



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2, 2013

OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE SCHEDULE FOR WHEELING SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Wheeling, WV – On Thursday, May 2, Wheeling Mayor Andy McKenzie and West Virginia Division of Culture and History Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith held a special press conference at West Virginia Independence Hall to announce plans for the Statehood Sesquicentennial Celebration in Wheeling.

A full schedule of events is planned in Wheeling from early May through late June. A variety of historical re-enactments and educational programs are complemented by outdoor concerts, arts and cultural activities, and a crowd-pleasing fireworks show at Wheeling's Heritage Port, covering a range of interests for the community.

With the West Virginia Legislature June Interim Meetings moving to Wheeling, the week of June 17 will be a particularly exciting time to visit the birthplace of West Virginia. Events include:

Tuesday, June 18:

- 12:00 p.m. – Lunch with Books presents "Secession in Favor of the Constitution," presented by Dr. David Zimring
- 7:00 p.m. – People's University at the Ohio County Public Library: "The Wheeling Conventions," presented by Dr. David Javersak

Wednesday, June 19:

- Interim Meetings begin
- 5:00 p.m. – West Virginia Statehood speeches at WV Independence Hall
- **5:30-8:00 p.m. – Statehood Block Party:** Legislative Concert and Reception at River City
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Waterfront Wednesdays Concert at Heritage Port

Thursday, June 20: West Virginia Day

- Interim Meetings continue
- 10:00 a.m. – Gov. Pierpont maquette presented
- **12:00 p.m. – "150 Years: West Virginia Sesquicentennial Celebration!"**
Commemorative ceremonies and historical reenactments at WV Independence Hall to celebrate the 150th anniversary of West Virginia statehood.



- Ceremonial bell ringing
- Speeches by elected officials and Gov. Pierpont actor
- 35-gun salute with choir and canons
- 2:00 p.m. – Wildcat Regiment Band concert, featuring Civil War era music in the historic courtroom at WV Independence Hall.
- 2:00-4:00 p.m. – Tours of the First State Capitol Building
- 4:30-7:00 p.m. – West Virginia Day Concert, Part I at Heritage Port
- 7:30-10:00 p.m. – West Virginia Day Concert, Part II at Heritage Port: Wheeling Symphony Orchestra, with Johnny Staats, Kathy Mattea, and Landau Eugene Murphy, Jr.
 - 7:45 pm – Original Poem for West Virginia by Marc Harshman
- 10:00 p.m. – Fireworks

Friday, June 21:

- Interim Meetings conclude
- 6:00 p.m. – “Beers & Beards” event at River City Aleworks
- 7:00 p.m. – Blue & Grey Choir concert at West Virginia Independence Hall
- 9:30 p.m. – Riverfront Movie Night at Heritage Port, featuring *Lincoln*

Saturday, June 22:

- 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. – Wheeling Arts Fest in Downtown Wheeling
 - Locations include: 16th Street, WV Independence Hall, West Virginia Northern Community College, Ohio County Public Library
- 6:00 p.m. – Civil War Ball at the historic McLure Hotel

West Virginia Day marks the celebratory capstone of the schedule, with nearly 12 hours of festivities planned on June 20.

Speakers at Thursday’s press conference highlighted Wheeling’s plans for entertainment, historical and cultural events, as well as the positive impact the Sesquicentennial Celebration will have on tourism. Other representatives who participated in the announcement include André Raphel, Music Director of the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra, Frank O’Brien, Executive Director of the Wheeling Convention and Visitors Bureau, and members of the Wheeling Civil War 150 Committee.

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