



**What We Collectively Accomplished  
in 2018**



**FY2018 Snapshot of Looking for Lincoln Communities\***

There are currently twenty-four Looking for Lincoln (LFL) communities in the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area (ALNHA). Looking for Lincoln communities include:

- Alton
- Atlanta
- Beardstown
- Champaign County
- Coles County
- Decatur
- DeWitt County
- Edgar County
- Galesburg
- Hancock County
- Jacksonville
- Lincoln
- McLean County
- Metamora
- Mt. Pulaski
- Petersburg
- Pleasant Plains
- Pike County
- Quincy
- Shelby County
- Springfield
- Taylorville
- Vandalia
- Vermillion County



Of the twenty-four Looking for Lincoln communities, eighteen of the communities have active LFL working groups. During FY2018, Looking for Lincoln staff with LaSalle County on the designation process to become a Looking for Lincoln Community. LaSalle County will be designated in FY2019. Looking for Lincoln staff continues working to re-engage existing LFL communities and establish LFL working groups.

\*Community denotes an individual community or a county that works collectively.



### **FY2018 Snapshot of In-kind Match**

#### **Looking for Lincoln In-kind Match: \$1,061,345.94**

(The above in-kind match was collected from ALNHA Steering Council Meetings, ad hoc committee meetings, grants, workshops, the Google Ads Grant, office space, and other heritage area wide projects.)

#### **In-kind Match from Looking for Lincoln Communities: \$141,238.06**

(LFL working group meetings, volunteer time and donated goods & materials for projects and programs that fit within the goals of the ALNHA)

#### **Total FY2018 In-kind Match for the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area: \$1,202,584.00**

### **FY2018 Projects that Benefitted the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area as a Whole**

- **Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area Marketing Initiative.** In 2018, Looking for Lincoln’s marketing efforts centered on public relations and media outreach programs to build awareness of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area – not only among potential travelers, but also among various constituent groups throughout the National Heritage Area. For potential travelers, the focus was on promoting historic sites and attractions, as well as significant events tied to the story of Abraham Lincoln – especially those designated “Looking for Lincoln Signature Events.”

Looking for Lincoln developed a new visitor’s guide for the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area which was distributed to Tourist Information Centers and Looking for Lincoln Communities for distribution. The brochures highlighted the Gateways to the National Heritage Area, Looking for Lincoln Signature Events, tourism offices in the ALNHA and how to stay connected with Looking for Lincoln via social media and websites.

Looking for Lincoln maintained and made minor updates to its website for the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. Looking for Lincoln actively engaged stakeholders and potential visitors with social media via Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. At the end of FY2018, Looking for Lincoln had 77,359 page views on the Looking for Lincoln website. Our social media sites had 5,183 likes on Facebook, 363 followers on Twitter and 289 followers on Instagram. We also have 4,540 contacts in our email database.

- **Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations.** 2018 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. To celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area planned a number of activities and projects as part of the celebration.
  - A new Looking for Lincoln logo was designed for use during 2018.



- A birthday party was held on Saturday evening, April 28, 2018 at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the legislation creating the National Heritage Area.
- Looking for Lincoln Communities developed 20 community boards to highlight what the communities accomplished during the first ten years of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area.
- ALNHA Birthday Social Media Blitz with 38 videos posted on Facebook in 2018.
- **Looking for Lincoln Oral History Project.** Looking for Lincoln in collaboration with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum created the Looking for Lincoln oral history project to capture the history of the organization. Looking for Lincoln staff developed interview questions and conducted interviews. During FY2018, Looking for Lincoln staff interviewed six individuals as part of the Looking for Lincoln Oral History project. The interviews are posted on the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library webpage and linked to the Looking for Lincoln website.
- **Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area *Passport to Your National Parks* Program.** In FY2018, Looking for Lincoln added two new *Passport to Your National Parks* stamps for the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area: Charleston City Hall and Christian County Historical Society in Taylorville bringing the total up to 35 stamps. We also had to replace the stamp for the Lincoln Law Office due to damage. Looking for Lincoln promoted the passport program on the website, in the visitor guide, Facebook, and Instagram. The purpose behind increasing the number of stamp locations is to promote visitation to Looking for Lincoln Communities. The passport stamps are located in Looking for Lincoln Communities in visitor centers and sites connected to Abraham Lincoln life and times. Twenty of our twenty-four communities are currently participating in the program.
- **Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area Signage.** This year, Looking for Lincoln added community signs to the twelve existing interstate signs located near the borders of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. The signs were designed to be placed at the entrances to designated Looking for Lincoln Communities identifying the communities with the Looking for Lincoln brand. Two versions of the sign were created to denote Looking for Lincoln Communities and Looking for Lincoln Gateway Communities. Four communities currently have Looking for Lincoln Community signs installed with several communities are working to get fabricate and install the signs.
- **Looking for Lincoln Wayside Exhibits.** Looking for Lincoln has over 200 wayside exhibits throughout the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. Many of these exhibits are under warranty that expired in 2018 or will expire in 2019. This year Looking for Lincoln staff worked with Looking for Lincoln Communities to replace wayside exhibits while still under warranty. This effort will continue into FY2019.
- **Bring a Lincoln to Your Community program.** This program provided funds for ten Looking for Lincoln Communities to bring a Lincoln actor to their community to enhance existing or special



