



CALVIN COOLIDGE

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Chairman's Report to Members Annual Meeting 2011

We are pleased to report that the year 2010, which marked our 50th Anniversary, has been a transformational year for the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation. The organization has made significant progress in achieving its goals under its Strategic Plan and has taken important strides forward in its stewardship of the legacy of Calvin Coolidge. Let me chronicle some of those achievements.

Your Foundation completed the construction of the President Calvin Coolidge Museum and Education Center and has moved its offices, manuscripts, collections, memorabilia, institutional archives and library into the new structure, where they will be safely housed and protected. The new offices allow year-round activities, including new classrooms and meeting facilities for educational programs. The excitement of the new building has reignited an interest in Coolidge.

Financially the Foundation is sound. Total Assets for the year ending December 31, 2010 grew \$247,970 to \$2,540,097. The mandate set by the Trustees for a break-even Operating Income was achieved. Educational activity levels climbed. Fund raising has improved. Total Revenues increased from \$155,647 in 2009 to \$274,848 in 2010, an increase of \$119,201 or 43% largely due to increased Contributions and Special Events Income.

The Capital Campaign was completed. At year-end Endowment funds exceeded \$1,311,366, \$731,251 higher than in the prior year due to the combined success of the campaign and favorable construction costs. The Foundation received a leadership gift of \$250,000 from the Lyman Orton family of Weston, Vermont in memory of Vrest Orton who joined John Coolidge as an original founder.

Events, educational programs and activities under the able leadership of Barbara O'Connell reached all-time highs thanks to an innovative and ambitious group of Trustees, volunteers, friends and staff. Your Foundation partnered with the *Rutland Herald* to host an *Evening of Coolidge* at the Paramount Theater in Rutland, VT. Your Foundation partnered with the Vermont Division for Historical Preservation to carry out the dedication of the President Calvin Coolidge Museum and Education Center.

Your Foundation capped the summer season by featuring nationally noted authors and scholars, at an educational symposium, *Straight Talk*, at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston. Caroline Kennedy was the honorary Chair of the 50th

Anniversary Gala. John C. “Jack” Bogle, founder of the Vanguard Group, was the featured evening keynote speaker. Letters of commendation were received from Presidents George Herbert Walker Bush and William Jefferson Clinton, along with a Proclamation by Vermont Governor James H. Douglas.

Substantial progress was made into making the Foundation a well-managed organization. New collections and archival operational procedures and regulations have been developed and implemented, as have formal employment procedures, strengthened internal controls for financial management and the adoption of new By Laws for better governance. A disaster preparedness plan was established for the historic Union Christian Church. Wireless communications and Internet access were installed in the library and offices to facilitate research and scholar access to Coolidge collections.

The Foundation was pleased to add to its roster of Honorary Advisors two distinguished names: Jimmy Carter and Nancy Reagan.

The Foundation reprinted, as a commemorative edition for its 50th Anniversary, *Calvin Coolidge—Twenty Years After* by Claude M. Fuess. It also joined with the National Notary Association in staging an impressive introduction of the Association’s book *Why Coolidge Matters: How Civility in Politics Can Bring a Nation Together*, at the Library of Congress.

Educational tours for school children were held during the spring and autumn months. Special programs were conducted for History Exploration, Constitution Day, the Vermont History Expo and Vermont History Day events. A teacher’s conference funded by the Library of Congress was organized by Diane Kimble. Its topic was *Vermont on the National Stage: An Inquiry Lab*.

The euphoria of the 2010 calendar year continued into 2011. *Straight Talk* became the basis for a C-SPAN series on Coolidge to be aired throughout 2011. The proceedings of the symposium will be published in the Spring 2012 issue of the *New England Journal of History*. During President’s Week, a time of peak interest in the American presidency, 13 Coolidge articles were published in the national media by National Advisory Board members reflecting the renewed enthusiasm sparked in Boston. Without doubt, Calvin Coolidge’s rare wisdom and character, his philosophy of government, and his leadership are perceived as being more relevant in today’s world.

The Honorable Megan Smith, Vermont Commissioner of Tourism and Marketing, spoke at the annual ceremony marking Calvin Coolidge’s July 4th birth. A wreath from President Barack Obama was placed on President Coolidge’s hillside grave. Important articles and editorials appeared in national media including in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Boston Globe* and *Bloomberg View*.

The *Speaking of Coolidge* summer series is off to an excellent start. Amity Shlaes and Cal Thomas kicked it off in early July 2011. Nicholas R. Clifford, William Henkel and Joseph Ellis followed with their views about Coolidge, his presidency and the Coolidge era. The Annual Meeting Dinner on July 30, 2011 will feature the Honorable Justice Stephen G. Breyer of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Going forward, exciting programs will explore Calvin Coolidge’s presidency and stimulate the scholarly reexamination of his life and career. They will focus on Coolidge’s high character and communicate his timeless fundamental values and ethical standards that created trust and confidence. They will explore his unique leadership style, which helped to restore the prestige of the presidency at a critical point.

They will illustrate how he created unprecedented economic growth and unparalleled prosperity, while encouraging efforts for economic reconstruction abroad and for world peace. Taken together, these programs will reveal how Calvin Coolidge contributed to the improvement of the human condition.

In the next 12-18 months your Foundation will continue to pursue the critical initiatives of its Strategic Plan further. A revitalization of the Website will promote study, communication and awareness; facilitate rapid navigation and in-depth research; and anchor a social media program to create the "viral" spreading of the Coolidge message. In the longer term the Foundation will digitize significant Coolidge special collections for the benefit of all those having an interest in Coolidge.

