

May 2015 RVP Meeting Report for Region 29 (East San Gabriel Valley)

Reported by Ralph H. Thomas

-Since February, I have continued to make personal visits to additional historical societies in Region 29. By February, I had visited 50% of the 13 historical societies in the region and by May I have visited 70%. In spite of repeated attempts, 3 historical societies have not responded to meeting requests. Objectives for these meetings continue to be:

1. What is CCHS?
2. Gathering society information
 - a. Primary contact information
 - b. President contact information
 - c. Archivist/curator contact information
 - d. Office hours
 - e. Discussing their CCHS membership status
 - f. Requesting a membership applications so I could join their society
3. Presenting CCHS annual meeting information
4. Reviewing my short term goals
5. Discussing their top 3 successes
6. Discussing their top 3 challenges

- I was invited to the Duarte Historical Society, Baldwin Park Historical Society and the Historical Society of La Verne Board of Directors meetings to present information on CCHS. The attached presentation was given to each Board.

-I attended a joint meeting lead by the Glendora Historical Society which included the Duarte and Azusa Historical Societies. The last time such a meeting was held was 15 years ago. A total of 15 board members attended.

One hour of the 3 hour meeting was held at each historical society. The first 15 minutes were used to visit their museums and the remaining 45 minutes to discuss a list of topics important to each historical society. Topics included:

- Volunteers-recruiting, retaining, rewarding
- Outreach-newsletters, social media, press

- Outreach-educational programs & special events
- Grants-fundraising
- Museum collections-archiving & sharing collections
- Other-ideas for future meetings

One idea that came out of the meeting was to establish a Speakers “Bull Pen” by creating a list of submitted speakers from each historical society in the region. To facilitate this process I created a template for historical societies to populate and send back to me. I then sent the list out to everyone in the region and will act as the focal point for disseminating any additions to the list.

In addition, I also created a template to be used by historical societies in the region and will act as the focal point for communication any programs that are being offered.

All attendees thought the meeting was worth repeating.

-A contact list has been completed and sent to the primary contact of each historical society in the region. The list includes phone numbers and e-mails for the primary contact, President and Archivist in each historical society. This is the first step and will help to “bring together historical societies to share their common needs and expertise” AND to “communicate ‘best practices’ to historical societies throughout the region”.

-I had 2 meetings with SOURCE to discuss a potential collaboration between them and Region 29 historical societies. SOURCE is a nonprofit consulting group created by Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, CA. SOURCE is staffed by students who are interested in positively impacting the community by helping nonprofit organizations while actively applying the knowledge acquired through their liberal arts education. A decision on any collaboration will be made in September. If accepted, there would be no expense to CCHS.

-Third and Fourth Quarter Objectives

1. Complete first phase of membership development self help guide.
2. Hold a regional workshop to include topics on:
 - Membership market research
 - Effective use of Facebook
 - Membership development
 - Making history relevant
 - Archival storage
 - Getting & keeping volunteers