



# LINCARNATIONS

Volume 14 No. 2

November 2005

“Would I might rouse the Lincoln in you all”

ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS



## Taking Care of Business

**Summer Appointments:** The Association of Lincoln Presenters' Board of Directors elected **Stanley Wernz (Ohio)** as the organization's new president. He replaces **Dan Bassuk (Pennsylvania)**, ALP founder, who died in May.

**Dean Dorrell (Indiana)**, who was second vice president, was elected first vice president to fill Wernz' unexpired term, while **Ralph Borrer (Ohio)** was elected second vice president to fill Dorrell's unexpired term.

Wernz appointed **Sheri Manthei (Michigan)** to serve as chair of the Mary Todd Lincoln Committee. She replaces **Donna Daniels (Illinois)**, who announced her resignation.

The four individuals will continue in office at least until the April 2006 elections, which will take place during the annual convention in Cincinnati.

**Memorial Page:** An ALP "In Memoriam" Web page is in the planning stages, and organizers would like the membership's help in obtaining information. The page, to be titled "Now They Belong to the Ages," will include the names of deceased members, as well as their dates of birth and death; where they lived; their role in the ALP (e.g., Abraham Lincoln, Mary Todd Lincoln, other character, patron); and a short comment.

Example: *"Lynn, Karen L., b. March 15, 1942; d. June 21, 1997. A Mary Todd Lincoln. Mrs. Lynn was the creator, producer and performer of the one-person show "Meet Mary Todd Lincoln." She developed many topical segments about the life of Mary Todd Lincoln, allowing great flexibility in portraying Mrs. Lincoln before her audiences. Mrs. Lynn had made her home in Springfield, Ill."*

The list to date includes:

**Abraham Lincoln:** Dan Bassuk (b. 1939; d. 5/10/2005); Lambert Ekster; Larry Givens (d. 6/30/2005); G. William Horsley; Jerry Larsen; Bill Sublett (b. 3/2/1921?; d.

11/27/01); and H.M. Wammack

**Mary Todd Lincoln:** Mary Hanks (d. 5/4/2004); Karen L. Lynn (see write-up above)

**Patrons:** Lloyd Ostendorf (d. 10/27/2000)

Anyone with information they can add to make these entries complete, or who know of other individuals who should be mentioned, are asked to contact Ralph Borrer, 6556 Lincoln Green Road, Holland, Ohio 43528-9670; (419) 865-2057; [abencamp@abraham-lincoln.net](mailto:abencamp@abraham-lincoln.net).

**ALP Dues:** According to Larry Elliott, ALP treasurer, many membership dues for 2005 have not yet been paid. Dues for 2006 will be due Jan. 31, 2006. They will be expected to be paid no later than April 7 (Convention 2006). Those who have not paid their dues by that date will have their names placed on the inactive list.

As a reminder, the following fees are in effect: New member, \$25; Single member,

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## From Your President

October 2, 2005

Dear Colleagues,

Some of you are just learning that the ALP Board of Directors elected me president of ALP. I am grateful for the faith and trust they demonstrated by this action; my goal is to provide leadership that proves worthy of that trust, pursuing directions that help all of us fulfill the mission of ALP. **Working together**, we all will find opportunities for service in this cause.

During the last several months, I have been reviewing files, and responding to correspondence and inquiries. I have learned that my knowledge about you, our members, is inadequate. In the near future, I will be asking you for information to help me serve you better. Things like, "Are you actively presenting?" "How far are you willing to travel?" "Are special arrangements required?" "Do you want referrals?" I have had several inquiries for people or information in the time since our conference in Detroit.

From reading and listening, I have learned that some members would welcome scholarly papers and discussions in our *Lincarnations* publication. Any of you so inclined to write such papers, please contact Vicki Woodard or Dean Dorrell.

The Cincinnati Conference (April 7-9, 2006) is quickly approaching. The business meeting will be extremely important: a revised Constitution with all the related implications, election of officers and directors, and selection of the 2008 Conference site. Your voice is important. Please plan to be in attendance.

Using responses from the last mailing of *Lincarnations*, Dean Dorrell has been updating our membership list. It is ready for distribution, and will become the basis for our "rapid response communications." When you get this list, if you have e-mail and are not listed with an e-mail address, please notify us of your address. If you have e-mail, and are willing to be a first contact in your state, please let us know. Before long, I hope to establish the "response tree," which will identify people responsible for getting information out to members.

