

INDIANA SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION
Commission Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2025

Commission Members and/or their Representatives Present: Tom Whiteman, Charlotte Blair, Bruce Kolb, Ben Olsen, Beth Brandon, Nicole Owens, Amanda Holmquist, Brig. Gen. J. Stewart Goodwin, Robert Sloman, Ted Frantz, Sheila Corcoran, Tamara Hemmerlein, Rep. Lehman, Sen Quddoura, and Laura McKee.

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

Guests: None

The meeting of the Indiana Semiquincentennial Commission (ISC) was called to order at 1:05pm 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. The newest member of the ISC is Brig. General Lawrence Muennich, Indiana Adjutant General, Indiana National Guard.

Co-Chair Tom Whiteman discussed Native American Treaties including those in Indiana and distributed multiple comprehensive handouts.

Co-Chair Charlotte Blair discussed the fact that there are new USPS stamps honoring Revolutionary War battles. Also covered was the program Two Lights for Tomorrow, and her meeting Edward Pullen a descendant of Capt. John Pulling, Jr. who placed the lanterns in the steeple of the Old North Church on the eve of Paul Revere's famous ride.

A motion was made to make Edward Pullen an honorary member of the ISC, it was seconded and passed unanimously.

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.

The Secretary gave a brief report stating that Federal and State tax filings were made, and the Indiana Business Entity Report required by the Indiana Secretary of States Office was filed accordingly.

Co-Chair Tom Whiteman spoke on Hirons promotional materials/work including the letter to be mailed to Indiana businesses. Hopefully there will be some progress in the next three weeks.

Co-Chair Tom Whiteman spoke on the ISC website updates, and the continued updating of the website events calendar.

Rep. Lehman reported that the ISC insurance policy had been renewed.

Bruce Kolb gave an update on the ISC license plate. The ISC is now receiving monthly payments from the BMV.

A discussion was held regarding the final version of the Indiana Budget Bill HB1001 and the funding of the ISC. The support for the ISC is now the responsibility of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The Indiana Code (IC 4-23-34) was amended so there is no longer a mention of the “Indiana War Memorial” as it relates to the ISC meeting location and where the July 4, 2026, event is to take place.

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

Co-Chair Charlotte Blair spoke on the National program Light Up Unite where red, white, and blue lights are to be incorporated into the July 4, 2026, celebration. In addition, there is a need to familiarize oneself with the Declaration of Independence in preparation for the Semiquincentennial. Copies of the Declaration of Independence were provided to those ISC members present.

A reminder that Indiana’s America 250 kick-off is to be held on Saturday, June 14, 2025, in the main auditorium of the Indiana War Memorial at 11:00am. It’s also Flag Day and the 250th Anniversary of the United States Army. There will be greetings from dignitaries, a special honor award, and the featured speaker will be National America 250 Commissioner Lynn Forney Young.

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

The Meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm.

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Tom Whiteman, Co-Chair	Date

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Charlotte Blair, Co-Chair	Date