

A Message from AFL's President William N. Kirchner

What a grand 75th Anniversary year The American Friends of Lafayette had in 2007! A goodly number of new members; two really first-class books on Lafayette authored by AFL members David Clary and Alan Hoffman; a graceful text for the Washington-Lafayette Exhibit catalog by Diane Shaw; lectures at Lafayette College by David Clary in September and former AFL President Professor Robert Crout in October; major addresses at the College on 5-6 September by author David McCullough and author and Professor Lloyd Kramer, History Department Chair, UNC-Chapel Hill; publication of AFL's special 75th Anniversary Edition of the GAZETTE; Paul Spalding's gift of an antiquarian monograph in German (re: Lafayette's 1792-97 imprisonment) and Jacques Bossiere's gift of a Houdon bust of General Lafayette, both to the Lafayette Collection; a delicious luncheon at the College followed by Alan Hoffman's interesting talk – again, on Lafayette's 250th, with the largest delegation of AFL members attending an AFL annual meeting in recent decades, and representing more than a dozen states. Then, in October, Yorktown Day exercises where much was made of the 250th Anniversary of Lafayette's birth, and, in attendance, the largest delegation of AFL members present for the 19th October celebration in many years. And, in November, a very special recognition of The American Friends of Lafayette by the White House - an invitation for AFL President Bill Kirchner and Linda to a reception, followed by entertainment, in the East Wing for the evening of November 6th in honor of French President Nicolas Sarkozy and, also, in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of Lafayette's birth.

Fellow AFL members, let us take solemn resolve, now, at the beginning of a new year, to assure that our efforts, individually and as an organization, dedicated to the same ideals Lafayette held to be the only sure foundation of government for individuals and free societies, will result in programs, events, activities, published material and gifts – equivalent at least to the successes of 2007. The outline for the '08 New Hampshire meeting (details enclosed herewith) gives promise of being just the type of program and gathering to follow an outstanding 75th AFL annual meeting last year. We are expecting a turnout equivalent to last year's. So, don't you be the one to disappoint us. We're shooting for 30-35 members to attend.

William N. Kirchner, President

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Volunteer Needed!

Our society urgently needs a member volunteer to serve as AFL's Membership Chairman. These responsibilities are the typical ones for an organization like ours, including maintaining the society's membership list (names, contact information, membership levels, etc.) and mailing labels, communications to and correspondence with members, sending membership materials to new members, and handling membership mailings (usually three each year). Computer and email skills are extremely helpful. To express interest or to obtain further information, contact Phil Schroeder at 610-759-0551 or <schroedp@lafayette.edu>.