

ANNUAL REPORT
LINCOLN LEGACY COMMITTEE
December 1, 2016

The Lincoln Legacy Committee (LLC) is a citizens' committee created by the Champaign County Board in 2006. Its main responsibility is to exercise oversight of the Lincoln Exhibit in the Champaign County Courthouse. Currently, the membership is Barbara Wysocki, Kent Tucker, Kay Grabow, Ray Cunningham, and Anke Voss. Jack Anderson serves as the County Board liaison to the Committee. Mr. Anderson has been a valuable asset since he has an interest in local history both county-wide and in the village of Rantoul. The charge of the committee is to monitor the Exhibit and the educational activity connected with it.

This year the Annual Report extends from July 1, 2015-December 1, 2016.

In this time period, some 300 students from schools around Champaign County have visited the courthouse. Most of the school interest has come from Unity in Tolono and elementary schools in Champaign. As in previous years, the students' 90 minute visit is divided between the Lincoln Exhibit and an available courtroom. In the latter, students hear presentations from Joni Markel, a court stenographer, Sgt. Carleton of the Sheriff's Department, and the Circuit Clerk. Their presentations focus on courtroom procedures, career opportunities within the court system, and historical evolution of the Courthouse building. In the Exhibit area, students learn about Lincoln's presence and legal work in Champaign County through a multi-media presentation. Following that, students learn about the importance of juries both in Lincoln's time and ours.

This year, the Committee has taken some initiatives to develop new interest in the Lincoln Exhibit as a community and educational resource. Over the summer, letters were sent to elementary and high school administrators and teachers in Urbana inviting them to bring their students on a tour. The invitations were extended to both public and private schools – many of which are in walking distance of the Courthouse. So far, there has not been a response, but normally teachers start booking field trips in December and January.

The Committee also convened a meeting of other local historical museums and organizations in Champaign County. These informational gatherings were to acquaint each other with the work of groups such as Champaign County Historical Museum, Homer Historical Society, the Museum of the Grand Prairie, Rantoul Historical Society, and the Champaign County Archives. Some talk has centered on the upcoming state of Illinois Bicentennial in 2018 and very broad discussions of how we might all collaborate to celebrate this occasion and promote each other's presence and activities.

The Committee also determined that monthly meetings were probably no longer necessary. Beginning December 1st, meetings will be held quarterly (January, April, July, and Oct. on the last Tuesdays of these months). Should there be specific urgent business, special meetings will be called with proper notification.

Respectfully submitted: members of the Lincoln Legacy Committee

