

Atwater Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

May 2015

Good Morning to All,

I will try and fill you in on what is going on with the society. As you know the fund raiser for Mother's Day had to be canceled so the first item of business was to discuss future fund raisers. It was voted to put on "Mrs. Bloss's Garden Tea Party & Fashion Show" which will take place on June 20th. Not all of the details are fixed but please save the date. We believe that tickets will be \$10 to \$12 for adults and \$6 for children under 12. We will let you know when tickets become available. It was also voted on to have another fund raiser in September, so on the 19th of that month we will host a dinner on the grounds. Plans are still in the first stages but we will keep you up to date as they develop. It was discussed and decided to purchase tablecloths, napkins, and dishes for these events as it is cheaper than renting them and hopefully they will be used frequently in the future.

A nominating committee was appointed. Gwen Bettencourt will chair the committee with Vicki Carne and Suzi Balestra. Offices that are up for election are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Curator, and two persons for the Three Year Director slots. Please give consideration to holding an office as it can be very rewarding and you can work with some great people. The slate will be presented in May.

We recently learned of a grant program that the State of California has proposed and they were asking for public comment on the guidelines. We submitted a written comment to them asking that they consider waiving or reducing the matching fund portion of a grant as most small museums & societies are financially unable to meet and 50% match for grants that range from \$50,000 to \$250,000. We did receive a reply that they would submit the following language into the guidelines for the board's consideration. "At the discretion of the State, for small museums with annual budgets of less than \$500,000, a lower than usual match may be requested if necessary to make a project realistic for underserved communities". Underserved Community - A community that has a clear lack of historical and cultural resources. We have no idea if this is going to be part of the guidelines but with this in mind we are going to go forward and get estimates for some of the work that needs to be done at Bloss. The old garage needs a new roof and floor. It is thought that perhaps the tank house could be converted to accommodate a Unisex bathroom that would be ADA compliant and that would ease the lack of bathroom facilities for events that are held on the grounds. We will keep you in the loop on this as we get further information.

The Group from Buhach Colony High School that requested the use of the house for a class project met with me and completed their assignment. It is fun and you can catch it, hopefully, on our Facebook page.

The yard sale on the 18th was successful. We made \$465 and wish to thank the following: For donations and delivery thanks go to Roger Wood and the Atwater Rotary. Also a special thanks to Maria Caudillo for her help during the sale and Mario Caudillo for taking away all the leftovers. Many, many thanks to Greg McDaniel, Greg Olzack, Kathy Jansen, Suzi Balestra, Vicki Carne, Barbara Heller, Sue Donaher, and Kim Anderson for all their work on Friday & Saturday. This could not have been done without you.

Love Atwater was also out in force last Saturday and the grounds & park look so much better. A huge thank you goes these folks for all they do in the city. We sent a special thank you card to Pastor Joshua Jorgensen for his hard work in removing some

dead bushes. We will also send an email to Love Atwater just to give them a well-deserved pat on the back. They make being a volunteer a wonderful word.

I hope I have covered everything. Please try and come to the next meeting which will be May 18th at 1:00 p.m. in the dining room of the museum.

Docents for May 3rd are Suzi Balestra & Kathy Jansen and Barbara Heller is backup.

Thanks to all and if you have any comments or suggestions don't hesitate to call me at 394-7223 or 259-8673. Until next time, have a good one.

Georgia