

LEGION HALL RESTORATION

Update #2

MORE GOOD NEWS on our Legion Hall restoration project! The Board of the Crockett Community Foundation has approved our grant application for \$45,000 to begin the restoration project. Coupled with the grant of \$35,000 already approved by the County, we will begin the project with \$80,000. This will pay for the structural analysis and design of a seismic retrofit system to protect the building and public from structural collapse during an earthquake.

In May, the District Board of the Crockett Community Services District voted to award a contract for the engineering work to the San Francisco firm of Holmes Culley. The District had received proposals from three qualified engineering firms and interviewed all three before selecting Holmes Culley based on its experience with innovative technology. We are determined to protect the Legion Hall from the disfigurement of conventional seismic strengthening systems.

AND THE GOOD NEWS CONTINUES! We have been very fortunate in receiving the free technical services of Crockett's D'Arcy Trask (Gaugepoint Calibration). D'Arcy stepped forward with a generous offer of his high-tech laser equipment and his time to measure the Legion Hall in great detail, inside and out. He has produced a 3-dimensional digital model of the building for use by our engineer in designing its seismic retrofit. D'Arcy's donation will save us both time and money in advancing our project. He says that he just wanted to practice with his new equipment, but we know that he really wanted to contribute something special to our project. Thank you, thank you, thank you, D'Arcy!!!

With D'Arcy's work in hand, Holmes Culley is now beginning the structural investigation of the Legion Hall. We've determined the thickness of bearing walls along with the dimensions of floor and ceiling framing and the impressive roof structure. Everything seen so far is in excellent condition, a testimony to the skill of those who built the Legion Hall in 1924-25. Soon we will have special tests made of the bricks and mortar used in the load-bearing exterior walls. Those test results will guide our engineer in the design of a successful strengthening system.

We have approached ConocoPhillips for corporate sponsorship of our restoration project, and we have gotten a warm reception. We are also planning a fund-raising dinner-dance for November 12 in conjunction with Veteran's Day and the ConocoPhillips bridge walk. More on that as it gets closer. If your November dance card is not already full, we hope you'll join us.

The Crockett Improvement Association has offered to contribute landscaping to our project. A landscape design should be developed first, with input from the neighborhood, of course. Perhaps this fall or winter some sort of work can begin, like pruning trees and preparing flowerbeds for spring planting. I'm sure that all volunteers will be welcomed when the time comes. If you or your organization wants to contribute something special to the Legion Hall restoration, we look forward to hearing from you. We hope that people will come forward to lead such efforts as (1) documenting the Legion Hall's history, (2) contacting local veterans, (3) fund-raising, (4) organizing events and public uses of the Legion Hall, and (5) networking with veterans' organizations.

We have a growing list of local residents who want to be kept informed by e-mail as we move the project along. You are all invited to add your friends' e-mail addresses to our list by sending them to manager@town.crockett.ca.us. Thanks for your interest in Crockett's World War I Memorial Hall!

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Crockett CSD
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