

MINUTES

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Meeting Jointly

Friday, January 31, 2014

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The Joint Interim Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology; Senate Interim Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs; and the House Interim Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs met jointly on Friday, January 31, 2014, at 9:00 AM in the Wonder House at Queen Wilhelmina State Park in Mena, Arkansas.

Representative Butch Wilkins called the meeting to order.

**Legislators in Attendance**

The following legislators attended: Senator Larry Teague. Representatives Butch Wilkins, Chair; Mary Slinkard, Chair; Nate Bell, John Catlett, Stephanie Malone, and Chris Richey.

**Presentation of the History of Queen Wilhelmina State Park**

**Ms. Yvonne Duvall, Park Interpreter, Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, Queen Wilhelmina State Park** presented a Power Point entitled, "A Lifetime Dream," and explained the history of Queen Wilhelmina State Park. She shared the story of Arthur Stillwell, who had a lifelong dream of building a railroad. In time, Mr. Stillwell obtained an opportunity to build a railroad in Mena, Arkansas, for transporting stock, grain, and lumber.

Mr. Stillwell wanted people to ride the rails as well, so he built the Wilhelmina Inn, as an enticement for people to visit Rich Mountain. Visitors from near and far traveled to the Inn on pack mules and rode the train down the mountain.

Ms. Duvall noted, several interesting facts about Rich Mountain and Queen Wilhelmina State Park:

- The mountain has more varieties of flora within one square mile than any place on Earth
- Its elevation is the second highest in Arkansas
- It is home to the very rare "Means Giant Earthworm"
- The Ouachita Mountains are the only North American range that runs East and West

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Following the meeting, legislators toured the Queen Wilhelmina Lodge renovation site.