



America250PA Chester County (CC250) Commission
Government Services Center – Room 351E
601 Westtown Road, West Chester, PA 19380

Hybrid Meeting
August 6, 2026 – 4:00 pm

4:00 p.m. 1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Chair's Welcome

Michelle Kichline, Chair

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

4:05 p.m. 3. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes – July 9, 2026

Action

4:10 p.m. 4. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Action

4:15 p.m. 5. A250 PA CHESTER COUNTY (CC250) BUSINESS

Action

A. West Chester holiday parade float for the Philadelphia Campaign's
3 battlefields in partnership with CC250 - application fee and
advertising wrap banner.

4:35 p.m. 6. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

CC250 Commission & CCPC Staff

A. Name and Logo for 2027

B. 2027 Vision Discussion

1. 2026 Assessment

2. Discussion of 2027 Efforts

i. Vision and Goals

ii. Organization

C. New Charitable Fund Update

5:55 p.m. 7. NEW BUSINESS

Chair

6:00 p.m. 8. ADJOURN

Chair

Next monthly meeting – September 3, 2026

Discussion Questions for CC250 Board

Doing Business in 2027

PURPOSE:

To determine what the board wants to do to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Chester County's unique history in 1777, and how it intends to accomplish it.

2026 Assessment

- 1) What did the Commission do well?
- 2) What would we change if we could go back in time?
- 3) How can we work better with our partners?
- 4) Can we do things now to better prepare for 2027?

Vision

- 1) What is the focus of this Commission?
- 2) What does a successful "Chester County 250th" commemoration in 2027 look like?
- 3) How do we keep momentum going into 2027?
- 4) Should the commemoration be contained to the 30+ municipalities connected to the Phila. Campaign, or should it be celebrated in all 73?
- 5) How and when should the Commission work with its counterparts in neighboring counties?

Organization

- 1) Does the Commission rely on external partners to organize events/efforts, does it organize them itself, or is it a mix?
- 2) What does the Commission ask of the partners it provides funding to?
- 3) Should the committee structure change?
- 4) What kind of board should this be – a working board, a donor board, or an approval board?
- 5) What are the expectations of CC250 Commission members?
- 6) Should the Commission rely on fundraising/donors, county appropriations, or both?

Action Items





MINUTES: Chester County A250PA Commission Monthly Meeting
Hybrid – Chester County Government Services Center, Room 351E

July 9, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Fernando Fonseca, Colin Hanna, Mark Slouf

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Sam Bissenbina, MarySue Boyle, James Christ, Adam Desch, Jane Dorchester, Jennifer Green, Susan Hamley, Larycia Hawkins, Tim Hennessey, Michelle Kichline, MaryFrances McGarrity, Winifred Moran Sebastian, John Reynolds, Krys Sipple, Randell Spackman, tonya thames-taylor

COMMUNITY PARTNERS PRESENT IN PERSON: None

COMMUNITY PARTNERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Dave Stauffer

CCPC STAFF PRESENT IN PERSON: Matt Edmond, Carol Stauffer, David Blackburn, Jeannine Speirs, Bronwen Barnett, Gene Huller

CCPC STAFF PRESENT VIA ZOOM: None

VISITORS PRESENT IN PERSON: None

VISITORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Keith Kurowski, Josh Maxwell, Beth Angiulo

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular monthly meeting of the Chester County A250PA Commission held in person at the Chester County Government Services Center and via Zoom audio/video on Thursday, July 9th, 2026, was called to order at 4:02 P.M. by Winifred Moran Sebastian, Vice Chair.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WAS MADE BY COLIN HANNA, SECONDED BY JANE DORCHESTER, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

THE CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDED: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR JUNE 4, 2026, MEETING OF THE CHESTER COUNTY A250PA COMMISSION.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Matt Edmond presented a snapshot of the America250 Chester County Commission Charitable Fund (CC250) showing donations and authorized expenditures to date.

