New Jersey’s Semiquincentennial

QUARTERLY MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2019
U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission

• New Jersey now has representation on national commission
• Rep. Bonnie Watson-Coleman (NJ-12) appointed in February
• Serving on Education Committee
Additional U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission Updates

- Strategic Plan due by the end of 2019
- Establishment of sub-committees
- Commission’s priorities include:
  - Fostering unity
  - Increasing civic engagement
  - Reaching the next generation
Regional Updates

• New York
  • Hired state historian
  • Initiating planning meetings scheduled
• Pennsylvania
  • Established a statewide semiquincentennial commission
• Massachusetts
  • Established Revolution 250 (under fiscal leadership of Massachusetts Historical Society) to help create programs, partnerships, and opportunities in relation to the Semiquincentennial
  • Website created and events already underway
• Delaware
New Jersey Updates

• Madeleine Rosenberg joins the New Jersey Historical Commission staff as Senior Research Associate
  • madeleine.rosenberg@sos.nj.gov or 609-633-0776

• Upcoming projects include:
  • Engaging a consultant for the initiative's long-range planning process (implemented in spring/summer 2019)
  • Conducting assessment of history education in New Jersey public schools (implemented in spring 2020)
  • Series of listening sessions at the county level and with other communities
Site Assessment Project

- RFP issued in February to find professional consulting firm to:
  - Inspect, assess and estimate costs for improvements to NJ Revolutionary War sites
  - Recommend possible sites for NJ Revolutionary War Visitor Center(s)
- Selection team included representatives from Crossroads, NJHC, and Advocates for NJ History
- Selected team of Clarke Caton Hintz/Hunter Associates/HTC Partners
Ongoing Funding/Development

• Progress made on Campaign Council
  • Objective: raise millions of dollars for site improvements
  • Crossroads leading recruitment of high net-worth members
• Fall fundraiser in planning stages
• NJ State funding for FY2020
  • Early signs showed possible shortfall
  • Crossroads testified at March 27 budget hearing
  • Anticipate level funding
Signage program makes progress

- Crossroads continues to install branded signage at NJ Revolutionary heritage sites
- Newest sign unveiled during Battle of Bound Brook weekend
- More signs in progress in Union and Somerset Counties
- Continuing to attract sponsor funding
Next Steps

• Assistance from site stewards when site assessment team comes to your site
• Listening session follow-up
Resources

• **Community Census Data**
  https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml

• **NJHC Audience Evaluation Workshop Toolkits 2014 - 2017**
Questions?
Next Meeting

Wednesday, July 24, at Camden County Historical Society
Contact Information

• Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area
  Janice Selinger, Executive Director
  609-341-3245
  jselinger@revolutionarynj.org

• New Jersey Historical Commission
  Sara Cureton, Executive Director
  609-943-3306
  sara.cureton@sos.nj.gov