Since our last *Lincarnations*, we have lost another member of our ALP family. Members of ALP attended memorial services for both Dan Bassuk and funeral services for Larry Givens. The families of the deceased have each expressed their thanks for the support that ALP members provided during the illnesses and death of these members. That members cared enough to attend the services was greatly appreciated.

Your humble servant,  
Stan Wernz

### Late News:

Max and Donna Daniels recently notified us that Frank Pettice, a member of the ALP from the Chicago area, passed away Friday, Nov. 25, 2005. According to Max, "Having had the pleasure of meeting and 'breaking bread' with Frank on several occasions, I can say that the world will never see a finer gentleman, who devoted a lot of time and energy to his Lincoln portrayal. He will be missed by all who knew him." Cards may be sent to the family at 22844 Cottage Grove, Steger, Ill. 60475.

## What's Happening...

**Don Ancell from Oxnard, Calif.**, wrote, "I would like to share an experience that really touched this Abe's heart. It happened a while back, but I still reminisce.

"One day while returning from a school, I decided to pick up some things at the store. As I was walking across the parking lot, a lady about 100 feet away waved and then came over to meet me. (I was still dressed in period attire.) She spoke up and said, 'You did a presentation at our school a couple of months ago, and our son was present, and I just want to thank you for what you did for him.' 'What was it that I did?' I asked. 'My son would not pick up a book to read unless he was forced to, and that was just for school work, but after your program and after school that afternoon, my son went to the library and checked out several books on Lincoln and the Civil War and hasn't put them down!'

"Of course, it wasn't me that was talking; it was Mr. Lincoln, encouraging young and old alike to read."

**Jim Hitchcock of Stamford, N.Y.**, reported that it was his pleasure to be asked to speak at an event called "Echo Taps," scheduled to take place between two veterans' cemeteries – one in Elmira, N.Y., and another in Bath, N.Y. – a distance of 41 miles.

"It was hoped that they could get 410 buglers together (and) that they planned to start with the first, who was a young lady by the name of Hannah Sollecito, a descendent of Gen. Daniel Butterfield who was advanced to general by Abe and who was the one who was credited with composing 'Taps.' After (Hannah) had played the first three notes, the next bugler would start to play, and so on for the 41 miles.

"My thought was that this would be a miracle if it could be done. It was to bring attention to the growing shortage and need for buglers to play taps at veterans' funerals. Apparently miracles do happen; the total number of buglers was 866 from 33 states."

**Saundra Jordan from Baltimore, Md.**, had the honor of doing her first-person interpretation of Mary Todd Lincoln at Ford's Theater National Historic Site on the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's death. "Every year, the National Park Service lays a wreath at the top of the steps of the Peterson House," Jordan said. "(I) participated in the ceremony that started inside the theater and followed the route of President Lincoln's body across the street to the house where he died."

Jordan was escorted by her husband, Stan, who wore a federal uniform. Following the ceremony, as Mary Todd Lincoln, she told the 7,000 visitors to Ford's Theater the story of the assassination of her husband through her eyes. Rae Emerson, site manager for Ford's Theater National Historic Site, has invited her back for the 2006 activities.

**Ken Jones of Dyersburg, Tenn.**, reported that he and a colleague planned to do a "Lincoln and Mark Twain performance" this month (October) in Springfield, Ill. The event? A States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) Convention. "Since Twain and Lincoln were contemporaries (though they never met), we are planning a performance where they do meet, and the venue is the restored Old State Capitol Building. It should be interesting," Jones said.

The Douglas-Lincoln team of **Brian Gugala (Bartlett, Ill.)** and **Joe Woodard (Hazel Dell, Ill.)** gave its maiden performances (six) at the Old Courthouse Museum at St. Louis, Mo., as part of its multi-day Independence Day celebration in July. The roughly hour-long show focused on the controversy over Douglas' Kansas-Nebraska Act in the year it became law (1854), and on Lincoln's first try for a Senate seat that same year. Joining the two men as narrator and Mary Todd Lincoln was Brian's wife, **Valerie Gugala**. The Old Courthouse Museum is part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, which includes the St. Louis Arch.

