From the Chair
Ray McCaskey

On behalf of our board of directors and staff, I am pleased to share with you the 2017 Annual Report for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation (ALPLF), the official Foundation of our nation’s 16th President. Oftentimes, whether serendipitously or purposefully, leaders come to the fore—the exact person needed for at a precise moment in history—Winston Churchill and FDR in World War II, Abraham Lincoln on the advent of the Civil War. We rarely recognize these leaders for what they are destined to become as they enter into their leadership roles and begin working their magic, but history does. Sound leadership is vital to the success of a nation and no less so for a corporation or charitable organization. Thriving businesses and charities are successful, precisely because of sound leadership. Fiscal Year 2017 began with the appointment of a new leader for our Museum and Library—Alan Lowe. It is safe to say that Alan is the precise person we need at this point in the ALPLM’s history. As our state and nation grapple with ever decreasing financial resources and ever increasing financial needs, it will take strong leadership at both the ALPLM and the ALPLF to lead us through challenging times.

If FY 2017 is a measure of this, then we have cause to celebrate, in spite of the budgetary challenges. The ALPLM thrived opening eight exhibitions, among them, Unfinished Work, The Neiman Portraits, Rare and Rarely Seen and Cubs vs. Cardinals: The Rivalry, (the last of which is on display through the end of 2017), offering roughly 50 author and family friendly events and hosting more than 1,700 school tours providing more than 62,000 students an experience of a lifetime. This was no less true for our Foundation receiving the greatest number of Charter members in FY 2017 than our initial year of operation when the ALPLM first opened its doors. Thousands more from around the globe became members and accessed not only the benefits of membership, but even more so the plethora of permanent and temporary exhibits, programs and presentations the ALPLM has to offer. With the awarding of our 10th Lincoln Leadership Prize to world renowned astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, we closed out the year on a high note, achieving one of our most successful galas in our brief, but accomplished history. You helped make this happen and we thank you—our generous contributors—for the support you have given us as together we advance Abraham Lincoln’s legacy for our posterity.
To advance our mission to support the educational and cultural programming of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, the ALPL Foundation counts on donations, grants and sponsorships from individuals, memberships, corporations, foundations, and the Lincoln Leadership Prize event. The Cubs/Cardinals Rivalry exhibit is an example of a partnership with the museum staff that is proving to be a winner in more ways than one, as foundation donation boxes at this exhibit allow fans to compete to support their favorite team.

We are proud that while our state agencies suffered financially due to the state budget impasse, our foundation managed to continue to provide valuable financial support to the ALPLM. We partnered with the staff to bring new exhibits and learning opportunities which may not otherwise have been possible. And we did this while only showing a slight decrease in our own net assets at the end of the fiscal year.

Investment assets for Fiscal Year 2017 remained relatively stable. Our 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.
Fiscal year 2017 has come to a close, and even a brief glance at this Annual Report lets you know that it has been a successful one. Page after page of donor stories and donor lists lets you know that Abraham Lincoln is beloved and still is as relevant in 2017 as he was more than 150 years ago. People continue to give generously to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation to perpetuate the memory and legacy of our nation’s greatest president. Over the years we have received monetary gifts of all sizes, as well as in-kind gifts—artifacts and documents owned and/or related to Abraham Lincoln and his times. This past fiscal year proved no exception as we so generously received a desk and accoutrements once owned and used by Robert Lincoln when he worked at the firm, Isham, Lincoln & Beale. The gift, generously donated by Jennifer and David Taber, is a beautiful addition to the ALPLM’s current collection of desks, which includes a desk built by Thomas Lincoln and the desk on which Abraham Lincoln wrote his First Inaugural Address. I’m sure you will agree, “A desk is just a desk until it is one owned by a Lincoln family member.” Now, the ALPLM has three by which to tell just part of the story of this great American family. As you will read on page 14 of this report, among the thousands of monetary gifts we received this past fiscal year, one in particular from the Pritzker Military Foundation helped support the ALPLM, while helping to create a museum aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN72), thereby advancing Mr. Lincoln’s legacy on both land and sea. It creates an educational experience like no other for the sailors aboard CVN72. Also, much-needed funds were raised through our annual Lincoln Leadership Prize dinner which honored astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson who spoke to more than 1,000 enthusiastic students and devotees at the ALPLM. The event raised more than $700,000 in one evening, garnered 445 articles and more than 230 million impressions worldwide (thank you Reputation Partners for your outstanding work!). And because of this, more people came to learn the integral role Lincoln played in setting our nation on a course of scientific enlightenment so eloquently explained by Dr. Tyson. We were even fortunate to raise funds through our friendly baseball rivalry between Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinals fans who continue to drop their discretionary dollars and pocket change into on-site donation containers as a way of voting for their favorite baseball team. We’ll give you a hint … the Cubs are leading at the midpoint of this fundraising game in which there are no losers, just generous winners when it benefits Team Lincoln. As you can tell, we are having a great time raising crucial financial support to insure the Museum and Library of our nation’s greatest president, not only survived, but thrived. Your generosity matters and makes a difference and in this regard, we can never say it too often enough: “Thank you.”

