From the Chair
Ray McCaskey

On behalf of our board of directors and staff, it gives me great pleasure to share with you the 2018 Annual Report for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation (ALPLF), which serves the 16th president’s official presidential library and museum (ALPLM).

It has been a remarkable year, particularly as we launched the 200th anniversary of the Land of Lincoln, President Lincoln’s home state of Illinois. At the time Illinois became a state, Abraham Lincoln was a youngster with many challenges, as he and his family were moving from place to place to find a location to permanently settle on the western frontier. Still, Lincoln overcame adversity and eventually moved from Illinois—where he grew from adolescence to adulthood—to Washington, D.C., and the White House.

It is only fitting that in FY ’18 the ALPLM mounted the exceptional exhibit: From Illinois to the White House: Lincoln, Grant, Reagan, Obama, touted as “the centerpiece” of the state’s Bicentennial celebration. The exhibit, generously sponsored by our friends at PNC Bank and the John Ullrich Foundation, contains personal effects and documents from each of the four Illinois presidents, analyzes the close ties the four have had to this great state, and how Illinois’ history, location, and population make it a microcosm of America and a perfect training ground for national leaders. As you are reading this, there still is time (exhibit closes December 31, 2018) to see this exhibit and the remarkable objects that tell the stories of the men from Illinois who became presidents of the United States.

Of course, there were countless other offerings that welcomed you back. Almost 60 author and family friendly events were presented through the end of the calendar year. And the ALPLM continued to be a destination of choice for teachers and students alike. In 2018, through the generous support of our friends at AT&T, the ALPLM partnered with the Gilder Lehrman Institute to host a teachers’ workshop on Lincoln. This is in addition to the more than 75,000 students participating in 1,700 school tours throughout the year, many of which were supported by the Winnick Foundation and the John Ulrich Foundation. Once again, we saw Abraham Lincoln’s global reach with the 11th Lincoln Leadership Prize being presented to former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, raising much needed support.

Paramount, among all of this? We continue to raise funds for the collection once owned by collector Louise Taper. It is our number one goal to bring the campaign for the collection to a successful conclusion. If you have already donated to the campaign or any of our other initiatives, we thank you. Your generosity is most heartwarming. We look forward to working with you in the coming year to ensure the collection remains in perpetuity at the ALPLM and that we further advance Mr. Lincoln’s rich and profound legacy.
To advance our mission and to support the educational and cultural programming of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, the ALPLF receives donations, grants, and sponsorships from individuals, corporations, foundations, and the Lincoln Leadership Prize event. In fiscal year 2018 the ALPLF received grants to support the From Illinois to White House exhibit, field trips for students in Illinois, Papers of Abraham Lincoln, Gilder Lehrman Institute, Living History program and the Oral History program, as well as much needed, unrestricted operating support among other initiatives. We are proud that our foundation continues to provide valuable financial support to the ALPLM, as it has done for nearly two decades.

The foundation’s net assets were down slightly from last fiscal year, but total revenue and support were higher. The ALPLF’s investment asset base is conservatively managed with a mandate to hold 70% of our assets in bonds and short-term secure instruments, and 30% in diversified equities. This mix has provided consistent returns over the years with a minimum of risk and volatility.

We appreciate the loyalty, trust, and support from our many members, donors, and supporters at all levels. Without you, we would be unable to provide essential financial support to the ALPLM and the institution’s exceptional programs and exhibits. Thank you.
Another fiscal year has come to a close and we are most grateful to the thousands of donors who generously contributed to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation for the benefit of the 16th President’s Library and Museum. We have much for which to be thankful. According to Giving USA 2018, the nation’s foremost publication tracking giving trends in annual philanthropy in the U.S., more than $410 billion dollars were contributed to charitable institutions last year, five percent of which were contributed to arts, cultural, and humanities organizations like the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Giving is on the rise nationally and happily, it is the case at the ALPLF as well. We are humbled by the generosity of our many contributors. If you are reading this, you are one and we thank you. Together we are working to tell the great American story of our nation’s greatest president.

