



# Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Spring 2022 Newsletter | Volume 27, No. 1

## President's Corner

by Mary Helen Preston

These last few months for our Association have presented a few concerning issues.

First, the Wapsipinicon Overflow Bridge area and its fate. A number of us along with interested parties have been in conversation with the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding the plans for this area. A number of individuals continue to push to save the bridge. During our last meeting it was mentioned, "there's no way to keep the original bridge" and steps will begin to mitigate with reasonable and good faith efforts made to save/reuse material from the original bridge. Along with pursuing a National Register nomination for the area.

Then we have the standoff with the Lincoln Highway Bridge in Tama. We know the importance of this bridge. As I write my column, there was a Tama City Council meeting on Monday, February 21 to discuss actions regarding the Lincoln Highway Bridge, including an option to remove. In an email from Dean, *"I'm not sure what is going on with the City of Tama concerning the Lincoln Highway Bridge. The city had assured us several years ago that they had no intention of moving or replacing the bridge. The Iowa LHA Chapter and Prairie Rivers have worked to help get grants and funding to help with needed repairs. I thought they had enough funds to do that. But, here we are again in a crisis mode."*

These issues are truly concerning with efforts to preserve, educate on the history of the Lincoln Highway and its importance to travel. I speak for myself, but I'm certain others will agree, while we strive to preserve our history, it is becoming more and more important for us to get out in front of our efforts to preserve and protect our rich history.

I believe this quote from Cathie Nichols speaks volumes to our what we are currently facing, *"As more and more of the original Lincoln Highway fabric disappears beneath superhighways, our role in preserving its legacy becomes urgent. Help us by appreciating its history; get off the beaten path, discover small towns, historic motels and restaurants, and the beauty of curving, tree-lined roads. Experience travel the way it was when getting there was half the fun—drive the Lincoln Highway."*

It will take ALL of us to plan, execute and sustain the Lincoln Highway Association. Thank you for your continued commitment to the Lincoln Highway - the Past, the Present and the Future.

## New Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway - A National Scenic Byway Activity Guide Available

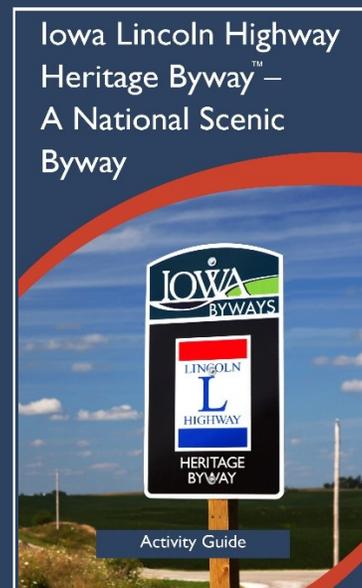
by Mike Kellner,  
PRI PR & Marketing Coordinator

The Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway - A National Scenic Byway Activity Guide has been updated and explores the history and attractions, county by county, along the Lincoln Highway in Iowa including easy-to-use maps.

Printed copies are being distributed and are available to travelers at official Iowa and other Welcome Centers, businesses and attractions across Iowa.

If you are interested in receiving copies, please reach out to Shellie Orngard at [sorngard@prrcd.org](mailto:sorngard@prrcd.org).

Generous funding for the creation of the Activity Guide was provided by Iowa Tourism and Prairie Rivers of Iowa.



# The Facts About That!

*Fun & interesting facts about this great state!*

It's hard to believe that as a landlocked state, Iowa has any Island towns, but stuck on a sandbar in the middle of the Mississippi is Sabula, Iowa's only island town.

This unique town in Iowa is only a step away from Illinois, and with every property in Sabula being close to the river, the activities most common in this small town include fishing, boating and riding bikes along the paved trails that travel the shore.