community events or programs. Collectively, Looking for Lincoln invested a total of \$6,700 and the communities leveraged \$286,856.15 reaching 117,567 visitors. The Lincoln actors were used for both formal and informal educational programs in the communities including: Civil War reenactments, reenactments of speeches, special programs, and informal conversations with visitors.

- **L.E.A.D: Lincoln’s Path to Leadership.** LEAD is a robust, one-of-a kind youth leadership program that utilizes immersive experiences to empower emerging leaders to develop leadership qualities. We specifically select students who have the potential to be leaders, but may not see it in themselves. Participants spend a full week exploring the qualities that made Abraham Lincoln such a great leader in his day. They learn why those same qualities are so important in our leaders today, and how, as individuals, they can apply those qualities as they develop their own leadership skills for the future.

In 2018, forty students from thirty communities in the state of Illinois participated in LEAD: Lincoln’s Path to Leadership. The residential program was held on the campus of Illinois College in Jacksonville, IL from June 10-15, 2018.

The program was developed and implemented by Looking for Lincoln in partnership with: Illinois College, 4H University of Illinois Extension, Lincoln Home National Historic Site/National Park Service, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Abraham Lincoln Association, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Niemann Foods, with major support from Union Pacific.

- **Spirit of Lincoln Your Leadership Academy.** The Spirit of Lincoln Youth Leadership Academy was created to provide youth (5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade) with meaningful and inspirational connections with our nation’s heritage.

In 2018, Lincoln Home National Historic Site and Looking for Lincoln worked with partners on youth programs, including LEAD: Lincoln’s Path to Leadership and the U.S. Colored Troop Youth Employment Program. Consultants were engaged to review, analyze and provide a gap analysis on the youth programs in order to provide NPS and NHA’s with a fully developed and piloted series of programs and activities to engage youth, through the universal icon of Abraham Lincoln.

- **Looking for Lincoln in Illinois Book Series.** The Looking for Lincoln in collaboration with Southern Illinois University Press is publishing a book series entitled *Looking for Lincoln in Illinois*. The purpose of the *Looking for Lincoln in Illinois* Book Series is to tell the story of the distinctive role the region known as the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area played in shaping the man who became the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.

In FY2018, a total of 1,463 books in the *Looking for Lincoln in Illinois* series were sold. Looking for Lincoln promoted the first three books in the series, *Lincoln’s Springfield*, *Lincoln and Mormon Country* and *A Guide to Lincoln’s Eighth Judicial Circuit*. The stories in the first two books are drawn from more than two hundred illustrated wayside exhibits across fifty-two communities in





Illinois. *Lincoln's Springfield* contains fifty stories about Abraham Lincoln and his hometown of Springfield, Illinois. *Lincoln and Mormon Country* tells more than thirty fascinating and surprising stories that show how the lives of Lincoln and the Mormons intersected. *A Guide to Lincoln's Eighth Judicial Circuit* published October 2017 is a guidebook to the circuit. Author Guy Fraker guides travelers through the prairies to the towns Lincoln visited regularly as he practiced law in east central Illinois.