- Matt reviewed the financial report, tracking budget allocations and expenditures across different funds.
- Expenses in June included \$6,000 for the order of the 3 x 5 CC250 flags from SpeedPro.

GUEST PRESENTATION: America250 Celebration!

- Keith Kurowski, Director of Parks and Recreation, Borough of West Chester provided an overview of the August 2nd event being planned for downtown West Chester in celebration of America 250.
- Streets will be closed. The event includes a Dare to Declare on the Courthouse steps, vendor and information booths, the Lenape Brass Band leading folks to view the new mural on Hannum Avenue/Gay Street. The evening highlight is a 9:00 pm drone show.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, PLANS & BUDGETS

Heritage Sites Committee – Mark Slouf

- **Total budget request for 2027 is \$250,000.** The committee broke this down into two parts:
 - County funding to accompany the 2nd Local Share Account grant application submitted to DCED this past spring, in order to fund the remaining kiosk locations not covered in the first grant; 10 grants @ \$20k = \$200,000.
 - Mini-grants for Heritage Site development is \$50,000.
- The committee also communicated that if the board doesn't choose to use the \$50,000 for mini-grants, these dollars will be utilized along with the \$200,000 to purchase kiosks and develop content as part of the HIN program.

Education Committee – no report from the Committee.

Marketing and Communication Committee – Jane Dorchester

- Social Media Budget request for 2027:
 - Targeted Ads= \$6,370, Boosted posts \$1,230, Large print & media busy = \$2,400 for a total of \$10,000.
- SWAG Budget request for 2027:
 - Stickers = \$700, Magnets = \$1,500, Lapel pins = \$1,590, Pens = \$1,900, Grocery List pads = \$1,000 for a total of \$7,440.
- **Grand Total for MarCom Budget Request for 2027: \$17,440.**
- Jane gave an update on the promotional items that have been distributed to this point.
- Articles published in June focused on Dairy month, and articles for July are being crafted currently.

Fundraising Committee – MaryFrances McGarrity for Winifred Moran Sebastian

- The Chester County Economic Development Foundation is now enabled to receive donations on behalf of the CC250 Commission and provide the appropriate tax deduction receipts for the donors.
- MaryFrances is working with Sam (Technology Cmte) to publish this information and links to the donation process through the CC250 website.
- Discussion then focused on the specific funding of the kiosk project, including current county funds towards matching Phase 1 grants, the county funds for next year and the potential Phase 2 grant, and the need for fundraising.
- To attract donors/sponsorships towards the kiosk project, the Fundraising Committee has been reviewing and has requested additional information on estimated costs for each kiosk, and other specifics, such as location, the look of the kiosk, how it will operate, content, and companies who are building the kiosks. This information should be included in a fundraising packet.
- Adam Desch volunteered to review the draft packet.
- MarySue Boyle asked that members please forward to the Fundraising Committee - within the next 2 weeks – lists of individuals or organization who would be potential funders/sponsors. Colin Hanna volunteered to forward a curated list of supporters of the arts.

Partnerships Committee – Randell Spackman

- Randell did not have an update on PA Day, but David Blackburn reported on information received from America250PA, calling for volunteers for Exton food bank. David will reach out to Brandi Levine on this effort and explore if they still are calling for volunteers.

Technology Committee –Sam Bissenbina

- New articles continue to be posted on the website.
- A button is being placed on the main page that will take user to the updates page where they can enjoy the music “An American Dream,” performed by the Brandywine Valley Symphony.
- The Donate page is being revised with input from the Fundraising Committee.
- Budget Requests for 2027:
 - Website Domain, \$75, Tockify \$80, Mailchimp, \$600 and Metricool Starter, \$240. **Total Estimated Costs is \$995 for 2027.** These programs and associated expenses are duplicated for 2028.

Events Committee – Josh Maxwell

- The Events Committee met with Keith Kurowski regarding possible participation and/or sponsorship of the August 2nd West Chester celebration. Possibilities include events and/or music on the Courthouse steps following the Dare to Declare.
- Another event possibility being discussed has a theme of the 1852 Suffrage Convention in Chester County.
- Susan Hamley, along with John O’Brien of the West Chester Business Improvement District, will host a time capsule in a display case at the Courthouse.