And while we are building our membership base, major giving through our Charter program, working to establish and build a strong endowment, and building a more robust planned giving program, we are concurrently working to bring our Permanent Home Campaign for the 1,400-piece collection of Lincolniana purchased in 2007 to a successful conclusion. Some of the collection’s rarest items include: Abraham Lincoln’s presidential seal with bits of red sealing wax still lodged in its mold, a cypher book page on which Abraham the teenager calculates his long division, and an effigy doll of presidential candidate Lincoln, which with the pull of a tissue veil, reveals Lincoln in blackface. We are grateful to the some-2,000 people from across the nation and around the world who have donated to the campaign since its inception to ensure a “permanent home” for the collection at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. We are confident that with such support and momentum, we will successfully complete the campaign so that Mr. Lincoln’s most personal effects remain forever at the ALPLM.

Throughout the year, on a daily basis, we cannot say it enough: “Thank you” for your generous spirit of giving and for caring so deeply about Abraham Lincoln. The man who gave our nation “a new birth of freedom” deserves a “permanent home,” a perpetual endowment and an ever more state-of-the-art Library and Museum. Here is to an even more successful FY ’19.
Lincoln Leadership Prize

The Board of Directors of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation offer special thanks to the following donors for their support of the Lincoln Leadership Prize event honoring Tony Blair, 2018 recipient:

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continued on page 9
For the past nine years, The Winnick Family Foundation has generously supported the Winnick Field Trip Initiative. This funding, intended for students grades 4-12 from schools with low income enrollments above 30 percent, supports transportation costs and ensures free admission to Lincoln’s Presidential Library and Museum.

This past year, eleven visiting school groups represented nine counties across the entire state of Illinois. All but two of the schools receiving funding were first-time recipients. In their applications, many teachers noted that field trips to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum allowed their students to take their learning beyond their textbooks and give them access to experiential learning.

We appreciate the Winnick Family Foundation’s important investment in sharing Lincoln’s legacy with new generations. Field trip grants are an important part of the ALPLM’s work to offer learning experiences for students with limited financial resources. Through the generosity of the Winnick Family Field Trip Initiative, the story of Abraham Lincoln is accessible to students who may not have the opportunity to visit otherwise. We thank the Winnick Family Foundation for their continued support of student field trips to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

Students at [school] are expected to read and cite textual informational and analyze primary and secondary sources. In addition, they must integrate visual information with other information in print. The museum offered an excellent opportunity to practice these skills by exploring the life of Abraham Lincoln. —5th grade teacher, PORTA

At the museum, students had a chance to see Lincoln’s life, experience history first hand, and left with a greater appreciation of both Lincoln and history ... These are experiences that they would normally not have, but were able to experience because of this grant. —8th grade teacher, Belleville

Thank you for the opportunity to bring our students to the museum. They truly enjoyed it, and it was a valuable research experience for their Civil War Walk. —4th and 5th grade teacher, Lincoln
We had a great discussion on the effect that President Lincoln has had on our country and how the Civil War changed America’s future. I was sure to remind students to remember his childhood and how he was from the Midwest and went on to do great things because of his drive. Many of these students cannot see past the town they currently live in so helping them dream and supporting them in that will be my goal from now on. —5th grade teacher, Lincoln

My favorite part of the day would to have been the museum. It really gave me a lot of new information on Lincoln and changed the way I saw him slightly (to my surprise). The Lincoln museum’s wax figures really gave me a great idea of how things were back then due to seeing it right in front of me and being able to imagine myself in those situations. —8th grade student, Belleville

I knew that Lincoln had grown up in a humble environment, living in a log cabin for most of his childhood. It truly hit me just what life was like for him. He became less of this giant, important figure, and more as just an inspired man, who was determined to carry out what he thought was right. —8th grade student, Belleville
AT&T’s generous support made possible a wonderful partnership between the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to provide a weeklong teacher seminar on the writings of Abraham Lincoln to benefit students nationwide.

