



# Indiana Lincoln Highway Association

*Preserving & Promoting the 1913 and 1928 Routes  
of the Lincoln Highway in Indiana*

801 West Washington Street  
South Bend, IN 46601

[www.indianalincolnhighway.org](http://www.indianalincolnhighway.org)



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## Dear Friends of the Lincoln Highway,

The last 2 years have been “interesting”, have they not? COVID-19 has changed our lives in many ways ranging from severe illness to even death for a small percentage of our population. We have all learned how to do virtual work from home, to ZOOM our friends and family. Most of us have grown somewhat accustomed to wearing a mask in very public places. Gatherings and conferences have been cancelled, in many cases more than once. Yet we have the opportunity to come out of this pandemic much smarter as a whole...we will be safer, we will communicate in new ways...perhaps more effectively, we might travel differently, many will absolutely work more frequently from home, we may even be more thankful for what we have, realizing that many have lost friends or family or jobs.

As an organization we have not stopped finding ways to meet, to communicate, to continue our progress on educating the public on the beauty and historic significance of the Lincoln Highway across Indiana, to promote local tourism along our scenic BYWAY, to use the Lincoln Highway for great stories and to guide us to wonderful venues.

Your Indiana Lincoln Highway Association held meetings in both Elkhart and New Carlisle/Rolling Prairie this year; we placed an additional 30 BYWAY signs across our two alignments to help a motorist follow the original routes as closely as possible, we erected 2 historic panels in Bourbon in partnership with the city; we have created 5 Control Station banners and signs across the 1913 route—places to remind us of the good old days of early auto travel where a driver could get food and lodging information plus learn more about where the Lincoln Highway leads; we updated our turn-by-turn guides for both of our route alignments to point out key vistas, buildings, historic panels and markers, bridges, courthouses and more. You can find them on our website and plan some day trips.

This is the time of year for each of us to be truly thankful and to share love and caring with everyone. It is a time to plan for 2022...trips along the Lincoln Highway, a national conference for our LHA family in June in Joliet, Illinois (and you are invited), more updates to our website on interesting things to do and see along our routes, more partnerships with cities and towns along our two routes that result in tourism opportunities, and more. I would also remind you that the Lincoln Highway here in northern Indiana is one of a very few true BYWAYS in Indiana or even across the United States. We are consistently reviewing our Corridor Management Plan that helped us achieve that recognition and which provides strategic direction to our leaders.

We would be honored by your involvement as we get ready for a safer and enjoyable 2022 and beyond. Help us by providing some TIME—can you join us for 1-2 meetings per year for some review of the road in that area and some sharing of ideas for the future? Or help us out with your TALENTS—managing computer software, road beautification, marketing materials, or good old manual labor from time to time? Or help us with a small amount of your TREASURE—join our national organization and get on the mailing list, or make a donation of any size to our state organization that will help accomplish our mission more easily? See donation form on next page for details.

Please stay safe this Holiday Season and beyond. We would love to have you join us one way or another and help us carry out the INLHA vision and mission. Thank you.

*Jeff Blair*

President



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Enclosed is my tax deductible donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

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## It is time to renew your membership for 2022.

**We encourage you to join the national Lincoln Highway Association** using this link:

<https://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/members/application/>. With that membership you **automatically become a member of the INLHA**, plus you will receive the following: four issues a year of the 42-page full color *The Lincoln Highway Forum*, which contains articles, news, travel features, and both new and historic photographs, a membership card, and an annual membership directory.

**An alternative is to renew your Indiana Lincoln Highway Association membership** using the form below. Benefits include three newsletters/year and updates on Indiana Lincoln Association activities as appropriate.

**If you no longer wish to receive mailings from the Indiana Lincoln Highway Association, please notify us and you will be promptly removed.**

## INLHA Membership Renewal Form

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Individual - \$15    Student - \$10    Family - \$20    Non-profit/Government Agency - \$15    Business - \$50

Please remove my name from the INLHA mailing list.

Mail completed form and check payable to **INLHA** to 801 W. Washington St., South Bend, IN 46601, or renew online at <http://indianalincolnhighway.org/new> . Memberships are for 1 year from date of receipt of form or end of current membership



Dana Groves talks with the group that then went to Jennie Rae's

## October Outing in New Carlisle

Thirteen INLHA members were able to enjoy a day in New Carlisle visiting Historic New Carlisle's Museum. Director Dana Groves gave us a tour of the Museum as well as the adjoining building, formerly housing Miller's Home Café, which Historic New Carlisle is renovating. We drove the Lincoln Highway to nearby Rolling Prairie to have lunch and our business meeting at Jennie Rae's Restaurant, formerly Bob's Bar-B-Q.



## Coming Soon!

Working in cooperation with our partners at the Ligonier Visitor Center, the Studebaker National Museum and The History Museum in South Bend, and the La Porte County Historical Museum, three new Control Station banners and signs have been ordered! This project has been made possible through a Historic Education Preservation Grant from Indiana Landmarks, Indiana Humanities, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, as well as contributions by our partner sites. We are planning unveiling events at each of the venues next spring – watch for details.

## Indiana Byways Conference



Whitewater Canal - Metamora

The Lincoln Highway Byway is one of eight official Scenic Byways in Indiana. Representatives from each Byway as well as from the National Scenic Byway Foundation met together in Metamora along the Whitewater Canal Scenic Byway on November 4-5. We were able to meet with the new Indiana State Byways Coordinator, share ideas for promoting tourism on the Byways, and agree to work together to apply for a Federal grant that would benefit all of the Byways.