In addition to promoting the first three books, Looking for Lincoln worked with Southern Illinois University Press on the publication of the fourth book in the series, *Historic Houses in Lincoln's Illinois*, which was published in September 2018. The book features 22 historic buildings in the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area that are open to the public to visit. Each site links today's visitors with a place Lincoln loved, a home of a Lincoln friend or colleague, or a spot that illuminates Lincoln's era and legacy in central Illinois.

- **Looking for Lincoln Pollinator Project.** The Abraham Lincoln National Heritage worked with its 24 Looking for Lincoln Communities to identify organizations that are preserving and creating pollinator habitat within the 42 area national heritage area. In FY2018, eleven Looking for Lincoln Communities signed the LFL Working Group Pollinator Pledge and five community organizations signed the pollinator pledge identifying projects that enhanced or created pollinator habitat.
- **Looking for Lincoln Community Capacity Building Training.** Looking for Lincoln held two different training workshops during FY2018: *Maximizing the Resources and Brand of Looking for Lincoln and the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area* and *Tips for Fundraising and Grant Writing*. Twenty-four individuals from nineteen organizations participated in training workshops that were held in the Looking for Lincoln Communities of Springfield and Jacksonville, Illinois.
- **Looking for Lincoln Community Designation Program.** In FY2018, Looking for Lincoln staff worked with the community of Ottawa, IL on the community designation process. It is anticipated that Ottawa will be designated a Looking for Lincoln Community in FY2019. Looking for Lincoln staff also met with the community of Macomb concerning the steps involved in becoming a Looking for Lincoln Community.
- **Looking for Lincoln Signature Events.** The purpose of the LFL Signature Event program is to promote heritage tourism within the ALNHA by recognizing outstanding events that are representative of the Looking for Lincoln brand. The primary focus of these events is to promote the education and interpretation of the life and times of Abraham Lincoln while providing a high level of visitor services.

Four events were designated LFL Signature Events: Lincoln's Festival in Bloomington, History Comes Alive – Springfield, Lincoln Days Civil War Reenactment - Pike County and Lincoln in the District – Quincy. Collectively, LFL invested \$8,250 the communities leveraged \$366,729.33 in cash and in-kind goods and services, and a total of 279,568 visitors were reached.



**Lincoln's Festival in Bloomington** was held on July 20-22, 2018 in Bloomington, Illinois. The Lincoln's Festival in Bloomington is an annual event that celebrates Abraham Lincoln's connection to Bloomington Normal and its surrounding communities. Through Civil War reenactments, tours of historic sites, lectures, and theatrical, cultural, and musical presentations, the Festival's mission is to entertain and engage audiences as well as to promote historic downtown Bloomington as a destination. This event is a collaborative effort between various local entities to tell the local Lincoln story. The event received \$2,750 in funding from Looking for Lincoln and matched this with \$136,867.61 in donated materials and volunteer time reaching 4,750 visitors.

**History Comes Alive** was held from June 5-August 12, 2018 in Springfield, Illinois. History Comes Alive is a daily living history program offered free-of-charge to visitors at the key Lincoln sites in Springfield and throughout the downtown area. In addition to driving visitors to the various Lincoln sites, the program was also designed to bring the HCA program into the downtown shops and restaurants as a business-driver within the historic downtown area. The event received no funding from Looking for Lincoln and matched this with \$100,000 in donated materials and volunteer time reaching 272,168 visitors.

**Lincoln Days Civil War Reenactment** was held on June 2-3, 2018 at Lake Pittsfield in Pike County. This living history event promotes the life and times of Abraham Lincoln through a Civil War encampment and battle, demonstrations, period music, and interpretive programming. The event received \$2,750 in funding from Looking for Lincoln and matched this with \$117,580.28 in donated materials and volunteer time reaching 1,900 visitors.

**Lincoln in the District** was held on Saturday, June 16, 2018 at Washington Park in Quincy, Illinois. This living history event brings Quincy's downtown square to life with living history performances including excerpts for the Lincoln Douglas debate, period music and demonstrators. The event received \$2,750 in funding from Looking for Lincoln and matched this with \$12,281.44 in donated materials and volunteer time reaching 750 visitors.

