



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

## ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### May 2017 Newsletter

Hello Members:

**PLEASE NOTE: The ballot for this year's election is attached. Also note that, in addition to the 3 incumbent positions, there are 2 vacancies. You may vote for up to five individuals. Ballots must be returned on or before June 1, 2017.**

Our June 1<sup>st</sup> speaker will be Mr. George Eaton, US Army Sustainment Command Historian. His presentation will be a discussion of the Rock Island Arsenal's role in the Vietnam War.

This program has been designated a special event by the Garrison Commander. Attendees are not required to obtain a pass at the Moline Gate Visitor Center. When you stop at the guard gate, show your driver's license to the guard and inform the guard that you are attending the Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration event at the museum and golf clubhouse.

Prior to dinner and the program, you are encouraged to visit the Rock Island Arsenal Museum to view a display of reproductions of Army Art from the Vietnam era and to view the museum's Vietnam War exhibit. The museum will have extended hours until 5:30 pm on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The program will follow dinner served at 6:00 p.m. at the Arsenal Island Golf Course Clubhouse. The menu will be a Soup, Salad & Sandwich Buffet featuring fresh baked breads, cookies, coffee, tea, and water all prepared by the Golf Club kitchen, all for \$11.00, 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 May 29<sup>th</sup>. You may call **Monica Holeman** (563) 650-4349, or **Linda Miller** (563) 355-6165 or you may email Linda at: [chiicaliinda@aol.com](mailto: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.

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.

## **FYI - New book club**

Book Club Corner by Nancy Neuhaus

The first meeting of the Rock Island Arsenal History Book Club opened on Tuesday, April 25th, to fifteen people. Focusing on local and regional history, our first selection is The Autobiography of Black Hawk. This book is available at local libraries in several formats.

We will meet again on Tuesday, June 27th, 7:00pm at the Colonel Davenport House. POC is Jessica Waytenick at 309-373-4280. Her e-mail is [jessica.waytenick@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.waytenick@gmail.com).

For more information about Chief Black Hawk and the Black Hawk War, a significant event in his life, you can visit the RIA Museum, open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12:00-4:00.

### **Thanks to Historical Society Volunteers (April 2017)**

Judith Belfer – Board business  
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 – Board business, Historical Society dinner reservations  
Martha Wahe – Board business

### **Thanks to Museum Volunteers (April 2017)**

Julia Evans – Ammunition survey project, compiling biographies on former employees  
William Johnson – Research requests  
Anne Jochum – Photograph organization project  
Jim Jochum – Research requests  
Morris Merle – Museum desk duty, research requests, photograph organization project, historic tour of island  
Greg Shelangouski – Photograph organization project  
Nancy Neuhaus – Research project on former employee Catherine Fitzpatrick Robinder, mending reproduction uniforms used in Progress Room, Annual Youth Summertime Activity Expo

### **Thanks to Volunteer Interns**

Maureen Lonergan volunteered at the museum from June 22, 2016 to March 13, 2017. During her tenure as a volunteer intern, Ms. Lonergan contributed 288 hours toward positive progress at the museum. She organized archaeological specimens from a Davenport House archeological survey and created an inventory document for items on exhibit. She revived the integrated pest management program. Because she had an exception to policy from the US Army Center of Military History, she was able to help with the preservation of headgear. Maureen modified archival headgear mounts and created padded hangers for uniform trousers. She persevered to complete the critical, but mundane task of photocopying artifact accession files. Maureen leaves us to pursue a master's degree in museology at the University of Washington.

Julia Evans volunteered at the museum from August 22, 2016 to April 17, 2017. She initially was a volunteer intern through Western Illinois University-Quad City Campus Museum Studies Program. She continued to volunteer after her December graduation. Julia contributed significantly to the US Army Sustainment Command (ASC) Quality Assurance Specialist Ammunition Survey (QASAS) team project to evaluate ammunition-related artifacts and historical property and to the project to identify and document historical property to be submitted to the US Army Center of Military History (CMH) for disposition instructions. She also actively participated in two quarterly weapons inventories and non-weapon artifact inventories. Because she had an exception to policy from CMH, she was able to assist with the preservation of leather artifacts. Julia leaves us to begin a full time job with Silver Oaks Communications in Moline.

### **Museum Activities** (April 2017)

New volunteer Nancy Neuhaus interviewed on Tuesday, April 4, 2017. Nancy volunteers several days a week and has worked on a variety of projects.

On Wednesday, April 19, 2017, the Annual Youth Summertime Activity Expo was held in Heritage Hall, Building 60 at Rock Island Arsenal. The Rock Island Arsenal Museum and the Colonel Davenport House Foundation hosted co-located information tables. Jolene Keeney, Nancy Neuhaus, and Kris Leinicke hosted the information tables. A total of 130 individuals attended the event.

During the month of April, the US Army Sustainment Command (ASC) QASAS (Quality Assurance Specialist Ammunition Survey) team completed the project to survey the museum's ammunition-related artifacts and historical property. This project was finalized with the assistance of Julia Evans, SSG Scott, and SSG Ntim.

During the month of April, biographies were compiled for nine former Rock Island Arsenal employees. These biographies will be reviewed by COL Tauke, Garrison Commander, to select candidates for potential memorialization as street names in new the family housing area near the Davenport House.

On Wednesday, April 19, 2017, St. Ambrose University student Mark Struve interviewed as a volunteer intern. He began volunteering on May 3, 2017, and will be organizing and creating a database for Rock Island Arsenal Research and Development reports.

During the month of April, new information signs for the macro artifacts at Memorial Field were installed.

On Friday, April 28, 2017, a behind-the-scenes tour was conducted for the St. Ambrose University museum studies class.

New volunteer Yuliya Rutherford interviewed on Friday, April 28, 2017. She began working on the photo organization project on May 4, 2017, and volunteers two days a week.

# 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 2020. Additional may also be submitted to fill the two vacancies.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Judy Belfer (incumbent)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Linda Miller (incumbent)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Martha Wahe (incumbent)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_(write in your choice)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_(write in your choice)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_(write in your choice)

### Current members of the Board of Directors

<u>Term expires 2020</u>	<u>Term expires 2018</u>	<u>Term expires 2019</u>
Judy Belfer	Jim Jochum	Richard Hochstetler
Linda Miller	Vacant	Anne Jochum
Martha Wahe	Vacant	Jolene Keeney

**This ballot is due Thursday, June 1, 2017, at the annual meeting to be held at 6:00 p.m.,**

**Or, ballots can be mailed to: Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society**

**R. I. Arsenal Historical Society  
c/o IMRI-PLT  
Rock Island, IL 61299-5000**