



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 2015 Newsletter

Hello Members:

It's election time. Please complete and return the attached ballot.



To support the efforts of the US Army Garrison-Rock Island Arsenal as a Commemorative Partner for the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, the board of directors of the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society voted to host a guest speaker who could discuss a Vietnam War-related topic annually, each June in 2015, 2016, and 2017. The primary objective of the three-year commemoration is to thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War.

Our June 4th program will be given by William "Bill" Albracht, author of *Abandoned in Hell*. During the Vietnam War, Mr. Albracht was a commissioned officer in the Army's Green Berets and, at age 21, the youngest captain to command combat troops. He is the recipient of three Silver Stars for gallantry in action, three Purple Hearts, five Bronze Stars, as well as other awards for combat valor. Bill is one of the most highly decorated veterans in the state of Illinois.

After the war, Mr. Albracht's served 25 years in the US Secret Services. There, his duties included protecting 6 US Presidents and their families as well visiting foreign heads of state; safeguarding the Nation's monetary system; conducting Department of Treasury investigations and serving as the Assistant Special-Agent-In-Charge of the Washington DC Office.

Mr. Albracht will be speaking on the Vietnam War, his experiences, and his book.

The program follows dinner served at 6:00 p.m. at the Arsenal Island Golf Club on Gillespie Street. The menu will be Caesar salad, grilled chicken with fresh fruit salsa, grilled squash, roasted new potatoes, rolls and strawberry shortcake all prepared by the Golf Club kitchen, all for \$14.00, including tax and tip. Please have your check or cash ready to give to **Dick Hochstetler** or **Linda Miller** when you arrive.

Reservations are due by noon on Monday April 28th. You may call **Monica Holeman** (563) 650-4349, or **Linda Miller** (563) 355-6165 or you may email Linda at: chiicaliinda@aol.com. Dinner cancellations must be made by the reservation deadline or you will be liable for costs incurred and billed accordingly.

Our meetings are open to both members and non-members. Those who wish to skip dinner and attend just the program portion of the meeting, starting at 7:00 p.m., may do so free of charge.

Drivers and passengers entering the Arsenal must have a valid picture I.D. Let the guard know you are attending a function at the Arsenal Island Golf Club. Remember, those coming across the Government Bridge from Iowa need to proceed to the Rock Island Gate as the Davenport Gate will be closed for inbound traffic.

Note: The Rock Island Historical Society/Rock Island Arsenal Museum website is up and running. Please take some time and visit - <http://www.arsenalhistoricalsociety.org>. Feel free to forward the link.



Get Ready for Some Fun During Quad Cities Museum Week June 13 -21, 2015

Twenty museums from across the Quad Cities region will come together for the first ever, Quad Cities Museum Week.

Enjoy this celebration of our region's museums and participate in special activities, exhibits and promotions during this fun-filled week.

It is the perfect opportunity for families and friends to get out and explore. Each museum features its own, unique theme, history, galleries, and exhibits. Come and discover these wonderful gems that add to the quality of life in our region.

We encourage you to tweet and post on your Facebook page about your Museum Week experiences. To find out more about Museum Week, please visit www.qcmuseumweek.com

Thanks to our Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society Volunteers April 2015

Judith Belfer – Board business
Arlis Enburg – Board business and meeting minutes
Dick Hochstetler – Board financial business
Monica Holeman - Historical Society dinner reservations
Anne Jochum - Board business and publicity; newsletter
Jim Jochum – Board business; newsletter
Jolene Keeney - Board business
Linda Miller – Historical Society dinner reservations; Board business
Pat Morthland - Board business
Martha Wahe – Board business

Thanks to our Rock Island Arsenal Museum Volunteers April 2015

Sebastian Bladel – Photographic archives project
Patricia Hagedorn – Photographic archives project and requests for information
Anne Jochum – Photographic archives project
Jim Jochum – Information Requests; Monitoring of website
Greg Shelangouski – Photographic archives project

Rock Island Arsenal Museum April 2015 Activities

During the month, there were a number of facility projects in which the museum staff members continued to be involved. Conduit for a mass notification system was installed by contractors in the museum exhibit hall, resource center, and storage areas. A second group of contractors began pulling wires through the conduit and installing the notification equipment. Steps for the project to replace the museum exhibit hall climate control began, as well as for installation of a new air handling unit in the museum's west range storage area. The design of new lighting for the museum exhibit hall also continued.

Throughout the month, museum staff members continued to work on a special exhibit on Rock Island Arsenal to be open at the Putnam Museum from June 6 to November 11, 2015. Conducting research, locating and scanning images, completing condition reports for 125 artifacts, and coordinating loan paperwork with the US Army Center of Military History were prominent among the tasks involved with the loan.

On Thursday, April 2, 2015, Bill Johnson was interviewed by WHBF, Channel 4 for an episode of "Rock Island Arsenal: Inside the Gates." The topic was the smallest (Locust Tank) and largest (Atomic Cannon) of the tanks and artillery at Memorial Field.

On Friday, April 10, 2015, Bill Johnson and Kris Leinicke interviewed potential new volunteer Patricia Hagedorn. Pat began volunteering on Monday, April 20th.

On Saturday, April 11, 2015, Jodie Creen Wesemann hosted a table at the Second Annual Youth Summertime Activities Expo held at the Fitness Center at Rock Island

Arsenal. Seventy two people of all ages stopped by the table to obtain make your own pinwheels and take selfies using historic themed half-masks.

On Tuesday, April 14, 2015, Jodie Creen Wesemann attended a Special Events Meeting.

On Wednesday, April 22, 2015, Jodie Creen Wesemann conducted a behind-the-scenes tour for 12 students and 2 instructors with Western Illinois University's Recreation, Parks, and Tourism program. Volunteers Greg Shelangouski and Pat Hagedorn accompanied the tour.

On Tuesday, April 28, 2015, Bill Johnson conducted a tour of the museum for Mr. Rees, Deputy Assistance Secretary of the Army, Manpower & Reserve Affairs.

On Thursday, April 30, 2015, the museum staff hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon for the Rock Island Arsenal Museum and Rock Island Historical Society volunteers. Thirteen volunteers attended the event.

BALLOT

Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society Board of Directors

Please vote for three directors for the board of the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society, each will serve a three year term to expire in 2018.

_____ Jim Jochum (incumbent)

_____ (write in your choice)

_____ (write in your choice)

_____ (write in your choice)

Current members of the Board of Directors

Term expires 2015

Arlis Enburg

Jim Jochum

Pat Morthland

Term expires 2016

Anne Jochum

Richard Hochstetler

Jolene Keeney

Term expires 2017

Judith Belfer

Linda Miller

Martha Wahe

This ballot is due Thursday, June 4, 2015, at the annual meeting to be held at 6:00 p.m.,

Or, ballots can be emailed to contact@arsenalhistoricalsociety.org

Or, mailed to: Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society

c/o Rock Island Arsenal Museum

ATTN: IMRI-PLT

Rock Island Arsenal

Rock Island, IL 61299-5000