



*Bicentennial Committee 2008*

Mark Cheplowitz, Chair  
County – Kerry Macomber

*Cities:*

Aurora - George Horvat  
Kent – Christine Craycroft  
Ravenna – Gary Locke  
Streetsboro – Mayor Pavlick  
Tallmadge – Sharon Alexander

*Townships:*

Atwater – Steve Georges  
Brimfield – Sue Fields  
Charlestown – Fiscal Officer  
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## Portage County Bicentennial Committee July 11, 2007 *Minutes*

### Attendance

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present: Portage County - Kerry Macomber; **City** of Aurora–John Olivier, Kent–Christine Craycroft, Streetsboro–Nancy Cobb, Tallmadge–Sharon Alexander; **Townships** of Brimfield–Sue Fields, Deerfield-Bill Westover, Edinburg-Charlene Badger and Linda Dillon, Franklin-Marilyn Sessions, Freedom–Sallie Hubeny, Hiram-Richard Masters and Judy Wilson, Mantua-Mark Hall, Palmyra-Sam Vechter, Randolph-Becky Carter, Ravenna–Wayne Enders, Rootstown–Shirley Riemenschneider; Shalersville-Don MacLearie, Suffield-Ginger Sayre and Windham-Brian Miller and Gayle Poots; **Villages** of: Brady Lake-Les Bennett and Jim Hostler, Garrettsville-Teri Eiermann, Sugar Bush Knolls-Jim Beal; **Guests:** Judi Allen (Kelso House), Ramona Stamm (Kent State University), Howard Mangold (Randolph), Audrey Tillis (Portage County)

Excused Absence: City of Ravenna; Townships of Charlestown; Village of Hiram

Unrepresented: Townships of Atwater, Nelson and Paris; Villages of Mantua and Windham

### Welcome and Roll Call

Mr. Cheplowitz welcomed the group and offered his appreciation for the excellent turn out! Mr. Cheplowitz encouraged each member to review the activities as planned and to make sure that their community is receiving adequate inclusion in the Bicentennial events. The plans are being finalized and this is the time to check in with the governmental leaders and residents and confirm that the Bicentennial plans are not missing a significant community event or feature.

### Approval of Minutes

Approval of the June 13, 2007, minutes was moved by Mr. Vechter; seconded by Ms. Wilson. Upon verbal vote, motion passed with Mr. Cheplowitz abstaining.



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**Committee Reports**

**Finance:** Ms. Carter reported that there was no financial activity during the month of June and that available funds remain at \$10,560. The Bicentennial Committee has received \$35,500 in pledges and invoices will be prepared. The draft contract for “Use of the Portage County Bicentennial Logo” is still being reviewed and additional changes were suggested. Ms. Carter noted that the Portage County Bicentennial logo has been certified with the State of Ohio through the year 2017. The Finance Committee began preliminary discussions on the Parade Registration and the Waiver of Liability forms.

**Marketing:** Mr. Enders has been asked to provide ideas for the cover of the User Friendly phone book. He shared a picture of the Cuyahoga River in Kent with The Star of the West Milling of Ohio building in the background and its reflection on the river. The Committee members agreed this was an interesting and intriguing picture that should be submitted as a possible cover. Mr. Enders indicated that he will continue to capture a suitable picture of the County Courthouse to also submit. It was suggested a low angle, aerial view of Portage County featuring an urban, suburban, agricultural glimpse would be interesting as well. Ms. Macomber shared that Commissioner Frederick suggested using a picture of a barn where the owner has indicated that he was going to paint the Portage County flag.

The Huntington Bank, Garrettsville Branch is offering the opportunity to showcase businesses. It was agreed that our Marketing Committee should develop a table-top display so that opportunities like this could be utilized. Ms. Macomber agreed to forward this information to Mr. Cram.

**Merchandising:** Ms. Eiermann noted that her attempt to secure on-line marketing for selling commemorative merchandise was unsuccessful and asked Mr. Cheplowitz to provide specific vendor information. There was discussion and a hand vote taken on interest among committee members for different bicentennial attire (polo shirts, ball caps, lapel pins, etc.) Ms. Eiermann will contact Communications Factory about samples and bring designs for Bicentennial Committee tee-shirts to the next meeting.

**Operations:** Mr. Beal provided the most recent report of the Requirements for Equipment and Support Services and requested up-to-date information from Committee Chairs. Mr. Cheplowitz and Ms. Eiermann will be working on developing this information for the “after parade” activities on the courthouse lawn for the birthday party.



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**Preview (Cookbook):** Ms. Macomber announced that 200 recipes for the Cookbook were sent to Morris Press Cookbooks on June 28, 2007 for publishing. The Dominion Foundation sponsored the cook book at \$5,000.

**Sports:** Mr. Cheplowitz introduced Mr. Olivier, Aurora representative and Sports Committee Chair. It was noted that the Committee has identified two sporting events: the golf outing and the black stocking baseball game. Mr. Cheplowitz mentioned there has been a preliminary discussion with the City of Aurora to hold an event at Sunny Lake which includes historical vignettes. Chris Craycroft also offered there may be a possibility to use The PORTAGE for a triathlon or circuit run.

**Events/Activities:**

**Legacy Project:** Ms. Alexander has requested that each member fill out a questionnaire. Ms. Alexander will be developing a sample answer to help people develop stories rather than the brief answers that have been submitted. The Record Courier may be doing an article next week featuring the legacy project. Ms. Alexander is trying to secure a site at each political subdivision where interns and volunteers can assist residents in completing the questionnaire.

**Memorial Recognition:** Ms. Riemenschneider noted that the Record Courier featured an article on a 205 year old gravesite in the Deerfield community. She indicated this is the type of recognition she envisions for the Bicentennial Memorial Recognition event and that she is looking into the pricing of providing plaques for each community. She anticipates the program lasting about one hour and encouraged each committee member to be actively involved in their community's program.

**Opening Gala:** Ms. Mazanec is still waiting on table layouts from NEOUCOM.

**Parade:** Discussion regarding appropriate registration fees, participants, etc. ensued. Mr. Cheplowitz asked all Committee members to forward their thoughts and comments to Judy Wilson so that the Parade Committee can consider them when developing the policies for the parade. Ms. Wilson will complete the letter and registration forms to be sent to historical societies, schools, etc.

**Religious Event:** Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Westover will do an excellent job directing the religious event. Mr. Cheplowitz requested that Mr. Miller contact both Hiram and KSU and provide venue information as to how many can be accommodated and also the cost of renting the facilities. Mr. Enders encouraged the committee to be all inclusive of all religions and Mr. Miller agreed noting that his title, "200 Years of Religious Freedom," should imply that all are welcome.



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**Road Show:** Mr. Westover is working on finishing the posters and the final mounting design. Mr. Mangold requested that the Road Show be at the Randolph Heritage Festival.

**Sponsorship:** Mark Cheplowitz and Ms. Macomber continue to actively pursue and meet with potential sponsors.

**Time Capsule:** Mr. MacLearie noted that the Portage County Historical Society has agreed to bury the Portage County Bicentennial Time Capsule next to the Portage County Bicentennial Bell in the rock garden. He asked that each committee member discuss the time capsule with their community and determine what they would like to include in the capsule.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 8, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Coleman Professional Services Sue Hetrick Building, 3922 Lovers Lane (aka Loomis Pkwy), Ravenna OH 44266.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kerry Macomber