<https://bestthingsia.com/fun-facts/>



### Mission Statement

The Lincoln Highway Association shall identify, preserve, interpret and improve access to the Lincoln Highway and its associated sites, pursue the appropriate measures to prevent further deterioration, destruction or alteration of the remaining sections, publicize and seek public awareness of its goals and activities for preserving and developing the LH, facilitate research about the LH, and publish a magazine for articles and news of activity relevant to the LH, work with local communities and businesses to promote the LH as a tourism destination, and be exclusively charitable and educational within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code.

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<b><u>OFFICERS</u></b>		<b><u>COUNTY CONSUL</u></b>
<b>PRESIDENT</b>		<b>CLINTON</b>
Mary Helen Preston (816) 868-3336	mary@prestonstation.com	<b>Open Postion</b>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>		<b>CEDAR</b>
Dale Higgins (515) 370-0637	higginsd@iowatelecom.net	Joe Goodlove (563) 941-7572
<b>SECRETARY</b>		<b>LINN</b>
Jan Gammon (515) 232-0048	jan.gammon@nsbfoundation.com	Rex Martin
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Joyce Ausberger (515) 386-4521	bobjoyce@netins.net	Mike Kelly (319) 472-5183
<b>STATE DIRECTOR</b>		<b>TAMA</b>
Dean Parr (319) 366-0552	drparr51@gmail.com	Allan Richards (641) 484-4000
<b>MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR</b>		<b>MARSHALL</b>
Dean Parr (319) 366-0552	drparr51@gmail.com	Harlan Quick (641) 483-2440
<b>NOBLE SOJOURNER</b>		<b>STORY</b>
Lyell Henry	disorg@mchsi.com	Carroll Stokesbary
<b>ARTIST IN RESIDENCE</b>		<b>BOONE</b>
John Fitzsimmons (515) 432-3697	seanfitz50@gmail.com	John Fitzsimmons (515) 432-3697
<b>WEB DEVELOPER</b>		<b>Greene</b>
Mike Kellner (515) 232-0048	mkellner@prrcd.org	Joyce Ausberger (515) 386-4521
<b>DIRECTOR EMERITUS</b>		Dale Higgins (515) 370-0637
Bob Ausberger (515) 386-4521	bobjoyce@netins.net	<b>Carroll</b>
<b>LINCOLN HIGHWAY HERITAGE BYWAY CORDINATOR</b>		Barbara Hackfort (712) 792-1512
Shellie Orngard (515) 232-0048	sorngard@prrcd.org	<b>Crawford</b>
		Ty Rosburg
		Harrison
		Kathy Dirks (712) 642-2114
		<b>Pottawattamie</b>
		Eddy Hedegaard
		ejskj@msn.com

## Stay in the Know!

Visit our website to read the minutes from our last meeting.  
[www.iowalincolnhighway.com/latest-news](http://www.iowalincolnhighway.com/latest-news)



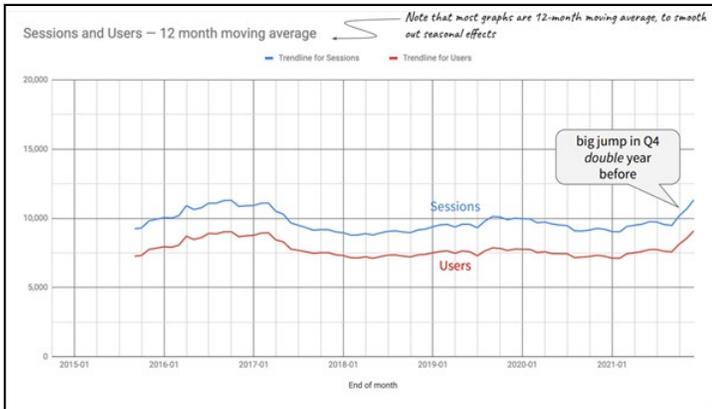
@IowaLincolnHighwayAssociation  
 @LincolnHighwayHeritageByway

