceled in March due internal disputes by the hosting agency and the COVID 19 lockdown. It is now being proposed that 08/25-27/2020 be the new dates. Gary has completed the application. There are walking, biking and stationary programs proposed. Steve suggested either a prerecorded program or a walking tour with mandatory small groups, masks and social distancing on Ft Mason. Constance reminded the group of many of the major Civil War figures who were involved in SF prior to the war.

Steve has a power point presentation he can rework with music and narration for the prerecorded program.

Robert gave a recruitment presentation for Sons of Veterans Reserves (SVR) which is the “public face” of Sons of Union Veterans. (SUV)The provide a presence at parades, gravesite services and living history events. The largest camps are in Sacramento and San Jose. The San Francisco and Mare Island camps have closed due to lack of membership. A camp is required to have at least six (6) members. In order to join SVR it is required to first be a member of SUV.

If any/one wants to be a part of the prerecorded programs, they must be in contact with Steve no later than 08/23/2020 by email at SFWalkingtours@gmailcom

Next meeting was set to 09/12/2020 at 9 am via ZOOM