In June 2017, 35 teachers from 22 states and one from Russia came to Springfield to learn about Abraham Lincoln’s formation as a leader, as he worked his way towards the presidency. Dr. Michael Burlingame served as the lead scholar at the ALPLM. Throughout the week, the teachers spent their mornings in lectures with Dr. Burlingame before going on field trips to Lincoln sites in Central Illinois. The combination of lectures and field trips, paired with special behind-the-scenes interactions with museum staff, interpreters, and three guest lecturers, provided the teachers with an intimate, “only in Springfield” learning opportunity.

Participating teachers were selected through a competitive application process overseen by Gilder Lehrman. Gilder Lehrman uses their Affiliate School program as the source of the program applications. The Affiliate School program is offered free of charge to any school who registers. Schools participating in this program receive several classroom resources, access to teacher professional development programs, such as the summer teacher seminars, and many other benefits.

Prior to the teacher institute, the participants were required to read Dr. Burlingame’s *Abraham Lincoln: A Life* and *Abraham Lincoln: Selected Speeches and Writings* (3rd print edition, 2009) from the Library of America, to help Dr. Burlingame’s lectures come alive for the teachers. The seminar participants were able to have unparalleled access to the international Lincoln scholar, both at the museum during lectures and at several of the field trip sites. To compliment the classroom lectures,
the teachers were taken on field trips to the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Lincoln’s New Salem, the Lincoln Tomb, and the Old State Capitol. The teachers toured each site through guided tours with time for exploration on their own. The tours, led by members of each site’s staff, allowed teachers to visit the locations that helped to shape Lincoln during his years leading up to the presidency.

The teachers heard lectures from three professors and historians from Central Illinois, focusing on different aspects of Lincoln’s life, including his law career and the mid-1800s political climate. Staff from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum also gave the teachers an up-close look at several of the items in its collections, including his law book, the Gettysburg Address, and his top hat. In doing so, the teachers were able to see several primary objects that they will be able to incorporate into their classroom teaching through the museum’s website, Under His Hat (also made possible with generous support from AT&T). At the end of the week-long session, the teachers presented lesson plans and materials they had developed under the guidance of the master teacher attached to the seminar. Finally, the teachers were able to take part in activities created by the ALPLM Education Department, which they were then able to take back to their classrooms. These activities included a simulation game of the development of the railroad system in the United States leading up to and during the Civil War.

After returning home, participants were asked by Gilder Lehrman and the ALPLM to review their experience in the seminar. Participants gave the seminar top marks, with a 100% approval and recommendation rating. When asked how the seminar ranked compared with similar programs the participants attended, the program earned at 4.82 out of 5. Teacher feedback included some of the following:

“This was, easily, one of—if not THE—top professional development seminar I have ever attended. This was an exceptional seminar; one that I think every teacher would be interested in attending.”

“I thought that this was a wonderful seminar. I enjoyed learning about Lincoln and connecting with an outstanding group of teachers. The knowledge that I gained during my week in Springfield will enhance my ability to teach about Lincoln and the issues surrounding slavery and the Civil War. Thank you so much for the opportunity to participate in such an outstanding week.”

Throughout the seminar week, the teachers shared their experiences on their personal and professional social media accounts, as did the ALPLM, using the hashtag #TeachLincoln. Local media outlets covered the program, including radio and print sources. The museum’s press release was picked up by the Associated Press and several of the teacher’s home newspapers ran the article, providing the teachers with a small amount of celebrity status both at home and in Springfield during their visit. One attendee even reported that she was stopped at a restaurant during the seminar asking if she was one of the participating teachers. At the end of the seminar, another teacher reported posting her experience on a website focused on sharing information about professional development opportunities, which garnered several comments about the possibility of the seminar happening again in 2019.

We appreciate AT&T’s generous support to help students and teachers better understand Lincoln’s leadership. Students nationwide will benefit from the in-depth knowledge their teachers have gained at ALPLM and the surrounding historical sites.
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Visitors Emma Lang (left) and Julia Schultz (right) in the “From Illinois to the White House” exhibit.