# Social Media and The Lincoln Highway

by Trey Pitsenberger, VP of Lincoln Highway Association

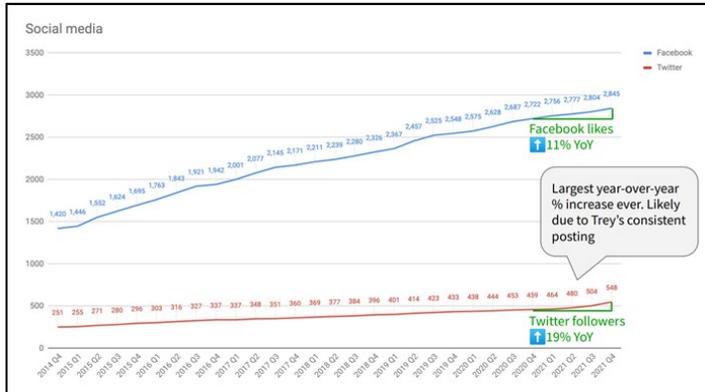
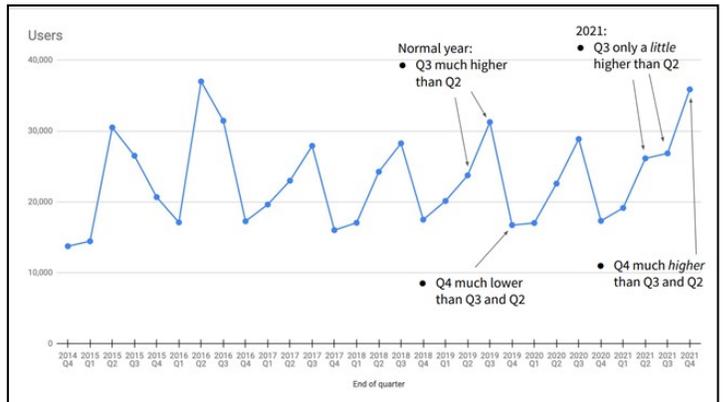
What follows is information shared by Trey with the LHA Marketing Committee. I believe this information speaks volumes as we continue to discuss our strategic efforts to move forward. Keep in mind this information relates to National's social media efforts over the last quarter.

As we discuss ways to increase our visibility and membership, our social media efforts are critical. We are moving in the right direction! Much of these increases are due to using our social media platforms. We really hadn't done anything with them over the years. In the past the states took the lead in social media efforts.



The second graph shows a significant increase is visitors, almost double!

This first graph shows a BIG increase is visitors, almost double!



This last graph shows just how much National's Facebook and Twitter profiles are growing.

With National taking steps to increase their social media presence to gain more members and support our efforts, we too need to make certain we stay on top of our social media efforts for the same reasons.

As I've said before, synergy will be our spoke as we continue moving forward. Over the next year, we will be evaluating how we can enhance our website to assist with our efforts.

Please feel free to share any ideas you may have to increase our social media efforts.

**Higgi's Veterans Campground**  
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 higginsd@iowatelecom.net

## Prairie Rivers of Iowa Creates Traveling Exhibit

The Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway program was recently awarded an Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs Humanities grant to help create a traveling exhibit entitled *Promise Road: How the Lincoln Highway Changed America*.

The exhibit will introduce residents and visitors to the early years of the Lincoln Highway, the first transcontinental improved road, which spans Iowa from the Mississippi to the Missouri rivers.

Plans for the exhibit are to hit the road this summer in several locations. Stay tuned for more details.



## Annual Dues Update

Effective January 1, 2022, Iowa Lincoln Highway Association dues increased to **\$15.00**. You may pay up to three years. Make checks payable to Iowa Lincoln Highway Association.

Please send membership info and payment to:

**ILHA  
P.O. Box 224  
Grand Junction, IA 50107**

If you have any questions, please write to the above address or contact

Membership Coordinator - Dean Parr  
(319) 366-0552 or drparr51@gmail.com

## Missing Marker Located

by Rick Sampson (Facebook Post)



I have learned the concrete Lincoln Highway marker formerly in a front yard along Johnson Avenue NW in Cedar Rapids has been donated to The History Center in Cedar Rapids.

