

411
Tazewell County



**Pekin Bicentennial Commission Task Force
PRESENTS**

THE DOCUMENT OF



JUNE 12, 1976

Pekin High School – East Campus



A Call for Achievement in the Bicentennial Era



When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. . .

We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in general Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that, as free and independent states, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do. And, for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honour.

Declaration of Independence, 1776



THE PRELUDE

coffee and registration

THE NEW WORLD

THE PRESENT CHALLENGES

talk

workshop

THE INTERLUDE

buffet and drama

THE NEW HUMAN

THE PRACTICAL PROPOSALS

talk

workshop

THE PLENARY

reports and closing



It is vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. The gentlemen may cry, Peace, peace! but there is no peace. The war has actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand here idle? What is it that the gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God. I know not what course other may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!

Patrick Henry

What country before ever existed a century and a half without a rebellion? ...The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.

Thomas Jefferson

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the present challenges

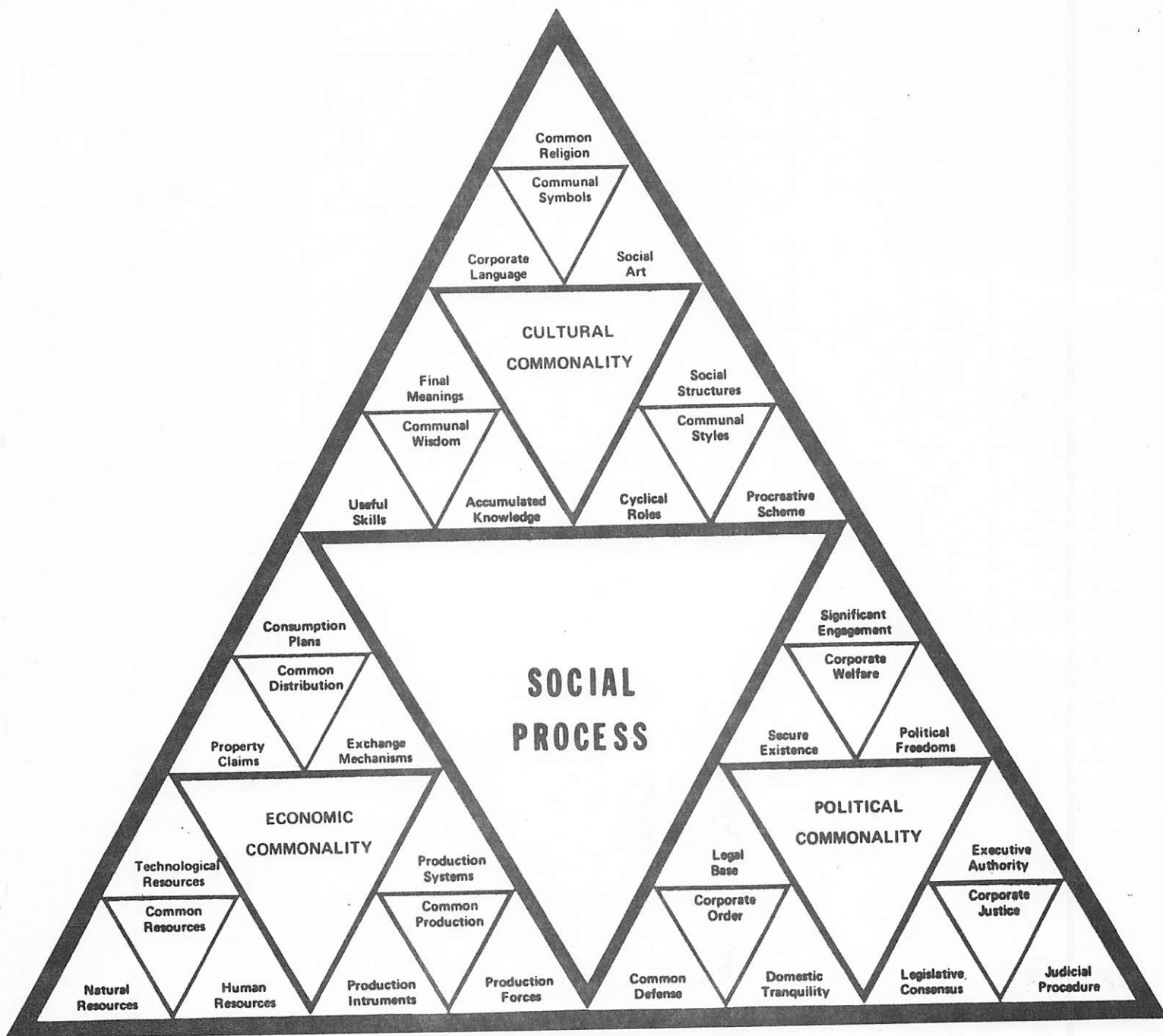
BRAIN-
STORMING
SOCIAL ISSUES

CLUSTERING
LOCAL
CONCERNS

DISCERNING
UNDERLYING
CONTRADICTIONS

WRITING
PRESENT
CHALLENGES





The Social Process Triangle is a unique graphic model of the dynamic interrelationships of human settlement. It serves as a screen through which one can view the sustaining, ordering and meaning-giving dynamics functioning in every society and in every time.

THE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

Pekin Town Meeting

June 12, 1976

CHALLENGE 1 IMPLEMENTATION OF CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT	SENTENCE In the arena of economic commonality, the fact that citizen involvement is minimal indicates that the underlying contradiction is citizen complaint without personal involvement or responsibility in solving community problems. This contradiction is illustrated by lack of voting participation--aesthetic changes versus practical changes in the community--industry tax structure--lack of use of mass transportation--delay of pushing for new Pekin bridge.
