

Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission
Meeting #30, Louisville, KY, Brown Hotel, Room Broadway B
Monday, February 11, 2008, 11:00 a.m. EDT

ATTENDANCE

Present were Dr. Jean Bandler; Dr. Darrel Bigham; Dr. Gabor Boritt; Mrs. Julie Cellini; Ms. Joan Flinspach; Mr. Harold Holzer; Mrs. Lura Lynn Ryan; 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; Ms. Sharon Cunningham, Accounting; and Suresh Venkitaraman, Executive Assistant. Congressional staff included Ms. Diane Liesman from Congressman LaHood's office and Mr. Pat Souders (by phone). Guests included Mr. Bryan Eaton, Ms. Natalie Chan Eaton, the Hon. Senator Dan Kelly of Kentucky and Mr. Yarmuth.

DISCUSSION

Ms. Mackevich and Mr. Kirschner gave a fund raising update stating that the Kentucky events will break even in cost vs. revenue. Ms. Mackevich announced that we have the funding to take the website to Phase II and asked the Commissioners to [follow up with input for this phase of website development](#). Funds are available for six months of maintenance to date; staff is developing a plan for calendar updating.

Mr. Holzer asked the Commissioners about their priorities in programming. Dr. Boritt discussed the program for the Gettysburg event citing 4 activities—the Civil War Institute in June, the official opening of the new Visitors Center in September, the traditional programs including the Lincoln Forum just before November 19th and the Signature Event on November 19th where the main speaker will be Ken Burns. This issue raised a request for the original list of Signature Events. Dr Bigham recalled the five original events approved in Philadelphia in June 2004: 1.) the Inaugural events in KY; 2.) the Mother's Day events in IN; 3.) the Gettysburg events; 4.) the DC events ca. February, 2009; and 5.) the wrap-up events in Springfield.

The last topic of the pre-meeting discussion was that of legacy. Dr. Bigham asked Commissioners to consider what we were doing that would have long-lasting impact. He noted, for instance, that we have planned the materials for teachers and our website to be legacies. He asked who would maintain the website after the Commission disbanded. Ms. Mackevich said that planning was underway to secure a host. Dr. Bandler indicated that she saw many of the grass root programs that we are spawning as a legacy. Judge Williams agreed. Ms. Flinspach distributed a handout ([attached](#)) of an example of a simple easily replicated program that is taking hold and growing in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The consensus was that we needed to address this issue in a more systematic way.

Due to the need for our accountant to be elsewhere, Mr. Holzer stated that we should begin the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Holzer called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. He asked for approval of the minutes of the December 18, 2007, and the January 16, 2008, meetings. Dr. Bandler noted that both sets of minutes were not the corrected versions. Ms. Flinspach announced

that she must have sent the uncorrected versions to the staff for the packets by mistake and apologized. Mr. Holzer suggested that the corrected versions be circulated and voted on by email and the Commissioners agreed by consensus.

FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Holzer requested that Ms. Cunningham review the [\(attached\)](#) financial reports. She noted the only change in the appropriated budget was that funds originally designated for the website had been donated. As a consequence, the funds appropriated for the website were moved to continue the fund raising counsel's contract for two more months. The Kentucky Report is on page 23 of the packet and the events in Kentucky will finish in the black. Mr. Holzer asked that the minutes reflect the generous gift from Mrs. Virginia Fehrenbacher of \$500 and gifts from Betty Hickey and Hans Trefousse.

DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Mr. Holzer requested that Mr. Kirschner present the Development Report. We have received two leadership gifts, one from the Tribune Foundation and the other from Motorola. He expressed appreciation for the leadership of Congressman LaHood and Senator Durbin. The staff has reduced the sponsorship level to \$500,000 with the goal of 6 gifts; eight or nine gifts at the \$250,000 level; and 10 gifts at the \$100,000 level. In March, the staff will start the individual gift campaign. He thanked Mr. Souders and Ms. Liesman for obtaining clarification from the Senate and the House Ethics Committees. Senator Durbin and Congressman LaHood can now assist with fund raising. Mr. Kirschner thanked Dr. Billington, Librarian of Congress, for his assistance and commended Mr. Morgan who "saved the day" in Kentucky.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Communications Committee report was included in the packet and not discussed, so that the Public Programs Committee could report on the Springfield and 2009 birthday gala. Mr. Holzer called on Mrs. Cellini to report on the Springfield activities which are numerous and impressive. [The report is attached.](#) Ms. Flinspach responded to a question raised at an earlier time as to the meaning or purpose of a gala. Ms. Flinspach noted that this country has a tradition of celebrating July 4th with a party, because it is a birthday. The gala is the same type of event and should be celebrated in a similar manner. Ms. Mackevich noted that the connections to Veteran's Affairs are going well. She listed the steps completed for the gala to date—venue will be Constitution Hall; we have a producer on board and have raised some of the start-up funds. Mr. Holzer added that Ford's Theatre has commissioned a play to open on February 12, 2009; it will be another DC event during the bicentennial month.

Dr. Bigham cited the momentum that the Conference on the Emancipation Proclamation has created. Dr. Medford is forgoing a sabbatical to commit to this conference.

ENDORSEMENTS

Judge Turner moved that the book, *Lincoln Lessons: Experts Reflect on Democracy's Greatest Political Leader*, be endorsed, and Mrs. Ryan seconded the motion. It carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Holzer requested a motion for adjournment. Dr. Bigham moved, and Mrs. Ryan seconded a motion to adjourn. It carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan L. Flinspach
Secretary