First-place honors went to **Larry Elliott of Louisville, Ky.**, at the Salvisa, Ky., Lincoln Look-Alike Contest, held in September. Other contestants and visitors to the contest included **Jim Hayney of Camp Hill, Pa.**; **Lenny and Janice Kleiner of Cincinnati, Ohio**; **Joe and Rita Hamilton of Lincoln County, Ky.**; and **Charles and Shirley Long of Shepherdsville, Ky.**

**Cliff and Joan Howard of Frankfort, Ky.** (as President Jefferson and First Lady Varina Howell Davis) and **Jim and Mary Sayre of Lawrenceburg, Ky.**, also were in attendance, but did not participate in the contest.

First-place honors went to **Jim Rubin of West Virginia** at the annual Hodgenville, Ky., Lincoln Look-Alike Contest, held in October. **Bob Rotgers of Wisconsin** placed second, and **Larry Elliott of Kentucky** placed third. Other contestants were **Charles Long, Kentucky**; **Mike Cox, Tennessee**; **Jim Conine, Georgia**; **Charles Kleiner, Ohio**; **Whit McMahan, Tennessee**; **Lonn Pressnall, Illinois**; **Daryl Madden, Indiana**; **Nelson Doyle, Kentucky**; and **Lee Williams, Iowa**.

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**Mary Elliott** received first-place honors in the Mary Todd Lincoln contest, and **Donna Ebert** placed second. Both ladies reside in **Kentucky**.

Present but not participating in the contests were **Dennis** (the 2004 winner) and **Molly Boggs, Tennessee**; **Cliff and Joan Howard, Kentucky**; **Jim and Mary Sayre, Kentucky**; **Edna Rubin, West Virginia**; **Ruth Conine, Georgia**; **Shirley Long, Kentucky**; **Janice Kleiner, Ohio**; and **Carol Rotgers, Wisconsin**.

As an added note, **Lee Williams** got top honors in a new contest, which organizers hope to make an annual event. **Dennis Boggs** placed second, and **Bob Rotgers**, third, in the Oratory Contest.

Jim Sayre also reported that tribute was paid to **Bill Sublett, Dan Bassuk** and **Larry Givens**. Beulah Sublett, accompanied by her daughters, was also in attendance at the event.

We are sorry to report that **Larry Givens, 69, of Ft. Wayne, Ind.**, died June 30, 2005, following a year-long battle with leukemia.

Larry was a well-known dramatist, writer and storyteller who brought to life the characters of Simon Peter, Joseph, Jesus Christ, The Storyteller from the East, Johnny Applesseed, Anthony Wayne and Abraham Lincoln. His audiences included school children, church groups and community groups.

We extend our sympathies to Larry's family, including his wife Gayle, who can be reached at 12808 Schooner Drive, Ft. Wayne, Ind. 46845; (260) 637-8980 or (260) 413-7741.

**Larry Elliott** of Louisville, Ky., reports that his son, Keith, a senior airman in the U.S. Air Force, reported to duty in Baghdad, Iraq, in September 2005. "Please pray for his safety and the big picture mission of this war," Larry wrote. "Freedom is not free."

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ALP

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ALP Web Site: <http://www.lincolnpresenters.org/>

We hope all of you enjoy this issue of "Lincarnations," and that you will find the information it provides useful. It is our intention to publish the newsletter on a quarterly basis, but we can only do that with your help. Please send suggestions, comments, questions, etc., as well as newsletter submissions (articles and/or photographs), to Dean Dorrell and/or Vicki Woodard, co-editors. Items will be used as space permits.

Those of you willing to help us out financially by agreeing to receive future issues through electronic means (PDF files, with an e-mail notification) should let Dean Dorrell know.

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# Mary's Velvet Rose

## Fashion Column

### The Family Albatross

When Prince Albert, the consort of Queen Victoria, died in 1861, Mary Lincoln wore a half-mourning gown of white silk trimmed with deep black lace as a symbol of sympathy. The queen was in deep mourning, and stayed in mourning attire for the remaining 40 years of her life. She set the standard for all women in mourning.

Just four short years later, Mary would join Queen Victoria as a perpetual widow. After all, if Queen Victoria could make such a personal sacrifice, so could the widow of Abraham Lincoln. It was a custom followed by many women during the era, and Mary would have followed it completely if it had not been for one very special invitation.