CHALLENGE 2 COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT	SENTENCE In the arena of economic commonality, the fact that poor communication between leadership and local public indicates that the underlying contradiction is lack of public knowledge about local government financing. This contradiction is illustrated by the poor attendance and participation in local government.
CHALLENGE 3 NATURE VERSUS MAN	SENTENCE In the arena of natural resources, the fact that no parks or rest areas are being built in the downtown area indicates that the underlying contradiction is lack of forethought for natural sources. This contradiction is illustrated by too many parking lots and the destruction of nature.

THE CULTURAL CHALLENGES

Pekin Town Meeting

June 12, 1976

Challenge 1 Greater Social Interaction	SENTENCE In the arena of cultural commonality the fact that lack of communication between social organization in the community indicates that the underlying contradiction is lack of communication and colicks. This contradiction is illustrated by lack of c ommunication between social and church organizations.
Challenge 2 People Don't Care	SENTENCE In the arena of cultural commonality the fact that public apathy indicates that the underlying contradiction is lack of community involvement. This contradiction is illustrated by low attendance at public meetings of governing bodies.
Challenge 3 One-Sided Educational Approach	SENTENCE In the arena of cultural structures the fact that power struggle, lack of organization and public apathy and prejudice indicates that the underlying contradiction is one-sided educational approach for possible polital gain and public apathy. This contradiction is illustrated by elimination of Tazewell Nursing Home, elimination of health care for community, minority acceptance, care of lagoon.
Challenge 4 Short-sighted Future Planning	SENTENCE In the arena of cultural society the fact that public apathy and lack of funds indicates that the underlying contradiction is short-sighted future planning with no effective way for individuals to deal with broad social issues. This contradiction is illustrated by county nursing home and park referendum lack of passages.

