

Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Meeting #33
By Phone
Monday, November 24, 2008, 2:15 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners present were Dr. Jean Bandler; Dr. Gabor Boritt; Ms. Joan Flinspach, Mr. Harold Holzer; Congressman Ray LaHood; Mrs. Lura Lynn Ryan; and the Hon. Tommy Turner. ALBC staff present included: Ms. Eileen Mackevich, Executive Director; Mrs. Jennifer Rosenfeld, Deputy Director; Mr. David Early, Communications Director; Ms. Sharon Cunningham, Accounting; Ms. Courtney Barefoot, Program Associate; Mr. Hasan Aloul, Program Associate; Ms. Teresa Caldwell; Director, Town Hall Program; and Ms. Lauren Maxwell, Intern. Congressional staff included Pat Souders from Senator Durbin's office; Ms. Diane Liesman and Mrs. Joan DeBoer from Congressman LaHood's office; Ms. Sarah Timoney from Senator Bunning's office.

CALL TO ORDER

Congressman LaHood chaired the meeting and called it to order at 2:22 p.m. Mr. Holzer moved the approval of the April 9th minutes and Mrs. Ryan seconded the motion. It carried.

FINANCE REPORT & BUDGET NARRATIVE—[report attached](#)

Congressman LaHood asked Ms. Mackevich to give the Finance Report. Ms. Mackevich requested that Ms. Cunningham present the information. Dr. Bandler inquired about the status of cash flow. Ms. Mackevich responded that despite the economic downturn the outstanding pledges are coming in on schedule. Prudential and the Chicago Tribune will honor their \$250,000 and \$500,000 pledges respectively. Dr. Bandler asked for an update on the commemorative coin unveiling. Ms. Mackevich agreed to provide an accrual schedule for this project. Mr. Holzer requested information about appropriation funding. Ms. Cunningham responded that she will continue to monitor it and that expenses are on or under budget now. She stated that there are no outstanding funds on travel. Congressman LaHood asked if there were any more questions about the financial report. There were none.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT—[report attached](#)

Congressman LaHood called on Ms. Mackevich for her report. She thanked Chief Justice Williams for his assistance with MOLLUS. She reported that we do not yet have a commitment for a White House event and it will not be discussed with the President-Elect until he has finished naming his cabinet. Mr. Holzer inquired about a dinner to be held on February 10th. Ms. Mackevich stated that a reception and dinner sponsored by the Union Pacific Railroad at the Library of Congress is not confirmed. Ms. Mackevich announced that the Town Halls are proceeding. The one held at Gettysburg went well. Over 300 attended and Mr. Jack Kemp, Congressman Jackson, and Dr. Allen Guelzo led the discussion. Mr. Holzer added that it was covered by C-SPAN. Ms. Flinspach asked what was being done with the data generated through the town halls. Ms. Mackevich responded that the Fetzer Institute will gather the data and use it to map out current issues and possible resolutions. The data will be published on the web.

The Oxford Conference planners have requested a US Congressional panel. Ms. Mackevich asked Congressman LaHood to consider this. For the April 12 Easter Sunday concert, the National Park Service has indicated that more than budgeted funds will be needed

due to the projected crowd size. Ms. Mackevich is looking for a 200-seat venue for the Lincoln-Douglass play. Lastly, she asked for input on a Lincoln-themed event for the USS Abraham Lincoln's crew on February 26-27 or March 6-7.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications Committee—[report attached](#)

Congressman LaHood asked for this committee's report. Mr. Early reviewed the events at Gettysburg and plans for upcoming coverage including leveraging the presidential inaugural activities which will carry a Lincoln theme. Mr. Holzer reported on the stamp unveiling news conference in Springfield. Coverage was broad and the event was successful. A DC news conference was held to announce their Bicentennial happenings. Mr. Early noted that the Miami Book Fair was a huge success with over 45,000 people attending.

Judge Turner inquired about the penny circulation. The US Mint wants activities coordinated through the ALBC. Dr. Bandler asked for a commemorative coin unveiling update. Mr. Early responded that this event was a traditional ceremony. Dr. Bandler indicated that she recalled that the Mint stated that advance orders could be placed and a discount received. [Staff will inform the Commissioners on how to do this.](#)

Public Programs Committee—[report attached](#)

Congressman LaHood requested that the Public Programs Committee report be given and Mrs. Rosenfeld updated the Commissioners on many of the upcoming activities. Ms. Flinspach and Dr. Bandler gave the report for the February 12th events. Ms. Flinspach noted that a gala birthday celebration had been scaled back. Dr. Bandler outlined the activities for the breakfast, wreath laying and ceremonial activities. She added that the committee is pleased with the number of celebrations occurring around the nation on the 12th. Ms. Flinspach concluded this report by inquiring of Mr. Holzer if he knew whether Mr. Dan Weinberg had had any success in raising money for simulcasting. Mr. Weinberg has not had success to date. Ms. Mackevich stated that the National Park Service was concerned about the cost of this public event and that she and other staffers are resubmitting some of our grant requests to find funding to manage the large crowds that could arrive. Dr. Bandler suggested that networks might provide local feeds to capture other celebrations nationwide.

Education Committee—[report attached](#)

Mrs. Rosenfeld reported for Dr. Bigham who could not be present. Staff has ordered a second printing of 50,000 posters for schools. Over 100 schools will be recognized as Lincoln Legacy schools. Under the Organization of American Historians project, the Higher Education Awards committee members are beginning to receive applications. The deadline for submissions is December 1st.

ENDORSEMENTS

Due to time constraints, Congressman LaHood recommended that Endorsements be handled at a later date. Ms. Barefoot will send them by email and a ballot will be included.

FURTHER BUSINESS

Congressman LaHood asked for further business. Judge Turner asked if provision could be made for Congressman LaHood, who is leaving Congress on January 6th, to continue his

tenure on the Commission. Steps are being taken to amend the legislation so that he can continue to serve. Ms. Mackevich announced that the Thanksgiving fund raising letter had been distributed and that the staff is starting to receive replies.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan L. Flinspach

Joan L. Flinspach, Secretary