

## **MRPC Culture and Heritage Committee Notes Semi-Annual Meeting in Alton, IL April 23-25, 2014**

**Culture and Heritage: 4/24/14 at 2 pm** draft of meeting submitted by Terri for corrections or additions.

The MRPC, Culture & Heritage Committee convened Thursday, April 24, 2014, at 2 PM in Alton, IL, Lewis and Clark Community College Nursing Classroom 103 with nine (9) members present for the entire meeting: Ann Ventress & Faye Wilkinson, MS; Frank Nickell, MO, Alma Blair, KY; Dennis Donathn, WI; Edith Pfeffer & Debbie Jochims, IA; and Terri Austin McCullough & St. Joe Columbia, AR. The chairpersons where absent.

Susanne Thiede-Barnet began discussion with thanks to three Iowa ladies, Edith Pfeffer, Jane Regan and Debbie Jochims, who rented a F250 truck and transported Interpretive Center 10 foot poles, new IC signs and vinyl overlays from the Quad Cities to Alton, IL. Delivery specifics where both listed on two handouts and discussed in detail. Susanne recommended shipping vinyl overlays, posts and signs to Vicksburg and Woodville, MS & some LA sites. She detailed that the total project was under budget and the parcel costs where reasonable. Volunteers include:

IA – Edith  
IL - Holly & Ellis Grove IL to go w/ Frank  
MO - Frank  
TN – Diana  
KY – Alma  
AR - Bobby & Terri  
MS, Clarksdale - Terri  
LA, Poverty Point – Terri  
MN & WI poles still in East Dubuque

Edith illustrated how the pole cap was unscrewed and the sign was placed. Handouts also illustrated the pole procedure, sign placement and the vinyl overlay. As detailed at the MRPC members website, [www.members.mrpc.org](http://www.members.mrpc.org), the 45 overlays are adhered to the existing sign age by removing the sign from the pole, laying it on a flat surface, placing the new information over the panel and trimming the curved edges before replacing the sign panel in the pole support. The poles, signs and vinyls distributed Friday at 4 pm for transportation to the various states.

A model newspaper release was provided. A photograph of the delivery and/or placement was suggested for the local newspaper along with the narrative submission. The Culture and Heritage Committee Interpretive Center checklist was reviewed. The checklist discussion with the on-site personnel will be submitted by the delivering MRPC committee member to the national office for possible inclusion at the [www.experiencemississippiriver.com](http://www.experiencemississippiriver.com) website.

Faye Wilkinson requested more MRPC maps at cost of 35 cents wholesale to Convention and Visitors Bureaus. Susanne gave details about ordering the maps currently in stock. She anticipated a second printing in Fall 2015 with corrections if the Board approved. All committee members were encouraged to proofread the map on our Experience Mississippi River website.

Edith felt that the Experience Mississippi River website should be undatable by individual Interpretive Centers to publicize calendar events and alter narratives. She requested a template or formula for website updates. This topic was not voted.

The committee refocused on the proposed National Geographic tourism opportunity. Long-term website fees and cost concerns were discussion points. Terri called for Question. On a vote of 7 Yea, zero Nay and 1 Abstain, the Culture & Heritage Committee does endorse National Geographic partnership and inclusion in the Mississippi River Connections Collaborative (MRCC).

The Culture and Heritage committee afternoon session concluded at 4pm.