

**INDIANA SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION**  
**Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**February 24, 2025**

Commission Members and/or their Representatives Present: Tom Whiteman, Charlotte Blair, Bruce Kolb, Mandy Montgomery, Deb Bartlett, Robert Sloman, Ted Frantz, Gregg Puls Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Governor's Office, Laura McKee, Sheila Corcoran, Tamara Hemmerlein, and Laura McKee.

A quorum of 10 ISC members were present (ISC By Laws Section X).

Members of the IDVA present:

Guests: George Hanlin of Indiana Humanities Grant Office, and Kurt Ashburn of Hiron.

The meeting of the Indiana Semiquincentennial Commission (ISC) was called to order at 1:06pm by Co-Chairs Charlotte Blair and Tom Whiteman. The meeting was held at the Indiana War Memorial in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, the American's Creed, and The Indiana Flag Salute.

The meeting was started by the Co-Chairs and a brief review of our Commission members and a welcome and introductions from our members.

A presentation was given by George Hanlin, Indiana Humanities Grant Office on the grant process and their specific skill set and how they can help the ISC.

A presentation was given by Kurt Ashburn of Hiron regarding our marketing materials produced, and what additionally they have been working on.

Co-Chair Tom Whiteman discussed the posters located around the room that were produced by the NPS and the London Times in 1976 for the Bicentennial celebration. In addition to describing the flags present, there was a brief discussion on one of the Founding Fathers Roger Sherman as well as information regarding the book Black Writers of the Founding Era, which was edited by James G. Basker and Nicole Seary. The book features more than 120 writers revealing the richness and diversity of the Black experience in the turbulent decades of the American Revolution.

Co-Chair Charlotte Blair discussed the election of 1824 and the return of Gen. Lafayette to America and the celebrations in southern Indiana on May 11-12, 2025, in Kentucky and Indiana. It was also noted that Frederick Douglass spoke in Huntington, Indiana 150 years ago that night on February 24, 1876.

The Secretary gave a brief report, minutes were read and accepted.

Co-Chair Charlotte Blair spoke on the financial status of the ISC and gave the Treasurer's report. The report was read and accepted.

Co-Chair Tom Whiteman spoke on the Annual Report that was filed in December of 2024, the ISC filing of the E-1 (due to receiving grant money through the IDVA) with the Indiana State Board of Account, and the Federal Return completed and filed for the tax year 2024. The Indiana tax return is completed and in the process of being filed with DOR.

Co-Chair Tom Whiteman spoke on the purchase of additional promotional products for Indiana's America250 with Hirons. The ISC members reviewed the list of items available and the costs. A discussion was held, and a decision was made to limit the purchases of supplies at this time.

Co-Chair Charlotte Blair reported that the ISC insurance policy had been renewed.

Bruce Kolb gave an update on the ISC license plate. The plate was available beginning the first of January. We are still waiting for a response from BMV regarding the number of plates sold as of today's date. (**Update:** a total of 583 plates have been sold from January 1, 2025, to March 9, 2025).

As discussion was held regarding the status of the Indiana Budget Bill HB1001 and the potential funding of the ISC.

The next Statehouse day for the ISC when we will have table(s) outside of the House and Senate Chambers to make everyone aware of the ISC and its mission is scheduled for March 18, 2025 from 9am to 3pm. All Commission members are encouraged to be at the State House that day if possible.

The ISC members can still receive a copy of February 13, 2024, Senate Resolution 22.

Co-Chair Charlotte Blair spoke on the progress made with the County Committees and how they are established and the flow of communication to all 92 counties.

Co-Chair Charlotte Blair spoke on the American Battlefield Trust and their Traveling Display which arrived in Indiana. Currently the display is traveling to 5 Indiana locations for approximately 2 weeks per location. She also mentioned the ongoing role the American Battlefield Trust has in preservation of Historic Battlefield sites throughout the country.

Co-Chair Charlotte Blair let everyone know about the Two Lights for Tomorrow celebration on April 18-19, 2025. In Honor of Paul Revere, everyone is invited to place two lights in their windows on the 18<sup>th</sup> and April 19<sup>th</sup>, while April 19<sup>th</sup> is also a National Day of Service.

The Meeting was adjourned at 3:03pm.

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Tom Whiteman, Co-Chair

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Date