- Laura Manion of the Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry may be amenable to having their fall event focus on a 250 theme if we raise some funds towards the event.
- Krys Sipple suggested that it is administratively easier for us to provide funds as a SPONSOR rather than providing mini-grants.
- Josh reported that the founding of Lincoln University in 1854 could also be a focus of an event(s). Larycia Hawkins added that Lincoln University will host a second symposium on October 14 at the Public History Center.

Executive Committee – No updates

A250PA CHESTER COUNTY (CC250) BUSINESS

- Matt Edmond announced that the budget requests presented at this meeting will be included in the Chester County budget proposal, either in the Capital budget or the CCPC operation budget.
- Beverly Sheppard has submitted her resignation. A discussion of the Education Committee and a possible reorganization will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting. Michelle asked for any recommendations to be sent to her on the open Education Committee Chair position.
- Matt Edmond presented the social media stats for May 2026. Not surprisingly, in the three months leading up to July 4 (April, May, and June), website hits and social media interactions focused mostly on upcoming events.

PARTNER WORK UPDATES

Chester County Planning Commission – Matt Edmond

- Kiosks – Marshallton & Phoenixville upgrades
 - MillerDesign is working on the upgrades.
- Kiosk – Phase 1 Project
 - The bid scope for Kiosk installation has been provided to the County Procurement Dept. and we are still awaiting an update on its inclusion into Costars.
- HIN Brochure Design
 - Mark Slouf reported that the project has been rescheduled for this coming fall with the goal of working with Cliff Parker in Archives to coordinate the brochure design to align with the travelling exhibit.
- Flag project update
 - The new 3 x 5 residential flags are being created and will be ready shortly.
 - Matt Edmond asked that the mileage reimbursement expenses – for CCPC staff driving their own vehicles to deliver the 150 flags – be taken out of the CC250 county budget rather than the CCPC travel budget.
 - The Commission discussed the distribution of the three remaining 4x6 flags.

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE THREE REMAINING 4X6 FLAGS TO 1) MARSHALLTON VILLAGE HERITAGE CENTER AT THE REQUEST OF MARK SLOUF, 2) PEOPLE’S HALL IN EAST FALLOWFIELD AT THE REQUEST OF DR. T3, AND 3)

THORNBURY FARMS AT THE REQUEST OF RANDELL SPACKMAN WAS MADE BY COLIN HANNA, SECONDED BY MARYSUE BOYLE, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

- Planning for 2027 Commemoration
 - Matt Edmond posed questions to the Commission to begin the discussion on the planning for 2027. Notable remarks and/or decisions resulting from this discussion include:
 - 2027 should include an effort to educate people (for perhaps the first time) about the history of the area and the underlying heritage. Historical societies in the area should be our partners in creating a communication coalition.
 - We should work with Delco and Montco in our efforts.
 - The educational narrative needed has already been created through the HIN effort.
 - Historical military operations will be a focus and so support of organizations such as SAR or DAR will be important.
 - Volunteers and funding are vital to support our ideas. Without either, we won't be successful in an event.
 - Do we provide financial support to an existing event, provide funding to an organization that will plan a new event, or organize our own events?
 - Do we have the authority to change our name and/or our logo? Can we continue to use the America250PA Chester County logo?
 - Follow up actions:
 - David Blackburn will reach out to America250 PA for the use of the logo into 2027.
 - The above suggestions will be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting and ideas brought to the full Commission meeting on August 6th.