THE POLITICAL CHALLENGES

Pekin Town Meeting

June 12, 1976

CHALLENGE 1 YOUTH AND CRIME	SENTENCE In the arena of Political Communalilty the fact that current laws are being largely ignored and no use is being made of youth volunteers in patrolling local neighborhood indicates that the underlying contradiction is lack of parental concern and lack of proper street markings and enforcement. This contradiction is illustrated by street conditions in housing area and signs in city in general with particular emphasis on "Children Playing" etc.
CHALLENGE 2 COMMUNITY WELFARE	SENTENCE In the arena of Political Communalilty the fact that the decline of ideals and value has led to public and political apathy and indicates that the underlying contradiction is isolation from public responsibility and indiscriminate use of public funds. This contradiction is illustrated by poor participation in public meetings, wrong publicity of teen activities, preemptory manner in which park board makes decisions such as beer, repairing dangerous areas, etc.
CHALLENGE 3 CHANGE IN CITY-COUNTY FORM OF GOVERNMENT	SENTENCE In the arena of Political Communalilty the fact that existing laws creating wasteful and overlapping layers of government indicates that the underlying contradiction is wasteful spending by overlapping jurisdictions causing high taxes and inadequate service. This contradiction is illustrated by County Board of Supervisors, Township Supervisors, small municipalities with various layers of government, etc., etc.
CHALLENGE 4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT	SENTENCE In the arena of Political Communalilty the fact that pinpointing responsibility indicates that the underlying contradiction is the form of government. This contradiction is illustrated by twenty-seven members of Township Board.

THE POLITICAL CHALLENGES (continued)

Pekin Town Meeting

June 12, 1976

CHALLENGE 4

INDECISIVE AND
FRAGMENTED STRUCT-
URE OF GOVERNMENT

SENTENCE

In the arena of Political Communalism the fact that inability to govern effectively duplication of effort, failure to pinpoint responsibility, and lack of coordination between bodies indicates that the underlying contradiction is vested interests, fragmented political entities and apathy towards government. This contradiction is illustrated by ineffective zoning, inability to provide adequate staffing to probation office, and failure to provide county police protection.

I must study politics and war, that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy, geography, natural history and naval architecture, navigation, commerce, and agriculture, in order to give their children a right to study painting, poetry, music, architecture, statuary, tapestry, and porcelain.

John Adams

the practical proposals

**BRAINSTORMING
SOCIAL
RESPONSES**

**CROSS-GESTALTING
SELECTED
RESPONSES**

**CREATING
PROPOSAL
COMPONENTS**

**WRITING
PROPOSAL
STATEMENTS**



POLITICAL PROPOSALS

Pekin Town Meeting

June 12, 1976

PROPOSAL 1
YOUTH AND CRIME

SENTENCE We the citizens of Pekin, Illinois, in order to improve police services with public participation, propose police auxiliary to supplement the paid police and have patrolmen on foot in high crime areas through city council and police department approval by recruiting, screening, and training volunteers.

PROPOSAL 2
YOUTH AND CRIME

SENTENCE We the citizens of Pekin, Illinois, in order to involve youth in wholesome activities to reduce crime and vandalism, propose that a civic organization prepare a list of activities currently available, survey local youth for additional interests, and secure volunteers or businesses to provide for those needs through approaching civic or business groups to conduct such a study and publicize its results.

PROPOSAL 3
COMBINING SERVICE
AND TAXING BODIES

SENTENCE We the citizens of Pekin, Illinois, and Tazewell County, in order to give better services and reduce the tax rate have a more centralized location for services, propose contact interested organizations to have a referendum through our elected representatives for action in the General Assembly at the state level.

PROPOSAL 4
YOUTH AND CRIME

SENTENCE We the citizens of Pekin, Illinois, in order to make judges more responsible to community standards, propose that judges be elected in a competitive election between two or more qualified candidates through changing the judicial election laws by contacting state legislators.

PROPOSAL 5
MAKE COUNTY
MANAGER IN CHARGE
OF DAY-TO-DAY
BUSINESS

SENTENCE We the citizens of Pekin, Illinois, in order to make a more efficient government so a county official would be available to the citizens at all times, propose to have the county Board of Supervisors appoint a business manager through referendum at the next general or special election.