- **Looking for Lincoln at the 2018 IL State Fair.** Looking for Lincoln brought history to life at the Illinois State Fair from Friday, August 10th to Sunday, August 19th, 2018 in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum & Library, Lincoln Home National Historic Site the McLean County Museum of History, the Lincoln Heritage Museum, reenacting groups, the Museum of the Grand Praire, and Looking for Lincoln Communities. Twenty-two organizations/groups and 175 volunteers participated with eleven different Looking for Lincoln communities represented from throughout the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area during the ten day event.

Visitors to the area had an opportunity to interact with Abraham Lincoln, participate in period games, visit with Civil War and living history re-enactors, build with Lincoln Logs, watch period demonstrations, hear period music and learn about all the sites and activities in the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area to visit. Together, we created awareness of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area at the Illinois State Fair.



- **Annual International Route 66 Mother Road Festival & Car Show:** Looking for Lincoln participated in the 16th Annual International Route 66 Mother Road Festival & Car Show in Springfield, IL on Friday, September 21 and Saturday, September 22, 2018 to promote the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. Abraham Lincoln was the parade marshal for the parade on Friday evening. Visitors had an opportunity to talk to and take photos with Abraham Lincoln and learn about the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area.
- **Looking for Lincoln Wayside Program.** This year, Looking for Lincoln Communities and staff worked hard to inventory Looking for Lincoln waysides and replace faded or damaged waysides before the warranty expires in 2018-2019.
- **Looking for Lincoln & the Illinois Bicentennial.** Looking for Lincoln was an official partner of the Illinois Bicentennial and assisted our partners in getting events and projects as designated as part of the official Illinois Bicentennial.

In addition, Looking for Lincoln was a partner in the Illinois Proud Penny Drive. This two week campaign encouraged Sangamon County school children to donate pennies to purchase a historic Abraham Lincoln artifact, the Sangamon County Minute Book, which contains certification of Lincoln's "good moral character" and permitted him to begin his law career in Springfield. A total of \$18,000 was raised during the campaign and the Sangamon County Minute Book was donated to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum. Looking for Lincoln provided a Lincoln reenactor at several of the school programs held as part of the Illinois Proud Penny Drive.

- **George L. Painter Looking for Lincoln Lectures:** Every year, on the morning of Lincoln's birthday, February 12th, Lincoln Home National Historic Site partners with the Looking for Lincoln, in presenting the George L. Painter Looking for Lincoln Lectures. The goal of the lecture program is to provide information on the rich Lincoln heritage that can be found within the communities throughout the 42 county Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. Together, Lincoln Home NHS and Looking for Lincoln present stories that focus on the central Illinois communities that Lincoln impacted or that impacted Lincoln. The lecture series is part of a day-long program of events in Springfield, IL celebrating Lincoln's life and legacy in coordination with the Abraham Lincoln Association.

The 2018 program featured **Erika Holst**, Curator of Decorative Arts at the Illinois State Museum discussing her forthcoming book *Looking for Lincoln in Illinois: Historic Houses of Lincoln's Illinois*. **Guy C. Fraker**, author of *Lincoln's Ladder to the Presidency: the Eighth Judicial Circuit* will discuss his new book *Looking for Lincoln in Illinois: A Guide to Lincoln's Eighth Judicial Circuit*. **Bryon Andreasen**, historian at the LDS Church History Museum in Salt Lake City, Utah discussing his books *Looking for Lincoln in Illinois: Lincoln's Springfield* and *Looking for Lincoln in Illinois: Lincoln and Mormon Country*. The program was attended by 100 people.





- **Lincoln Legacy Lectures.** Looking for Lincoln co-sponsored the annual Lincoln Legacy Lectures at the University of Illinois Springfield campus held on October 12, 2017. The lecture is sponsored by the Center for State Policy and Leadership, in cooperation with the Chancellor Naomi Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln Studies. The 2017 Lincoln Legacy Lectures, “Lincoln and Education” program featured speakers Dr. Robert Bray, Forrest Colwell Professor of American Literature, Emeritus, at Illinois Wesleyan University and Paula Shotwell, veteran Springfield Dist. 186 teacher and founder of a long-running Living History program for fifth graders. Dr. Michael Burlingame, Chancellor Naomi Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln Studies, offered opening remarks and moderated the discussion. The program featured 260 attendees and the program was recorded and posted for public viewing.