Community Partners

- Chester County Tourism – Susan Hamley
 - Historic by Nature is the current campaign and a new video has been produced. A link to the video will be forwarded to the Commission.
- Chester County History Center – Jennifer Green
 - Jennifer provided an update on their Revolutionary War walking tours, and upcoming cannon unveiling.
- Chester County Parks Department - Dave Stauffer
 - David provided an update on the Exton Community Day, which includes a concert, fireworks and 250 themes.
 - Ranger Jay Erb is hosting We the People program at Hibernia Mansion with 6 speakers.
- Keep Chester County Beautiful (KCCB) – Matt Edmond for Rachael Griffith

- The Woven Mural project is being displayed at the Hankin Library and will be at Exton Library in September.
- 24 new volunteer groups have been organized in the county – the goal is 50 groups, so the progress is half-way.
- The KCCB/250th partnership program is looking for new ways to promote the 250th campaign this fall from September 1 to the end of November. Please send any ideas to Rachael.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mark Slouf reminded all about the Marshallton 250th Celebration this coming Sunday July 19th.
- Matt Edmond reported on the following:
 - We have several open seats on the Commission as we are allowed 35 seats. We are at 25 members currently. Please send any candidate names to Michelle Kichline.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 6:00 PM WAS MADE BY COLIN HANNA, SECONDED BY MARY SUE BOYLE, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryFrances McGarrity, Secretary
Chester County A250PA Commission

MM/brb

Financial Report



Financial Update – August 6, 2026

Contributions

- No new contributions

Expenditures

- Boosted Facebook posts in July were \$19.88
- Mileage for delivering flags is \$400.21
- Support for WCACG's August 2nd event in WC is \$1,000

Total unallocated funds balance: \$16,414.46

America 250 Chester County Commission Charitable Fund (CC250)

Snapshot as of 7/30/2026

FUND SUMMARY

Fund America250 PA Chester County Commission

CREATE GRANT REQUEST

CONTRIBUTIONS

Fund Created 12/15/2022

GRANTS

Current Balance 30,852.03

GRANT REQUEST

Your CCCF Contact MS. KAREN SIMMONS 610-299-2219 simmk608@gmail.com

VENDOR INVOICES

RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS

INVOICES

10 entries per page

Search:

RESOURCES & DOCUMENTS

ID	Date	Contributor	Amount
101337	06/30/2026	Anonymous	90.00
101182	06/16/2026	The Chester County Chamber of Business & Industry	90.00
101133	06/11/2026	McGarrity, MaryFrances	90.00
100973	05/27/2026	Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund	2,026.00
100205	02/12/2026	CCCF America250 Initiatives - Provisional	40,000.00
99447	12/09/2025	CCCF America250 Let Freedom Ring DCED Promo - Provisional	10,000.00
99001	10/23/2025	CCCF America250 Initiatives - Provisional	1,000.00
98951	10/16/2025	Anonymous	2.50
96801	06/30/2025	CCCF America250 Initiatives - Provisional	650.00

DONATE

Showing 1 to 9 of 9 entries

1

FUND SUMMARY

Fund America250 PA Chester County Commission

CREATE GRANT REQUEST

CONTRIBUTIONS

VOUCHERS

FILTER EXPORT

GRANTS

10 entries per page

Search:

GRANT REQUEST

ID	Date	Status	Profile	Amount
52969	07/28/2026	paid	West Chester Area Council of Governments	1,000.00
52401	06/12/2026	paid	SpeedPro	6,000.00
52107	05/20/2026	paid	Blue Dog Printing Inc.	3,328.68
52007	05/11/2026	paid	SpeedPro	13,500.00
51457	03/10/2026	paid	U.S. Bank	244.80

