

**Lincoln Highway Association
Business Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2025, 9:30AM
Zoom Call**

Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 9:34am by Mary Preston, President. Those in attendance:

President – Mary Preston
Vice President – Dale Higgins
Treasurer – Joyce Ausberger
State Director – Dean Parr
Linn County Consul – Rex Martin
Benton County Consul – Mike Kelly
Story County Consul – Henry Corbin
Greene County Consul – Joyce Ausberger and Dale Higgins
Carroll County Consul – Barbara Hackfort
Crawford County Consul – Bill Bruce
Harrison County Consul – Kathy Dirks

Others: Garry Hevalow, Jennifer Morrison, Shellie Orngard and Jeanie Hau.

Secretary's Report: The October 12, 2024 minutes were sent out after the last meeting and in the information this meeting. Garry Hevalow moved to approve the minutes and Dale Higgins seconded. Motion carried.

Membership Report: Currently at 172, mailed 137 newsletters with 36 emailed. Time to start reviewing the status of various memberships and renewals. Iowa has 50 memberships due with 21 that didn't renew last year. If we drop those from 2023, this could take a large portion of current Iowa only members. Dean to send membership list to Joyce to review. Challenges with managing multiple renewal periods along with separate national and state memberships. National is also seeing reduced membership numbers.

State Director's Report: Spoke a lot about membership, really want to tap into Brian Butko's Facebook page, most aren't members and want to encourage membership. Discussed Ogallala budget, seems to be on track and on schedule, estimating over 100 in attendance. Pennsylvania wants to meet about plans for the 2026 conference for the 250th celebration of the United States.

Treasurer's Report: Joyce Ausberger reported there is \$4,197.72 after the newsletter and stamps. Received a three-year Iowa membership from Larry Oliver. No contributions to the Jeff Benson Endowment since sharing in last newsletter. Joyce will request at least a semiannual statement so we have an idea of what is in the account. Will continue sharing in the newsletter. Received \$1,565 in March of 2024. ILHA receives 5% annually from the fund as a dividend. From National we received \$351 at a rate of \$9.00 for each Iowa associated member. This amount was down from last year. If Dean is showing 83 members from National, as an Association we should be receiving \$747. We should be receiving a portion from Iowa lifetime members. Will continue to work through.

Old Business: Clinton and Pottawattamie Consul positions are still open. Jeanie Hau suggested reaching out to museums or even historical societies in those areas.

Consul Reports:

Clinton – No report.

Cedar – Joe Goodlove sent in his report. Towns are beginning to plan for the upcoming year's activities. He shared while watching the Rose Bowl Parade he saw the "Lincoln-Way Marching Band" from Fulton, Illinois.

Linn – Rex Martin reported not much going on in Linn. The westside Maid Rite will be closing on January 15 due to the owner retiring.

Contacted by Lisa Paulos, she has information on 'lost' landmarks she would like to look into. Rex to walk Johnson Avenue with her; only information Rex could find for that area is the Hillside Cabin Court; very little in the archives.

The Seedling Mile update – double kiosk to be installed; will replace current kiosk and placed at Abby Creek; in addition to talking about the Seedling Mile will feature and connect the different cultures in the area.

Benton – Have some work to complete on the grant at Youngville – kiosk and pump; hope to have ready by opening. The work is to replace one panel with a restoration timeline with pictures from 1994 on. Jeanie mentioned if Youngville wanted to look at a Byway kiosk to let her know as there are resources to assist with.

Preston's has begun an engraved brick drive to go with the interpretive panel from Prairie Rivers; the panel will be installed on the east side of the Station once the restoration is completed. Hopefully by fall Preston's will have the 50% match for the renovation to begin writing grants.

Tama – City gave greenlight to start fundraising; spoke with Tama County Economic Development to spearhead process; Prairie Rivers and City to be fiscal agent for grants; meeting to discuss the future of the Lincoln Highway Bridge on January 15; pushing for pedestrian bridge to tie to current bike route to be able to apply for trails funding and could connect to existing route. Dollar General will be building an alternate route through the trailer court with road construction beginning in April.

Bob and Joyce spoke with Allan and he would like to resign his Consul position; he spoke to the owner of the greenhouse by the bridge and they might be interested in becoming Consul.

Montour has new windows and John Fitzsimmons' signs installed.

Marshall – No report.

Story – Henry Corbin reported Nevada is testing new community signage on the highway going east. Soil remediation wrapping up on the Dairy Queen, if traveling west towards Ames you can see the original gas station wall (a stucco/cinder block wall). Ice Rink at the Lincoln Highway Heritage Park is open and community is using.

Boone – Jeanie Hau reported Boone received Main Street status. There are currently 13 communities / 11 designation. Detour on Highway 30 from Ogden to Greene County line from April 1 to October 31

Greene – Jefferson is a semi-finalist for the Great American Main Street Award will find out April 7 if they are one of three to receive. Joyce reported Jefferson is excited and have high hopes.

