



# CALVIN COOLIDGE

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

## President's Report to Members

### Annual Meeting 2010

I am pleased to announce that the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation is ushering in a very special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Joan L. Randall, a long-time Woodstock resident, has joined us as executive director to lead us to the next level of our strategic plan. We have taken bold initial steps toward introducing Calvin Coolidge to a national audience. Regional and local events are being embellished. Under the able leadership of Program Chair Trustee Barbara O'Connell, the Foundation kicked off a "Summer of Coolidge." Partnering with the *Rutland Herald*, a Coolidge Evening at the Paramount Theater became a highly successful and entertaining event which introduced us to many new friends.

The gathering at the Coolidge family burial plot on July 4<sup>th</sup> was stirred with a new sense of anticipation. Trustee Mimi Baird's vision during these many years will become a reality. The grand opening of the President Calvin Coolidge Museum and Education Center nears completion and with its dedication coming on August 7<sup>th</sup>. The center transforms the Coolidge historic site into a year-round facility offering exciting opportunities for scholarly, civic and educational programming.

August 12<sup>th</sup>, Diane Kimble's *Vermont on the National Stage: An Inquiry Lab* funded by a Library of Congress grant, complements the year's intensive educational program which includes History Exploration, Constitution Day, the Vermont History Expo and Vermont History Day events.

The foundation chose the JFK Library in Boston, MA, as its venue to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a national symposium "Discover Coolidge" on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Nationally recognized speakers during the day will be followed by a gala dinner honoring the triumph of John Coolidge in safeguarding President Coolidge's fundamental values and philosophies.

These programmatic initiatives are but the icing on the cake. Structural changes in *institution building* have readied the special collections and archives for their new home. Collections specialist Kate Bradley's building of a digital data base better serves the changing needs of students, researchers and scholars.

Elaine Geyer's enhancements in financial reporting and internal controls allow management to orchestrate its new growth. A new business plan increases staff effectiveness in adapting to the ever-changing demands of education, data-handling and communications.

Our successful capital and annual-giving campaigns have reached new friends of the foundation. We thank Bill Brooks and Karen Mansfield for their long-held confidence in Calvin Coolidge. While too numerous to single out individually, the foundation's trustees and committee members and volunteers have made a tremendous commitment to our organization and I thank them collectively.

Claude M. Fuess' article *Twenty Years After*, first published in 1953, has been reprinted as a commemorative 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition with permission from the American Antiquarian Society to perpetuate the Coolidge story. Scholar Jerry L. Wallace has written a Coolidge biographical sketch. Howard Coffin has contributed a stirring Coolidge essay. The National Notary Association has published its new book *Why Coolidge Matters: How Civility in Politics Can Bring a Nation Together*.

We thank our members and friends for the critical support given to us this year which underwrites the achievement of our vision: *to become the gateway to all things Coolidge*. It is through their generosity that the foundation has the opportunity, indeed the obligation, to promote scholarship and a deeper understanding of the contributions of Calvin Coolidge to public service, the Constitution, economy in government and ethical governance. They offer support so that scholarship and research may flourish.

Robert P. Kirby, President  
Board of Trustees  
Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation

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