

M E M O

To: C. Pius Weibel, Chair of the Champaign County Board

From: Barbara Wysocki, Chair of the Lincoln Legacy Committee

Re: Annual Report as approved by the Lincoln Legacy Committee (LLC)

Date: October 31, 2017

The Lincoln Legacy Committee continues to meet in order to provide oversight of the Lincoln Exhibit in the Champaign County Courthouse. Membership includes: Kent Tucker, Anke Voss, Kay Grabow, Ray Cunningham, and Barbara Wysocki. Stan Harper has been the County Board liaison for the past year.

Highlights for the past 12-18 months include:

The LLC has begun meeting on a quarterly basis, rather than monthly. Meetings can be called more frequently if need be and updates are communicated to members as developments warrant.

There has been a decline in requested local school field trips to the courthouse. Those who work with schools attribute the decline to a loss of transportation funding in school appropriations from the state of Illinois. We continue to invite school districts throughout the county to come and experience not only the Lincoln Exhibit but other aspects of the courthouse. Student attendance in 2016 and into the spring of 2017 was around 400. Sgt. Carleton, Joni Markel, court stenographer and Circuit Clerk Katie Blakeman also meet with the students and explain how the courthouse and courts operate and future job and career opportunities for students.

This fall, the DAR brought back its flag display -- 45 flags which tell the history of the U.S. from its colonial days through the Civil War, to more modern times.

Committee members spent time in the spring visiting other historical organizations in Champaign County. Members toured the Homer Historical Society, the Museum of the Grand Prairie, the Rantoul Historical Society, and the newly-restored Champaign County Historical Museum.

The Champaign County Archives is hosting a Family History Fair on Saturday, Nov. 4th at the Urbana Free Library in conjunction with the annual Folk and Roots Festival. Local historical organizations and the LLC will participate with demonstrations about preserving family histories and promoting their respective offerings and programs.

Committee member Kent Tucker and his wife Marilyn have donated a Hensler photograph of A. Lincoln to the County in memory of their deceased daughter. The photo is being provided by the Illinois State Historical Society to county courthouses across the state to celebrate the opening of the Illinois Bicentennial. The formal dedication of the photo will be on Friday, December 1, 2017 at the Courthouse.

