

**Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission
Meeting #23, April 16, 2007, 9:00 a.m.
Whitall Pavilion, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.**

ATTENDANCE

Present were Dr. Jean Bandler, Dr. Darrel Bigham, the Hon. Jim Bunning, Mrs. Julie Cellini, Ms. Joan Flinspach, the Hon. Ray LaHood, Mrs. Lura Lynn Ryan, Mrs. Louise Taper (by phone), the Hon. Tommy Turner, the Hon. Frank Williams, Ms. Eileen Mackevich, Executive Director, Mrs. Jennifer Rosenfeld, Deputy Director, Mr. David Early, Communications Director, Ms. Genevieve Courbois (Actg. Development Director), Mr. Venkitaraman Suresh, Executive Assistant and Ms. Lauren Esker, ALBC Intern. Congressional staff included Ms. Diane Liesman and Mrs. Joan DeBoer from Congressman LaHood's office; Mr. Bill Beaver from Senator Bunning's office; and Mr. Ken Edmonds from Congressman Jackson's office. ALBC Advisors present were: Mr. David Madden, Dr. Ron Rietveld, Mr. Charles W. Scholz, Mayor George W. Gaulrupp, Mr. Guy C. Fraker, Mr. Wally Henderson, Dr. Gary P. Zola, Mr. Paul Beaver, and Dr. Catherine Clinton. ALBC State Liaisons included: Dr. Herschel Stroud of Kansas; Mr. Walter Reed, Jr. of Iowa; Mr. Mark Junge of Wyoming; Dr. William Anderson of Michigan; Ms. Sue Stenhouse of Rhode Island; Mr. Rick Collin of North Dakota; Mr. Jim R. Rubin of West Virginia; Mrs. Connie Nass of Indiana; Mr. Russ McCabe of Delaware; and Mr. David Leroy, Governors' Council Chair of Idaho. Guests included Mr. Martin Perschler from the National Park Service, Mr. Lindy Casebier of Kentucky, Mr. Bob Willard, Mr. Mark Story with Fleishman-Hillard, Mr. Steve Kelley, LOC Congressional Liaison Officer, Ms. Jean Gentry and Ms. Cynthia Meals Vitelli of the US Mint, Mr. David Morgan of Kentucky, Mrs. Paul Beaver, Mrs. Jacque Stroud and the son of Mayor George W. Gaulrupp.

WELCOME AND MINUTES

Congressman LaHood called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He thanked everyone for coming and asked our guests to introduce themselves. After introductions, he requested action on the minutes. There were no corrections, so they passed as recorded on a motion by Dr. Bandler with a second from Mrs. Cellini. The report from the State Liaison and Advisors meeting held the day before, was deferred until later in the meeting.

FINANCE REPORT—attached

Congressman LaHood requested the Finance Report. Ms. Mackevich reviewed the reports included in the packets. There were no questions.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT—attached

Congressman LaHood inquired about the Executive Director's report. Ms. Mackevich highlighted the material provided in the report regarding special events and the changes in the Lincoln Cabinet. Ms. Flinspach noted that on page 2, paragraph 3, the proposal to Lincoln Financial Group was authored by Ms. Mackevich. Ms. Mackevich added that it was a product of the entire staff. Under Special Events, she discussed the

series of Mock Trials which could net up to \$1.2 million. Mrs. Cellini asked how these events raise money. Ms. Mackevich stated that the revenue comes from those who pay to attend these Mock Trials. Executive Director Mackevich announced that Mr. Bill Gray and Mr. Jack Kemp have agreed to co-chair the Lincoln Cabinet, and Congressman LaHood expressed his gratitude for their willingness to serve in this capacity.