POLITICAL PROPOSALS (continued)

Pekin Town Meeting

June 12, 1976

PROPOSAL 6 COMMUNITY WELFARE	SENTENCE We the citizens of Pekin, Illinois, in order to reduce public apathy towards local public bodies, propose use of local media to publicize meetings, establishment of an outdoor community bulletin board, and posting of minutes from all legal bodies in public library through letters to legal bodies in area requesting this action or the establishment of a local watchdog committee.
PROPOSAL 7 COMMUNITY WELFARE	SENTENCE We the citizens of Pekin, Illinois, in order to reduce abuse of public welfare programs, propose that the state legislature conduct an intensive study of the welfare system as administered in Illinois through the writing of letters to local representatives to the legislature suggesting such action.
PROPOSAL 8 CHANGE FORM OF CITY GOVERNMENT TO MAYOR ALTERMAN AND CITY MANAGER	SENTENCE We the citizens of Pekin, Illinois, in order to have a full time business manager for the public at all business hours and to prepare proposed future budgets and manpower needs, propose prepare a petition for a referendum through the next city election.
PROPOSAL 9 ESTABLISH JUVENILE JURY SYSTEM IMPROVE PROBATION AND COUNSELING	SENTENCE We the citizens of Pekin, Illinois, in order to control youth crimes -- counsel those who are in need of help, propose to contact our State Representatives to legislate laws to establish this jury system through action of the county board of supervisors to expand the counseling service.

CULTURAL PROPOSALS

Pekin Town Meeting

June 12, 1976

PROPOSAL 1

Public
Opinion

SENTENCE We the citizens of Pekin, in order to inform the public on community progress propose that more information be provided through advertising and asking questions of officials and respectfully demanding an answer.

PROPOSAL 2

Tell the
People

SENTENCE We the citizens of Pekin, in order to provide the people with the total needs and opportunities of the community, in order to stimulate interest and involvement, propose to get a monthly activity calendar into the Pekin Times and the Peoria Journal Star to promote political, social, fund raising and cultural activities, through asking the Chamber of Commerce to organize the collection of calendar items by collecting them from government, school, clubs and church groups.

PROPOSAL 3

Public
Involvement

SENTENCE We the citizens of Pekin, in order to form a more perfect community, propose more public involvement through educating, advertising, appointing to committees, setting up watch-dog committees, involvement of all youth in extra-curricular activities and providing public forums.

ECONOMIC PROPOSALS

Pekin Town Meeting

June 12, 1976

PROPOSAL 1

To Communicate
With Citizens

SENTENCE We the citizens of Peking, in order to provide information to citizens, propose to provide a speakers bureau, radio forum, public forum, women's federation, organizational "congress" and community groups to urge action.

PROPOSAL 2

Public
Involvement

SENTENCE We the citizens of Peking, in order to stimulate a feeling of citizen value, propose to promote public interest in self-government through encouraging you participation in activities and values teaching.

PROPOSAL 3

Public
Interest

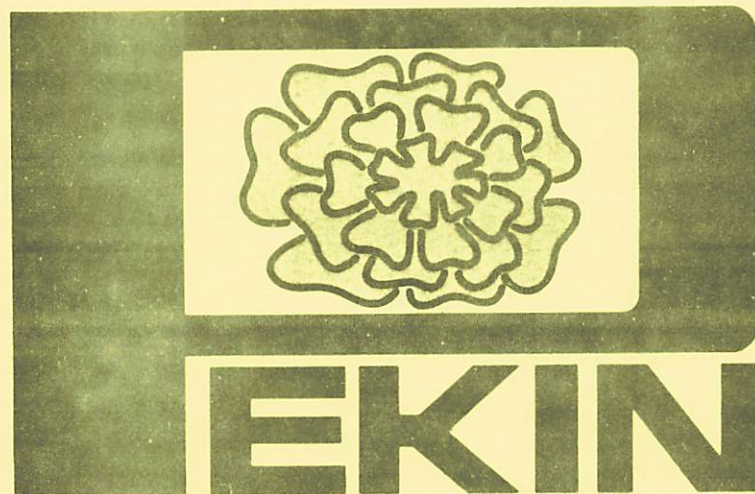
SENTENCE We the citizens of Peking, in order to stimulate public interest, propose to stimulate public interest through attendance of public meetings, letters to newspapers, publicity, etc., through publicizing trouble spots through newspapers and citizen's committees.

I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country; he is a bird of bad moral character; like those among men who live by sharping and robbing, he is generally poor, and often very lousy.