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continued on next page
History Comes Alive
Thanks to the Dr. Scholl Foundation

Dr. Scholl Foundation

Owing to generous continued support from the Dr. Scholl Foundation, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum’s Living History engages thousands of visitors each year by presenting historic interpreters. Our interpreters are knowledgeable about the historic figures they portray and life during the Civil War.

This past year, the ALPLM’s Living History program offered visitors and school groups an up-close encounter with historical figures, such as Abraham and Mary Lincoln, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, Sarah Bush Lincoln, Louisa May Alcott, Hannah Armstrong of New Salem, Lincoln’s law partner William Herndon, First Ladies Abigail Adams, Dolley Madison, and Martha Washington, Civil War soldiers, and citizens of Springfield and Washington circa 1860s. Living History personnel carefully researched these historical figures and engaged in-character with visitors while dressed in period clothing.

In January, during our commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, living history presenters of Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglass were on-hand to speak with visitors. A reading of Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream Speech,” was also staged for visitors.

During Lincoln’s Birthday commemoration activities in February, a full-day of living history took place, featuring President Lincoln, Mrs. Lincoln, Sarah Bush Lincoln, William Herndon, Hannah Armstrong of New Salem, Mrs. Wade of Ford’s Theater, and Civil War soldiers.

For Women’s History Month in March, Mary Lincoln, Sojourner Truth, and Sarah Bush Lincoln engaged students and visitors about their life experiences. More than 100 visitors attended a special living history presentation about First Ladies Martha Washington, Abigail Adams, and Dolley Madison.

During March-May 2018, the museum was filled with school groups, and many tour groups began to visit in June. The opportunity to have living history interpreters present to engage in thoughtful conversations with visitors was a high-point in our daily programming. Living History added a Ulysses S. Grant presenter in March with the opening of our new Illinois Bicentennial exhibit honoring presidents who called Illinois home.
Several Living History interpreters describe what life was like for a soldier during the Civil War. These exchanges are powerful and the day-to-day life of the soldier fascinates children and adults alike.

This program has enhanced the daily offerings of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum immensely, allowing students and visitors to ask questions and learn about different perspectives they would not have considered otherwise. We are grateful to The Dr. Scholl Foundation for their ongoing investment in this engaging and meaningful program.

"Many visitors know a great deal about Lincoln in the Civil War years but I have found that many are vaguely or even unacquainted with the story of his youth. In my role as his stepmother, I am able to talk to those visitors about the boy Abe and relate his earliest trials and triumphs. Many visitors with young children are eager to talk about what Abe was like as a child and they are thrilled to be able to ask his “stepmother” about those years. We talk about his personality, the chores he was expected to do, and the living conditions in the backwoods. The figure of young Abe on the stump in our Plaza area often causes visitors to comment about his wearing moccasins, comments which I turn into a question for the youngsters: “Has anybody ever told you that your feet are growing too fast?” Many of the children grin at this. I continue, in character, with “Well, shoes cost an awful lot of money and as fast as his feet grew, he wore moccasins because we could make them ourselves.” Most importantly, I think that discussing Lincoln’s early years makes the “great man” a more human figure and gives both adults and children new insights into history. Many of the visitors seem truly delighted to find that the museum deals with this aspect of Lincoln’s life and portraying his stepmother gives me a chance to share details which are not on the storyboards.”

—Carol Jenkins Shafer, who portrays Lincoln’s stepmother, Sarah Bush Lincoln

"Some of the best moments with visitors have been when mothers and daughters approach me. They ask my name and when I reply with Louisa May Alcott, the mother usually gets more excited. She will say to her daughter something along the lines of Little Women was her favorite book. Moments like these are beautiful to witness. Other moments include those who are more aware of Alcott’s background. They ask more in-depth questions and a great discussion happens. When I portray Alcott, I feel as though I am continuing her mission by encouraging people to read good books and to keep learning! It is especially important for young women to see someone like Louisa May Alcott, a woman who walked to the beat of her own drum, stood up for what she believed in, and became a successful author in a time when all of the above was not encouraged for one of her gender. She is a role model no matter what century we live in.”