VENDOR INVOICES

Showing 1 to 5 of 5 entries

1

INVOICES

RESOURCES & DOCUMENTS

DONATE

REVENUES			KIOSK FUNDING	
	CC250 Charitable Fund	CCPC - General Fund	DCED Grants	Planning Commission
Starting balance Feb. 2026	\$ 51,652.47	\$ 8,491.00	\$ 333,540.00	\$ 152,937.00
Donation 5/27/26 - \$2026	\$2,005.74			
Donation 6/11/26 (flag) - \$90	\$89.10			
Donation 6/16/26 (flag) - \$90	\$89.10			
Donation 6/30/26 (flag) - \$90	\$89.10			
Total funds received (minus fees):	\$ 53,925.51	\$ 8,491.00	\$ 333,540.00	\$ 152,937.00
ACTUAL EXPENDITURES				
TOTAL AGAINST CMTE BUDGET	\$ -			
TOTAL AGAINST CMTE BUDGET	\$ -			
Boosted FB Posts - May invoices		\$ 70.00		
Boosted FB Posts - June invoices		\$ 71.50		
Boosted FB Posts - July invoices		\$ 19.88		
TOTAL AGAINST CMTE BUDGET	\$ 161.38			
Blue Dog - final Invoice to CCCF 5/20	\$ 700.00			
Blue Dog - final invoice to CCCF 5/20	\$ 1,568.68			
Blue Dog - Final Invoice to CCCF 5/20	\$ 1,060.00			
TOTAL AGAINST CMTE BUDGET	\$ 3,328.68			
Pocket Declarations - 1000 pieces		\$ 155.00		
SpeedPro = 150 flags	\$ 13,500.00			
Amazon order 5/18 Envelopes		\$ 118.92		
Amazon order 5/18 Ribbon		\$ 151.96		
Amazon order 5/18 Labels		\$ 8.99		
In house printing - 3 x 3 cards		\$ 13.26		
SpeedPro new flags paid 6/16	\$ 6,000.00			
Additional ribbon		\$ 113.97		
CC250 cards 3 x 3 - reprint		\$ 13.26		
Mileage ESTIMATED flag delivery		\$ 400.21		
TOTAL AGAINST CMTE BUDGET	\$ 20,475.57			
WC Event 8/2 for WCACG	\$ 1,000.00			
TOTAL AGAINST CMTE BUDGET	\$ 1,000.00			
TOTAL AGAINST CMTE BUDGET	\$ -			
Feb. 2026 Metricool Starter	\$ 244.80			
TOTAL AGAINST CMTE BUDGET	\$ 244.80			
BALANCE REMAINING (with pending payments)	\$ 29,852.03	\$ 7,354.05	\$ 333,540.00	\$ 152,937.00

Committee Reports



America250 PA Chester County Commission Committees

As of 7/28/2026

Executive Committee	Mar Com Committee	Technology Committee	Heritage Sites Committee
<i>Michelle Kichline, Chair</i>	OPEN, Cmte Chair	<i>Sam Bissenbina, Cmte Chair</i>	<i>Mark Slouf, Cmte Chair</i>
<i>Winifred Moran Sebastian, Vice Chair</i>	Nicole Flamer	Adam Desch	Mary Sue Boyle
<i>Krys Sipple, Vice Chair</i>	Colin Hanna	Ernie Holling	James Christ
<i>MaryFrances McGarrity, Secretary</i>	Larycia Hawkins		Barbara Cohen
Mark Slouf	Bruce Mowday		Fernando Fonseca
Randell Spackman	John Reynolds		Randell Spackman
Robert Williams	Savannah Flores		tonya thames-taylor
	Emma Brennan		Robert Williams
	Jack C. Martin		James Ziegler
CCPC Staff Liaisons	CCPC Staff Liaisons	CCPC Staff Liaisons	CCPC Staff Liaisons
Matt Edmond	Matt Edmond	David Blackburn	David Blackburn
David Blackburn	David Blackburn	Carolyn Oakley	Jeannine Speirs
	Carolyn Oakley	Beth Cunliffe	
	Beth Cunliffe		

Education Committee	Fundraising Committee	Partnerships Committee	Nominating Committee
OPEN, Cmte Chair	<i>Michelle Kichline, CC250 Chair</i>	<i>Randell Spackman, Cmte Chair</i>	<i>Randell Spackman, Cmte Chair</i>
Fernando Fonseca	<i>Winifred Moran Sebastian, Cmte Chair</i>	Adam Desch	tonya thames-taylor
Jennifer Green	Tim Hennessey	Laura Manion	
Lisa Doan Harley	MaryFrances McGarrity	MaryFrances McGarrity	
	Laura Manion	Winifred Moran Sebastian	
	Krys Sipple	Brandi Levine	
CCPC Staff Liaison	CCPC Staff Liaison	CCPC Staff Liaison	
David Blackburn	Matt Edmond	David Blackburn	

