

00:03:23 Rachel - America 250 | CT Staff: Agenda: https://ct250.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/America-250_-_CT-Affiliate-Meeting-Agenda-07-09-2025.pdf

00:05:13 Lisa Del Sesto: Hi. Can't talk in the moment. I am the Operations Manager at the League of Women Voters of Connecticut. First time on the call. Thank you!

00:12:01 Alice Ridgway, Litchfield: I would be more comfortable if we could keep politics out of these meetings.

00:12:50 Susan Huizenga: Thanks Kathleen

00:13:28 Jim Wharton (he/him), Beardsley Zoo: Also agree...have been slow to join out of this concern.

00:14:53 Nicole Sousa: out of curiosity, doesn't that side of the aisle see the no king's rally and the ICE rallies the same way?

00:14:57 Jennifer Matos, Museum of CT History: Why can't CT250 share info about what the America 250 is doing?

00:15:11 Jennifer Matos, Museum of CT History: It's dissemination of information.

00:19:07 Amrys Williams, CT League of Museums: I think it is fair to say that the CT 250 commission is NOT the same thing as the national commission.

00:20:04 Lisa Del Sesto: Also coming from a space that lacks the detailed understanding, I can see that this coalition of CT organizations participating in America 250 is a fabulous way to highlight a diverse narrative of the patchwork of our state and our nation.

00:20:20 Amrys Williams, CT League of Museums: Reacted to "Also coming from a s..." with 👍

00:20:38 Jennifer Crookes (she/her) - Hartford Bonanza & First Night: Reacted to "Also coming from a s..." with 👍

00:21:01 Amrys Williams, CT League of Museums: Kathy, thanks for drawing our attention to the Iowa fair event. Rollins's proclamation about that fair initiative is something this group should definitely read.
<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/secretary-rollins-proclamation-america250.pdf> As someone who has spent a lot of time on the history of ag fairs and 4-H, it is totally fascinating.

00:21:47 Alice Ridgway, Litchfield: We have been focusing on the four state themes and the uniting concepts of the Declaration of Independence as well as having FUN!

00:22:09 Robert Laughlin: We plan to embrace the state planned guidelines, DEI. We will absolutely be distancing ourselves from the national narrative. Thank you for bringing it up.

00:25:33 Shannon Withey (Waterford): Can you reiterate the 4 state themes once again please? I've only been on 1 other meeting so I want to ensure I have the correct details. Thank you

00:26:02 Rachel - America 250 | CT Staff: Power of Place

For the Common Good

Tell Inclusive Stories

Doing History

00:26:17 Chris Menapace (he/him, Discovering Amistad): Reacted to "Power of Place

For t..." with ❤️

00:26:19 Alice Ridgway, Litchfield: Reacted to "Power of Place

For t..." with ❤️

00:26:21 Alice Ridgway, Litchfield: Reacted to "Power of Place

For t..." with 🙌

00:26:54 Shannon Withey (Waterford): Reacted to "Power of Place

For t..." with ❤️

00:26:54 Alice Ridgway, Litchfield: Reacted to "Kathy, thanks for dr..." with ❤️

00:27:13 Kathleen Maher: Reacted to "Kathy, thanks for dr..." with 👍

00:27:20 Jennifer Crookes (she/her) - Hartford Bonanza & First Night: One nuance of this discussion that came up in this morning's America 250 Hartford convening is that REGIONAL collaboration is important to us—CT capital city projects with New England & New York State's efforts. This is of course different from any alignment with the federal messaging.

00:27:29 Jennifer Crookes (she/her) - Hartford Bonanza & First Night: Reacted to "Power of Place

For t..." with ❤️

00:28:38 Nicole Sousa | CT's Old State House: broader conversation please!

00:28:43 Allison Smith | Mystic Seaport Museum: Reacted to "broader conversation..." with 👍

00:28:46 Susan Huizenga: Reacted to "broader conversation..." with 👍

00:29:00 Susan Barlow: Where to send events?

00:29:07 Nicole Sousa | CT's Old State House: I would especially love to hear from Ridgefield/Litchfield and what they've already been doing in their respective towns if anyone is here

00:29:10 Jennifer Crookes (she/her) - Hartford Bonanza & First Night: Let's stick together! Excited to here what other regions in CT are planning together.

00:29:13 Amrys Williams, CT League of Museums: We're a small enough group as it is. I think we can talk as one.

