

HMI Board of Directors update. 4-18-19

Hi all,

- a. The memorial service for Keith Bollum on Friday, June 28, 2019 at Mossman Hall from 6 to 9 pm. <http://historicmelroseflorida.org/newsblog/> Keith is sorely missed.
- b. Jean Giesel connected us with Robert Burnette as a new, cheaper web master. We've updated the format and put the memorial service on the website.
- c. The HMI corporation renewal for 2019 with Florida is complete. Tax filing of IRS form 990 is complete.
- d. The Homemaker's and Daurer Center floors were polished by Melvin and Felt. A big thanks to Dr. Barrow for arranging it. We hope it lasts another five years.
- e. Michael Weeks is one of our new board members and we have discussed the creating a history club at QI Roberts Jr and Sr high school. Michael teaches history at QI. What a great way to get young minds involved in HMI! The goal is to begin in the fall. One suggested project is putting the pink "HMI book" on to the website with updated photos.
- f. As soon as the mailing list is updated, we'll have a board meeting and send out a newsletter for Spring. Our spring program is a history talk by Dr. Barrow, date is TBD. Dr. Marshall says he can speak in the fall. Jean is still on the mend! We also were given an excellent list on prospective speakers and field trips. BTW, we anticipate QI Roberts History Club will want at least one field trip per month ("A day out of the office is a day well spent").
- g. The Homemaker's cleanup is scheduled for May 18. Time: TBD. The Melrose 4-H group and parents will participate. We will get new timbers and mulch, and clear out the courtyard. Weed killer was sprayed last weekend.
- h. We would also like to go through the "stuff" that has collected over the years in the Homemaker's. This requires the Dulcimer club and others to remove their unwanted stuff, too. The various clubs have been emailed.
- i. The critter fence (skirt) under the Daurer and Homemaker's needs mending and we discussed an antique-style lattice (not the cheap Lowe's stapled wood). We will ask Bill Hammond about this.
- j. Bill Hammond is scheduled to repair the ramp at Homemaker's. Kathi suggests pickets similar to what Smith Laws has on his fence. Please respond to what you think is appropriate for to spruce up the functional yet boring ramp railing. Not too ornate but appropriate for the period.
- k. Christmas Home tour plans are coming together. We are recruiting home owners!
- l. Four gallons of weed killer were sprayed at the park last week. Needs about 4 more gallons.
- m. Rosemary kept a historic piece of rail in her yard and John McRae cleaned it up and dropped it off at Homemaker's. A great project would be to draw plans to show to the board and the County, and create a suitable display.
- n. No news on Joe Rush arranging for the mound conversion into a sitting berm.
- o. A support-letter for the Melrose Woman's Club was submitted to Tallahassee for a grant.
- p. No news or recent communications from the County on the Park. The bathroom is very clean and I have not heard any complaints. Still need to clean the memorials at some point. Would like to get a nicer flag pole some day. All is well.
- q. We are grateful for the folks who monitor the fountain so that it stays full of water and does not burn out the pump when the water gets low.
- r. Books sales continue through Ace Hardware. Jon McRae has done a great job but is now taking a break from it.
- s. John McRae mentioned 4-wheelers tearing up the Banana property. Will investigate. The 8-acre lot adjacent to HMI's mill site is under contract. Asking price is \$55,000. Would have been nice to get the 2 acres near HMI's lot.
- t. Earleton residents have donated close to \$600 for the cemetery maintenance. Annual fee to Mr. Richard Vallance is \$980. Thank-you letters were sent to donors.
- u. Park Pavilion columns need repair from wood rot.
- v. Bill Hammond repaired-painted the shutters at the Daurer Center. Looks great! Daurer needs repainting "soon." Three new lights have arrived for the Daurer Center. Will install them "soon."
- w. The groups who use the Homemaker's are the Dulcimer Club (POC Laurie Alsobrook), Democratic Club (Kate Ellison and Fran Rossano), 4-H (Crystal McCazzio and Katy Hall), and MBCA (POC Stasia Rudolph and Fran Rossano). The Melrose Bay Property Owner's Association (MBPOA) is using the Homemaker's on 18 Jan for a by-laws meeting...we hope to recruit some of them to show their houses for the Christmas Tour so this first meeting is free of charge.
- x. A big thanks to all who read this entire tome. LOL.

Happy Easter and God bless!