

**Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Meeting #34**  
**Washington, D.C., Library of Congress, Jefferson Building, Whitall Pavilion**  
**Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 2:30 p.m.**

**ATTENDANCE**

Commissioners present were Dr. Jean Bandler; Dr. Darrel Bigham; the Hon. Richard Durbin; Ms. Joan Flinspach; Mr. Harold Holzer; the Hon. Tommy Turner and the Hon. (ret.) Frank Williams. Ms. Jean Soman, of the ALBC Foundation Board attended. ALBC staff present included: Ms. Eileen Mackevich, Executive Director; Ms. Sharon Cunningham, Accounting; Ms. Courtney Barefoot, Program Associate; Ms. Teresa Caldwell, Town Hall Coordinator; and Mr. Suresh Venkitaraman, Administrative Assistant. Congressional staff included Mr. Pat Souders from Senator Durbin's office. Guests attending were Ms. Phyllis Ellin from the National Park Service and Mr. Henry F. Ballone, photographer.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Holzer chaired the meeting and called it to order at 2:40 p.m. Dr. Bigham moved the approval of the November 24, 2008 minutes and Ms. Flinspach seconded the motion. It carried. Mr. Holzer issued thanks to Mr. Suresh Venkitaraman for picking up and distributing the Ford's Theatre tickets to the Commissioners.



ALBC FINANCE  
REPORT FOR FEB 11

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

Mr. Holzer asked Ms. Cunningham to give the Finance Report. During the report, Ms. Mackevich announced that Canadian National Railroad has donated \$75,000 to the ALBC. This railroad owns the Illinois Central Railroad, which hired Abraham Lincoln as its attorney on occasion. A question was raised about the accounting with the US Mint for the Commemorative Coin. [Mr. Holzer asked Ms. Mackevich to follow-up with the Mint and to get back to the Commissioners.](#) 260,000 posters of Abraham Lincoln have been distributed to schools across the nation. Mr. Holzer noted that a book fair will be held at Annapolis on April 16 and 17<sup>th</sup>. Since the staff and Commissioners will be occupied with the Lincoln and Emancipation Conference at Howard University on those dates, [Mr. Holzer requested the staff send brochures and other appropriate promotional material.](#)

For pages 18-20 of the Finance Report, Ms. Cunningham circulated an updated handout ([Staff must attach.](#)) Mr. Holzer thanked the staff for their tremendous work on behalf of the Commission. Mr. Holzer announced that President Obama will speak at the US Capitol event.

During the financial report Mrs. Rosenfeld noted that over 5000 had registered for the National Teach-In. Each registrant is a school system, a school building, or a classroom, so the exact number of students participating is unknown. Registrants are from throughout the US and 6 foreign countries. Ms. Mackevich has successfully refocused the Motorola gift of \$100,000 on a future event. The funding of the Douglass Play will be recontracted with the Smithsonian and a reading of it will be held during the Howard University Conference. Denise Graves will sing at the Lincoln Memorial April 12<sup>th</sup> Naturalization Ceremony. Ms. Mackevich hopes that Stevie Wonder will also participate.

Ms. Cunningham said that Howard University has stepped up its role in our joint conference. Ms. Mackevich thanked Mr. Kemp, saying that as a trustee of Howard University,

he was able to help us. For the Oxford University Conference, Ms. Mackevich urged Senator Durbin to assist in encouraging members and former members of Congress to attend. Oxford University has made a specific request for participants from the US Congress.

Ms. Mackevich is contracting with the University of Illinois to continue the website's use as a legacy of the Bicentennial. Dr. Bigham asked if Dr. Burton's acceptance of a teaching assignment with Coastal Carolina University would affect the contract. Senator Durbin responded that Dr. Burton will remain in charge of the University of Illinois computer center. Ms. Mackevich ended the Financial Report stating that the congressionally allocated budget was unchanged. Mr. Holzer asked if there were any more questions. There were none.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT—(oral only)

Before Mr. Holzer turned to Ms. Mackevich for her report, he announced that the staff reports other than the Financial Report were verbal due to their current workload. Ms. Mackevich summarized the events this week:

- Monday evening, February 9, 2009—Mr. Peter Kovler hosted a dinner for Senator Durbin where the Senator spoke about what Lincoln means to him.
- Tuesday evening, February 10, 2009—The Library of Congress opened its nationally touring exhibition, "With Malice Toward None." Senator Durbin spoke and Jean Soman's great grandfather's photographs of Abraham Lincoln are featured in this exhibit. He was a Colonel and the highest-ranking Jewish officer in the Union Army. His photographs and approximately 150 of his letters are in the LOC collection.
- Wednesday evening, February 11, 2009—Mr. Holzer spoke of the upcoming Ford's Theatre event followed by dinner at one of the Smithsonian museums.
- Thursday morning, February 12, 2009—Dr. Bigham asked about the time to arrive at the Lincoln Memorial. Ms. Mackevich stated that the bus will leave the Mayflower Hotel at 7:00 a.m. She added that Michael Feinstein will be performing there and at the breakfast hosted by Dr. Bandler and Ms. Flinspach. The event in the US Capitol Rotunda will follow the breakfast. President Obama will speak there.
- Thursday evening, February 12, 2009—Mr. Holzer reminded Commissioners of the opportunity to attend the Lincoln Group of DC's event at the Willard Hotel, where Senator McGovern will speak about his new Lincoln biography.

#### PROGRAMMING

Ms. Barefoot reported that more than 200 programs had been endorsed, (203 is the current tally) and that 2 more were pending. Dr. Bigham commented that he was pleased to know of this program's growth since he suggested it and drafted the form in the early years of the Commission's history.



TownHallSites  
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TOWN HALL MEETINGS—(report attached)

Ms. Caldwell distributed a report on the Town Hall meetings and requested questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Holzer reminded Commissioners to bring their photo ids to all events. Ms. Mackevich noted that a press conference will be held in Washington to announce the rededication of the land-grant colleges established under the Morrill Act which Lincoln signed into law. The rededication will be a platform for the discussion of Lincoln and Education.

Dr. Bigham asked that potential dates for the two future ALBC meetings in fiscal year 2009 be announced as soon as possible even if they are tentative.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Bigham moved that we adjourn and Judge Turner seconded the motion. Mr. Holzer announced that the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Flinspach, Secretary