

America 250 Missouri Commission
Monday, May 19, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.
Truman Building, Room 500
(accessible via Webex, as well)

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 p.m. by Chair Renee Pace and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was led by Esther Rosner. Chair Pace called the roll, with members Esther Rosner, and Dr. Gary Kremer and MO Employees Perry Gorrell and Hannah Swann being present. Joining via Webex were Doug Clemens, Alex Curchin, Pat Thomas, Dean Van Schoiack and Al Voelker. [MO State Employees joining via Webex were Aly Gatwood, Amanda Bell, Anna Littrell, Danielle Luecke, Dr. Jason Groce, Lori Simms, Pamela Harlan, Rachel Dunn, Samantha Dickey, Susan German, Taylor Hagenhoff, Trinity Crouch, and Wanda Seeney with members of the Public: Jim Oldebeken and Andrew McKean also joining.]

Chair Pace asked for adoption of the agenda, Alex Curchin moved to approve the agenda which was approved by acclamation.

Chair Pace had provided the April 21st minutes via e-mail and asked for approval to dispense the reading of the minutes. Alex Curchin made a motion to approve the corrected minutes (“250 Task Force” instead of “Semiquincentennial Commission”) The minutes were approved as corrected.

Chair Pace opened the meeting for public comments: none were forthcoming.

Reports

Chair Pace summarized the components of the resolution and the categories in which focus groups had been working:

1. Education: focus on youth, develop activities targeting school age children related to the Charters of Freedom.
2. Engagement: community involvement, develop patriotic activities and events to encourage participation at the local level utilizing county historical societies and organizations.
3. Celebration: focus on kicking off commemoration, and celebrations outlined in the resolution including July 4 and the Battle of Fort San Carlos

These three initiatives “Educate, Engage, Celebrate” were used as the tagline in the logo development

- A. **Logo and Website Development:** Two options for the America 250 Missouri Commission logo were presented. Both contained the same content with slight variation in characters. The commission voted to adopt “option 2” and accepted “Show-Me America 250 Educate – Engage - Celebrate” as the theme and logo. Variations of the logo will be developed as well as usage guidelines.
- B. **Educational Opportunities:** Discussion regarding the desire to promote educational opportunities to public, private, and homeschool students. Perry Gorrell is working with a group developing lesson

plans and will be contacted regarding the incorporation of ideas generated from the education focus group.

- C. **Community Engagement:** Discussion regarding flags for county courthouses included the anticipated company listing from the US Semiquincentennial Commission and investigating what options MVF might have for producing flags. Photo booth cut outs of historical figures is being researched for use at the Missouri State Fair.

Use of the rotunda as a display space was discussed with the announcement that the “American Revolution Experience” traveling exhibit provided by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was secured by local groups to be in Missouri February 23- March 6, 2025. Space permission is being sought.

- D. **State Departments:** Work continues on development of traveling trunks for use by school groups, and flushing out engagement ideas incorporating state parks, historic locations, logging 250 miles, and tour ideas. It was suggested that the Bar and Restaurant Association might produce a “favorite food guide”.
- E. **Mural Update:** The commission is waiting for cost estimates on lamination, shipping, and installation before any decisions can be made. Mrs. Pace will investigate current status on costs and update on securing final resting place in Washington D.C.
- F. **Funding Opportunities:** Funding opportunities that some focus groups might like to consider include: National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and Walmart.
- G. **Collaboration with U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission:** Chair Pace reported visiting with Ed Perez, Director of State and Local Partnerships – US Semiquincentennial Commission, and asked the members to review in detail the State and Territory agreement that would be forthcoming via email. This would include \$10,000 for the commission.

New Business

- A. **State and Territory Convening:** Information was given on the July 28-30 meeting in Washington D.C. , those interested should email Mrs. Pace and she will forward the registration information.
- B. **Focus Group work time:** Chair Pace asked for groups to work on narrowing down the scope of their ideas and determining paths they want to pursue. Information regarding proposing projects for approval at the June 9 meeting will be forthcoming.

Next meeting date: **Monday, June 9 at 10:00 a.m.** with meeting room information to be provided.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.