From the CEO

Dr. Carla Knorowski
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 Neil deGrasse Tyson, 2017 recipient:

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Our museum, library, and foundation thanks Anheuser-Busch for its encouragement and support of *The Rivalry: Cubs vs. Cards*. This popular exhibit was launched with help from both teams and the National Baseball Hall of Fame and designed by its Senior Curator Tom Sheiber and our Illinois State Historian Sam Wheeler. The exhibit spans 150 years, highlighting the teams’ famous broadcasters, championships, trades and home run races.

The ALPLM tells many stories about Abraham Lincoln and Illinois History but baseball and the Cardinals vs. Cubs rivalry is also an important part of the cultural life of our state. Enthusiastic fans of baseball and both teams have come to Lincoln’s Museum to share stories about their favorite players and learn about the long history of both ball clubs and how their destinies have continued to collide. Executive Director Alan Lowe of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum: “Baseball is the American pastime and a huge part of our history and culture. Few sports stories can top the length, passion and sheer fun of the Cubs-Cardinals rivalry. We’re excited to offer our visitors an unprecedented look at this piece of the Illinois story with generous support from Anheuser-Busch.”

“Anheuser-Busch Companies shares a rich history with both the St. Louis Cardinals and Chicago Cubs and we are proud to partner with each team and their passionate fans. Whether you prefer cheering on the Cardinals at Busch Stadium or rooting for the Cubs at Wrigley Field, you are sure to enjoy *The Rivalry: Cubs vs. Cardinals* exhibit, which provides a fascinating look at each team’s remarkable journey, highs and lows, heroes and, yes, goats. Anheuser-Busch is committed to sharing this important chapter in the story of our national pastime with fans and we thank the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum for its outstanding work.” Tom Roth, Director State Government Affairs at Anheuser-Busch

Baseball fans and history buffs, don’t forget to check out this amazing exhibit before December 31st.
The generous grant from Dr. Scholl’s Foundation allowed an immersive experience for students and other visitors to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in 2017. From February 12 through June 22, the historical figures brought to life for our visitors included Louisa May Alcott, Frederick Douglass, Mary Lincoln, Sarah Bush Lincoln, Sojourner Truth, Civil War soldiers, Mrs. Wade in Ford’s Theatre, and presenters of 19th-century music.

The presenters who portray these historical figures from our country’s past are not actors, though they each have high-quality communication skills and vividly play these characters. These are people who have studied for years, researched their characters as well as the time period. They each carry on conversations with visitors in first-person as the character they are portraying, as well as conversing as themselves to have more in-depth discussions as people ask questions.

“We’ve learned that the conversations these people wearing 19th-century clothing have with our visitors go a long way in deepening the experience of what people learn while here,” says Living History Project Director Phil Funkenbusch. “We have learned that though most people know who Louisa May Alcott is as the author of Little Women, most of our visitors learn for the first time that Miss Alcott was also a nurse during the Civil War in Washington.”

“We have also learned that many confuse Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman and are not exactly sure who Frederick Douglass is,” Funkenbusch adds. “Early on we realized these characters add another level of learning for our visitors.”

We are grateful for the encouragement we receive from the Dr. Scholl Foundation for this on-going program, and are heartened that they chose us for the honor and responsibility of growing this program and enlivening the experience for thousands of visitors to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum.
continued on page 12
On the first Saturday of every month, the ALPLM classroom is filled with middle school-aged children and their families discussing and experimenting with the concepts behind Civil War technology. The program, made possible by generous support from AT&T, is the museum’s popular Civil War Tech designed for students aged 8-12. During the 2016-2017 Civil War Tech programs, more than 3,500 children had the opportunity to learn about Civil War history and science through hands-on activities, demonstrations, and conversations with historians and subject matter experts.