—Rose Serio Harmon who portrays 19th-century author Louisa May Alcott


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From Illinois to the White House exhibit

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation
Generous support from PNC Bank and the John Ullrich Foundation made possible our bicentennial exhibition “From Illinois to the White House: Lincoln, Grant, Reagan, Obama.” Since it opened on March 23, more than 164,000 visitors have learned more about Illinois’ significant contributions to national leadership. The exhibit examines the connections of those four presidents to Illinois, their achievements as politicians and communicators, and the first ladies who helped them succeed. The exhibit will close this December 31.

Visitors are viewing rare artifacts gathered from institutions across the country, including:

- The table where Robert E. Lee surrendered to future president Ulysses S. Grant during the Civil War
- The note cards President Ronald Reagan used in his “Tear Down This Wall” speech.
- The Grammy that President Barack Obama won for the audio-book version of “Dreams from My Father.”
- The Bible on which Grant’s head rested at his funeral.
- A love letter from Reagan to his wife Nancy.
- Obama’s notes from his “Bloody Sunday” speech in Selma, Alabama.

Students and visitors are especially enthusiastic about the opportunity to deliver the Gettysburg Address from the presidential lectern, including a teleprompter. The exhibit has been accompanied by special programming, such as presentations on Reagan’s near-assassination and on the first ladies. Teachers are using the exhibit to help students learn history by choosing from three different lesson plans and attending special workshops.

Brian Ray, Regional President, Central Illinois, PNC Bank, states:

“PNC is dedicated to supporting Arts, Culture, and Education in the communities we serve. PNC shares the values on display at From Illinois to the White House: Lincoln, Grant, Reagan, Obama and encourages everyone to visit as soon as you can before 2019. Our support of this exhibit helps to showcase the hard work and integrity that helped these leaders rise to excellence and demonstrates what a phenomenal training ground Illinois can be for national leadership. PNC is proud to make this exhibit possible and to give young people a chance to envision themselves as future leaders.”
The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation is also grateful to the John Ullrich Foundation for ensuring that students from Macon, Coles, Moultrie, Douglas, and Piatt Counties were able to experience the ALPLM. More than 520 students from eleven schools visited the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum through the John Ullrich Field Trip Initiative. Six of the eleven schools were able to visit the ALPLM for the very first time owing to the generosity of the John Ullrich Foundation.

Teachers provided overwhelmingly positive feedback after the field trips and their students showed increased enthusiasm for learning history. Select comments can be found below:

“After the visit this spring, the students have continued to express great interest. Much of our student population had never experienced a museum, much less a presidential museum.”

“Students examined the different ‘avenues’ each president took to the presidency. Such avenues exposed divergent paths each president took from Illinois to achieve our highest office. Experiencing each president with primary and secondary sources, along with the interactive features of the displays, assisted students as they attempted to better understand the executive office and its impact. Government is not a concept easily understood by our student body, but this exposure addressed misconceptions and bridged gaps.”

“We are always impressed by the exhibits and how they bring the scenarios to life for the children. From Illinois to the White House had excellent interactive features.”

“By exploring the exhibits at the museum, our students were able to learn more about Lincoln as a person. This evoked an emotional connection from our students to what Lincoln and his family experienced. As chaperones, we heard students discussing what it must have been like for Lincoln and Mary to experience such tremendous loss. Exhibits such as the Slave Auction Block made the historical time period more concrete for the students. They could see the emotions in the eyes of the figures. They were horrified at the thought of a family being torn apart by slavery.”

“Attending the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum was an excellent opportunity for our students to see real artifacts and hands-on experience based on their unit of study. The students were so excited and thrilled to have this opportunity to attend.”

“The students were very engaged throughout the day and have not stopped talking about how much fun they had on the field trip.”

One of our greatest priorities is to ensure that young people can be introduced to and empowered by Lincoln’s remarkable life and accomplishments. For that, we are grateful to PNC Bank and the John Ullrich Foundation for their generous support of the exhibit and field trips.
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