Events Committee (Sub-Cmte of MarCom Cmte)
<i>Commissioner Josh Maxwell, Cmte Chair</i>
MarySue Boyle
Adam Desch
Colin Hanna
Tim Hennessey
CCPC Staff attendees
Beth Cunliffe
David Blackburn

*member not member of CC250
Commission*

CC250 Business



**America 250 PA Chester County
Social Media Statistics**

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WEBSITE	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026	1st Quarter
Total Page Views	3285	3313	2517	Total views: 9,115
Top 3 Viewed Pages	Home Calendar of Events Our Heritage	Home Calendar of Events Our Commission	Home Calendar of Events Events and Visits	35% traffic = searching 33% traffic = direct visits 30% traffic - referred from another site
	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	2nd Quarter
Total Page Views	3291	4159	6618	Total views: 14,068
Top 3 Viewed Pages	Home Calendar of Events Events and Visits	Calendar of Events Home Events and Visits	Calendar of Events Home Events and Visits	32% traffic = searching 36% traffic = direct visits 25% traffic - referred from another site
	July 2026	August 2026	September 2026	
Total Page Views	3216 (7/28)			
Top 3 Viewed Pages	Calendar of Events Home Events and Visits			
	October 2026	November 2026	December 2026	
Total Page Views				
Top 3 Viewed Pages				

FACEBOOK	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026
Followers	(not tracked)	(not tracked)	921
Top Posts	Kickoff Event - January 16 Newsletter Sign up	Submitting Events to Calendar Follow up to Kickoff Event	Speaker Series: Charlotte Moore Sitterly America250 at Goshen - Ned Donahue
	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026
Followers	978	996	1,011
Top Posts	Bell Unveiling/Dare to Declare Town Tours Kick-off	Kennett Square Memorial Parade (boosted) Paoli Battlefield Tours (boosted)	Wish Wall at Chesco Library (boosted) North Coventry Flag Handoff
	July 2026	August 2026	September 2026
Followers	1,028		
Top Posts	Radley Run Town Tour Unearth A Story Colonial Science (boosted)		
	October 2026	November 2026	December 2026
Followers			
Top Posts			

**America 250 PA Chester County
Social Media Statistics**

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LINKEDIN	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026
Followers	(not tracked)	(not tracked)	36
Top Posts	Kickoff Event - January 16 Fighting for Philadelphia -book presentation	CC250 / KCCB Clean up campaign America250 at Goshen - Ned Donahue	Women in Revolution Book Discussion Speaker Series - Charlotte Moore
	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026
Followers	37	37	38
Top Posts	Community Page on CC250 Website Share your events - CC250 Calendar	Historic Marker 5/7 Town Tours	Barnard Station Town Tour Oxford Flag Handoff
	July 2026	August 2026	September 2026
Followers	37		
Top Posts	Radley Run Town Tour America250 Wish Wall at Exton		
	October 2026	November 2026	December 2026
Followers			
Top Posts			

INSTAGRAM	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026
Followers	(not tracked)	(not tracked)	301
Top Posts	Kickoff Event - January 16 Newsletter Sign up	CC250 / KCCB Clean up campaign America250 at Goshen - Noah Lewis	Old Caln Historical Society - Women's Patriotism Speaker Series - John E. Smith III
	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026
Followers	311	325	338
Top Posts	Bell Unveiling/Dare to Declare Town Tours Kick-off	List of Upcoming Events List of Upcoming Events (with new CC250 themed graphic)	Oxford Flag Handoff North Coventry Flag Handoff
	July 2026	August 2026	September 2026
Followers	348		
Top Posts	America250 Wish Wall at Exton Town Tour Lecture on 7/23		
	October 2026	November 2026	December 2026
Followers			
Top Posts			