



September 22, 2025

Dear County Connect Chair,

It is so good to read and hear about the many Semiquincentennial activities and events you have held and are planning for the days ahead as we look forward to July 4, 2026. Here is my seventh letter for you and your committee. I do hope the information I share is helpful and provides you with ideas. If there are ever times when you have questions or you need additional information, please contact me.

Some notes from previous letters:

--Thank you so much for your continued support and promotion of the purchase of the Indiana 250 license plate. They are available through your local BMV office. The State Semiquincentennial Commission does receive some funds from those purchases.

--Be sure your secretary is keeping a complete record of your meetings, projects, and events you are holding. Take pictures of the events and displays. Also, be sure to take a picture of you and your committee members. This will go in a report to the State after our celebration of America 250 concludes in 2026.

--Have you submitted a list of your county committee members to me? If not, please do so. This can be sent to me in the US Mail or sent as an attachment to an email. As the County Connect Chair be sure that I have your current contact information.

--I still have not seen the kick-off date for the final year of the National America 250's "America's Field Trip" contest for students in grades 3 -12. I will keep you posted. Promote this contest with your students. Hopefully this year we will have a 1st place winner. Last year from Indiana's nearly one hundred entries, we had two second place winners. 1st place winners are awarded a fabulous field trip, and 2nd place winners are awarded five hundred dollars.

--Remember as you plan events and other events that are planned in your county to celebrate America 250, complete the event sheet I have sent you and return it to me in the US Mail or as an attachment to an email to me, so I may get it posted on our state website. I hope every county will hold many events.

****As I have stated before the State Semiquincentennial Commission hopes to be able to provide small grants to each county to use for your celebration plans. I hope to provide you with more information by the end of November with the amount available and the process for requesting the grant.

****Recently we placed some tool-kit items on the State website in.gov/usa250 Those items may be downloaded and used as needed.

****In addition, on the State website in the new Tool-Kit section are three video tapes (15 second, 30 second, and 60 second) and one 30 second audio tape that may be downloaded to promote our America 250 on your local media outlets.

****A number of counties have talked about making a time capsule for their county's America 250 celebration that will be opened in 2076 on our Nation's 300th birthday. Here are a few guidelines I received from National America 250, and I will have more in my next letter.

--Time capsule should be stored in a secure location such as a county courthouse, government buildings, or county museum, not buried. Many time capsules that have been buried leaked and the materials inside were damaged.

--All paper items used in the time capsule should be printed on permanent archival paper.

--Plastics are not recommended to be placed in the capsule as they can degrade and damage other items over time.

--The most long-lived material for the capsule is a nonreactive metal, such as stainless steel.

--Directions should be left on how, when, and where the capsule will be opened.

****Continue to promote your county's history, Indiana's history, and United States' history. There are so many ways: cemetery walks, guided tours of historic locations, displays, newspaper articles, early settlers, early homes, and noting other significant buildings.

****We now have a section "County Nuggets" on our state website in the Educational Information pull-down tab. Please submit to me in paragraph form an interesting fact about something from your county, no more than 3 or 4 sentences. Send them to me in the US Mail or as an attachment to an email. Enter the name of your county in capital letters first, then your "Nugget" about your county. You may submit one a month.

Some projects coming in the days ahead. More project details will come.

LIGHT UP UNITED – Beginning in April/May of 2026 we will work to light our buildings, homes and other structures in red, white, and blue lights and decorations. Decorations would stay in place through July 4th.

JULY 4th PROGRAM-EVENTS: As you plan the activities for your county leading up to and including the weekend of July 4, 2026, be sure and share with those planning fireworks or other displays to promote the use of red, white, and blue as much as possible.

AMERICA'S POTLUCK - On Sunday, July 5, 2026, we will promote "America's Potluck Luncheon." They could be family and friends in the backyard or park, the community on the courthouse square or just a few people gathered together. This will be an event across our country.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE: On Wednesday, July 8, 2026, The Declaration of Independence will be read across our Nation and Territories. It was on July 8, 1776, that the Declaration was first read publicly. We will be reading the Declaration at the same time. In Indiana - those in the Eastern time zone will begin reading at 6:00 pm, and those in the Central Time zone will begin reading at 5:00 pm CST.

More information on all the upcoming projects I have listed will be coming to you. Thank you so very much for all your time and many, many talents as you plan and hold your events. May the celebration of America 250 in Indiana be so very special to all and remembered always.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact me.



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Co-chair Indiana Semiquincentennial Commission

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