In 1871, Mary and Tad Lincoln traveled throughout Europe. For a while, they visited London, England. While there, Mary received an invitation to meet Queen Victoria who was holding court at St. James Palace. At Tad's request, Mary did not wear mourning attire that day. Instead, Mary had a gown of white silk fashioned in the latest style from *Godey's* magazine. The skirt was fashioned with a large bustle and was trimmed with coral flounces. The bodice was trimmed with coral ruffles. The outfit's accessories included a simple necklace of coral beads and drop coral earrings. The next day, Mary returned to mourning attire.

When Mary returned to Illinois, she gave many items to her nieces. The coral jewelry was given to one of Elizabeth's daughters. The white and coral dress was given to Louisa Todd, the youngest daughter of Mary's eldest brother, Levi Todd. Louisa wore it on the day she married Edwards Keys in Springfield. By the time of Mary's death, the dress had found its way into Louisa's attic. Having only sons, and no daughter to pass the dress to, Louisa did not know what to do with Aunt Mary's dress. In her golden

years, Louisa could be found on her front porch with Mary's dress by her side. As strangers passed by, Louisa would call out and ask them if they wanted a piece of the dress once worn by Mary Lincoln, the president's widow. If they replied "yes," Louisa would cut a piece off of the dress and present it to them.

After Louisa's death, the dress was stored once again in a box in the attic. When her granddaughter, Mary, wished to wear it for her own wedding, it was taken out of the box for the first time in years. Mary was shocked to find that the bodice was completely gone, and the skirt had hunks cut out of it. She decided that she could not be married in "half a dress." But since she had shown an interest in it, the item eventually landed in a box in Mary's attic. She gave it to a museum several years ago, and when that museum moved its collection, the skirt was returned to Mary. She began referring to it as "the family albatross."

Later the skirt was loaned and displayed at the Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Ind., during a special display of First Lady gowns. This time when it was returned to the family, it belonged to Mary's daughter. When it was given to her, she was told that the "family albatross" was now hers to do with as she wished. She gave it to a museum, and today it still sits in a box marked with Louisa's granddaughter's name and address. The "family albatross" now has a permanent home, but it does not yet have a place of honor.

(Information for this article was taken from an interview with Louisa Todd's great-granddaughter, who was the last family member to own the skirt.)

--Submitted by Donna McCreary, Charlestown, Ind.

## Conversation Over Tea

### “Why My Drawers Come to My Ankles”

Much like many of you, my Mary Sisters, I began presenting Mary and re-enacting in what I presumed was correct 1860s attire. After trying a variety of styles of underpinnings, I chose the longer drawers.

(Yes, they are properly called drawers, no matter how pretty we make them with lace and other decorations. These underpinnings are not called lovely little names such as pantalets, bloomers or pettipants\*\* -- just the unglamorous drawers.)

**As my research into clothing styles of the 1860s has helped to improve my outerwear, I also learned that my drawer length is not correct. However, I have chosen to continue to wear mine at the ankle because of experience.**

There was the time I made a presentation at a pre-school. There were the usual questions from children and teachers. Suddenly I realized that a couple of very curious three-year-olds had decided to crawl under my full skirt and hoop to answer their own questions. Teachers were embarrassed, but not I, as I was wearing my long drawers. At that point, in the interest of education, I showed the other children and teachers what I wore under the full skirt.

An earlier experience happened at a Lincoln-Douglas Debate re-enactment at Knox College. There was a rainstorm that grew heavier as the day went on. Some little girls found their way under my cape and skirt to escape the rain.

After a St. Patrick's Day Parade, participants in our group of Civil War re-enactors -- soldiers and ladies in period dress -- held a picnic. Not wanting to sit on the ground, I took my lovely little tapestry folding chair. While I was attempting to sit in the chair, however, it collapsed, grabbing my hoop and skirt. I went down, legs sprawling, with the front of the hoop in the air. Now this was in a public park, with the soldiers and general public all around. Of course, there was not even time for the other ladies to create a "modesty circle" around me. Why, I can get the vapors just remembering that event!

So this is why, in the interest of modesty and practicality, my drawers come to my ankles. I hope that perhaps you, my Mary Sisters, have enjoyed this little story and that you, too, might have an experi-

ence or two you'd like to share. Or, perhaps, you know of a book or article that has peeked your interest. I know I, for one, would love to hear about it.