In its second year, Civil War Tech allows students to explore historical topics through the scientific method. Experiments included building trenches and attacking them to see how battlefield tactics changed between the Revolutionary War and the Civil War; diagnosing ill and wounded soldiers; and constructing musical instruments used to give orders on the battlefield. Working together, kids could brainstorm history-based problems and attempt to design and develop solutions using science.

“Civil War Tech creates opportunities for ALPLM visitors, teachers, and students to explore Civil War history through critical thinking while using inquiry and hands-on experimentation methods commonly used in science classrooms. This program allows participants to make connections to STEAM concepts from two different perspectives and opening the possibility of greater comprehension with a two-sided approach to the subject under examination.” – Genevieve Kaplan, Director of Education, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

The program also moved beyond the ALPLM’s wall and headed into school classrooms throughout central Illinois. For a second year in a row, museum staff took the Civil War Tech in the Classroom program to schools within a 50-mile radius of the museum offering more than 2000 educational experiences to middle school students.

Summer 2017 allowed teachers to experience Civil War Tech through professional development programming offered at the ALPLM. Three sessions focusing on the themes of Transportation, Communication, and Medicine, provided teachers with the opportunity to learn about the history of different types of technology, and then participate in activities they can replicate in their classrooms. The Civil War Tech professional development classes brought in more than 60 K-12 teachers from areas throughout Illinois, as well as Indiana and Tennessee.
We are proud to support the Civil War Tech connection between history and technology,” said AT&T Illinois President Paul La Schiazza. “Our signature philanthropic initiative, AT&T Aspire, creates connections that drive innovation in education. Together, these connections are helping students and communities across Illinois and America, including those studying Civil War Tech through the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. AT&T is proud to support this great educational opportunity for tomorrow’s leaders, workers and dreamers.”
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Two friendly rivals at The Rivalry: Cubs V. Cardinals exhibit preview. The exhibit was sponsored in part by Anheuser-Busch. (See article on page 7.)
Throughout its storied history, the United States Navy has honored the American presidency by naming ships in its fleet after U.S. Presidents. Recently, the Navy’s USS Abraham Lincoln was redelivered for its second 25 years of service at sea. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM) and its Foundation (ALPLF) have had a longstanding relationship with the USS Abraham Lincoln and its crew. Over the years, the entities have joined together to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the passing and funeral of the 16th President; collaborated on an essay project which commemorated the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address; participated in the ship’s annual “security stand down” events; and most recently worked with the crew to ensure Abraham Lincoln’s legacy “floats on” through the creation of a Museum aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier.

Based in Norfolk, VA, the USS Lincoln had been undergoing a complete overhaul for a period of years, readying the vessel for its next 25 years of operation. A Museum was created as part of the ship’s overhaul to provide the more than 5,000 crew members with an educational and cultural resource to visit, while at sea and in-port. Not only did the ALPLM and ALPLF assist with design ideas and help to provide historic background about Lincoln and his times, but it also ensured that the Museum’s cases were appropriately filled with a presidential museum quality permanent exhibit. This would only have been made possible through the help of some generous and committed friends.

To this end, the ALPLM and ALPLF teamed up with retired Lt. Col. Jennifer Pritzker, the Pritzker Military Museum and Library (PMML) and the Pritzker Military Foundation, a philanthropic arm of TAWANI Enterprises, Inc., to make the USS Abraham Lincoln’s dream of a floating museum a reality. Through a generous grant in the amount of $125,000 from the Pritzker Military Foundation, they were able to create a museum quality exhibit for approximately 100 Lincoln and Lincoln-related artifacts and documents, including the recording of a video featuring the ALPLM’s Lincoln Curator Dr. James Cornelius providing historical background information on the artifacts and documents in the ship’s collection.

“Shall Not Perish” Abraham Lincoln’s Floating Legacy
The ALPLM and ALPLF have a longstanding relationship with the Pritzker Military Foundation and the PMML collaborating with them on the ALPLM’s Oral History Project and on presentations for the “Pritzker Military Museum and Library Presents,” series among other projects which advance the missions of both entities. The ALPLM is also working with the PMML on projects commemorating the Centennial Commemoration of World War I, including the 100 Cities/100 Memorials grant matching program, which the PMML is spearheading along with the WWI Centennial Commission. These collaborations are made possible through grants from The Pritzker Military Foundation which was created to support non-profit organizations that preserve American military history, that restore historic military artifacts and that provide services and essential resources to active duty military, veterans and families of service members in all branches of the United States Armed Forces.

