

## June 12th 2024- Celebrate Indiana 250 Meeting - 2026 Noble County Celebration

### **NOTES:**

**COMMITTEE: Celebrate Noble County Indiana 250"- working committee name**

**DATE & LOCATION:** On June 12th, 2024, there will be a meeting to celebrate Indiana 250 and discuss the 2026 Noble County Celebration was held at 110 S Orange Street Albion IN 46701.

**CONTEXT FOR NEW MEMEBERS: Bill Schultz, a representative of the Noble County Historical Society, reached out to Visit Noble County to explore a national opportunity for the county. In July 2026, the United States will be celebrating its 250th anniversary, and each state and county is encouraged to mark the occasion with a community-wide celebration. The Noble County Historical Society has been tasked with organizing this event, but they need help. As a result, the visitor's bureau has offered to host a meeting to bring together community members interested in history, government, service, civic engagement, and the local community to plan the next steps.**

During the meeting, previous discussions were reviewed and new stakeholders were welcomed. The 2016 block party was also revisited. Some of the ideas discussed for the celebration include a progressive block party throughout the county, a Red, White, & Blue sale, offering unique Zipcodes T-shirts for sale, creating a local logo, providing passports with prizes, and coordinating fireworks in various locations, among other things.

**CELEBRATION DAYS:** The preferred dates for the celebration are from June 24th to July 5th.

**FUNDING:** Funding opportunities will also be explored, and there are plans to sell pre-sale and committee T-shirts as part of the event.

**FOLLOW UP:** Grace to reachout to State and National Orginzer to determine how we can connect the the larger efforts of this celebration.

**HELPFUL LINKS: [America250.org](https://America250.org) & [Indidna250.org](https://Indidna250.org)**

## OTHERS:

National Parks has a website, the DAR State and Nation has a website.

Please note: the Noble County CVB to create Website landing page for this event.

AUGUST MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for noon on August 21st, 2024, at Noble County Public Library- Albion Branch.

NEXT STEPS: **Lori Gagen** to get image and statement out to the local newspaper. **Grace Caswell and Lori Gagen** to help Noble County CVB create landing page on the CVB website for promotion and updates. **Lori Gagen** to Create a spread sheet for contact info to be passed out at the next meeting. **Grace Caswell** to connect with others participating in the Celebrate Indiana 250 folk with help from Bill Schultz.

## **April 3, 2024 - Celebrate Indiana 250 Meeting - 2026 Noble County celebration**

### **I. Introduction**

- A brief overview of the context: *Bill Schultz, a representative of the Noble County Historical Society, contacted Visit Noble County to discuss an exciting national opportunity for Noble County. In July 2026, America is celebrating the 250th anniversary/birthday of our country, and each state and county is encouraged to commemorate this celebration with a community-wide party. The Noble County Historical Society has been appointed to coordinate this effort; however, Bill shared that he/they cannot undertake this alone. Therefore, the visitor's bureau offered to host a meeting where community members passionate about history, government, service, civic, engagement, and the local community can come together to discuss the next steps.*

### **II. The Meeting**

A. April 3rd at 8:30 AM at CVB/EDC 110 S Orange Street

B. Purpose of the meeting- Meeting of the minds to create a future steering committee, and committee chair, and discuss general ideas for the celebration.

C. Attendance of stakeholders- Albion Star Team, Be Noble, Inc, Historic Downtown Kendallville, Ligonier Main Street, Ligonier Visitors Center & Heritage Museum, Mid-America Windmill Museum, Noble County DAR, Noble County Genealogy Society, Noble County GIS, Noble County Historical Society and Jail Museum, Noble County Parks, Noble County Public Library, and Visit Noble County.

### **III. Ideas and Potential Plans**

- A. County Wide Block Party
- B. Museum Passport
- C. Fireworks Display
- D. Revolutionary War Graves Ceremony
- E. Other Potential Ideas

### **IV. People and Communities Needed at the Table**

- A. City Leaders/County Leaders
- B. DAR/SAR
- C. Gene Straton Porter & All Noble County Museums
- D. Chambers & Main Streets
- E. Veteran Groups/Military
- F. Service Groups
- G. Historians/Reenactors
- H. Schools/Teachers/Students
- I. County Historical Society
- J. Additional Contacts?

### **V. Conclusion**

- Call to Action— We set another meeting for June 12th at noon at CVB/EDC 110 S Orange Street to gather other needed participants. At the next meeting, select a committee chair/leader organization. Set meeting times and locations for 2025 & 2026 (quarterly or every other month)) Give each community or point person a part of the celebration so that one is “doing it all” alone.