

Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission
Meeting #28, Via Telephone
Tuesday, December 18, 2007, 2:30 p.m. EST

ATTENDANCE

Present were Dr. Jean Bandler; Dr. Darrel Bigham; the Hon. Jim Bunning; Mrs. Julie Cellini; the Hon. Richard Durbin; Ms. Joan Flinspach; Mr. Harold Holzer; the Hon. Tommy Turner and the Hon. Frank Williams. ALBC staff present included Ms. Eileen Mackevich, Executive Director; Mrs. Jennifer Rosenfeld, Deputy Director; Mr. David Early, Communications Director; Mr. Alan Kirschner, Development Director; Mr. David Morgan, Development; and Ms. Courtney Barefoot. 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. Pat Souders from Senator Durbin's office. Mr. Lindy Casebier was also present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congressman LaHood announced that the House had passed a budget that the Senate would pass it this evening and that the President has agreed to sign it. While our \$400,000 earmark was cut, our budget was set at \$750,000. Congressman LaHood will meet with Dr. Billington to see if the funding for the exhibit can come from the Library of Congress' budget.

MEETING

This meeting's exclusive focus is on the upcoming Kentucky events, so Judge Turner conducted the meeting. It came to order at 2:38 p.m. Judge Turner made opening comments stating that he had heard the inaugural events cited as "the Kentucky events" or as "Tommy's program" and he noted that these activities are to set the momentum and tone for the entire bicentennial. He expressed frustration with this perspective and urged universal ownership of these projects, noting that whether or not all of us participate in the effort, the effort would still reflect on all of us. A sense of team must be adopted by all.

TICKET SALES/SPONSORSHIPS/BUDGET

Mr. Morgan reported that 151 fundraiser packages have been sold and another 81 are reserved. Over 200 (is this right?) general admission tickets to the Kentucky Performing Arts Center have been sold.

INVITATIONS

Judge Turner asked Congressman LaHood about the protocol of sending invitations to the Congressional delegations. Congressman LaHood stated that Diane will research any issues and send out the invitations. The Governors of Indiana, and Illinois should be invited. Judge Turner will see if the Governor of Kentucky can send a letter to his counterparts. Congressional staff will check on the question of inviting former Presidents. Mrs. Cellini and Ms. Flinspach will see to it that the memberships of their organizations are informed of the details of the event. The ALBC staff is hand delivering the invitations to the leadership at the Library of Congress. Mr. Holzer and Chief Justice

Williams will send an email blast to the Lincoln Forum and any other Lincoln groups that they can reach. The Louisville Orchestra and the Ballet will also send email blasts and place notices in their newsletters.

PROGRAMMING

Congressman LaHood asked that a role be found for Dr. Billington in the program. Judge Turner said a role will be found. Confirmation has been received from Senator McConnell's office and from Mayor Abramson regarding attendance. A role may be appropriate for them.

Louisville—The symposium has too many participants for the capacity of the original venue—the Frazier International Museum. It will be moved to the Henry Clay Hotel which can seat 500. Brown Forman is meeting today about sponsorship of the reception that is part of the fund raiser package. A program overview is [attached](#). The length of the program is a concern.

Hodgenville—Judge Turner is slated to emcee this event, but he indicated that he could be flexible about that role if needed. Congressman LaHood noted that once the White House confirms the President's involvement, that office will direct introduction of the President, etc. Other speakers will include Sam Waterston as Abraham Lincoln and Doris Kearns Goodwin. The Governor of Kentucky is a possible speaker as are other dignitaries.

Both Events—Mr. Morgan (???) suggested a firm that might donate the program layout and Judge Turner knew of a printer that might donate the printing. The program needs to be of souvenir quality and worthy of being sold as a keepsake after the event. Mr. Holzer agreed to write the script for the gala event in Louisville.

MEDIA/MARKETING

Judge Turner asked Mr. Early about the issue of press credentials. They will be required at Hodgenville and can be required at Louisville. C-SPAN is holding a major meeting that Mr. Early is attending on Friday, December 21st regarding its coverage of the Kentucky events. This organization has committed to covering the Hodgenville events and is interested in the symposium on the 11th. KET/PBS will film the events too. If a sponsor can be found, they will distribute it nationally. Judge Turner asked about PSAs. Dr. Bigham will check regarding free advertising in the Cincinnati and Evansville newspaper via Scripps. The ALBC staff will continue to seek free advertising placements. Judge Turner will check with the *Louisville Courier Journal* about the possibility of free advertising.

LOGISTICS

Judge Turner reviewed the [attached](#) National Park Service overview. **Tommy, I have no notes regarding transportation to and from Hodgenville and a luncheon. Am I coming down with narcolepsy? ZZZZZZZZZZZZ!**

OTHER ISSUES

Mrs. Rosenfeld asked about the possibility of a State Liaisons meeting at the Henry Clay Hotel from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 11th. Judge Turner and Mr. Casebier will confirm this meeting. The Commissioners will attend it. Mrs. Rosenfeld then asked about a Commission meeting, which we had requested. After further thought and discussion, the Commissioners opted to have a meeting in March to discuss the lessons learned and plan for the May events in Indiana.

There being no further business. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan L. Flinspach
Secretary