

June 3, 2026 – America 250 IN Noble planning meeting

NOTES:

The Celebrate Noble County Indiana 250 working committee met on June 3, 2026 in the Cole Room of the Noble County Public Library in Albion. Attendees enjoyed a potluck brunch. Grace Caswell, committee chair, was absent. Lori Gagen, co-secretary, called the meeting to order at about 10:40 a.m.

Attendance:

- Teresa Tackett
- Lori Gagen
- Alexis Wagner
- Judy Richter
- Pam Younce
- Doug Younce
- Mike Fitzgibbon
- Rhonda Stienecker
- Earle Franklin
- Adam Dunlap
- Cyndi Schlemmer
- Larry Palmer
- Tiffany Parker
- Ardean Ebert
- Brittany Leath

Sub-Committee Reports:

America 250 IN Noble Block Party

Lori noted there were only a handful of booths registered to participate in the Block Party on July 3 and asked if anyone in attendance plans to be there. Rhonda replied that Noble Transit will likely participate. The booths registered are:

- Hoosier Heritage Laser
- Gene Stratton-Porter SHS
- Visit Noble County
- Galloway-Prentice Chapter DAR
- Noble County Public Library
- Rehoboth Missionary Church

Booth spaces are free and registration is requested so that details and instructions for setting up can be shared to everyone in advance. Find the registration form online at <https://www.albionstarteam.org/block-party>. The committee felt that inviting Joy LeCount to do a reading of an excerpt from Nelson Prentiss's 1876 address on the square would be appropriate. Adam is willing to read the Declaration of Independence if Lori does not find another volunteer. Lori will keep trying to recruit more people to participate.

Large format Declaration of Independence posters

Teresa brought printouts of the Declaration of Independence that committee members had ordered for \$5 each. Cyndi picked up hers and one for Stone's Trace and will deliver it to Mike Howard. It was already paid for.

Larry Palmer owes Teresa for two posters (\$10 due) and Teresa will deliver the one the Community Learning Center ordered.

Window Display

Alexis reported the window display is now in Avilla at Midwest Land Surveying. It will stay there until the end of July then is scheduled to move to Albion. Lori is awaiting confirmation of the place.

Lighted Lawn Display

The committee discussed in roundtable fashion the tentative schedule for the traveling lawn display. Adam has attempted to confirm something in Avilla but has not heard back from decision-makers. He will try again to confirm an answer by June 15 if it needs to move to Avilla ahead of the Freedom Festival. Tiffany reported they have no place to put the display at the Gene Stratton-Porter site, so that will be taken off the schedule. Larry Palmer indicated he will talk to the Noble County Fair committee about having it at the fairgrounds for the fair, July 11-18th; some suggested having it roadside on US 6 would be a good spot. Rhonda would host the display at the Noble County Council on Aging – they have an ice cream social there on July 24 and room to give it good visibility on the lawn on S Main Street in Kendallville. Cyndi suggested it be moved to Cromwell for their festival in September. Lori will update the schedule published on the landing page for reference.

Avilla Freedom Festival

Adam shared that three musical acts are set to headline the festival and created some excitement with what he could not share (names) due to contract limitations.

Galloway-Prentice DAR

Judy suggested that the CVB should look for notifications sent by Charlotte Blair, with the state planning committee, about a \$1,000 grant available. The deadline for the grant is past, however Charlotte instructed, through Judy, to fill out the request and submit it since funds are still available. Alexis will follow up with Grace at the CVB.

Courthouse Annex Display

Mike asked if anyone knew if more supplies were needed for the Courthouse Annex display. Teresa said she would check it and advise. The display will remain in place until the end of July.

Janus / George Wymon Event

Mike reminded everyone of the activities planned on June 27th celebrating the cross-country motorized bike ride by George Wymon. Lori noted that Janus has an event landing page that provides all of the details of related activities. That link is:

<https://janusmotorcycles.com/2026/05/21/kendallville-honors-a-pioneer-of-the-open-road/>

Other partner updates

Avilla Parade June 27: Ardean was asking if anyone knew if parade participants can throw candy in the Avilla Freedom Festival parade. Adam is going to find out and let her know.

Gene Stratton-Porter SHS: A hike is scheduled for Saturday, June 6. Tiffany noted their “free day” is June 20th and they are asking visitors to pre-register to help in planning.

Recognizing that early July is very busy with the holiday, attendees agreed to move the next meeting from July 1 to July 8, at 10:30 a.m. at the Noble County Public Library, Cole Room. Alexis will advise Grace to make the change and to notify the committee if the location needs to be changed.

- Submitted by Lori Gagen