



**Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250)
Signature Event**

***A Common Cause to All: A Convening of the States*
250th Anniversary of the Committees of Correspondence**

March 10 – 12, 2023
Colonial Williamsburg

Background

March 12, 2023, marks the 250th Anniversary of the formation of Virginia’s Committee of Correspondence. The Committees of Correspondence were established in each colony and had no central entity guiding them. Research indicates that the desire to secure united action among the colonies was the chief purpose of the committees. Virginia’s committee in particular called for the states each to form committees to correspond with each other to secure information “of all such act and resolutions of the British Parliament, or proceedings of Administration, as may relate to or effect the British colonies in America, and to keep up and maintain a correspondence and communication with our sister colonies, respecting these important considerations.”

Committees of Correspondence were not uncommon entities, but this was the first act uniting the colonies. Remarking on the origin of the Virginia committee, which met in the Raleigh Tavern in Williamsburg, Thomas Jefferson noted its purpose as

“... a common cause to all, ... to produce a unity of action; and for this purpose that a committee of correspondence in each colony would be the best instrument for intercommunication; and that their first measure would probably be, to propose a meeting of deputies from every colony, at some central place, who should be charged with the direction of the measures which should be taken by all. We therefore drew up the resolution.”ⁱ

This Signature Event will reflect the Committees of Correspondence by including colleagues in other states, state 250th commissioners, along with representatives of Virginia local committees, to spend a weekend of mutual learning, discussion, and collaboration in Colonial Williamsburg on March 10-12, 2023.

As this will be the first gathering of states to mark the 250th, Virginia, once again, will lead the nation by inviting collaboration, information sharing, and opportunities for states to partner together during the semiquincentennial, signaling our shared commitment not only to a meaningful commemoration for Virginia, but for every state and the nation as a whole.

A Common Cause to All
250th Anniversary of Committees of Correspondence
DRAFT AGENDA

Location:

Williamsburg Lodge
310 South England Street
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Friday, March 10

5:30 pm: Welcome to Virginia reception and dinner
Generously supported by Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Speakers: TBA

Saturday, March 11

8:00 am: Breakfast buffet morning

9:00 am: **Opportunities of the Semiquincentennial**

John Dichtl,
President and CEO, American Associate of State and Local History (AASLH)

10:30 am: **Americans, Our History, and the 250th**

Susie Wilkening
President, Wilkening Consulting: Consumer Research on the 250th

Noon: Lunch served

12:30 pm: **Panel discussion: Crafting a Meaningful Commemoration for all Americans**

2:00 pm: Wrap-up; Depart for walking tours or explore on your own

6:00 pm: Dinner and special evening event – Governor’s Palace

Speakers: TBA

Updated 12/16/22

Sunday, March 12

8:00 am: Breakfast, coffee, tea

9:00 am:

Track 1 - States: 250th Across the Nation

Track 2 – Virginia localities: 250th Across the State

Noon: Lunch (provided): **Summarization and Next Steps**

2:00 pm: **Concluding Ceremony**

Join colleagues from each state for a special conclusion event at the Raleigh Tavern, where Virginia's Committee of Correspondence, including Thomas Jefferson, met on March 12, 1773.

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