--Submitted by Nancy Peck, San Diego, Calif.

### **\*\*Ladies' Undergarments: A Brief Primer**

*(Thanks to Donna McCreary for sharing this information.)*

**Pettipants** -- A girdle-sized garment made of stretchy fabric. Trimmed with rows of lace ruffles, it extends to about mid-thigh. This garment is part of a square dancer's costume, and is intended to be seen under the skirt when the woman is twirling.

**Pantalets (*also called pantaloons*)** -- Became part of a women's underpinnings in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. They extended to the ankle, were trimmed with lace and had four to five rows of tucks. Pantalets were designed to be seen under women's skirts, but by 1830, they were no longer worn by adult women. However, small girls continued to wear them for several more decades.

**Bloomers** -- Amelia Jenks Bloomer campaigned for women's health issues while wearing a short dress over a pair of trousers. The trousers became known as "bloomers." In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the term became a slang term for a woman's underpants.

**Drawers** -- Became the standard undr garment for American women around 1830. Prior to this, they were a man's garment. Made from two tubular legs attached to a waistband, they usually extended below the knee. Some fashion designers of the day suggested that drawers should be worn as far down the calf as possible without being visible. However, in some societies of America, women wore drawers made of scarlet which were to be "accidentally" seen. These women were not ladies.

### Member Profile : Stan Wernz

Stan Wernz, ALP Lincoln #100, was born on Lincoln Avenue in Mt. Healthy, Ohio (suburb of Cincinnati). While he was still quite young, his family moved to rural Springfield Township, where Wernz worked for farmers. He received his high school diploma from Greenhills High School.

Following service in the U.S. Army (Fort Leonard Wood, Fort Riley and Heidelberg, Germany), Procter & Gamble hired Wernz in food products research. After more than seven years, his time at P & G came to an end when he decided to become a music teacher. Wernz attended Miami University where he earned a bachelor of music degree. He later received a master of music education degree from the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati, and pursued post-graduate work at the CCM, UC College of Education and Xavier University.

In the late 1960s, after growing a beard, Wernz heard a student comment that Wernz always acted like Lincoln and now he looked like him. After checking in a mirror, Wernz concluded the student had a point. If he shaved off the mustache and cleaned up his lower lip, there was some similarity in appearance. With this modification, Wernz proceeded with teaching duties.

In that district's junior high school, all teachers simultaneously taught a four-week-long unit on Civil War history (one year) and Revolutionary War history (the following year). Wernz included information about Lincoln in his lesson plans. The concluding activity was a "Pioneer Day," where students engaged in games (wheel barrow races, three-legged races, pie-eating contests, etc.). The last event of the day was a medley of Civil War (or Revolutionary War) tunes, sung by the junior high school chorus. For this finale, Wernz donned a black suit, white shirt, black bow tie and a borrowed black top hat. This costumed appearance brought enthusiastic response from the students, and an avocation for Wernz was created. He was later asked to be the "resident Lincoln" for Civil War re-enactments held in the city of North College Hill.

While visiting Lincoln's birthplace in Kentucky, Wernz met Cliff and Joan Howard, who told him of the ALP. Wernz joined the group in 1996, and began doing more presentations upon his retirement in 2000. For the past few years, Wernz has been presenting Lincoln in many different venues, and most recently participated in a filming at Hagerstown, Md., for the DVD *Antietam: The Cost of Freedom*.



Stan Wernz: Antietam, the Cost of Freedom

#### "Under God"

While in Springfield, Ill., for the dedication of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, several ALP members noted the omission of the words, "under God," in an exhibit highlighting the battle of Gettysburg. ALP President Stan Wernz wrote a letter of inquiry to ALPLM Director Richard Norton Smith.

