



THE POPPY PAPER



Official Monthly Publication of the
Boosters of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park
A Non-Profit Organization

February 2018

Volunteers in the Park

By Tim Downing, Volunteer Coordinator

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park had a great volunteer year in 2017. The volunteer numbers are in, and our 193 volunteers donated 15,942 hours to the Park. This is a 35% increase from 2016! Thirty new volunteers joined our family in 2017. We did 15 special events throughout the year, and our volunteers helped with just under 10,000 school children with our school program! Five Poppy Awards and one Volunteer Medallion for Superior Achievement were given out, as well as five other departmental awards.

I believe one of the reasons for the large increase in volunteer hours donated to the Park in 2017 was in part due to a better working relationship between the volunteers, the State Park staff and the cooperating association (Boosters of Old Town). I am confident we can continue this fantastic trend in 2018!

This time last year we talked about our new volunteer group, the Young Christian Mission Service (YCMS). The YCMS are young men and women volunteers from the Church of Latter Day Saints. This was their first full year here in the Park, and they donated over 2,179 hours! Having them here has allowed us to staff and open museums that would otherwise be closed. To show the importance of this volunteer group and what it means to the Park, their hours accounted for 14% of the volunteer hours in 2017!

Another active volunteer group here in Park is United Cerebral Palsy of San Diego. This group of young men and women donate time once a week to the Park. They donated 276 hours in 2017! Having these men and women in the Park helps to strengthen our relationship with in the greater San Diego community.

In 2017, we revised a few of our guilds that had seen a decline in participation due to attrition. These guilds are the Woodshop, Historic Music and Californio.

The Woodshop increased from three to eight volunteers. Previously open only once a month, you will find woodworkers in the shop about four times a month now! Our woodworkers are now actively making much needed items for our museums.

The Historic Music Guild had been nonexistent for more than a few years. In the middle of 2017, we were able to move a piano from La Casa de Estudillo to the Seeley Stables Theater to be used for the **Historic American Dance Guild**. This was the opportunity we needed to help rebuild the **Historic Music Guild**. We now have a core group who play not only piano, but also fiddle, harp, mandolin and penny whistle! We are still encouraging the hammer dulcimer player to become a volunteer in 2018, so stay tuned! Breathing life back into this guild has allowed us to get rid of the laptop computer as a music source for our **Historic American Dance Guild**, not to mention the wonderful living history aspect it adds to our Park!



Treasurer's Notes

by Deanna Turton

Since the deadline for *The Poppy Paper* was four days ago, I am going to write my article somewhat differently this month, as I am still balancing the month of December and just finished writing checks for FY2017 yesterday! (These bills were contracted in December, so the bill arrived late.) But, I do have the fourth quarter taxes paid and the income reporting forms are in the mail...before the deadline of Jan 31!

Currently the BOOT Board is struggling with the budget for 2018...although we have most of it done, there are several funding requests that are posing some problems. This year, as in former years, funding requests total more than our expected income. We hope to complete the budget at the February BOOT Board Meeting, unless we schedule yet another budget meeting before then.

Now, on to the month of December. Income totaled \$17,459.25, with the daily average in the donation boxes equaling \$45.90. Since the **Park Store** earned \$4,701.25, income from other sources included:

- \$7,548.05 - **Round It Up America** program. Many thanks to **Chuck Ross** for participating in this program.
- \$2,961.00 - **Chuck Ross**' contribution to Stagecoach Days.
- \$ 437.28 - Period Attire Sales
- \$ 225.00 - reimbursement for a new credit card machine. (The first one broke shortly after the guarantee expired. Thankfully the company agreed to repay BOOT for another new machine.)
- \$ 140.00 - Guild Sales and Donations

And now, on to the expenses...you had better sit down because they totaled \$ 37,035.31!!! **Mary Jones** did not buy anything in December, so we cannot blame the added costs on inventory replacement purchases. But, she says she will need to start spending soon, so February will be a heavy month again.

- \$8,000.00 - Mason Street Schoolhouse (PCA account for salaries - paid with **Round It Up America** funds)
- \$7,392.00 - State of California (salaries for the July 4th and Stagecoach Day events)
- \$7,035.85 - Expanded Living History (PCA for salaries paid with remainder of **Round It Up America** funds)
- \$5,000.00 - Animal Handler and Blacksmith (PCA account for salaries)
- \$2,480.96 - July 4th and Stagecoach Days
- \$2,365.34 - Period Attire Bank (purchases and subsidies)
- \$1,281.00 - Fourth Quarter Sales Taxes
- \$ 862.00 - La Casa de Machado y Stewart (new mattress)
- \$ 343.28 - Burros (feed)
- \$ 340.23 - Graphics

WHEW....December was a heavy month for expenses. Normally these big bills get paid during the year, but this year, the reconciliation from the State was done in mid December - hence EVERYTHING was paid shortly after Christmas.

This year, I was also able to download all the tax forms, so after the year end balancing is done, you know how I will be spending my time!



New Concession Manager at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park

by Gregg Giacomuzzi, State Park Interpreter I

As of December 2016, Donna Renner retired from California State Parks as the Manager of Concessions for all the California State Parks that are part of San Diego Coast District. Donna excelled at her job and made a point of meeting all of the shopkeepers that she came in contact with. Yet, after more than 25 years working in California State Parks, she elected to retire and found a new calling in nursing. As a result, the concession position has been vacant for over a year.

