



**Howard J. Kittell, Andrew Jackson Foundation President & CEO  
who Led Turnaround at The Hermitage, Announces Retirement**

***Executive Search Committee to Announce Successor in Spring 2024***

**NASHVILLE** (October 18, 2023) – Howard J. Kittell, president and CEO of the Andrew Jackson Foundation in Nashville, Tenn., has announced his planned retirement. Kittell will mark his 15-year anniversary with the Foundation in November. His leadership helped to inspire a turnaround for The Hermitage, the 1,120-acre National Historic Landmark and one of the most popular presidential homesites and museums in the United States.

Kittell will continue in his current role until the Andrew Jackson Foundation’s executive search committee identifies a successor and the board selects the new president and CEO. An announcement is expected in the spring of 2024.

As president and CEO of the Andrew Jackson Foundation, Kittell was responsible for the continued preservation of The Hermitage, overseeing and increasing the financial stability and development efforts of the foundation; maintaining and cultivating educational and interpretive programming; and advancing the state-of-the-art technology and infrastructure at the site.

During Kittell’s tenure, the Andrew Jackson Foundation’s budget increased by 119 percent, and attendance at The Hermitage grew by 61 percent. He helped develop award-winning programs, exhibits and media to illuminate the life of Andrew Jackson and his impact on American history. Kittell also worked with state and local governments to secure public funding and the transfer to the foundation of 460 acres of state-owned land that was once part of Jackson’s Hermitage.

“All of us affiliated with the Andrew Jackson Foundation and The Hermitage owe Howard Kittell our deepest gratitude and appreciation for his leadership,” said Pam Koban, Andrew Jackson Foundation Trustee and chair of the executive search committee. “Howard set the bar high with his dedication, work ethic and passion for the Jacksonian legacy that has given us momentum and excitement about the future.”

Koban is joined on the executive search committee by the Honorable Bill Koch (former Tennessee State Supreme Court justice), the Honorable George Paine (former Regent), the Honorable Emily J. Reynolds (former Regent), and Carol Yochem (former Regent). The committee has retained the Virginia-based recruiting firm Bryan & Jordan Consulting to assist with finding the next president and CEO.

**ADDITIONAL QUOTES:**

“I have had the pleasure of working closely with Howard in my role as a member of the board at The Hermitage. His dedication and commitment to the mission and grounds of The Hermitage are evident through the evolution and success of the organization over the past 15 years. We will miss his guiding hand as we move forward with the many plans he has put in place. The Board joins me in thanking

Howard for his leadership and we wish him all the best for a happy and enjoyable retirement,” - *John L. Nau, III, Regent, Andrew Jackson Foundation, 2021-Present*

“As a past Regent, it has been a privilege to work with Howard Kittell over the past several years. Under his leadership for nearly 15 years, The Hermitage has grown significantly in stature becoming well known not only as a national treasure but also attracting visitors from all over the world. Howard’s dedication to preserving and sharing the history of Andrew Jackson and his era has left an indelible mark on Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage.” - *Carol Yochem, President, First Horizon Bank; Regent, Andrew Jackson Foundation, 2020-2021*

“I met Howard when he first joined us many years ago. Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage was in need of a strong leader with intense focus and experience in historical preservation. We got that person with Howard. I have watched and worked alongside him as he transformed our organization into a first-in-class presidential home experience, as Andrew Jackson deserves. We would not be one of the country’s most visited presidential homes without Howard’s incredible commitment.” - *Bob McDonald, President & CEO, CedarStone Bank; Regent, Andrew Jackson Foundation, 2018-2020*

### ***About Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage***

*Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage: Home of the People’s President is one of the largest, most well preserved and most visited presidential homes in the United States. Opened to the public in 1889, The Hermitage is one of America’s first presidential museums. Today, The Hermitage is a 1,120-acre National Historic Landmark with more than 20 historic buildings, including Jackson’s mansion and tomb, restored slave cabins, a church and gardens. In recent years, new interpretive initiatives and educational programs such as the history of slavery have enhanced the experiences of more than 230,000 annual visitors. For more information, visit [www.thehermitage.com](http://www.thehermitage.com).*

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