

America250PABerks Agenda
May 20, 2026- 8:00am

Welcome - Commissioner Leinbach

Public Comment Notice

Public Comments on Agenda Items

- **Update from America250PA**
- **Committee Reports**
 - Website Committee www.America250PABerks.com - Heather Adams Chair
 - Social Media/Events Update - Jonathan Heintzman
 - Berks County Liberty Bell - Christian Leinbach
 - Discuss 2026 event (*This will be the final event of America250PA Berks*)
 - AG Committee - Amanda Burkard-Sell
 - Underground Railroad - Dr. Tamara Smith/Pastor Brookins/Phyllis Mitchell
 - History Committee - Laurel Miller
 - Art & Culture Committee - Keri Shultz
 - 2026 America250PABerks Celebration Book –
 - Donna Reed & Laurel Miller Co-Chairs Book design and production on the Berks275th.
 - Youth Library Project – Winners and announcement

Old Business -

- **Berks County Liberty Bell Event**
 - Date 7/8/2026
 - Run Through at 11:15am with participants
 - Front of Berks County Services Center. Chairs will be set up for the audience as well as the Ringgold Band (*In case of bad weather it will be in the second-floor auditorium in the County Services Center*)
 - Ringgold Band - confirmed
 - Perform 11:40am until noon
 - National Anthem - lead with audience singing
 - God Bless America - lead with audience singing
 - America the Beautiful - Closing / lead with audience singing
 - **Program begins at Noon 7/8/26.**
 - Welcome - Commissioner Leinbach
 - Introduction of Special Guests - Commissioner Leinbach
 - Opening Prayer - Rabbi Brian I. Michelson/Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom
 - National Anthem - Ringgold Band and audience
 - Pledge - Will Tobin/Retired Army Chief Warrant Officer | Deputy Director, Berks County VA
 - History of the Bell - Berks History Center

- Speaker America250PA - TBD
- God Bless America - Ringgold Band with Audience
- Ringing the Bell - 13 strikes
- Reading of the Declaration of Ind. - Dr. Dale Cake (5th Great Grandson) & Jennifer Loveland (6th Great Granddaughter) of Berks County Sheriff Henry Vanderslice who read the Declaration on July 8, 1776 at the Berks County Courthouse.
- Reading in Spanish - TBD
- Reading in German - Laurel Miller
- Comments from Commissioners
 - Rivera
 - Santoni
 - Leinbach - We will likely use this event to end the 250th and transition focus towards the Berks275th
- Closing Prayer - Berks County Court of Common Pleas Judge Scott Lash
- American the Beautiful - Ringgold Band and Audience

New Business -

- No additional stand-alone events. We will continue to partner with other organizations who are holding events beyond July 8th.
- See end of Agenda-National Pennsylvania Day-July 20th.

Upcoming Events -

- Keim Homestead Cherry Fair 5/23/26
- WWII Weekend 6/5-6/7
- Robesonias 250th Anniversary-Annual Street Fair- 6/26/26
- Daniel Boone Homestead event 6/27/26
- West Reading-Wyomissing Field of Honor 7/2/26
- Reading Buccaneers in the official America250PA Parade in Philadelphia 7/3/26
- Wyomissing 4th of July Parade 7/4/26
- Star Spangled Spectacular Berks County Fairgrounds w/ the RSO & Fireworks 7/4/26
- Berks County Liberty Bell Event. Front of Berks County Services Center. Noon 7/8/26. We will likely use this event to end the 250th and transition focus towards the Berks275th
- Hamburger Festival 9/5/26
- Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center's Heemet Fescht: 9/26/26

Next & Last Meeting – June 17th., 2026

Public Comments

Adjourn

**Please see below for National PA Day Event

Greetings from America250PA,

The Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (America250PA) was established by the legislature and Governor in 2018 to plan, encourage, develop, and



coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, Pennsylvania's integral role in that event, and the impact of its people on the nation's past, present, and future.

July 20th is National Pennsylvania Day and to celebrate, America250PA will again be volunteering across the commonwealth!

We are #PAProud to continue our partnerships with The GIANT Company and Natural Food Group in support of Feeding Pennsylvania, as well as our partnership with EQT Corporation and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in support of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.

Last year, nearly 400 volunteers packed more than 3,700 food boxes for seniors, veterans and families in need, totaling 32,000, and served nearly 400 meals. Additionally, volunteers took action around their communities, from planting 500 pounds of fresh vegetables and herbs, cleaning more than 500 historic graves and planting more than 40 shrubs and plants, while adding nearly 500 cubic feet of rubber mulch to parks and playgrounds across the commonwealth.

This July 20th, we are counting on you to join us at the Helping Harvest Fresh Food Bank Warehouse from 8:30 - 11 am or the Helping Harvest Fresh Food Bank Community Kitchen from 1 to 3:30 pm. This is our last PA Day, and we want to make sure it is the best one yet!

BERKS COUNTY

- Helping Harvest Fresh Food Bank - Warehouse - Sinking Spring, PA
- Helping Harvest Fresh Food Bank - Community Kitchen - Reading, PA

[If you are able to volunteer a few hours of your time on Monday, July 20, please click here to complete our volunteer form.](#)

2026 PA Day Volunteer Sign Up Form

Sign up for America250PA's National Pennsylvania Day efforts on July 20th 2026!

Once your form is submitted, a member of our team will reach out with additional details.

Please read carefully before proceeding:

- America250PA's Pennsylvania Day efforts are taking place on MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026.
- Each volunteer MUST register. If registering multiple volunteers, please submit separate forms for each individual. Each site requires thorough information; therefore, holds cannot be placed.
- Once you select a volunteer location, you will be prompted to fill out additional information that is required by your site. **Please make sure all of these requirements are completed. In addition, your site may require additional documentation to be returned. This documentation can be found at: <https://bit.ly/PADayDocs>. You will also be guided to these documents once you submit this form. Documentation should be sent to Erin Haafke at Feeding Pennsylvania: ehaafke@feedingpa.org**
- Some locations may have age limits or other physical requirements. Please be sure to review these details before selecting your site!
- All volunteers MUST wear closed-toed shoes. No flip flops, heels, sandals, or crocs, please. You should wear comfortable clothing that you don't mind getting dirty. Some of these locations will be outdoors, so please prepare accordingly (sunscreen, water, hat, etc.)
- Local media may be present at your location. Site leads may also take photographs and videos throughout to use for promotional purposes. By completing this form, you consent to your inclusion in this content and the use of this photography/videography in marketing and promotional materials.
- If you have any questions, please contact info@America250PA.org