This was very near the Log Cabin/Twin Towers one-stop along the original LH route and while I don't know if that was its original site it well could have been. The History Center is on 2nd Avenue SE at 8th Street, also the original Lincoln Highway route and part of Cedar Rapids "Auto Row Historic District" commemorating the many car dealerships and service facilities in the area along the highway.

There's a kiosk of Lincoln Highway history just across 8th Street behind Cedar Rapids' Central Fire Station.

I'm told by the curator at The History Center the marker is cracked right between the "head" and the shaft and might be subject to freeze-and-thaw damage outdoors, plus the danger of vandalism. Therefore it will probably be displayed indoors. My main objection would be that if you're not a History Center member you'd probably have to pay admission to see it.

Thank you Rex Martin for your efforts in locating.

As you travel along the Lincoln Highway be sure to stop in Grand Junction to visit the Museum, Lincoln Highway Garden and the Green Cable Cabin.

201 East Main Street  
Grand Junction, IA

(515)386-4521



## News From Around Iowa



*From Mike Kelly, Benton County*

Youngville Cafe's tentative plans are to reopen in June for lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Cafe will continue to feature highway history and our famous homemade pie.

Most of the storm damage repairs to the Cafe are completed, but the gas pumps, kiosk and garage are still in need of major rehabilitation. The board is planning a "Call for Action" meeting in April to include volunteer recruitment and brainstorming ideas.

For April meeting information and other updates, follow us on Facebook (Youngville Highway History Association) or call (319) 540-3600 to leave a message.

In June of 2009 Claude and Ginny Conklin, two of Youngville's founding members, hosted a luncheon for classmate Henry Tippie and his wife Patricia at the cafe. *Photo credit: Mike Kelly*

**From Joyce Ausberger, Greene County**

We had an unusual happening at our Lincoln Highway Museum in Grand Junction. In February, the Sheriff and Highway Patrol obtained a "No Knock" warrant to break into the northwest door of the museum. They searched the north room as well as the museum, looking for guns and drugs.

They found nothing but damaged two doors resulting in frozen pipes in the bathroom and basement. Fortunately nothing broke. Needless to say we were very surprised to find all this two days later.

It is a long story, which will be shared with you at the April meeting. By the way Bob and Joyce were not involved other than owning the building and Bob having to thaw the pipes and repair the doors!

In October we will celebrate 30 years as an Association. Iowa played an integral part in what happened in 1992 and why we are where we are today.

Thank you Bob and Joyce Ausberger for being the driving catalyst in the reformation of the Lincoln Highway Association and having the foresight to preserve the Lincoln Highway and educate individuals on its importance.

We will share the behind the scenes story of the reformation of the Lincoln Highway Association in our July newsletter.



### **The James H. Andrew Railroad Museum and History Center**

at the Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad

**November 1 through May 22**

Monday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

Saturday Noon - 4 pm

Closed Sunday

**May 23 through October 31**

Sunday - Thursday 10 am - 4 pm

Friday and Saturday 10 am - 5 pm



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

Visit one of Iowa's most interesting railroad collections

### **YOUR AD HERE**

Business Card Size Ad

Single Ad placed on an inside page of the newsletter in black and white. The card or ad should be in standard digital format (.jpg) or scanner ready.

1 Issue: \$10; 2 Issues: \$20; 3 Issues: \$30

*Buy 3 Get the 4th Free*

An advertisement form can be found on our website or you can contact Joyce for information: [bobjoyce@netins.net](mailto:bobjoyce@netins.net)

# Tama & Wapsi Bridges Update

by KCRG & Shellie Orngard, LHHB Coordinator

The following information in part was posted on KCRG's (Cedar Rapids) website after the Tama City Council meeting on February 21.

