

# Minutes

## BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

### MEETING

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 6:00PM

JOHN WOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Rooms D024 & D025

1301 South 48th Street

Quincy, IL. 62305



***"MAKE NO SMALL PLANS - THINK BIG"***

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#### **Bicentennial Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** December 18, 2024

**Time:** 6:00 P.M.

**Location:** John Wood Community College – Paul Heath Fine Arts Center, Quincy, IL

The Bicentennial Commission meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M., followed by roll call and introductions. The minutes from the previous meeting from October 24, 2024 were reviewed and approved without any corrections

The Executive Committee provided updates on various ongoing initiatives, emphasizing the final preparations for the Bicentennial celebrations. Members discussed the upcoming Ag Chamber Business Banquet scheduled for March 11th, which will serve as an opportunity to further promote the Bicentennial and engage with the business community.

The Book Committee reported significant progress on the official Bicentennial book project. Pre-sales continue to be strong, with over 460 books already sold, doubling the October sales figures. The February 25th mailer is expected to further boost sales by reaching a wider audience. The committee announced the appointment of J. Matthew Ward, PHD., a history professor at Quincy University, as the official copy editor. His role will be to ensure the book maintains historical accuracy and a polished narrative. The final print date remains scheduled for July 15, 2025, with public distribution planned for September.

The Marketing Committee shared updates on promotional efforts. Two press releases were sent out, highlighting key legacy projects such as the Adams County Fairgrounds and Courthouse initiatives. A general fundraising appeal was also distributed to encourage year-end giving to the Bicentennial Fund. Additionally, an online store is being set up to offer official Bicentennial merchandise, including t-shirts for commission

members and the general public. The committee also discussed the need to reinforce outreach efforts, as some organizations were still unaware of the February 15th deadline for sponsorship page submissions in the commemorative book. Plans were made to distribute another press release and ensure all committee members had access to the necessary sponsorship forms.

The Education Committee provided an update on the "Bicentennial Ruler" project, confirming that 15,000 rulers had been printed, with 10,000 designated for students in Adams County. The distribution will be coordinated by the Regional Office of Education, ensuring that both public and parochial schools receive them. A supporting curriculum video is in development, with an initial teaser video set to premiere at the Bicentennial Gala. The committee is also working on supplemental educational materials, including a PowerPoint presentation titled "What Happened on This Day?" which will provide historical context for events on the ruler. Additional lesson plans under the theme "When History Comes Alive" will cover topics such as Quincy's role in sheltering Mormons, the contributions of the Colored Infantry, and the impact of major natural disasters in Adams County.

The Celebration Committee outlined major upcoming events. The Bicentennial Bash, set for March 18th, will feature a Grammy-winning band, themed decorations, and Adams County-inspired formal attire. The Adams County Honor Concert on March 16th will bring together top student musicians from across the county to perform a special program honoring the Bicentennial. The Dogwood Parade on May 3rd will have a Bicentennial theme, and discussions were held regarding potential prize incentives for the best-themed floats. The All Faiths Celebration on May 10th will include an interfaith symposium discussing the importance of religious diversity, a dedication ceremony for a new interpretive sign at Adams Park, and a large-scale musical performance featuring the Quincy Symphony. Additionally, preparations continue for the Finale Event at the Adams County Fairgrounds, where heritage farm owners, veterans, and sponsors will be honored. A significant legacy project, the Heritage Farms Pavilion, is being constructed on the fairgrounds as a permanent commemorative structure.

The Fund Development Committee reported that fundraising efforts have been highly successful, with \$427,727 raised so far, not including in-kind contributions from organizations such as WGM and Pepsi. The committee continues to seek additional funding for final event preparations and legacy projects.

The Commemorate Committee provided updates on historical signage initiatives. Over 75 heritage farms, 30 churches, and 150 community organizations have been identified for recognition through commemorative signage. Additionally, a historical timeline installation is being finalized for the Adams County Courthouse.

The Budget Report was delivered by Treasurer Bryden Cory, who stated that total expenses to date amount to \$51,088, with \$21,578 spent since the last meeting. Nearly half of the recent expenditures were allocated to a payment for book production. The commission remains in strong financial standing, with additional funding expected from pledged donations and gala ticket sales.

Meeting adjourned around 7:00pm.