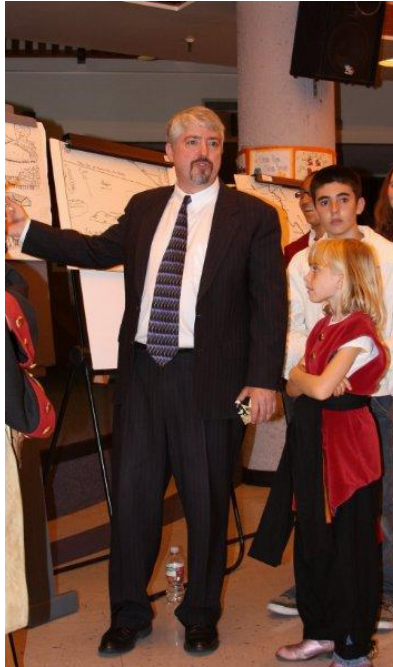


Presidents Message



Paul Bernal, President

The Pioneers carries the embers of the past to the glowing fire of the future!

As incoming president, I have great faith in our organization. Brightness and innovation lie ahead for our non-profit that was founded in 1875. How many groups can claim that?

Much of our current success is owed to our energetic immediate past president, Jim Zetterquist. He led with creativity and warmth and he brought many new ideas. The last few years have been a juggernaut of projects and activities.

We are fiscally sound. Our membership is robust. We are surrounded by wonderful, enthusiastic volunteers. I would like to especially praise the contributions of our outgoing board members, each of whom helped with a thousand fired irons: Tim Peddy, Robb Moore, Jan Paull and Jerry Rosenthal. They will remain active contributors because their love for the Pioneers remains intense. We are fortunate to welcome a strong panel of new board members: Mary Berger, Professor Rose Marie Beebe, Bev Blockie, and Joe Melehan.

Besides our latest major project "Westward Ho!," we are gearing up for a new local history trivia competition, our Admission Day BBQ, updating our website, completing an inventory of all archival assets, adding video screens to our museum to enhance each visitor's experience, creating a new pamphlet, expanding the scope and awards for our annual essay contest (we will reach fourth graders starting this year), creating a video to honor the Cochran/Jackson family just as we did so for the Stevens family, hosting the Fall Symposium for the Conference of California Historical Societies, and we are sponsoring many history events. And this is just for the next three months! We are a very active group.

Where do we go from here? To guide us, I sent out a membership questionnaire; received input from the board and volunteers via a comprehensive written survey; and orchestrated a board retreat with professional facilitators. I always welcome ideas from the public so email me anytime at pbernal@scscourt.org. I look forward to serving you.