### **FY2018 Looking for Lincoln Community Accomplishments**

- Living History Tours [multiple groups and American Queen arrivals] (Alton)
- Lincoln at Train Day-public event for KidCation on July 31, 2018 (Alton)
- URR Network to Freedom, NPS Cancellation Stamp Ceremony, January 15, 2018. Public event hosted by Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau (Alton)
- Replaced LFL Wayside Panel (Atlanta)
- Installed LFL Community Signage at entrances to town. (Atlanta)
- Published quarterly newsletters containing articles about museum acquisitions, activities, and Lincoln’s connections to Beardstown and developed brochures concerning newly acquired Lincoln artifacts. (Beardstown)
- Participated in community functions: Christmas Night Parade, ZIP Code Day, Taste of Beardstown/Art in the Park, Fall Fun Festival and Parade. (Beardstown)
- Received \$2,000 grant for excellent performance in the 2018 Elevate Community Challenge. Grant will go toward period appropriate renovation of museum entrance foyer. (Beardstown)
- Replacement of 7 Looking for Lincoln signs. (Champaign County)
- Lincoln Lecture Series at the Museum of the Grand Prairie. (Champaign County)
- Lincoln’s Birthday Celebration featuring Kevin Wood at the Museum of the Grand Prairie. (Champaign County)
- Bringing awareness to the public about the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area through promotional materials available at our sites. (Coles County)
- Cross promotion of our sites and steering visitors to visit our other sites. (Coles County)
- 2018 Civil War Weekend (June) and Harvest Frolic (Coles County)
- Illinois Bicentennial with Dr. Samuel Wheeler Program took place on Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Vespasian Warner Public Library Revere Ware Room. Topic: Illinois’ Bicentennial “With a Tip of the Hat to the Lincoln’s.” This was co-sponsored by LHC, Vespasian Warner Public Library, DeWitt County Genealogical Society, DeWitt-Clinton Chapter, DAR and C.H. Moore Homestead DeWitt County Museum. (DeWitt County)
- Lincoln Heritage Committee (LHC) was instrumental in helping the C.H. Moore Homestead DeWitt County Museum secure a Mr. Lincoln portrayed by Kevin Wood, for the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the Apple ‘n Pork Festival through the Looking for Lincoln program (\$750.00). LHC then sponsored Mr. Lincoln on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the Apple ‘n Pork Festival for \$250. (DeWitt County)

- We placed LFL Community Signs at the entrances to our city at the entrances to Paris, IL. (Edgar County)
- Created a Looking for Lincoln History Walk. (Edgar County)
- Completed Hancock County display board for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. (Hancock County)
- All LFL wayside panels replaced under warranty for LFL wayside exhibits. (Hancock County)
- Continue to work in partnership with Jacksonville Area CVB to provide annual cleaning of the wayside exhibits. (Jacksonville)
- Added representative from the Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park to the local LFL Committee. (Macon County)
- Created two Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday videos and the community board which is on display at our local Convention and Visitors Center. (Macon County)
- Sponsored and hosted (in nine community locations) a vastly expanded Lincoln's Signature Event entitled Lincoln's Festival on Route 66, which included 4 new partners: The Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Milner Library, Mid State Cruisers, and Ewing Cultural Center. (McLean County)
- Began working to replace 7 medallions that were lost when 12 deteriorated panels were replaced on 11 Wayside exhibit signs. Began working with the McLean County Museum of History and the Bloomington-Normal Area Convention and Visitors Bureau to enlist the active support of the City of Bloomington's Public Works Department and the Town of Normal. (McLean County)
- Began working on a revision of the bylaws of McLean County's Looking for Lincoln Working Group, in light of the fact that the organization has been in existence for ten years. Our goal is to strengthen the organization and clarify its operational structure, in order to attract additional members, volunteers, partners, and funding. In conjunction with the bylaws revision, we began working on a strategic plan to reorganize the Festival for 2019. (McLean County)
- Project 2 for the Mt. Pulaski Courthouse was completed with the financial help of the State of Illinois. The State of Illinois has also taken responsibility for paying for the Courthouse lawn to be mowed. (Mt. Pulaski)
- The Mount Pulaski Courthouse Foundation continues to raise awareness and funds for the State Historic Site via local news sources, social media, and fundraisers. (Mt. Pulaski)
- Project 3 for the Mt. Pulaski Courthouse is in the discussion and planning phase. (Mt. Pulaski)
- Lincoln Days Civil War Reenactment (Pike County)
- Officially became part of the U.S. Grant Trail (Pike County)
- Dr. Wayne Temple's *Lincoln Springfield/Pittsfield Connection* was published after years. The Abe Lincoln Project of Pike County assisted Dr. Temple with research. (Pike County)
- Facilitated a Lincoln-related community event by serving as an umbrella group for the annual "Lincoln in the District" festival and grew it with additional participants. (Quincy)
- Planned and implemented "Quincy in the Lincoln Era" an all-day interdisciplinary 7<sup>th</sup> grade program involving three teams and three days. 439 students and accompanying adults visited six Lincoln-related sites and completed activities while gathering data in learning activity packets. (Quincy)
- Collaborated with Historical Society of Quincy & Adams County and the Tri-State Civil War Round Table to produce the two-day Ulysses S. Grant Symposium. Speakers included Samuel Wheeler, Larry Werline, Steve Belko, John Alexander, and Tim Good. (Quincy)



