

Conservation Corps State Museum
THE TORCHBEARER
Voice of the Past, Vision for the Future
A Project of the Conservation Corps Institute



The Torchbearer - Conservation Corps State Museum's Newsletter

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Chair's Challenge

Welcome to our second, quarterly edition of The Torchbearer, Voice of the Past, Vision for the Future. Since our last publication the board has been quite active in the areas of visioning, and fund development. We now have a clearer sense of how the Conservation Corps State Museum could best demonstrate the character and values we, as a movement cherish, and how to appeal more effectively to our audience at large.

One of the ideas gaining momentum is the development of a fully operational "historic residential center" sponsored by an existing conservation corps program. Ideally, the center would emulate the rustic conditions of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) of the '30s, but mix in sufficient creature comforts to attract vacationers, schools, historians, alumni, and public officials. Guest suites would be decorated with historic photographs of the CCC experience making the visit truly memorable. Guests would be invited to participate on crews with the active, operational conservation corps center on local projects sponsored by the host city. A research library and museum annex would be part of the historic residential center.

Opportunities for work, research, and community service, including court-ordered service would be made available to groups from throughout the state and nation. While this concept has garnered wide appeal, it will require at least \$10million to construct the Historic Residential Center. The board has begun shopping the idea to interested legislators and local public officials to raise funds to construct it. Funding from a grant submitted to the California Cultural and Historical Endowment would provide funding to fully analyze and explore the best means to promote the corps movement through the museum, as well as an ideal location to do so. Our Annual Support Campaign is set to kick off again April 30th. Thanks to board member Phil Matero of the Los Angeles Conservation Corps who will once again chair our Campaign. And, as always, if you are interested in visiting our current collection in San Luis Obispo, CA please

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do not hesitate to contact Domenic Santangelo, board member and director of the Los Padres Center (California Conservation Corps) at (805) 549-3561 or domenics@ccc.ca.gov .

Thank you very much for our continuing support of the Conservation Corps Institute/Conservation Corps State Museum.

Paul McLain, Board Chair

JOINT GOVERNMENT EDUCATION DAY RALLIES TROOPS STATEWIDE March 1, 2006 marked our annual Joint Government Education, bringing over 500 young adult enrollees in local community conservation corps and YouthBuild programs from throughout the state to Sacramento. Planning began with a small committee that met every two weeks by conference call beginning in November, 2005.

Master of Ceremonies Bob Hennessy, Executive Director of the San Jose YouthBuild/Conservation Corps and Charter School, introduced numerous legislators and public officials to the stage of the Crest Theatre in downtown Sacramento as they addressed a full legislative agenda including: criminal justice advocacy and re-entry services for youth in the state corrections system; funding of the California YouthBuild Program; capital improvement projects for Corps and the Conservation Corps State Museum in the legislature's infrastructure bond package; increased funding in the Bottle Bill for Corps and aspiring Corps programs; E-waste, oil and tire recycling; reintroduction of annual Cesar Chavez day service grants; and preservation of Corps/YouthBuild/CCC/Job Corps/WIA friendly charter provisions to allow us to continue to offer an intensive, quality charter education to the young adults we serve.

This year, for the first time, youth participants held a march from the Crest Theatre to the west steps of the Capital, led by banners identifying our groups. An impressive site! Elder statesman Sam Duran, CEO of the Urban Corps of San Diego, organized the march. The troops, in full uniform, formed a sea of "respectful, disciplined enthusiasm" that drew many positive comments throughout the afternoon when programs appealed to their district legislators to support our agenda.

The San Jose Conservation Corps set a new record for attendance at Government Education Day, bringing over 100 youth in several buses! Youth speech winners represented the San Jose and Fresno YouthBuild Programs, East Bay Conservation Corps, San Francisco Conservation Corps, and the Urban Corps of San Diego. Winners of Capital Appreciation Awards, for their leadership in advocacy were Dorothy Stoneman, President, YouthBuild USA, Robert Hennessy, Legislative Vice President, California YouthBuild Coalition, and Bruce Saito, Legislative Committee Chair, California Association of Local Conservation Corps.

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN BEGINS JUNE 1ST 2006

The Conservation Corps State Museum Annual Fundraising Campaign is about to begin. The Museum that holds our past history, current work, and eventually our future successes, needs your help to reach its potential as a recognized institution that will carry forward the record of

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the amazing contributions of the conservation corps movement in the State of California. Our goals for this year are to professionally archive and curate our holdings, receive recommendations for the best placement and promotion of the holdings, and develop a strategy to get our history out to corps members and the public across the State. All of this, of course, requires funding. We recently received a grant from the California Cultural and historical Endowment Board (Prop. 40 funds) to accomplish a portion of this work. We are counting on each of you to help us with the rest. We are issuing a challenge to the corps and you. A donation letter will be sent to you shortly. Please do what you can to support this effort. The campaign will begin on June 1 and run through July 15. We thank you for your anticipated support.

Phil Matero
Deputy Director, Los Angeles Conservation Corps
Fundraising Chair, Conservation Corps Institute

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Please contact Paul McLain-Lugowski if you are interested in joining the CCI Board or if you have items to donate to the Museum.