

# NEWSLETTER

## Friends of Civil War Alcatraz

MARCH 2015

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**Alcatraz Living History Day** was held on February 28th, and included members of the NCWA, the ACWA, and the 5th Calif. Volunteer Infantry Band. Visitors who were surprised to see Civil War soldiers on the island soon learned about the role our state played in that war by taking a walking tour of the remains of the fort offered throughout the day. Re-enactors also had exhibits on weapons and the medicines of the era. FOCWA members helped with these activities and provided lunch for the re-enactors. We received many compliments from visitors about the programs, as well as their thanks to all the re-enactors for volunteering their time to enhance their visit to Alcatraz.

### **The FOCWA Board Meeting**

was held the same day, in the library. Eight board members were present, and board took the following actions: 1) approved the budget for 2015 (members can receive a copy of the budget from Brad Schall or Greg Tracy); 2) voted to have Constance Smith become the new secretary; 3) accepted the newly printed FOCWA brochure designed by Steve Johnson (members can request copies from Steve to pass out to prospective members); 4) agreed to have the next board meeting on March 21 at the Presidio, where there is parking. Members will be notified of the time and location by e-mail.

**The 3 Springfield muskets** that are used for demonstration during Civil War programs on the island were gradually accumulating rust, but thanks to the kind efforts of several re-enactors the muskets are looking clean and polished. They set up a table in China Alley and showed visitors how muskets were taken apart, cleaned, repaired, and reassembled. The results were that visitors went away knowing more about Civil War muskets, and we benefitted in having muskets that wouldn't bring down the wrath of a sergeant.

### **Dates to Remember**

**March 21** Meeting of the Board, at the Presidio (time to be determined)



Charles Kenyon of the 7th West Virginia unit of the NCWA and his family re-enacted 1860's family life at Fort Alcatraz