

Centre County Torch Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2024
Ramada Inn State College, PA

President Terry Engelder opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Annual dues are currently \$75 a year. Dinner is \$25.

This year's officers:

President: Terry Engelder

Vice President: Carolyn Wilhelm

Recording Secretary: Charles Maxin

Treasurer: Peter Jurs

Correspondence Secretary and Torch International representative: Art Goldschmidt

Webmaster: John Golbeck

No new members.

Tonight's topic is Abraham Lincoln and the Press. The presenter is Ford Risley.

Abraham Lincoln and the Press

Ford holds a B.A. from Auburn University, a M.A. from the University of Georgia, and a Ph.D. from the University of Florida.

His talk covered the relationship between Abraham Lincoln and the press:

Abraham Lincoln understood the American press better than any other political figure of his era, and probably as well, if not better, than any occupant of the White House up to that time. The nation's sixteenth president had an appreciation for the mid nineteenth-century press, a press that was increasingly resembling the aggressive, news-oriented news media of today. Lincoln understood the important role of newspapers, their tendencies, and many shortcomings. As he once said, "The press has no better friend than I am—no one is more ready to acknowledge its tremendous power both for good and evil." Lincoln also recognized that as president he had to deal with the press—gently one minute, forcefully the next—to successfully lead the country and win a devastating Civil War.

Respectfully submitted,

John Golbeck (substituting for Charles Maxin, recording secretary)