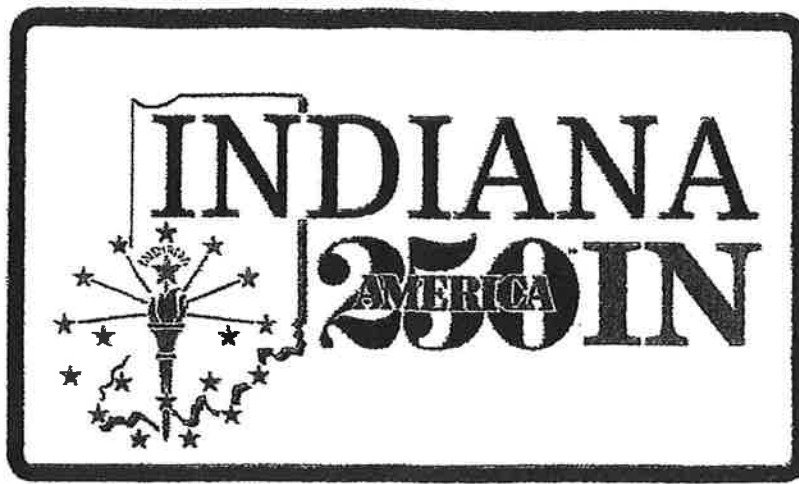




August 15, 2025

Dear County Connect Chair,

We have had our official kick-off for Indiana's America 250 celebration on June 14, 2025. Thank you to all your committees for the time and effort you gave to make the celebrations meaningful in your counties. The celebration in Indianapolis at the Indiana War Memorial was a success as well. Thank you also for sharing the other events and plans you have made for the months ahead. As we celebrated the 249th Fourth of July this past month I think our country's awareness of the coming America 250 has increased.

Our "Two Lights For Tomorrow" event on April 18, 2025 was a wonderful success in Indiana and around our country. Two lights were seen in our county courthouses, city halls, government buildings, businesses and residential homes.

Here are five reminders from my previous letters:

- Submit an event sheet for each of your planned activities. Mail the sheet to me in the US Mail or send as an attachment to an email to me. I do apologize for the problem we had where the events that had been posted were no longer on the state website. All seems to be reposted and running now.

- I encourage you to continue to promote the purchase of the Indiana's America 250 license plate. They are available through your local BMV office.

- As this year continues be sure your secretary is keeping a complete record of the activities you are planning and holding. Also include pictures and any written programs, as the state will be asking for a complete report after our celebration ends in 2026.

- I know as our time goes on there can be changes in your committee's membership. There may be additions as well as people needing to leave. Be sure and keep an accurate record of your membership. Also, if there is a change in the leadership of your county committee, I need to know that. I need to know the name and contact information. It is important that these letters and other contacts are made to the current county connect committee leader. If you have not submitted a current list of your county committee members and the groups they represent. Please do that immediately. Again, send by US mail or as an attachment to an email to me.

--Be sure that you plant and dedicate a "Liberty Tree" in a special place in your county by July 4, 2026. I know many counties have already dedicated the Liberty Tree in their county. Also, design a mural for your county that reflects history and our America 250 celebration.

**We are still waiting for funds to come through the state budget. It is our hope that we will gain sufficient funds through that and business and individual donation to be able to offer small grants to counties. I will keep you posted.

**Recently Indiana's State Commission had some short (15, 30 and 60 second) video/audio announcements made that we will be made available to you to use on your local radio/TV stations and other local media. They are now in the finalization process. Your State Commission will also make available to you some items to promote America 250. I will keep you posted.

**The final year of the National "America's Field Trip" contest will begin soon for students in grades 3 through 12. The theme of this will again be "What America Means To Me." This past year Indiana had two second place winners and over a hundred entries from around the state. I hope there will be many more entries in the year ahead. Please promote this in all your counties. Deadlines and dates for the 2025-2026 contest will be coming.

**Remember to plan and to hold service projects during the coming months. Americans from the first days of our country have always been willing to give of their time and talent to reach out to others. Please promote service projects in your counties under the title of our national program "America Gives." Plan for a day of service for your community where many individuals and groups can be involved..

**Promote your county history – the historical markers and locations, first settlers, local businesses, old buildings and early homes. Plan a cemetery tour sharing the stories of your county's earliest settlers.

**Plan some activities centered on "250," such as awards/recognition for 250 good deeds or acts of kindness, 250 days of walking a mile.

**Plan to put together a "time capsule" for your county that will be opened in 2076 on our country's 300th birthday. What is included will be special to each county.

**Indiana will participate in a national program "America's Potluck" on July 5, 2026. More information will be coming to support this program. This will be a time for families, neighbors, and groups can come together for a meal.

**Another program we will participate in will be reading the Declaration of Independence in a public place. The Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, but read publicly for

the first time on July 8, 1776. So, on July 8, 2026, we will read the Declaration across the country. More information on the time and other details will be coming.

****Remember "Light Up America" will be coming.** Start planning to light up special buildings and locations in your county in "Red, White, and Blue" lights and decorations. This will begin in May of 2026 and go through our celebration on July 4, 2026. Encourage residents to decorate their homes as well.

****Fly our Flag.** Promote for all to fly our flag and know the proper flag etiquette - from flag poles, to flags on homes, to flags in the yard.

Thank you and your committee again for all you have done and are doing in your county to celebrate our America 250 commemoration. Please contact me in you have questions or need information.

Charlotte Hurd Blair

Co-chair

Indiana Semiquincentennial Commission

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