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (KCRG) - As part of its weekly council meetings the Tama City Council discussed the future of its main tourist attraction, the Lincoln Highway Bridge. The bridge was constructed as part of its namesake highway in 1915. The Lincoln Highway was the first road designed for cars to fully cross the United States of America. The bridge has seen publication in Smithsonian Magazine and has been visited by travelers all across the U.S. and even as far away as Spain.

Members of the community expressed a variety of reasons for improving and saving the bridge including sighting its historical significance as well as its significance to Tama County. Various proposals were put forth by the city council such as repairing the bridge with the help of the Iowa D.O.T. and moving the bridge to a new location entirely.

There were concerns that moving the bridge to a new location could jeopardize its spot on the National Register of Historic Places which if lost would not allow Tama to advertise the bridge anymore. The city council did not vote on a motion instead choosing to gather more information before making a final decision at their March 21 meeting.

*Note: Information being gathered includes alternatives, including the cost to move the bridge to a nearby park, the likelihood the bridge could withstand a move and remain intact, and the potential impacts on the status of the bridge's listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Along with this information options are being sought from various concerned parties including the Lincoln Highway Association, both Iowa and National, SHPO and elected officials.*



Left: 1995  
from  
Wikipedia

Right: 2022  
Photos by:  
Mike Kelly  
& Sandii  
Huemann-  
Kelly



The Wapsipinicon Overflow Bridge on the old Lincoln Highway in Clinton County is being evaluated for ways to mitigate impacts on the historic aspects of the District when the bridge is replaced by the county. In 2021, Clinton County Supervisors moved to rehabilitate or replace the bridge, triggering Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Iowa State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) subsequently determined replacement of the bridge would have an adverse effect on the District, which is deemed eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

US Army Corps of Engineers Archaeologist Brant Vollman convened a group of interested parties, including the county engineer, the consulting engineer, community members, the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Coordinator, and representatives from SHPO, the Iowa Department of Transportation, and the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association. Consulting Engineer, Terry Cole advised the bridge is so deteriorated, it would have to be replaced. Members discussed various possibilities for mitigation, including providing funds to complete an NRHP nomination, preserving and displaying parts of the concrete railing, posting interpretive signage, and writing a public history similar to the one done for the Eureka Bridge in Greene County.

The Overflow Bridge is one of three now-closed historic bridges along the Lincoln Highway in Clinton County. To date, no final determination has been made on which mitigation measures would be pursued.

# Eastern Third Auto Tour - Destination: Joliet

*by Paul Gilger & Jim Cassler, Lincoln Highway Tours*

Are you ready for a road trip? Of course you are, and the Lincoln Highway tour group is rolling out another one for 2022. It's been nearly three years since we took to the highway for the Army Convoy Tour, making it time to do it again! So dust off your old ride, or shine-up your new one, and join us as we travel the nooks and crannies of our famous road between the eastern terminus in New York City and the plains of Illinois.

If you're a seasoned Lincoln Highway tourer, you know we never miss an opportunity to celebrate an anniversary or a milestone in the history of the road. This time we're jumping the gun a bit! You see, the year 2028 will be a dual anniversary - the centennial of both the 1928 route and the marking of the road with the concrete posts. Why wait another six years to celebrate? Let's do it three times between now and then! This year is the eastern third of the road, with the central section happening in 2025, and the finale out west in 2028. Sounds like a plan!

Fasten your seat belt and lets go! The tour will begin the evening of Saturday, June 11 when we meet in suburban New York City (across the river in New Jersey) to greet old friends, meet new ones, and prepare for the adventure commencing on Sunday, June 12. We will trek toward Joliet, Illinois arriving in time for the Lincoln Highway Association Conference, which begins Monday, June 20.

If you are interested in participating in the Eastern Third Auto Tour, and have never been on one of our tours before, there is much you need to know! The tour is designed for you to travel in your own vehicle - whatever that vehicle might be. We travel at a leisurely pace so that you have time to see and do things that interest you along the way. The route averages about 130 miles per day, with the shortest being about 100 miles, and the longest at 175. Part of the mystique of our tours is what people drive. Antique and collector cars are always a favorite. Motorcycles and motorhomes are frequently used. It's up to you!

