

Minutes

BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

MEETING

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 6:00PM

JOHN WOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Rooms D024 & D025

1301 South 48th Street

Quincy, IL. 62305



"MAKE NO SMALL PLANS - THINK BIG"

The Bicentennial Commission meeting was called to order on February 19, 2025, at 6:00 PM at John Wood Community College. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by roll call and introductions. The Executive Committee, represented by Pam Shaffer, reported on the ongoing efforts of various committees and emphasized the importance of maintaining strong relationships with sponsors throughout the year. She highlighted the upcoming Ag Chamber Business Banquet on March 11, where 1,000 placemats featuring the heritage farms pavilion and Bicentennial logo will be distributed.

The Book Committee, led by Adam Duesterhaus, provided an update on the commemorative book project, stating that over 500 copies had been pre-sold. The final mailer will be sent out on February 25, with a submission deadline of March 31. The book remains on schedule for a July 15 printing and a September 6 delivery. Efforts are being made to include more agricultural and industrial history. The Marketing Committee, encouraged members to reach out for branding materials and assistance in creating marketing content. They also announced a booth at the WGM Home and Living Show on March 1-2, where volunteers are needed.

The Education Committee, chaired by Jack Freiburg, reported on the successful distribution of 15,000 rulers funded by a generous in-kind contribution from Refreshment Pepsi. The committee has also been working on a curriculum project that includes a PowerPoint presentation and teacher guides. Additionally, a three-minute historical video has been completed, with a longer 15-minute version still undergoing revisions. The committee is also working on a Bicentennial history pamphlet and coordinating with WGEM for historical segments.

The Celebration Committee, represented by Kathi Dooley, recapped the Bicentennial Bash and upcoming events such as the Adams County High School Honor Concert on March 16, the Dogwood Parade on May 3, and the All Faiths Celebration on May 10.

Dooley also stressed the need for more volunteers, especially for the finale event. The Fund Development Committee, led by Mark Field, announced that the commemorative coin sets, priced at \$25 each, would arrive in early March. He also noted that 200 coin sets were ordered, with the potential for more if demand is high. Additionally, efforts to reach out to major prospective donors were being wrapped up by the end of February, and an email blast had been sent to the business community to encourage contributions. A general public appeal is still in planning. Mark Field also highlighted the availability of a tax exemption certificate for purchases related to the Bicentennial.

The Commemoration Committee, represented by Leon Wood, provided updates on historical markers, the courthouse timeline, and the heritage farms project. Progress has been made on the Washington Park presidential visit sign, and efforts are underway to coordinate permissions and finalize details. Mark Peter reported on the Heritage Farms Pavilion, which has nearly \$90,000 in secured funding, with additional contributions expected. Plans include a QR-coded map of Adams County farms and a display of historical and contemporary farming images.

Treasurer Bryden Cory reviewed the budget, detailing revenue, expenses, and pledged contributions. He reminded members to monitor their budgets and notify the executive committee of any potential overruns. The meeting concluded with discussions on the mobile museum and pop-up exhibits, as well as service club speaking engagements led by Carlos Fernandez.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

The next full commission meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2025, at John Wood Community College.