

Crockett Community Services District

Memorial Hall Update #10

The design for the seismic retrofit of Crockett's Memorial Hall (Legion Hall) was presented to the District Board of the Crockett Community Services District in April. Fortunately, structural engineer Ben Au from San Francisco firm Holmes Culley has determined that our building can be adequately strengthened without harm to its architectural features. An advanced technology will be utilized above grade, using glass fibers embedded in polymers applied to the brick walls, along with substantial concrete work below grade. Because this strengthening system will be unseen and unnoticed, we can have confidence that a restored Memorial Hall will have all the charm of the original.

To produce a professional estimate of construction costs for the seismic retrofit, our engineer selected Hathaway Dinwiddie Construction Co, a contractor already skilled in this advanced technology. A detailed estimate totaling \$334,107 was received by the District Board in October. We are all relieved that the cost of this structural work did not come in higher. For the first time, we have reason to believe that restoration of our World War I memorial hall can be achieved, and the building can be returned to public service.

Accordingly, the District Board authorized staff to proceed with assessment of the building for asbestos materials and lead paint. That survey has now been made, and we await the assessment report and abatement cost estimate.

The District Board also authorized further discussions with Interactive Resources of Point Richmond. Interactive Resources was interviewed in 2010 and made a strong impression for their architectural expertise in the restoration of historic buildings and for their ability to find grant funding. They continue to be interested in our project, and we have now requested a proposal from Interactive Resources for their services. We expect to have their proposal this month.

As the design work and the search for funding proceed, volunteers will continue working to maintain the building and the grounds. Roof leaks need to be fixed before the next rains. Downspouts need to be cleared of debris, as does the building sewer. Broken glass may also be replaced so that daylight can once again enter through long-covered windows. Application has been made to the Crockett Community Foundation for a grant to buy a small riding mower to keep the grounds maintained.

For the 25 donors who gave \$100 or more in our 2011 donation drive, your long wait is nearly over. The promised photographs of the historic table tops on Memorial Hall's few remaining card tables have finally been printed and are now being distributed as donor appreciation gifts. The photo was taken by Mike Kirker. In all, our donation drive raised \$6,301 from 48 generous donors plus \$5000 in matching funds from the Crockett Community Foundation. We are all very appreciative of this generosity!

The 2011 *Walk of Honor for Our Veterans* last May raised \$23,000 for our project, including \$5,000 from the Crockett Community Foundation. This is really an awesome achievement, but we hope to do even better in 2012. Thanks go to the VietNam Veterans of Diablo Valley and to ConocoPhillips.

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We welcome the interest of everyone who wants to see our historic Memorial Hall returned to public use. Those who want to be kept informed about our project can be added to our email list by sending your email address to Crockett CSD at: manager@town.crockett.ca.us. Past news updates on the project can be found on our website at: www.town.crockett.ca.us.

Dale McDonald and Kent Peterson
Crockett CSD
November 2011