Each vehicle will be provided with turn-by-turn directions to guide you along the route. We suggest a navigator, or some way for the driver to watch the route be with you. Along the route each day will be planned stops at museums and attractions, usually a lunch, and always a dinner meal. We also arrange for a motel for lodging as a group each night, and breakfast is included with your lodging. The tour staff, consisting of Paul Gilger (tour guide and mapping expert), and Jim Cassler and family (tour director) will be along to handle all the details and arrangements, and provide limited support in case of problems along the way. The tour fee includes your directions, admission to planned stops at museums and attractions, scheduled meals and gratuities, identifying signage for on your vehicle, and staff support. You are responsible for your vehicle and fuel costs, lodging costs, and expenses at places you visit "on your own" or during layover days.

Tourers may join us for as few as two days, the entire nine days on the road, or any amount in between. A registration form is included as a separate insert in this publication which details cost and the registration process. Deadline for registration is April 30, 2022, and no refunds will be honored after May 15, 2022. For additional information, check the LHA website, or contact us at [tours@lhtp.com](mailto:tours@lhtp.com).

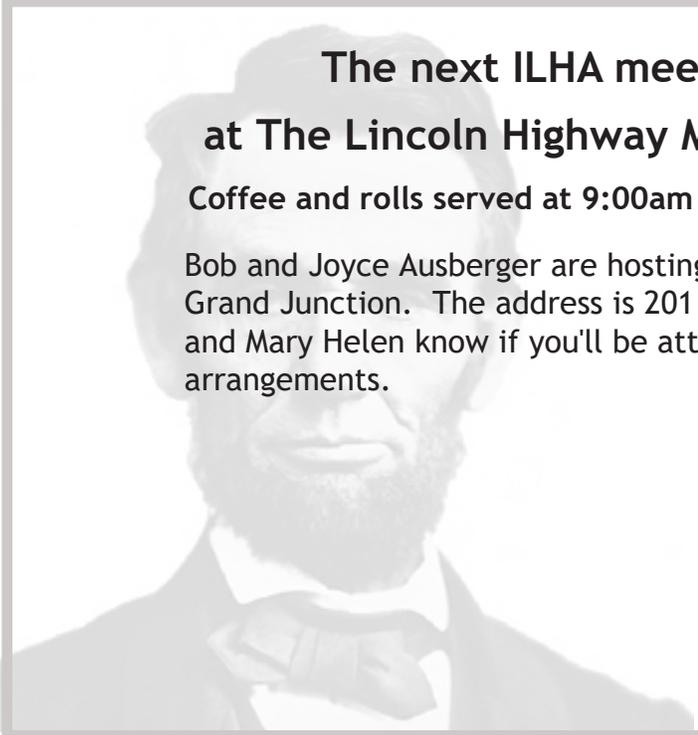
Looking forward to seeing you in June!

## Mark Your Calendars 2022 Lincoln Highway Conference

The next Lincoln Highway Conference is planned to take place June 20 - 24 in Joliet, Illinois. Be sure to watch for details to be announced.

**Let's represent IOWA!**





**The next ILHA meeting is April 9, 2022  
at The Lincoln Highway Museum in Grand Junction**

Coffee and rolls served at 9:00am with meeting beginning at 9:30am.

Bob and Joyce Ausberger are hosting our April meeting at the Museum in Grand Junction. The address is 201 East Main Street. Please let Joyce and Mary Helen know if you'll be attending so we can make appropriate arrangements.

Upcoming Iowa LHA Meeting

July 9, 2022

Location: TBD

**FIRST CLASS**

Place  
Stamp  
Here

Iowa Lincoln Highway Association  
P.O. Box 224  
Grand Junction, Iowa 50107