Working with Prairie Rivers to submit grant to Grow Green County to have the Lincoln Highway Lodge neon sign restored, kiosk installed at the cabin in Grand Junction along with a Greene County brochure produced from a comprehensive list of things to in the county which Bob Ausberger has compiled.

New books, *Ike's Road Trip – How Eisenhower's 1919 Convoy Paved The Way for the Roads We Travel* by Brian Black is the third book in 10 years on the military convoy. *Trekking Across America – An Up-Close Look at a Once-Popular Pastime* by Lyell Henry has old postcards and newspaper articles about traveling across American.

Jeanie mentioned looking for a grant for the Grand Junction museum for inventorying and displaying items.

Carroll – Barbara mentioned the Historical Society was able finish and save the Trappers Cabin; one of the walls in the museum failed so the Historical Society getting the City of Carroll to repair. Hoyt Mansion Villa is now finished with part being a Bed & Breakfast.

Side Conversation Regarding Historical Buildings

Insurance on historical buildings is becoming challenging for nonprofits with increased premiums; insurance on collections is not affordable so most collections are not insured even with an extensive inventory.

Bob and Joyce looking at options for ownership of the museum in Grand Junction, will approach the city for their interest. While the ILHA doesn't own properties, Dale mentioned the need to look at options for ownership of the historical properties – Conservation, Parks, Cities or Counties.

Lisbon Historical Center fighting to save Myers Historic District, a past owner McNeills (past owners) have purchased and put into a nonprofit and will be moving forward with saving the building and developing the property as an educational center.

Crawford – Bronx Café has been purchased and is reopened. Local group looking at needed renovations at Donna Reed Theater.

Harrison – Working a lot on the bridges; comments for bridge improvement between Dennison and Dow City is now open online; bridge by Welcome Center is up to be worked on 2026

A number of small boutiques and businesses are opening in the area. Logan is planning improvements. Dunlap received for the second time – Best Tenderloin in Iowa.

Welcome Center visitors is about the same as past few years.

Small's Fruit Farm(fifth generation) in area has officially closed at the end of the year; had been opened since the 1800's; loss to the area.

Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center on route to Blair was closed during COVID and the closed Sundays and Mondays, never planned to be open seven days a week.

Interpretive signs planned for Logan: IDOT cut how many signs they will pay for. Jeanie dedicated the signs to the Seedling Mile before the coordinator for Loess Hills and Western Skies told her that he was going forward with the Logan signs. Jeanie is looking at additional funding sources to get the Lincoln Sign in Logan.

Pottawattamie – Iowa PBS did series on architecture on historic structures in Council Bluffs; Union Pacific is showing those series.

Omaha in process of reinstalling street cars with energy to expand into Council Bluffs

Prairie Rivers of Iowa Report:

Historic Structure Report - Shellie Orngard reported the research project is completed with the final report issued; will send out to historic preservation commissions along the Lincoln Highway and possibly take a portion of the tourism-related information and develop more of a tourism-related report. PDF of full report to be shared with County Consuls and ILHA to be knowledgeable of what is in their area.

Jeanie reported on the following:

PBS Road Trip Iowa scheduled for airing in May; Jeanie spoke to PBS about the possibility to show during the June car tour; no charge to us as long as showing at no charge can show; Jeanie to work with PBS to show to the group.

Byways Newsletter featured Carnegie Buildings in January; there are 16 Carnegie Buildings along the Lincoln Highway with 7 still libraries, 4 museums, 2 churches, 1 restaurant, 1 private residence and 1 local government building,

Ames History Museum expanded into the Emporium Building, restored neon sign and incorporated a number of historical items from the building.

Wapsi Bridge did not receive funding last year so reapplying this year.

Colo oral history video project almost done, currently at 40 minutes, sending to Colo Historical Society to see if additional editing needs to be done. Plan is to play on loop in museum when open. Will also share clips on Facebook.

Audio Tour from Iowa Valley Scenic Byway can add Lincoln Highway tour, send letters out to various communities for monetary support. App for the Iowa Valley is up and running – not available to download on phone only website.

Training with Travel Iowa for international travelers to create a one-pager to promote Lincoln Highway; major hubs are New York, Chicago and San Francisco; have completed and will provide to Travel Iowa to take to the International Trade shows in Colorado and Chicago.

Old Business:

Will discuss possible route changes at April meeting in Belle Plaine. The information has been distributed over the last several meetings for consideration to review. Jennifer asked if anyone has any questions to please reach out.

New Business:

June Lincoln Highway Association Car Tour coming through Iowa prior to conference in Ogallala. Mary asked the group to consider an inexpensive giveaway for participants to show “Iowa Nice”, thanks for visiting, celebrate what we are proud of. Staying in Cedar Rapids and Ames for their overnight stays – Cedar Rapids June 19 and Ames June 20 then to Blair June 21. Discussed a number of ideas. Mary, Joyce and Jeanie to speak further to Paul Gilger about ideas.

Next Meeting: April 12. Location: Belle Plaine Museum with lunch at Fire Box On Main.

