

America 250 Committee Meeting

23 March 2026

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The meeting focused on planning and coordinating activities for the U.S.A. 250 celebration, with discussions centered around fundraising efforts including patches and potential pen sales, a Freedom Fest parade, and first responders' certificates.

John reported that patches had been approved and were being ordered, with proceeds planned to be split between Commander Roy, Commander Wayne, and President Jill's projects.

The group discussed creating a QR code for better promotion of the celebration website and Google Forms for tracking events.

Addressed the need for more participation in documenting events through the department website and discussed potential activities like a re-enlistment ceremony at Freedom Fest. The conversation ended with

Another Zoom meeting in mid-April to continue coordination efforts.

Summary

Convention Patch Approval Update:

Fundraising and Event Planning Updates - John discussed ongoing fundraising efforts, including patches that have been approved through National and plans for a raffle with America 250 flasks and Harley decanter to benefit either the VCF or Commander's Project.

Also discussed a potential motorcycle parade at the Springfield Post during Freedom Fest.

The meeting also included a brief discussion about website access issues, with John asking Celeste about retrieving information on submissions.

Department Participation and Events Planning:

John discussed the need to increase participation in tracking responses through the Google Forms document on the department website, noting only three responses had been received so far.

We need to promote the first responders certificate program.

John will handle paperwork and tracking through Google Forms.

Roy discussed plans for a National Guard re-enlistment ceremony at Freedom Fest, where he would administer the oath.

The team was reminded to promote the America 250 initiative at various meetings and direct people to the department website for more information.

Event Promotional Materials Planning:

John mentioned a cost-effective option for printing using an OfficeMax/Office Depot discount card.

QR Code and Social Media Strategy:

The team discussed creating a QR code for a Celebrate America 250 form, with Jeff offering to create it and share it with others. John emphasized the importance of sharing information across multiple social media platforms beyond just Facebook to reach different age groups. Gary requested information about office discounts, which John provided as OfficeDiscounts.org/TAL.

John and Roy discussed an upcoming event on May 9th at 8 o'clock in Flora, which will be part of the U.S.A. 250.

John expressed appreciation for the collaborative efforts of the American Legion family in promoting unity among different organizations.

250th Anniversary Celebration Planning

Event Submission Tracking Process

The team discussed tracking and verification processes for event submissions, with Gary requesting access to view a spreadsheet to monitor division progress without requiring Celeste to send updates manually. Celeste agreed to discuss providing view-only access to the spreadsheet with the relevant person.

First Responder Certificate Distribution Planning:

John discussed plans for presenting certificates and information to first responders and local posts, including a form or flyer to be distributed to division representatives. He committed to drafting a document and sending it to division chairs, including Rodney, to help coordinate efforts.

The group also discussed patches, pins, and raffle items for the convention, with proceeds to be divided between Wayne, Roy, and Jill's projects. Jeff confirmed that a QR code for a Google Form had been designed and sent out, and Jill mentioned following up with Shandy regarding required information and due dates. The group also addressed the process for obtaining certificates for police and fire personnel, confirming that names and military service information should be submitted to Shandy in the print shop, with the specific details to be determined pending further guidance from Wayne.

Respectfully submitted;

John B. Reece Jr.