The turkey is a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original native of America.

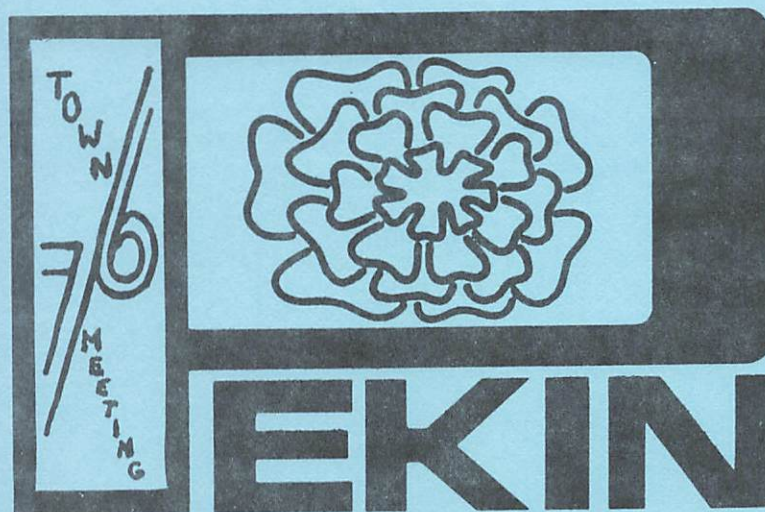
Benjamin Franklin

the new story



P E K I N T O W N M E E T I N G

June 12, 1976



Alert Citizens

Pekin's Bridge to Tomorrow

EVERYBODY'S PEKIN

(Tune: Yankee Doodle Went to Town)

Pekin Town Meeting

June 12, 1976

Everybody looks to Pekin
For its parks and education.
A community -- spirited leadership,
From Dirksen back to Lincoln.

Chorus

Pekin, Pekin, keep it up
You're a great community.
From your founders leadership
Create a great new destiny.

Everybody dreams in Pekin
Of making it even better.
For the young and old alike,
We all will work together.

YANKEE FREEDOM

(Tune: Yankee Doodle Dandy)

Pekin Town Meeting

June 12, 1976

I'm a Yankee Freedom guy
America is the "mostest pie"
A real interested helper
Of my Uncle Sam
Born at our own Pekin High.

I have a Yankee Freedom song
It's my Yankee Doodle joy
Yankee Freedom came to town
Asserting in a meeting
I am that Yankee Freedom boy!

PEKIN, WE LOVE YOU

Pekin Town Meeting

June 12, 1976

Pekin, remember when you started? It was 1824 -- old Jacob Tharp settled here. He called it "Townsite." You had your share of hardship, sickness, and severe winters. But, with God's help, you survived. Your underground river brought industry to enrich your community. Remember when young Abe Lincoln visited your courts?

You are now a city that offers great education to our youth. Your lovely parks and fountains are an inspiration to us all. And, Senator Dirksen, a center has been built to honor him. You have your Civic Chorus and Marigold Festival. Pekin, you are a city of many churches. The bridge you're building, oh, great Pekin, is not only to cross the river but to cement the past and present with the future.

Pekin, what will you be tomorrow? Will there be a more spacious YWCA? An auditorium to seat 2,000? More bridges crossing the river? Better transportation? Will your people re-establish a conservation center? Will there be bike lanes on the streets and a place outside of town where our children can ride their mini-bikes? Will there be a better understanding of our fellow man -- all colors and creeds? Pekin, we take you as you were, accept you as you are, and embrace the challenge you present!

Catherine Marshall
Florence Petrie
Betty Hughes
Charlotte Wilkins
Doris Barclay

You have driven me from the East to this place, and I have been here two thousand years or more....My friends, if you took me away from this land it would be very hard for me. I wish to die in this land. I wish to be an old man here....I have not wished to give even a part of it to the Great Father. Though he were here to give me a million dollars I would not give him this land....When people want to slaughter cattle they drive them along until they get them to a corral, and then they slaughter them. So it was with us....My children have been exterminated; my brother has been killed.