REPORTS—Communications Committee

Congressman LaHood called on Mr. Early to give the Communications Committee report. Mr. Early asked Mr. Story, Senior Vice President from Fleishman-Hillard, to speak about the website. Mr. Story indicated that while nothing visible had occurred, much was going on behind the scenes. In the preliminary phase a sitemap of the architecture of the new website has been created and was distributed to those Commissioners who wanted to see it. The next step will be to gather content and finally to design the flow of the site. Mrs. Cellini asked Mr. Story about timeline. Mr. Story noted that they are 2-3 months behind and are looking at a July 6th roll out. Mr. Early added that the project had been delayed in the contract office. Mrs. Cellini inquired about the marketing for the launch of the site. Mr. Story assured us that the site would have a robust launch along with methodologies built into it to capture the attention of search engines. Dr. Bandler requested information on the audience's wants and needs. Mr. Story stated that there will be virtual meeting places and Ms. Mackevich said that interactivity will also play a large role. Congressman LaHood asked what could be seen on the website now. Mr. Story answered that one sees the current website. Mr. Early has acquired author interviews and interactives as additional means to hold the audience. He'll need web-ready material from all the Commissioners who can help. Ms. Flinspach stated that the ALBC can use any image belonging to The Lincoln Museum free of charge. Dr. Bigham asked to see the sitemap so that he could review and comment on the architecture. Judge Turner asked if the dot-gov email address will point to a dot-org email address seamlessly. Mr. Story replied that that will be the case. Judge Turner asked about the life of the website after the Commission sunsets. Ms. Mackevich indicated that the desire is to find a legacy host. Ms. Flinspach asked about incorporating the mechanics of taking donations online. Ms. Mackevich said that will happen. Congressman LaHood emphasized that the website is one of our top priorities.

Congressman LaHood called on Judge Turner to give the report on the penny redesign. Judge Turner noted that staff and some Commissioners met with representatives from the Mint last fall. He also noted the four aspects of the penny design that have been suggested. Each aspect has up to three themes. We are to appoint an historian to work in conjunction with the mint. Two of our guests were representatives from the Mint. It was explained to us that we will see preliminary designs first and can winnow those. Our recommendations then go on to the Citizens Advisory Committee and on display for the public which will make its recommendations. We will make the final recommendation and the mint sends it to the Secretary of the Treasury for his/her approval. Dr. Bandler asked about the role of continuity among the four aspects. She stated, for example, that the Indiana penny could have the inside of a log cabin on it, with Lincoln reading by the fireside, since the Kentucky one will have the outside of a log cabin. Judge Turner moved and Dr. Bandler seconded a motion that the four aspects as described in our packets (attached) be adopted. Dr. Bigham added that the narrative

needed to be cleaned up a bit. The motion carried. Chief Justice Williams asked when the new pennies will be unveiled. The representative from the Mint stated that an event will be held in 2008 to announce the change and the rollout will be in January, 2009.

Public Programs—Congressman LaHood asked for the Public Programs Committee report (**attached**). Judge Turner reported on the Kentucky Kickoff noting that the next Kentucky Kickoff Committee meeting will be on April 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 2 or 3:00 p.m. Judge Turner thanked and introduced two important Kentucky contacts—Mr. David Morgan and Mr. Lindy Casebier. At this upcoming meeting the National Park Service will present its role. Ms. Mackevich mentioned that a film is coming out in December, 2007 and that this could be a special event to raise funds.

Mr. Edmonds from Congressman Jackson's office presented information about the Town Halls. Two events have been held to-date—the round table discussion in Chicago and the John Hope Franklin event yesterday. The goal is to broaden the topics to include immigrants and young people. Congressman Jackson is approaching scholars to be a part of ten more Town Hall meetings at a total cost of \$500,000. The first will be held at Gettysburg College in 2008 as a part of the Signature Event. Mr. Story from Fleishman-Hillard asked to be recognized. Congressman LaHood called on him and he said that this discussion had inspired an idea to him to use a section of the website to explore, "What Lincoln Means to Me." Ms. Mackevich noted that there will probably be an Immigration subcommittee formed at some point.

Education Committee Report—Congressman LaHood asked for the Education Committee report. Dr. Bigham stated that the reports were included in our packets (**attached**). He noted that he is guest editor of the January 2008 issue of OAH Magazine of History, which has the theme Lincoln, Slavery and Race. One on Lincoln and the Constitution has already appeared, and a third, on Lincoln's Legacy, will appear in January 2009. Harold Holzer is guest editor of that one. He also reported that on March 30, at the OAH Annual Meeting he led a session, "Teaching American Values, Teaching Abraham Lincoln." Panelists represented Gilder-Lehrman, History Day, and the National Park Service. Jim Percoco also participated as a panelist. About 50 were in the audience, mostly high school history teachers. The National History Day has received funding from the History Channel for a teacher sourcebook. There is a meeting tomorrow at Howard University regarding the conference, "Lincoln, Emancipation, and Race." Dr. Bigham added that the completed lesson plans will go up on the new website.