## Elkhart 2024!

By Jeff Blair

Last night (11-18) we were approved by the Board of Directors of the Lincoln Highway Association to hold the 2024 LHA National Conference here in Indiana. Specifically we are aiming for Elkhart and using the newly refurbished Hotel Elkhart. Now the fun starts as we begin the planning process to make it a memorable event for all attendees and attract a ton of people from across the US.

Russell Rein, Joyce Chambers, Bev Gillespie and I have all agreed to serve on a Committee to plan the event. The more the merrier, so if you can help, we need it. Our first step will be to confirm the dates of the Conference with the hotel and the CVB in Elkhart, as well as with our own LHA people. Simultaneously, I will be reaching out to the planning team to schedule a ZOOM call and begin a more detailed planning process-- budgeting, meals, speakers, division of labor, publicity, etc. Can you help? Please let us know.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2022 ~ INLHA ANNUAL MEETING – LA PORTE

JUNE 11-19, 2022 ~ LINCOLN HIGHWAY "EASTERN TOUR" FROM NEW YORK CITY TO JOLIET, IL

JUNE 20-24, 2022 ~ LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CONFERENCE – JOLIET, IL

## INLHA Board of Directors

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## My Trip on the 1913 and 1928 LH Routes – Part 2

By Judy Greeson



LHA member Judy Greeson is a Hoosier from Indianapolis but living in Clinton, TN. Her interest in the Lincoln Highway stems from her love of traveling the non-Interstate roads in America. Judy is also a long-time auto racing fan. The fact that the founder of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Carl G. Fisher, was a conceiver of the Lincoln Highway sparked her interest in this first coast-to-coast highway.

La Porte County has this “tucked away” town of **Rolling Prairie**. The murals in the post office tell of its history. But, the gathering spot is **Jennie Rae’s Restaurant**, which is the successor to **Bob’s Bar-B-Q** in the heydays of the Lincoln Highway.

In **La Porte** I missed the **Mama T’s Diner’s** open hours, but did find it at 607 West Lincolnway. I met Indiana LH member and La Porte County Historian, Bruce Johnson, at the **La Porte County Historical Society Museum**. He gave me a personal tour through a collection of historical artifacts donated by local folks, and an historic automobile collection of a prominent La Porte citizen, Dr. Peter Kesling. I had no idea how many items were in the Historical Society’s collection. I should have planned to arrive earlier than I did. Mr. Johnson was very gracious with his time.

The remainder of my afternoon driving included finding tiny **Pinola** with its two tavern establishments, followed by a stop at the 1847 **Pinhook Methodist Church**.

Arriving in **Westville** brought my encounter with flashing lights behind me while parked, albeit on a town street. A police person came to my window. I was ready with my seat belt buckled and my driver’s license in hand. I had to explain to him what I was doing---why I was driving around the town very slowly and stopped with my flashers on. He said, “Well, where do you want to go to?” My answer was, “Well, I am doing the route of the Lincoln Highway, but my next big stop is Valparaiso.” He proceeded to tell me how to do the “modern route” to Valparaiso. I showed him the Guide. He basically told me, “Ok, but I should go the other way—it is faster.” I didn’t tell him aloud that he was missing my point!! I started my van, and proceeded to drive to the **Abraham Lincoln Funeral Train marker** on Main Street.

**Valparaiso** was one of my favorite stops. Unfortunately, two historic buildings were not open: **The Porter County Museum building** (1871) and the **Opera House** (1893). However, the Round the Clock Restaurant was!! Their homemade banana cream pie with fresh bananas on top was some of the best I have had. **Valparaiso University** with The Chapel of the Resurrection and the bell carillon was inspiring. The **Valparaiso City Hall** is the site of a 1928 marker, as well as the two monuments for the Lincoln Highway and Old Sac Trail.



Historic Markers at Valparaiso City Hall

When reaching **Merrillville**, it became my base for three days as I neared the Illinois state line and the end of my 1913 route. The **Deep River County Park** and **Wood’s Mill**, as well as a meaningful memorial for the military, were stops as I came into this part of “the Region.”

In **Schererville**, I crossed the **Old Lincoln Highway Bridge**; saw the concrete marker at the **Schererville Town Hall**, a **piece of the Lincoln Highway preserved at a Walgreens**, and found **Teibel’s Restaurant**. Also in Schererville were two amazing church buildings of the Greek Orthodox faith. **St. George Serbian Orthodox Church** (1912) is noted in the Guide. The second, **St. George Hellenic Orthodox Church** (1937), was discovered while I was on an old alignment of the highway. Both had unique architecture to their buildings. My last “must stop” see was a challenge for me to find, even though it is right on the highway. After finding **Meyer’s Castle** in **Dyer**, and Googling what I was supposed to be looking for, the **Henry C. Ostermann Memorial Seat** and **historical plaques** to the “Ideal Section” were worth the search. I am not one who likes selfies, but I had to try a picture here.



Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:45 p.m.: Arriving at my goal of the state line was very satisfying that I had “MADE IT”, but also a bit disappointing that this part of my adventure had ended. However, I decided to celebrate my accomplishment by going back to **Teibel’s Restaurant** (junction of U.S. 30 and U.S. 41) and have a wonderful meal of tomato basil salmon. Fortunately, they were still open until 9 pm on Saturdays and serving when I arrived. **Judy’s journey will be continued in the next Newsletter.**