“When we learned of the USS Abraham Lincoln’s dream to build a small, but mighty museum aboard the carrier, we knew we would find a visionary and willing partner in the Pritzker Military Foundation and the PMML,” said ALPLF CEO Carla Knorowski. “These teams indeed deserve respect for their dedication to the citizen soldier or in this case, the citizen sailor. Through their support of this endeavor, the ship’s Museum now serves not only the sailors who can learn about their ship’s namesake, but also members of the public at large who visit the ship’s Museum on weekends, when the ship is in its home port.”

We also want to thank the United States Navy and the USS Abraham Lincoln for allowing us to partner with them on this historic project which advances Abraham Lincoln’s rich legacy.
$100 - $249 (continued)

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Since April 2015, the Papers of Abraham Lincoln and the ALPLM have enjoyed a partnership with Iron Mountain Inc., a global business dedicated to storing, protecting and managing information and assets. Currently, Iron Mountain provides nearly 40 terabytes (40,000 gigabytes) of long-term archival storage for our master digital images. Iron Mountain’s support furnishes vital long-term preservation of images of nearly 106,000 documents relating to Abraham Lincoln. The preservation of and access to these master files is crucial to our mission and future work to protect, organize and share Lincoln’s incredible legacy with current and future generations.

“The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has assembled a vast collection of images related to President Lincoln, from personal letters to rare photos and White House correspondence. Iron Mountain Incorporated is proud to have created a digital archive to help them safeguard and organize their images for future public access, drawing from our 60+ years’ of expertise in protecting, preserving and managing our customers’ most precious assets. This important project is brought to life through our Living Legacy Initiative, our company’s commitment to preserve and make accessible historical and cultural information, like the iconic pictures and documents related to President Lincoln.” —Ty Ondaž, SVP corporate responsibility and chief diversity officer, Iron Mountain

Many historians have called Lincoln the greatest writer to ever accompany the White House. We are immensely grateful to Iron Mountain for protecting Lincoln’s treasured words. Through the abundance of his writings, we are able to glimpse Lincoln’s thoughts and experiences and ensure new generations can also discover what he saw and felt.
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Sojourner Truth talks to visitors in the Museum Plaza. The Dr. Scholl’s Foundation sponsored the “living history” program.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation gratefully acknowledges the many individuals and organizations whose contributions helped to support the educational and cultural programming of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. Their extraordinary generosity allows the Foundation to foster Lincoln scholarship through the acquisition and publication of documentary materials relating to Lincoln and his era; and to promote a greater appreciation of history through exhibits, conferences, publications, online services, and other activities designed to promote historical literacy.
Oral History

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Oral History Program is dedicated to preserving the stories and memories of Illinois citizens, people from all walks of life. With over 800 interviews on Illinois and American history now preserved, we continue to enrich the Library’s collection. One of the year’s highlights was our move to a new office space, which allowed the program’s many transcribers and editors to work in an area adjacent to the oral history director’s office. This group of volunteers continues to do a remarkable job with our hundreds of interviews. They are the program’s unsung heroes.

Illinois Statecraft remains the program’s top priority, and we added several important interviews to that project. These include interviews with state senators Denny Jacobs and Larry Bomke, plus JFK’s former Federal Communications chair Newton Minow (of TV as a “vast wasteland” fame). All three had important stories to tell about President Barack Obama. That’s true also of long-time lobbyist Bernie Sieracki, who also talked at length about his book on the Rod Blagojevich impeachment trial. In 2017, we culminated our ambitious oral history project on the Governor Jim Thompson administration with a special event held at the Chicago History Museum. It was a fitting conclusion to one of our most valued projects. The project, together with our equally in-depth look at the Jim Edgar administration, provide a comprehensive look at the state’s political history for the past seventy year.

On the lighter side, we completed several interviews with a baseball theme, a fitting compliment to the museum’s popular Cubs vs Cards – The Rivalry exhibit. We had an interview with a former Cardinals bat boy (Kevin Corbin), with a pair of identical twins with split Cubs/Cards allegiances (Gary & Mike Watson), an umpire for Springfield’s vintage baseball team, the Long Nine, and two former players with the All American Girls Professional Baseball League (Maybelle Blair & Shirley Burkovich).