- Helped celebrate LFL 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. (Shelby County)
- Distributed Looking for Lincoln/Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area Visitor Guide through the tourism office and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Visitor Center. (Shelby County)
- Grande Levee (June 15-16, 2018): A festival honoring Lincoln and all other representatives in government. (Vandalia)
- Participated in Doors Open Illinois (August 11-12, 2018). Honored Lincoln and representatives at Statehouse Community where Lincoln served. (Vandalia)
- Wine & Ale with Abe on the Statehouse lawn September 29, 2018. (Vandalia)
- Successful Lincoln Birthday Open House and Card Contest. (Vermilion County)
- Continual work on the “Walking in Lincoln’s Footsteps” booklet. (Vermilion County)
- Presented additional programs on Lincoln and local Vermilion County history to civic organization, and DACC Lunch and Learns. (Vermilion County)

### **FY2018 Looking for Lincoln Community Challenges**

The greatest challenges identified by Looking for Lincoln Communities in FY2018 were:

- Lack of financial resources to adequately fund events.
- Lack of collaboration (within the community/county)
- Loss of leadership, no tourism director
- Need for more advertising and promotion
- Need for more volunteers
- Changes in leadership within the LFL Working Group due to the unexpected death of Chuck Hand.
- Changes in leadership: The McLean County Museum of History’s Executive Director, Beth Whisman resigned and was replaced by Adam Lovell. The Lincoln’s Festival board has been working to bring the new Exec. Director, Adam Lovell, up to speed on local projects. Director Lovell has also been regularly attending meetings of the LFL Steering Council. Ms. Whisman has promised to continue supporting the Festival and participated in some of the children’s activities at Franklin Park in July. The Festival’s marketing expert, Ruthie Cobb, resigned her position with the Encounters program, as did Carol Straka, who served as the historical researcher for Encounters. We have found a replacement for Carol but are still looking for Ruthie’s replacement. Bill Prenevost also resigned his position with the IL Shakespeare Festival but is actively working with the Lincoln’s Festival board on the bylaws revisions.
- After the new bylaws are passed, the Festival board will elect 4 new officers and recruit 6 new directors to serve on the board. The board will also begin holding strategic planning meetings in order to capitalize on the new bylaws and organizational restructuring. We hope the planning meetings will enable us to cultivate and recruit new volunteers and working group members and to expand the number of organizations and individuals participating in McLean County's working group.
- One of the major challenges we still face is to make it easier for visitors to attend as many events as possible. We hope to do this by choosing program locations that are closer together and by not scheduling too many events in competition with one another.



- The biggest challenge is still state support however, after seeing improvement this year; it gives the Foundation Board hope for the future with private and public partnerships.
- We suffered from a shortage of volunteers to staff the museum, an ongoing challenge. Also, one of the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum Commission had to resign and we have been unable to find a suitable replacement.

#### **Training Opportunities Requested by Looking for Lincoln Communities**

- Additional Marketing & branding events including use of social media
- How to market with a small or no budget
- Knowing where to find alternate grant sources
- Membership Development
- Fundraising and institutional development
- Getting the younger generation involved in and interested in preserving and sustaining historic sites.