COMMEMORATIVE BOOK: LICENSING REPORT

Congressman LaHood requested that Chief Justice Williams report about the commemorative book. Chief Justice Williams commented that a contract had been signed with Newsdesk Media. The book will record the activities of this Commission and allow two pages to each state to report on its activities. The ALBC will receive \$30,000 in advance for this book and more funding depending on the sale of advertising. Ms. Flinspach requested a copy of the licensing agreement for the minutes. **Staff will provide a copy of the agreement to any Commissioners desiring one.**

ENDORSEMENTS

Congressman LaHood brought up the topic of endorsements. Ms. Flinspach moved and Mrs. Cellini seconded a motion that all of the Public Program projects be endorsed. The motion carried. Chief Justice Williams voted in favor of all of the Public Program projects except the Rhode Island project. He recused himself from a vote on that item. Dr. Bigham moved that all of the Education projects be endorsed and Judge Turner seconded the motion. It passed. Again Chief Justice Williams voted in favor of all of the Education projects except the Lincoln Forum project. He recused himself from a vote on that item.

REPORT ON STATE LIAISON AND ADVISORS MEETING

Congressman LaHood returned to an earlier item on the agenda, the State Liaison and Advisors Meeting report. He called on Mr. David Leroy of Idaho to report. Mr. Leroy stated that the group organized in the meeting yesterday. Their first order of business will be to get the ten states not yet participating to join. After that, then a teleconference call would be set up to exchange ideas for projects and funding. Congressman LaHood thanked Mr. Leroy for organizing this group, for his leadership of it, and for setting up the meeting with Secretary of the Interior Kempthorne. Judge Turner added that the meeting with the Secretary was scheduled for a half hour, but went for an hour due to his enthusiasm. Mr. Leroy reported that the Secretary supported our ideas and came up with original ones of his own—specifically the idea of using cell phone games for people who are waiting in line to see Lincoln sites.

FURTHER BUSINESS

Congressman LaHood invited anyone new to the meeting since the first introductions were made to introduce themselves and to pass on any new ideas for this celebration. Dr. Catherine Clinton, teaching at the Queen's University in Belfast reminded us of the global nature of Abraham Lincoln and encouraged us to consider the role of women in his life. Dr. William Anderson from Michigan urged the Commissioners to create a bibliography of the best books on Abraham Lincoln. Chief Justice Williams announced that he is writing an annotated bibliography and it is due out on February 12, 2009. Mrs. Rosenfeld added that the American Library Association has completed a recommended list of books for children and that it is available on our current website. Mr. Guy Fraker recommended that attention be paid to Lincoln as a lawyer. Mr. Gary Zola of Ohio stated that the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives will make its collection available to the ALBC and that at its Conference of Rabbis he will encourage adoption of the theme of the message of Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Robert Wilburn, President of the Gettysburg Foundation, announced that it will be opening a new museum next year. Mr. David Madden of Louisiana suggested that we place excerpts from the numerous Hollywood movies about Lincoln on our new website. As an interactive website activity he recommended a global map that showed all of the streets named for Lincoln. Dr. Ronald Rietveld of California urged us to remember the past scholars in some way. Mr. George Gaulrapp, Mayor of Freeport, IL, asked that the Illinois contingent support the placement of the Lincoln-Douglas debate cities on the back of the Illinois penny. Mr. Mark Junge of Wyoming suggested that the Lincoln

Highway be the focal point of the celebration, since it crossed the country from shore to shore.

Congressman LaHood asked the Commissioners if they had anything more to add and Mrs. Taper noted that an exhibition featuring Mary Todd Lincoln will open at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield on April 28th. She also requested an update on the sculpture garden. Congressman LaHood said that he would call Mrs. Taper to provide her with that update. He also noted the Chicago Sun Times story about Mrs. Taper's collection.

Congressman LaHood thanked everyone for their commitment. Ms. Flinspach requested that a note of thanks be added to the minutes for the staff, in honor of their work to produce the John Hope Franklin event yesterday. The Commissioners unanimously agreed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION—No notes were recorded during this session.

RETURN TO MEETING

Congressman LaHood recalled the meeting to order and asked Ms. Mackevich to resend a schedule of future meetings to the Commissioners. Mrs. Rosenfeld announced that the next scheduled meeting was September 17th with an accompanying program held at the National Archives. A telephonic meeting is planned for October 22nd. At the Commissioners' request a meeting will be held by teleconference in June or July. There being no further business to come before the meeting, Congressman LaHood declared us adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan L. Flinspach,
Secretary