Another very important addition to the oral history collection this year is volunteer Phil Pogue’s series on the Illinois High School Association. As a former principle and football umpire, he has logged decades...
of experience with the IHSA. The project, entitled *Sports Stories – IHSA*, consists of fifty-four interview with coaches, sports broadcasters, IHSA administrators, officials and students, and covers just about every sport and high school competition covered by IHSA. Whether it’s football, basketball, volleyball, wrestling, bass fishing, music or journalism competitions, Phil’s covered it all. It will be a great resource for students, scholars, journalists and researchers in the future.

You can see it’s been a busy year for the oral history program, with 81 interviews added to our collection so far in 2017. Next year we hope to turn our attention to Governor Pat Quinn, if he’s willing, and will continue to find interviewees with important President Obama stories to tell. Check us out at www.oralhistory.illinois.gov when you get a chance. Everything we do is eventually posted on our webpage. There’s something in the collection for everyone.

*Editor’s Note: The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation would like to recognize the generous donors who generously supported the ALPLM Oral History program during this past fiscal year including an Anonymous Volunteer Donor, Clark and Carol Esarey, and Dan K. Webb.*

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The Winnick Field Trip Initiative Helped 700 Students Learn about Lincoln

For the past 8 years, The Winnick Family Foundation has generously supported the Winnick Field Trip Initiative which helps students from all backgrounds be introduced to and empowered by Lincoln’s remarkable life and accomplishments. The Winnick Field Trip Initiative supports the transportation costs of visiting the presidential museum for schools with limited resources. To qualify, the schools must have a low-income enrollment of greater than 30 percent. This year nearly 700 students from grades 4-12 benefited from this support.

The Winnick Field Trip Initiative enables students to visit the museum who might not otherwise have the opportunity. As school funding for field trips diminishes, so too does the chance for students to learn about their world beyond the walls of their classroom and their community boundaries. Throughout the past year, museum staff have spoken with teachers who say that the Winnick Field Trip Initiative provides their students the only opportunity for a field trip.

The Illinois schools who received support through the Winnick Field Trip Initiative were:

Barry: Western High and Western Elementary
Chicago: Our Lady of Tepeyac Elementary
Chicago: Our Lady of Tepeyac High
Chicago: Marquette School of Excellence
Creve Coeur: LaSalle Elementary
Galatia: Galatia Elementary
Kankakee: King Middle Grade School
London Mills: Spoon River Valley CUSD #4
Mason City: Illini Central Middle School
Petersburg: PORTA Central
Wood River: Lewis & Clark Junior High

A teacher from one of the participating schools said that because of decreased emphasis on social studies in the classroom, they formed a social studies club. The grant helped club members visit the Lincoln Presidential Library as well as the state capitol. Two other schools sent high school and elementary students on a joint trip. The older students served as role models for the younger ones in learning about Lincoln.

“A visit to the ALPLM provided students with writing samples, reenactments, and exhibits that they were able to analyze and explore. By seeing these sources first hand, this experience helped students gain a better understanding of the importance of the Civil War and the Reconstruction Era.” —Teacher, Our Lady of Tepeyac High School, 11th Grade

“Many times we hear from our students, ‘I don’t know what to write about.’ When we returned from our trip the students had a new experience packed with knowledge that they did not previously know about Abraham Lincoln with which they could write and speak.” —Teacher, Galatia Elementary School, 6th Grade

“What I liked most was being able to experience our history and government. I really enjoyed being able to learn more about Lincoln and be able to learn more about his life and presidency.” —Student, Western High School

The Winnick Family Foundation focuses its giving in the program areas of education, literacy, health care, art, culture, animal welfare and the needs of the worldwide Jewish community. We appreciate the Winnick Family Foundation’s continued investment in sharing Lincoln’s legacy with new generations.
Our Lasting Gratitude

Founding Charter Members

Before the bands played, the banners waved, and the President of the United States cut the ribbon to celebrate the opening of the most visited Presidential facility in the nation—our founding Charter Members stepped up to put their name on history. As our fiscal year comes to a close, the Foundation would like to once again extend our lasting gratitude for your belief in the project that singularly changed the landscape of downtown Springfield ... educating more than four million visitors so far.

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Editor: Jamie Stout
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Printing:
Frye-Williamson Press, Inc.
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The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation is pleased to extend special recognition to their members for their extraordinary generosity. Space limitations prevent us from listing all of our many annual members and donors, but we acknowledge all of our contributors’ support with warm appreciation. Visit our website at www.ALPLM.org to see a complete list of individuals and organizations who contributed during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017.