The Foundation and the State Historic Site will open permanent and temporary exhibits for the President Calvin Coolidge Museum and Education Center in August 2011. A teacher's conference, *Searching for History: From Internet to Inspiration* is scheduled for the Education Center. Constitution Day and History Exploration Programs will be held for elementary school students during the spring and fall.

Your Foundation has an ambitious program to achieve its mandate. The staff and Trustees are committed to communicate the powerful lessons of Calvin Coolidge to the nation and the world. His wisdom and vision are particularly relevant today as the nation struggles with varied social and economic problems.

Stephen S. Woods, your Foundation's new Executive Director will lead the charge. Steve has been In-House Legal Counsel for Traditional Living. As such he was part of its management team in Hanover, NH dealing with a variety of business issues, contracts and conflict resolution for 16 years. Steve is a graduate of Bates College, Lewiston, ME, where he was Phi Beta Kappa and a Truman Scholar. He is also a graduate of William & Mary Law School in Williamsburg VA. Steve brings energy as spokesperson for the Coolidge Foundation and command for its activities. He is joined by an outstanding slate of new Trustee nominees who will add to the Foundation's national geographical presence: former Governor Jim Douglas, Sarwar A. Kashmeri, Leslie Keefe, Catherine Nelson, Ann Shriver Sargent, Amity Shlaes, and Milton G. Valera.

Your Chair and Officer Nominees add a new vitality, creativity and persistence to guide the activities of your Foundation to the next level. There will be an orderly succession as we move forward.

Barbara S. O'Connell deserves special recognition for her exceptional dedication to the Foundation in assuming the Acting Executive Director responsibilities on a full-time basis following the departure of Joan Randall in January 2011. Her thoughtful decisions and careful management have been exemplary. Barbara has made invaluable, seamless and remarkable progress in achieving the Foundation's prime operating objectives, recruiting a new Executive Director, and planning for future growth, all the while preparing for the summer program season.

We thank all of our Trustees and National Advisory Board members for their help and support in this very active year. In particular we thank Governance Chair Gerry Jones and Tom Murray who worked long hours to guide our governance and prepare the new By Laws. We thank Andy Kostanecki for his Website concept contributions and for his diligence in chairing the Nominations Committee with the assistance of Art Crowley and Bob Campbell. Mr. Kostanecki also chaired the Officer Selection Committee. Program Chair Barbara O'Connell, together with John Reidy, Sue Sundstrom, Stacey Selbo

and her team of dedicated volunteers, has been superlative in orchestrating programmatic activities. Finance Chair David Roberts and Janice Graham have resolved important issues for improved internal controls and asset allocation. Mimi Baird and Roby Harrington have been a continuing source of important, seasoned advice on strategy and a host of general Board issues. Dean Phypers played an important role in financial discussions as well as the conceptual work in digitizing historical information. Michael Galbraith helped in developing strategies for the Strategic Plan. Richard North, Treasurer, and Dan Churchill have contributed their expertise and guidance. Jay Barrett, Secretary, has been our leader in architectural design and construction matters. Owen Stearns and Barbara O Connell have been invaluable in conducting the Executive Director search. Chris Jeter has afforded us an institutional memory of Coolidge family history. David Collins was instrumental in resolving legal issues.

Jerry Wallace has been of enormous value in conducting historical research and political interpretation. Amity Shlaes, David Pietrusza, and Cal Thomas have been particularly active in writing and speaking out about Coolidge.

Our staff has worked long and hard throughout this year. We thank Bill Brooks, Development Director, Diane Kemble, Education Coordinator, Kate Bradley, Archives and Collections Manager, and Carolyn Diccio, Office Manager for their continuing efforts in making this a memorable and successful year.

We thank retiring Trustees Janice Graham and Dean Phypers for their meritorious service during the year and Richard North for completing two full terms as a Trustee. They have been of great help in achieving the gains we have made.

It was my honor at the Annual Meeting of 2010 to announce the Trustees' designation of Betty Masterson as a Trustee, Emeritus after her years of tireless leadership and for her many contributions, especially to the 75th Anniversary Homestead Inaugural in Plymouth Notch.

I am now again honored to announce that the Board of Trustees has named Mimi Baird a Trustee, Emeritus. The legacy of Mimi Baird will live forever in the annals of the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation. Her passion for *everything Coolidge* is legendary throughout the Coolidge universe. It is from her perseverance that the President Calvin Coolidge Museum and Education Center was conceived and completed. It was her leadership that led to the initial symposium *Calvin Coolidge: Examining the Evidence* at the JFK Presidential Library in 1998. Mimi spearheaded the 2001 Strategic Planning Process that continues as the basis for our mission and strategies today. Her many contributions cannot be measured, but touch everything the Foundation has commenced and accomplished for the past decade and a half. While Mimi is stepping down from the Board, her advice and counsel and involvement will continue. She will be consulted and lovingly endeared in her Emeritus position. She remains the heart and soul of our Foundation, the inspiration for our vision.

Our nation today is seeking a solution for a lasting fiscal policy. In that search policy-makers can learn from Coolidge's strategic vision, political philosophy, values and political instincts. President Coolidge understood our nation's great heritage. He was determined "to preserve the old moral and economic precepts" that led to America's prosperity. He focused on the fundamental virtues of high character, integrity, hard work, honesty, idealism, self-discipline, and, above all, determination and persistence.

The future of our Foundation is bright indeed as we remind the world of those truths. Please support us and allow us to continue our work as stewards of the Calvin Coolidge legacy. Thanking you for your trust and support, I am

Respectfully yours,

Robert P. Kirby,
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
July 30, 2011