Chief Standing Bear of the Poncas



TOWN MEETING '76

SPONSORED BY THE PEKIN BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
AND THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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J. KIP MAY

COORDINATORS

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JAMES F. KOLLMAYER
SAMUEL WILSON

STEERING COMMITTEE

GLENN SMITH
DAWSON HAWKINS
MARY LYNN JOHNSON
DEBBIE HEBERER
W. R. HARMON
LOIS MARSHALL
EARL JONES
ROBERT METZLER
LOU MILBURN
LYNDELL HOWARD
MARK HEINE

SECRETARY

MRS. BARBARA HARMON

SUPPORT GROUPS

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TAZ. HISTORICAL ASSOC.
PEKIN JAYCEES
PEKIN JAY-C-ETTES
KIWANIS CLUB
LIONS CLUB
ROTARY CLUB
OPTIMIST CLUB
BOY SCOUTS OF AM.
YOUTH OUTREACH
PEKIN CITY COUNCIL
Y.W.C.A.
AM. RED CROSS
1st UN. METH. CHURCH
TAZEWELL TOASTMASTERS
ST. JOSEPH PARISH
PEKIN DAILY TIMES
PEKIN INSURANCE CO.
U.S. COAST GUARD
1st CHRISTIAN CHURCH

THE STAFF

June 12, 1976

Pekin Town Meeting

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Sally Emerick

ICA ASSISTANCE

Linda Ikenberry
Kay Schnizlein

HONORED GUEST

Mayor William Waldmeier

WORKSHOP LEADERS

Robert Blackwell
W. R. Harmon
R. Glenn Smith
Dennis Scott
Debbie Herberer
Mary Lynn Johnson

HOSTS

John Harmon
Robert Harmon

MASTERS OF CEREMONIES

Lyndell Howard
Chuck Perrin

ENTERTAINMENT

"The Uncalled Four"

CHILD CARE

Mrs. Rozanna Rayburn

REGISTRARS

Sally Meintz
Rose McKay

STENOGRAPHERS

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Vivian Rivord
Carol Nelson
Nancy Hunt
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Sharon McMillan
Betty Mills

CUSTODIAL

Carl Layne

The following companies, organizations and individuals have donated financially or in the form of materials, services or their personal time to help make Pekin's Town Meeting '76 a success. The Task Force wishes to thank them for their kind assistance.....

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Harry Condon	Springers Suzuki & Honda
Si Pescaglia	Russ Strauman's
Bill Wutke	Calendar II
Sam Wilson	Bordens Dairy
Earl Jones	McDonalds
Boy Scouts of America	Jim Cadigan--Pekin Area Voc. Center
Pekin Daily Times	Murphy Mart

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June 12, 1976

Pekin Town Meeting

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June 12, 1976

Pekin Town Meeting

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Chicago, Ill. 60640

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Pekin, Illinois 61554

Robert Harmon
203 Sycamore
Pekin, Illinois 61554

Dale Catlin
1602 Deppert
Pekin, Illinois 61554

Harry G. Langley
802 Bacon
Pekin, Illinois 61554

Dennis Scott
1023 Market
Pekin, Illinois 61554

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
UNITED STATES
1787

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Preamble

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right to the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

First Amendment [1791]

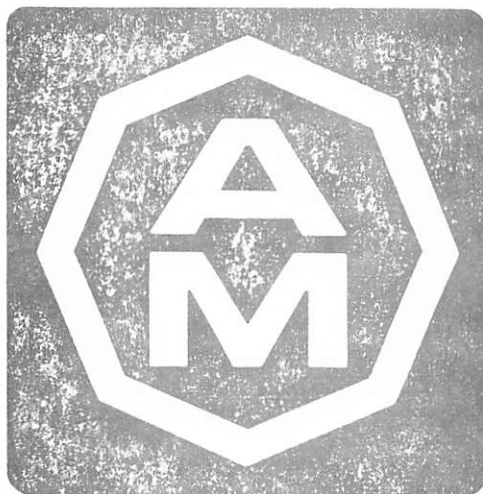


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