

EL CERRITO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2015 - 7:00-8:30 P.M.
Garden Room of the El Cerrito Community Center

The meeting was called to order by President Rich Bartke

Board Members Present

Barbara Hill, Tom Panas, David Weinstein, Rich Bartke, Joanne Rubio, Debbie Weeks

Absent: None

Members Present

There were about 60 members present at the Annual Meeting.

President's Welcome

The Board President welcomed the Historical Society members

Directors' Reports

Rich Bartke - President's Report - The Society President reminded us that the Society is a California corporation which is required to have an annual meeting to hear reports of officers, vote on dues, and elect officers and directors for the ensuing year. He then introduced each director in turn, and each gave a brief report of activities for the Society in 2014. After each director spoke Rich reported on the accomplishments and challenges of the past year not covered by other directors. ("Accomplishments" attached to these minutes.)

David Weinstein, Vice President

Tom Panas, Treasurer

Tom presented the preliminary annual financial report, spoke about the dues, and commented about visitors to the Shadi Room.

Barbara Hill-Curator

Barbara described how the cataloging and work on the files has been ongoing in the Shadi Room. She asked for volunteers to transcribe the oral history tapes that we have. Anyone interested should speak to Dave Weinstein.

Joanne Rubio, Secretary

Joanne let everyone know that the minutes are now posted on the new ECHS website. She reported on the successful Pioneer Reception held at City Hall honoring El Cerrito Residents 90 and over. She mentioned her research on topics of interest to the Board including researching early settlers of El Cerrito. She described the upcoming Big Band Era Tea Dance and History Exhibit event which is Sunday, May 3rd in collaboration with the El Cerrito Senior Center. She announced that tickets were on sale for this event.

Debbie Weeks-ECHS Webmaster

Bank Balance

The Treasurer reported that as of **January 20, 2015 the bank balance was \$13,788.56.**

Dues

The membership voted unanimously on keeping the yearly dues as follows:
Family Membership \$25 Sponsoring Membership \$60 Life Membership \$300

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Election of Officers

The current Board of Directors was unanimously voted to continue as officers for another year, each without dissent. Pat Shaw was nominated and unanimously voted in as a new Director.

Rich Bartke, President; Tom Panas, Treasurer; Barbara Hill, Curator; David Weinstein, Vice President; Joanne Rubio, Secretary/Researcher; Debbie Weeks, Web Master; Pat Shaw, Director at Large

Anza Historical Markers

The Board President mentioned the plan of the Historical Society to put up markers in El Cerrito to commemorate the Anza Expedition. He invited members to serve on a subcommittee to develop this project.

Railroads in El Cerrito

Tom Panas presented a 30-minute power point talk about the history of the trains that came through El Cerrito.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned around 8:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting of the El Cerrito Historical Society Minutes submitted by Joanne Rubio, Secretary

YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 2014

- **Programs** – We toured the Veterans Memorial Building and hosted presentations on the histories of the John Marsh house, the Anza Trail, the El Cerrito High School music department, East Bay MUD, and the East Bay Regional Parks District.
- **Publish** – We published bi-monthly issues of “Sparks” with Society announcements, and 3 issues of “The Forge” with background information about coming programs.
- **Cooperate** – We cooperated with other local organizations, including the Garden Club on the Memorial Grove, the Rosie the Riveter Trust on the F&P Cannery, TrailTrekks at the Hillside Festival, and the Shadi Display Committee on Mr. Shadi’s personal story.
- **Participate** – The Society had booths at the MLK parade event and the 4th of July celebration.
- **Pioneers** – The Society hosted a “Pioneer Reception” at City Hall for El Cerritans 85 and older.
- **Fame?** – This Society was featured in a front-page article by the County Historical Society.
- **Donation** – From the Friends of Cerrito Theater we accepted a donation of a scale model of the theater. (We hope to commission a similar model of the Castro Adobe.)
- **Research** – Society members did research on Brooks Island, the Victor Castro family, Lu Watters, Nobel Prize winners in El Cerrito and other notable residents.
- **Brochure** – “History of El Cerrito – Touring its Commercial Core” is a walking tour brochure completed by David Weinstein & Tom Panas, available to those who want to explore our history.
- **Web site** – The Society web site has a prominent link to our historical narrative, and each month features a story from the narrative on the homepage. Enhanced by Deb Weeks, it is a valuable aid to anyone curious about El Cerrito history.
- **Public meetings** – The Society was represented at several City Council meetings and those of several city commissions.
- **Sites possible** – The Society checked out several buildings which could become available for our use.
- **History room** – The Shadi History Room in City Hall was open once a month by Tom Panas & Joanne Rubio for research, and weekly by Christine Roed and Barbara Hill to work on cataloguing items.

- **Internally** - We have 27 Life Members, 11 Sustaining Members and 68 household members. The Board adopted and implemented a Conflict of Interest policy, and donation envelopes were printed.

UP-COMING:

May 3, 2015: "Big Band Era Tea Dance & History Exhibit", 1:00 to 4:00 PM. The Society is the co-sponsor with the El Cerrito Senior Center

Anza Trail: Work with City and NPS on interpretive markers of Anza's 1776 trek through El Cerrito.

2017: We will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the City of El Cerrito's incorporation.