We welcome Jennifer Calder as the new Staff Services Analyst in charge of Concessions. Jennifer started her State Park career at Lake Perris State Recreation Area. Her career began in 2004, working at the main Kiosk within the Lake Perris campground complex, where she interacted with campers and day use visitors. Jennifer steadily moved up the ranks in the administration field, and she elected to transfer to the San Diego Coast District office in June of 2007. Jennifer gained additional experience at San Diego Coast District Office in both personnel and accounting. She accepted the position as a Staff Services Analyst (Manager of Concessions) as of December 1, 2017 and brings with her a wealth of knowledge in contracts and organizational skills. She recently attended her first concessionaire meeting and looks forward to the many new faces of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. Welcome Jennifer!

2018 VIP MEETINGS

Here is the list of upcoming dates for VIP meetings and training for 2018. This year I will be focusing more on VIP training. I would like to have as many volunteers as possible attend these sessions. I will be keeping them down to one hour. The topics are areas we need to focus on a little bit more. The information covered is a must for all of our volunteers, whether a new volunteer or a veteran. I will also do my best to send notes out after the meetings via Volgistics.

Dates/Times	Location	Focus Area
February 24, 9:00-10:00 am	Mc Coy Museum	VIP Meeting: Who is BOOT, and what does the nonprofit cooperating association do?
March 24, 8:30-9:30 am	McCoy Museum	VIP Training: Period Attire. Why it is important and procedures for getting it and your stipend.
April 14, 8:00-10:00 am	Seeley Theater	VIP Appreciation
April 24, 8:30-9:30 am	McCoy Museum	VIP Training: Interpretation in Old Town
May 12, 8:30-9:30 am	Mc Coy Museum	VIP Training: Take Home Messages for our Park Guests
June 9, 8:30-9:30 am	Mc Coy Museum	VIP Training: Interacting with our Park Guests
July and August	Various Locations	Stage Coach Days
September 15, 8:30-9:30 am	Mc Coy Museum	VIP Training: Museums. What we need to know and what is expected of us.
October 13, 5:00-7:00 pm	Seeley Yard	VIP Meeting: Bonfire and Pot Luck
November 10, 8:30-9:30 am	Mc Coy Museum	VIP Training: Living History and our Guilds
December 1, 8:30-9:30 am	McCoy	VIP Meeting

Please write these dates in your calender's and try to make as many as you can. I am really looking forward to this year and working for and with you all!

Thank you for all you do!

Tim Downing, Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteers in the Park (continued from page 1)...

Our *Californio Guild* has been more or less nonfunctional for more than a few years. This was mostly due to attrition of volunteers. Our Fiestas Patrias event for 2017 was a great success and was larger than it has been in a few years. After seeing what we could do with pulling a few of our guilds together, we decided we could do a great Californio Living History program with our existing guilds. So now, every third Saturday is *Californio Living History Saturday*. So far, we have adobe block making, spinning, Colcha embroidering, period cooking in our horno, corn grinding with tortilla making, period gambling and a roaming vaquero. We are looking forward to expanding our Californio Saturdays in 2018 to include music, children's games, equestrian demonstrations and dancing.

I am looking forward to working for and with you all in 2018. I appreciate everything you do for the Park. Your passion for our Park shows in the hours you donate and in the production of all the fantastic living history programs.



Native Plant Landscape **Two work parties this month!!!** Saturday February 10 and 24, 9:30 to Noon



I hope that some of you will show up to help get some more California native wildflower seeds in the ground at the Old Town Native Plant Landscape. We will meet under the sycamores, next to the parking lot just east of Taylor Street and south of Calhoun. (Drive through the lot and past the dumpster enclosure.)

We have selected locally grown native seeds, sorted and cleaned by Cindy Hazuka's San Diego Chapter seed committee last summer, as well as some additional seeds that were purchased or donated. We'll weed for the first two hours, then have fun mixing seeds in sand and broadcasting them to the most promising locations.

Bring drinking water. Also bring garden gloves and favorite weeding tools, or borrow ours.

At noon we'll tidy up, and those who want will have a no-host lunch at one of the nearby restaurants.

Questions? email oldtownlandscape@cnpsd.org

From the Editor's Desk...

It looks like the Park is preparing for another year of great activities, with ever-expanding volunteer guild participation. This is a perfect time of year to get involved, as it's the time that the Park staff, volunteers and BOOT gear up for the whirlwind of summer activities. So, if you are interested, make sure to contact Volunteer Coordinator, Tim Downing.

A big "Thank You" goes out to Tim for giving us an update on all of the work that our volunteers are doing to help bring Old Town San Diego State Historic Park to life! And, "Thank You" is in order for BOOT Treasurer Deanna Turton and Park Interpreter Gregg Giacobuzzi for their monthly submissions to *The Poppy Paper*. Without their contributions, I fear that we would not have a paper at all!

We're always looking for articles that relate to Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. Whether it is a 19th Century historic piece or a current event, please send your articles in. Remember, February is a short month...so earlier is better!

Happy Valentine's and Presidents' Days...and Happy Reading!

Ruth French, Editor, poppypapereditor@gmail.com

(Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.)

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS!



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BOOSTERS OF OLD TOWN

San Diego State Historic Park
4002 Wallace Street
San Diego, CA 92110

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- _____ \$20.00 Senior (62 yrs. or older)/Single Student
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