00:29:18 Rachel - America 250 | CT Staff: Event submission form:<https://ct250.org/events/calendar/community-calendar-form-for-affiliates/>

00:29:22 Jennifer Crookes (she/her) - Hartford Bonanza & First Night: Reacted to "I would especially l..." with ❤️

00:31:30 Cyndi Tolosa - America 250 | CT Staff: <https://ridgefieldct250.org/>

00:31:31 Jennifer Crookes (she/her) - Hartford Bonanza & First Night: Replying to "Let's stick together..."

*hear

00:31:54 Alice Ridgway, Litchfield: We started in December 2023 with the Boston Tea Party 250th and April 2025 - Two's Lights. Litchfield is planning "Independence Week" June 26th and July 5th plus the Fall

00:32:10 Jennifer Crookes (she/her) - Hartford Bonanza & First Night: Reacted to "We started in Decemb..." with ❤️

00:38:31 Chris Menapace (he/him, Discovering Amistad): Stamford, Norwalk, Bridgeport, New Haven, New London, Mystic and sometimes Middletown and Hartford. c_menapace@discoveringamistad.org

00:38:41 Chris Menapace (he/him, Discovering Amistad): Oh, and Norwich!

00:39:07 Cyndi Tolosa - America 250 | CT Staff: <https://archivesfoundation.org/>

00:43:01 Amrys Williams, CT League of Museums: Replying to "America's 100 Docs - Full List.pdf"

Thanks! That is pretty amazing to look through.

00:43:10 Lisa Del Sesto: Reacted to "America's 100 Docs - Full List.pdf" with ❤️

00:43:26 Rachel - America 250 | CT Staff: Education PD Session:
<https://ct250.org/learn-more/resources/curriculum-resources/>

00:44:03 Alice Ridgway, Litchfield: (I'm meeting with our Superintendent and Principals on 7/23 😊)

00:44:43 Alice Ridgway, Litchfield: Replying to "(I'm meeting with ou..."

(That was a nudge for timing if you can get it out before then.)

00:45:03 Kelle Ruden: Super!

00:45:25 Katie Burton: Would be great if the commission could help get CT VIPs to our local events!

00:46:04 Katie Burton: Ahhhh rats. Thanks for trying!

00:46:44 Susan Huizenga: We produced a book The Check Minus (an inclusive story) that aligns with 5th grade standards about primary sources and tells story of Associated Press Founder. Info here. <https://wpaa.tv/myb/> Audio and flip are online

00:46:47 Katie Burton: Woohoo I agree! Thank you :)

00:47:20 Kelle Ruden: A CT timeline on the year 1776 would be great with our signers and their bios would be nice

00:47:38 Katie Burton: We have a timeline on the Ridgefield website

00:48:04 Chris Menapace (he/him, Discovering Amistad): Reacted to "We have a timeline o..." with ❤️

00:48:22 Alice Ridgway, Litchfield: Reacted to "A CT timeline on the..." with ❤️

00:48:26 Alice Ridgway, Litchfield: Reacted to "We have a timeline o..." with ❤️

00:48:33 Robert Laughlin: Reacted to "We have a timeline o..." with ❤️

00:48:35 Cyndi Tolosa - America 250 | CT Staff: Reacted to "We have a timeline o..." with ❤️

00:50:08 Amrys Williams, CT League of Museums: CT League of Museums Awards of Merit for 2025: <https://clho.org/awards>

00:50:18 Amrys Williams, CT League of Museums: You can reach out with any questions: director@clho.org

00:50:37 Jennifer Crookes (she/her) - Hartford Bonanza & First Night: Reacted to "Would be great if th..." with 🍋

00:53:58 Cyndi Tolosa - America 250 | CT Staff: <https://ct250.org/learn-more/ct-humanities-grant-awards/>

00:54:15 Cyndi Tolosa - America 250 | CT Staff: <https://ct250.org/events/calendar/community-programming/>

00:55:05 Rachel - America 250 | CT Staff: Replying to "<https://ct250.org/ev...>"

Programming can be submitted using the same form as individual events!

00:55:12 Cyndi Tolosa - America 250 | CT Staff: Reacted to "Programming can be s..." with ❤️

00:57:18 Lisa Del Sesto: Thank you for all the information and learning from everyone here

00:57:20 Jennifer Matos, Museum of CT History: Thank you!!

00:57:25 Susan Huizenga: Reacted to "Thank you!!" with 🍋