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# TALK ON THE YARD



NEVADA STATE PRISON PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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June 2017 Newsletter  
[www.nevadastateprison.org](http://www.nevadastateprison.org)

## Thoughts from the President

The last month has been a period of some progress. Perhaps the biggest event over the last couple of months was the meeting with Director James Dzurenda of the Department of Corrections. The Director reiterated the Department's support for the preservation of NSP. Specifically, he authorized:

- The Chief of Plant Operations to complete the application for change of use, when the code analysis is completed by the Dube Group [architects]. This will save money and time, and insure that the agency that controls the NSP property is involved in the process.
- The Director authorized limited tours for individuals who are potential donors to our activities to open the institution for public tours.
- He also accepted our draft of a revised Administrative Regulation 803, which would change the requirements for volunteers who work at NSP. The proposed AR does away with the requirement for TB testing, and "Prison Rape Elimination Act" training. There would still be a requirement for background checks and rule/safety training.

On May 17, I was able to meet with Don Bernard, the son and oldest child of Warden Art Bernard. He and his family lived in the Warden's House through the 1950's and were the last family to live there. He had some great stories and will be touring the institution in the next couple of weeks as a potential donor.

On May 24 there was a work session at the prison with Pete Dube and his staff. The expertise of NSPPS Board members Lee Perks and Maurice White helped us finalize the

tour route for the public and plan for ADA access to the facilities. This was really important as it is necessary to provide access, but keep the costs of changes to the buildings down. Pete and his staff are in the final stages of the code analysis and have had preliminary discussions with the State Public Works Board. This was a very positive exchange. The next step will be the application for change of use.

This last month Robin Bates arranged for me to meet Frank Adams, a Board member for the recently closed Peace Officers' Museum in Virginia City. Frank and his Board generously donated a laptop computer, and more importantly, their license for "Past Perfect" museum software. This software is specifically designed to document museum artifacts. This will add a professional element to our artifact acquisition. Frank is also interested in loaning an exhibit of artifacts from the State Police when we open. Some of you may not be aware that when the State Police was formed, the Warden was also the head of the State Police.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, Board member Terry Hubert and I got our string mowers and attacked the insidious weeds and grasses in the yard of the Prison. Hot and dirty work, but it needs to be done to protect the facility and put our best foot forward for potential donors. This week we will be working on the sucker trees growing up in the lawn in front of the Warden's House.

On June 5th, I gave a speech at the Carson Men's Club at the Empire Ranch Golf Club. This was a presentation on our progress for opening the institution. There was a clear understanding on the part of the member regarding the technical, bureaucratic process that we are faced with. This was our second presentation to this group.

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, the Footprint International Organization from Carson Valley presented our society with a \$1,000 donation. Ray Hoyt, formerly of the Gaming Control Board and NDI made the presentation with Douglas County Sheriff Ron Pierini. Sheriff Pierini is a former Officer, Investigator, and Trainer at NSP. He has also donated his stash of NSP artifacts to us. He has been a great advocate for us. I gave two presentations to the Footprinters this last year and hope to visit with them again. They are a great group that supports criminal justice agencies and their staff. We will be using this donation to advance the completion of the Public Works Board review of our change of use application.



Lastly I have heard from some discouraged folks regarding our progress at NSP. Frankly, at this time our preservation effort is almost entirely a bureaucratic one. We have to gain access before we can tour. It is intense, boring work, but we are going forward.

## Membership

The month of June has been good. So far, we have received two Business memberships, as well as a few renewals.

We have been sending renewal notices to those members who are due to renew. If you have not received one and think that you should, it may be that we do not have a current email address for you. Please do not hesitate to call Didi Chaney at 775-392-3921 or email [valleyjobline@gmail.com](mailto:valleyjobline@gmail.com) with your current info.

If you are not a member, please consider joining us in our preservation efforts by becoming a member of the Nevada State Prison Preservation Society. This important historical site is being

preserved and developed without any public monies. When you become a member, 100 percent of your donation will be applied to our goal of preserving this landmark as an attraction for tourists, history buffs, and as a living classroom for generations to come. The Society is staffed completely by unpaid volunteers.

Each member is entitled to one vote on each matter presented for a vote of the members, including the election of your Board of Directors. Voting takes place at general membership meetings that are held quarterly.

While membership does not require a commitment of time, we do endeavor to develop our volunteer crew from amongst the membership.

Annual memberships begin on the date the membership is received; renewals are due 12 months later.

\$20..... Annual Student (Senior 60+, Military, and Department of Corrections Employees)

\$25.....Annual Individual (18-59 years old)

\$65.....Annual Family (household members)

\$200...Life Membership

\$250...Life Membership Plus One

\$500...Business Membership

There is a downloadable membership form on our website.

Please share this newsletter with others!

## Website

We continue to grow and improve our website. If you haven't looked at it lately, please do so now and let us know what you think. The address is [www.nevadastateprison.org](http://www.nevadastateprison.org) .

Chris Carver is our website administrator, and a very important person in our organization and our preservation effort. He has built the website from the ground up, managing both the technical (back end) and the content (front end). In the coming weeks we hope to have Barry Smith take on part of the website responsibilities. Many of you know Barry from the early days of this organization.

In today's world, a professional website is an absolute essential. When grant applications are considered, the grantors look at your website to get a feel for the organization; people

who are interested in the unique history of NSP have begun to rely on our website for accurate, well researched information; when we begin public tours, our website will be one of the ways that people learn about us and schedule their trip. For all of these reasons and more, we will continue to stress the importance of this asset.

Coming up in the next few weeks, we will be deciding on, and then implementing a method to index our collection of artifacts for the website, including photos and descriptions.

## NSPPS Lecture Series

Our President, Glen Whorton, made presentations from our lecture series at numerous locations this year, and more are being scheduled. These lectures are an important educational outreach and have also resulted in financial donations. Thanks to Glen for carrying the torch. Here is the series:

- Prison Development in the United States
- The Nevada State Prison, a Pictorial History
- Nevada State Prison: The Turbulent Years
- Warden Abe Curry: Father of Carson City and First Prison Warden
- Great And Not So Great Escapes
- Nevada State Prison Quarry: A History Built of Sandstone
- The Presidency and the Prisoner
- Steeling the State of Nevada

## Board of Directors

Here is your current Board of Directors:

Glen Whorton, President	Sherry Griffin-Grundy (effective mid July)	Myron Carpenter, Honorary Board Member
Robin Bates, Vice-President	Lisa Helget	Brian Hutchins, Legal Counsel
Deborah Reed, Treasurer	Terrance P Hubert	
Didi Chaney, Secretary	LeRoy A Perks  Maurice White	

## **Collections**

NSPPS is very happy to have Sherry Griffin-Grundy joining our Board in mid-July 2017. Sherry's expertise in archival collection management and historical research is a perfect fit. We look forward to working with Sherry to organize our artifacts in preparation for the day when we can create exhibits at the prison.

If you have or know of NSP memorabilia/artifacts that may be available, please contact us using the contact form on our website. You can also call 775-297-0240.

## **A Message to all of our Approved Volunteers**

When you read this newsletter we hope you are encouraged by the progress being made. As we get closer to the day when we can conduct tours of the facility, you will be invited to refresher training.

## **Nevada Magazine**

Check out the May/June 2017 edition of Nevada Magazine. The story of NSP and the Preservation Society is featured!