

**Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**August 26, 2024**

**INDIANA SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION**  
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Commission Members and/or their Representatives Present: Tom Whiteman, Charlotte Blair, Bruce Kolb, Senator Jeff Raatz, Robert Sloman, Sheila Corcoran, Nicole Owens, Elizabeth Bostelman, Tamara Hemmerlein, IDVA Director Dennis Wimer, Sam Opsahl, and Scott Stetson.

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

Members of the IDVA present: Kyle Gross.

Guests: Kurt Ashburn and Ana Kotchkoski of Hiron.

The meeting of the Indiana Semiquincentennial Commission (ISC) was called to order at 1:07pm 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, and The American's Creed.

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

Co-Chair Tom Whiteman discussed the Treaty of Camp Charlotte and a presentation he attended on Anthony Wayne (American soldier, officer, statesman, and a Founding Father) given by Mary Stockwell.

Co-Chair Charlotte Blair discussed the relative ages of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and the Bicentennial celebration of Lafayette's last return to the United States. The states of Indiana and Kentucky will celebrate his tour on May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

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. There was a motion to reimburse Co-Chair Charlotte Blair \$4,600 that she had put forth to cover ISC expenses and maintain bank account minimum balance requirements until the receipt of Indiana funds. The motion was seconded and accepted.

A presentation was given by representatives of Hiron. The presentation covered the development of the fundraising phase to raise money. There was a preview of the initial concepts concerning poster and flyer designs, Facebook graphics, and the proposed video and radio scripts. The phrase "Pledge your Allegiance" is the fundraising slogan. Numerous discussions were held concerning where the donations are going and how the money is to be used. Co-Chair Tom Whiteman shared his vision of two additional projects. The projects consisted of a letter of introduction to businesses concerning the ISC, a donation request letter, and the development of

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a brochure to be given to the Indiana General Assembly (IGA). There is also a need for the administrative support person to update the County Committee events on the ISC website. The current agreement with Hiron includes Project Management Support of 288 hours to meet ISC administrative needs.

The ISC insurance renewal was mentioned. The ISC insurance policy - after discussion at the May 20 meeting – a motion was made to renew the current policy without a change in coverage (it is assumed that the cost will increase compared to year 1 of coverage). As the date that this renewal payment is due is likely in December 2024, a final confirmation of the renewal payment amount can likely be discussed at the November 25, 2024, ISC meeting - prior to the actual payment.

Bruce Kolb gave an update on the ISC license plate (in progress and on time).

Co-Chair Tom Whiteman spoke on the request to the 124<sup>th</sup> IGA for additional funding to cover the needs of the ISC from July 1, 2025, to December 31, 2026. There are meetings to be scheduled to talk with Sen. Mishler, Sen. Bray, Sen Taylor, Speaker of the House Huston, and House minority Leader GiaQuinta. The ISC Co-Chairs have already met with Rep. Jeff Thompson, Chairman of the Indiana House Ways and Means Committee. Their ISC General Assembly Funding Request was fully discussed with Rep. Thompson.

Information will also be forthcoming regarding table(s) outside of the House and Senate to make everyone aware of the ISC and its mission. Dates are pending for the months of February and March of 2025. All Commission members are encouraged to be at the State House on those two days.

The ISC is still waiting on copies of the February 13, 2024, Senate Resolution 22.

Co-Chairs Charlotte Blair and Tom Whiteman spoke on the completion of an Addendum to the original IDVA Grant Agreement which will allow for the release of the final \$75,000 (awarded as of July 1, 2024 from the IGA through June 30, 2025). The final portion of IGA funding to the ISC should be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

Co-Chair Charlotte Blair spoke on the progress made with the County Committees (Committees should start forming in August and September) and how they are established and the flow of communication to all 92 counties. It was mentioned that the Indiana Historical Society's Local History Services Department and Indiana Humanities have teamed up to present a series of free virtual and in-person meetings throughout the year in preparation for America250. The next meeting will be on September 19, 2024, at the Benjamin Harrison Home.

Co-Chair Charlotte Blair spoke on the American Battlefield Trust and their Traveling Display which will be arriving in Indiana this Fall. Currently it is planned for the display to travel 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.

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Co-Chair Charlotte Blair let everyone know the ISC state kickoff is scheduled for June 14, 2025 (Flag Day and the birth of the U.S. Army) at the IWM. More details to follow.

Break

Individual Committee Meetings were held and followed their respective agendas.

The Meeting was adjourned at 2:58pm.

_____	_____
Tom Whiteman, Co-Chair	Date

_____	_____
Charlotte Blair, Co-Chair	Date