That letter read in part: *"As we observed the exhibits, a couple of deviations caught our attention... Upon entering the room where we found the large battle scene, over the battle we see quoted part of the 'Gettysburg Address.' Under the picture we see quoted part of the 'Gettysburg Address.' Both quotations are the segment that in the original includes the phrase, 'that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom.' However, these samplings exclude the two words, 'under God.' Was this an omission, an oversight or an error?"*

*"In fairness, in another room we find the closing words of the address. In this room, the phrase 'under God' appears. When a docent was asked about this omission, he replied there are several versions of the 'Gettysburg Address.' We agree! However, all the versions we have seen have 'under God' included, except for the version which first appeared in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and which is currently in the Library of Congress."*

Tom Schwartz, Illinois State Historian/Director, Collections and Research, responded on Richard Norton Smith's behalf. His letter included the following:

*"Both of the Library of Congress drafts exclude the phrase 'under God.' John Sellers\* has often argued the second draft is the 'reading' copy at Gettysburg. The simple answer is that we will never really know what Lincoln said because: 1) most scholars agree that the 'reading' copy does not exist, and 2) newspaper accounts differ in what was said. Joseph Gilbert of the Associated Press heard the speech and then consulted Lincoln's handwritten copy for comparison. He includes the phrase, 'under God,' but not where you place it. Rather, he places it 'that the nation shall, under God, have a new birth of freedom...' In the Everett\*\* copy displayed in the Treasures Gallery (and) written after Lincoln delivered it, the phrase appears where most people expect it – 'that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth freedom...' Gilbert also fails to include 'poor' in the phrase 'poor power,' where other reporters have it in their versions of Lincoln's Nov. 19 speech. All of this is to suggest that there are problems with our knowledge of what Lincoln actually said on Nov. 19, 1863. As you well know, his later efforts to write out the address resulted in slight differences, making none of the five existing copies exactly alike."*

"One individual wanted to know if we were purposely excluding God from the exhibits by our choice in the Gettysburg gallery. Again, the simple answer is absolutely not. Lincoln lived at a time (when) Christianity was the predominate religion and closely intertwined with politics. There are plenty of examples of Lincoln's reference to God in other original documents in the exhibit, as well as in the 'Ask Mr. Lincoln' gallery. When given opportunities to show where our knowledge is not complete, we've presented material in a way that will raise questions for careful thinkers and close readers. And that is ultimately the purpose of the museum, for people to want to learn and read more."

\*John Sellers is the historian for the Civil War period at the Library of Congress. The Lincoln papers are but one of many collections he oversees.

\*\*Orator Edward Everett of Massachusetts; spoke before Lincoln at the Gettysburg Dedication

## Association of Lincoln Presenters

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## Taking Care of Business, continued...

*(Continued from page 1)*

annual, \$10; an Abraham and Mary couple, annual, \$15; Patrons (single), annual, \$20; Lifetime member, \$100 (one time only).

Dues may be sent to: Larry Elliott, 9300 Wimbley Court, Louisville, Ky. 40241. Questions? Contact Larry at (502) 394-0694.

**Annual Awards:** The deadline to submit nominations for the 2005 annual awards has come and gone (Oct. 1), but that doesn't mean you should stop appreciating the work of your colleagues. In the months to come, take time to sit back and enjoy the efforts of your brothers and sisters. And if you see something that you feel deserves special recognition, be sure to let next year's Award Committee know about it. (Each year's committee is composed of the winners of the previous two years (e.g., the 2005 Awards Committee is composed of those individuals who received awards in 2004 and 2005).

For those of you who were unable to attend the 2005 Convention in Michigan, here is the most recent list of winners: Outstanding Abraham Lincoln, Jim Conine, *Georgia*; Outstanding Mary Todd Lincoln, Ruthanne Boatright (*Illinois*); Railsplitter Award, Larry Elliott (*Kentucky*); the Gordon Vincent Memorial Award (performing team, one member a Lincoln), Bonnie Priebe and Armaine Osterberg (*Michigan*); the Glenn Schnizlein Memorial Award (Abraham/Mary Lincoln team), Jim and Mary Hitchcock (*New York*); and the Lincoln Legend, Charles Brame, *California*.

**Future Conventions:** Anyone interested in hosting the ALP's annual convention in April 2008 should contact Vern Risty, chair, Future Conventions Committee, at (847) 577-0304; [vristy@hotmail.com](mailto:vristy@hotmail.com). Please be reminded that the membership will vote for the 2008 location at the 2006 Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Convention 2007 is scheduled to take place in Iowa. Contact Lee Williams at (712) 774-5781; [lee@abelincoln.org](mailto:lee@abelincoln.org) for information.

**Dues for 2006 will be due Jan. 31, 2006. They will be expected to be paid no later than April 7 (Convention 2006). Those who have not paid their dues by that date will have their names placed on the inactive list.**