



# MARION COUNTY BOARD

Marion County Sheriff's Office - Basement - P.O. Box 637 - Salem, Illinois 62881  
(618)548-3400 or (618)548-3868/Fax (618)548-2226

Debbie A. Smith  
Chairwoman

Dr. Creighton Engel  
Vice-Chairman

Marion County Board  
Members

District #1  
Tracy Murray  
Brock Waggoner  
Sharon K. Woodward

District #2  
Dr. Creighton Engel  
Jack Riley  
Deborah Reed

District #3  
William "Bill" Henson  
Tyson McHenry  
Steven V. Whritenour

District #4  
Steven Bradley  
Judith Meeks-Hakim  
Christopher B. Krupp

District #5  
Adam D. Smith  
Debbie A. Smith  
David G. Iossi

Marion County Clerk,  
Recorder & Clerk of  
the County Board  
Steven A. Fox

Marion County  
Board Secretary

January 2, 2023

**BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2023  
6:00 P.M.  
BOARD ROOM**

**TO: Adam Smith, Chairman  
Deb Reed  
Christopher Krupp  
Steve Bradley  
Tyson McHenry**

**AGENDA**

**Mr. Adam Smith opening meeting with Pledge Allegiance to our Flag followed with roll by Debbie Smith, Chairwoman.**

**Discussion/Action/Motion**

- 1. Mark Decker, Legislative Liaison: Information concerning actual date of January 24, 2023 being the Bicentennial Anniversary of Marion County. However, County will be celebrating Bicentennial events throughout the year.**
- 2. Additional input and organizing County Board's participation.**

**Motion to Adjourn:**

**Time:**



*Steven A. Fox*

Steve Fox, Marion County Clerk and Clerk  
of the Marion County Board

**BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

January 4, 2023  
6:00 P.M.

Bicentennial Committee Chairman Adam Smith opened meeting with Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Roll Call by County Board Member Deb Reed.

Committee Members present: Deb Reed, Tyson McHenry, Steve Bradley, Chris Krupp and Adam Smith. Other Board Member present: Debbie Smith.

Others present: See attached Attendance Sheet.

Mr. Mark Decker, Legislative Liaison, addressed the committee on the upcoming 200<sup>th</sup> birth date of Marion County and events being planned throughout the year. Salem became the County Seat on January 24, 1823. Mr. Decker introduced Luke Purcell, Vice-President of the Salem Historical Commission. Mr. Purcell addressed the committee indicating that they are planning a bicentennial celebration on July 1, 2023 in conjunction with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration with food trucks, music and having civic groups and churches participate. Anticipating a booklet published for distribution.

Mr. Decker indicated that Representative Blaine Wihour is planning to present a Bicentennial Resolution from the State Legislature at the Courthouse on Tuesday, January 24, 2023.

Wyatt Colclasure, President of the Genealogical and Historical Society, was present and stated that this would really fall under Luke Purcell's realm. He did further state that he would like to see the larger municipalities in Marion County participate.

Karen Short, DAR, was present and she was going to see if their organization was going to plan something in 2023.

Mark Decker has reached out to Little Egypt Parade Chairman and is encouraging the committee to reach out to other annual event planners to see if the bicentennial could be a part of the event. Chairman Adam Smith is going to reach out to Tourism Board and 4<sup>th</sup> of July Hometown Celebration, Halloween Parade and Elmwood Speaks. He also stated that he would look into billboard sign and consider having it rotated in different areas during 2023.

Mark Decker stated whatever we do, it is not to come out of tax payers' money. Deb Reed stated we could look into having signage on SCT buses. Mark Decker would like to reach the young audience to educate on the history of the municipalities in our county. He was looking into having 4 x 8 foot banners made and selling at the price of approximately \$150.00 each to be placed in each municipality. Really need one for the County Courthouse.

Mr. Colclasure stated "be reminded the event on January 24, 2023 is the kickoff of the Bicentennial Celebration."

Mark Decker, stated the March 11, 2023 event "Beans and Cornbread," he reached out to the Ministerial Alliance and Methodist Church. Mark Decker stated the church food is always the best and this will also promote the churches. Proceeds, after expenses, will go back to churches who are doing the beans and cornbread.

Mr. Decker has such a passion to get the young people involved and educate them on our history in Marion County. Oil Fields, Coal, Farming, Railroads, etc. He presented many personal ideas on educating the community. Also, brought up idea of involving graduates this year concerning graduating during the Bicentennial of Marion County. Maybe American Legion and/or DAR would sponsor an essay contest.

Thinking about having beverages and cupcakes at kickoff of Bicentennial at Courthouse on January 24, 2023.

Adam Smith wanted to be assured that the Courthouse would be ready and Sheriff Kevin Cripps indicated that it would be ready. Sheriff Cripps also discussed the cannon be moved over to stairwell from the center of the floor.

Start time at 5:00 on January 24. (Note: since meeting the time has changed to 5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.). This event is prior to the full board meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M.

Sheriff Cripps indicated that the IUKA school band would possibly like to attend and play at the ceremony. Sheriff Cripps will look into their participation.

Bruce Kropp, WJBD radio, will assist getting information out on the Bicentennial if we provide the information to him.

Focus went back to the January 24, 2023 kickoff at the Courthouse. Question arose concerning size of Proclamation. Chairwoman Debbie Smith stated she would like to have on display with the cannon.

Decision was made to have cookies and a small bicentennial cake with lemonade and tea. Stay local.

A follow-up meeting has been set for Wednesday, January 18, 2023 to ensure all plans have been finalized for Tuesday, January 24, 2023, Bicentennial Kickoff. Planning on approximately 100 people attending.

Mrs. Short brought up a time capsule and we will see if communities bring an item for the time capsule. Mark Decker inquired about the old courthouse column received last year.

Adam Smith made motion to adjourn meeting and was seconded by Steve Bradley. Roll call vote: All Ayes. Motion passed.

Adjourned: 7:30 P.M.

*Approved 1/18/2023*

  
Debbie A. Smith, Marion County Board  
Chairwoman

