

Minutes

BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

MEETING

Tuesday, June 18, 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 meeting of the Adams County Bicentennial Commission was called to order at 6:04 p.m. at John Wood Community College. Roll call and introductions followed, beginning with County Clerk Ryan Niekamp and other commission members and guests. The pledge of allegiance was led by Ryan Niekamp. The minutes from the April 16 and May 21 meetings were approved.

Committee reports began with the Executive Committee, led by Chuck Scholz and Pam Shaffer. Pam highlighted the commission's progress in grant writing and fundraising efforts, noting successes with the Tracy Family Foundation, the Mormon Foundation, and the Marion Gardner Jackson Foundation. Grants have supported education videos, coins for the August 14 Honor Flight, and general event funding. The committee also reported ongoing preparations for the finale event, including ticketing, insurance, and outreach to community service clubs. Updates were also provided on participation in upcoming parades, the Bicentennial booth at the Adams County Fair, and work with WGEM on video production for the finale.

Adam Duesterhaus reported for the Book Committee. The manuscript has been submitted to the publisher, with the first round of proofs expected by June 30. Committee members will review the proofs during sessions scheduled for July 9. The book is expected to exceed 400 pages, and arrangements are being made with a local printer for copies.

The Marketing Committee stressed their availability to publicize commission events and requested that members send in press releases and updates. Current promotions include WGEM partnerships, press releases for Bicentennial art exhibits, and development of a comprehensive marketing strategy with WGEM and other media outlets to support ticket sales for the September 6 finale event.

Jack Freiberg delivered the Education Committee report. He previewed the John Quincy Adams Symposium scheduled for July 19, which will feature multiple historians and presentations. Additional educational events include a Victory Belles performance on August 9 and the release

of a Bicentennial curriculum video in the fall. WGEM history stories are halfway complete, and the Bicentennial pamphlet is in its final version. Historic plaques are being prepared, and the committee is working closely with schools and media to ensure wide distribution and engagement.

Celebration Committee Chair Kathi Dooley discussed preparations for the Camp Point Chautauqua on July 4, which will include a parade, school tours, and a variety of entertainment and historical features. She also noted planning for the finale concert, emphasizing the need for volunteer support and confirming ticketing arrangements. The Adams County Fair will feature a Bicentennial booth with sign-up opportunities.

The Fund Development Committee, represented by Mark Field, reported on the commemorative coin program. Approximately 200 coins were ordered, and distributions have begun. Additional orders may be needed due to demand.

Leon Wood provided updates for the Commemorate Committee, including preparations for the June 21 McKinley's Ag Museum tour, progress at the Heritage Farm led by Dave Bockhold, and work on legacy projects such as improvements at the fairgrounds and a Bicentennial timeline at the courthouse. Plans for a mobile museum and pop-up exhibit were also shared.

Treasurer Bryden Cory presented the budget report.

Under new business, members discussed ongoing event planning and the importance of community outreach. During the "Other" portion of the meeting, Chuck Scholz shared a historical anecdote about Quincy's past, highlighting figures tied to prohibition-era activities and their impact on local history.

The meeting concluded with a reminder that the next full commission meeting will be held on July 23, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at John Wood Community College.