Adjournment: Garry Hevalow move to adjourned, Bruce seconded. Mary Preston adjourned the meeting at 11:50 AM.

Submitted by Mary Helen Preston, President

**Iowa Lincoln Highway Association
Business Meeting Minutes
April 12, 9:30 AM
Belle Plaine Area Museum
Belle Plaine, Iowa**

Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 by Mary Preston, President. Those in attendance:

President- Mary Preston

Secretary- Jan Gammon

Treasurer: Joyce Ausberger

State Director: Dean Parr

Cedar County: Joe Goodlove

Benton County Consul: Mike Kelly

Linn County: Rex Martin

Marshall County Consul: Harlan Quick

Story County Consul: Jan Gammon

Boone County Consul: John Fitzsimmons

Greene County Consul: Joyce Ausberger

Others: Garry Hevalow, Bob Ausberger, Bill Sankot, Mark Walton, Verlyn Strellner, Van Becker, Bev Becker, Sandra Huemann-Kelly, Jennifer Morrison (virtually), Shellie Orngard, and Jeanie Hau.

Secretary's Report: The report was emailed earlier and copies available at the meeting. Garry Hevalow moved to accept the minutes and Dean Parr seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Joyce Ausberger reported there is \$6,187.99 in checking. We are getting \$5 from nationals for every lifetime member. The Jeff Benson Fund in Story County Foundation gives us 5% each year. In March, we received \$1,652.93.

Membership Report: Dean Parr has removed anyone not renewing by January 2024 off the membership list. We went down from 52 to 34 Iowa members (loss of 18), gained a lifetime member, and down 12 National members. In total, we are down 29 members. Dean created 144 mailing labels for the newsletter, 104 mailed through USPS and 40 by email. Mary Helen Preston will continue to put something in the newsletter to encourage people to get it electronically.

State Director Report: Dean Parr said most of the national call was about the 2026 conference to be held in Pennsylvania near Philadelphia. It might be in York, PA. Since it will be in the east, it might be more expensive to attend. This year's conference is in June in Ogallala, NE. Bob and Joyce Ausberger, Jeanie Hau, Shellie Orngard, Jennifer Morrison, Lyell and Gretchen Henry, and John Fitzsimmons are going so far. The registration form was in the last *Forum*.

The brick pavers sold are ready for installation at the national headquarters in Illinois, but no one has been hired to do that work yet. Volunteers there are quite elderly, so will take some younger, stronger people.

National is working on getting more visibility through the Lincoln Highway Movie and links on Brian Butko's website and Facebook pages.

Old Business: Clinton and Pottawattamie County Consul positions are still open. Bill, in Crawford, might have a lead on someone for Pottawattamie. Kathy Dirks, Harrison County Consul, is retiring from her Welcome Center position this summer. Mary Helen Preston sent an email to her asking if the new person replacing her will be taking on the Consul position as well.

County Consul Reports:

Clinton: Joe Goodlove said there is some road work being done near Wheatland in the swampy area. Jeanie Hau reported that the DOT is spending \$26 million to create a Super 2 highway (sporadic passing lanes) rather than \$125 million for a 4-lane. This does not make Highway 30 Coalition happy.

Cedar: Joe Goodlove says the DOT has repaved the route from Lisbon to Stanwood. The town of Clarence has resurfaced the in-town portion so the original part with rocks will be gone. Mechanicsville is starting a museum and asked Joe for Lincoln Highway memorabilia. If you have something you'd like to share, let Joe know.

Linn: Rex Martin reported the west side Maid-rite is closed. Rex has looked for other Lincoln Highway markers. He looked at the old Hillside Cabin Court for any LH remnants and found possible evidence of foundations for early cabins. The site has been made into a trailer park, but most of the homes there are either uninhabitable or in disrepair.

The Marion Historical Museum has a one-room schoolhouse display until April 26. Tomorrow they will have a speaker and chili feed.

Benton: Mike Kelly shared the Youngville will open late May/early June. Again, they will be open 1 day a week. Mr. Hanke will continue as the president but resigned his cook position. A new volunteer will take his place. The grant Mike got for painting and improvements at the site has been completed. They ran into some problems, so some of grant money was approved to address those issues. Exterior painting was completed, but not all of what was hoped for. They are having a hard time finding insurance that will cover the restaurant. Dean Parr needs to confirm a mailing address for the ILHA newsletter.

Mary Preston shared that Preston's Station is looking for contractors to give bids on restoring the station and garage. Garling Construction has given one bid, but she would like more to compare. Mary and Garry have raised nearly \$100,000 personally and are ready to start restoration estimated at \$200,000. She sells brick pavers as a fundraiser. They will be put at the east end of the property along with the interpretive panel Prairie Rivers had created. She has some leads on grants.

Belle Plaine's Main Street has a few new businesses. King Theater is under new ownership, and it is up and running. The train station was sold to someone, but what is happening there has been done under the radar.

Tama: Jeanie Hau said Dollar General has been built and is open for business. The road that will go around the Lincoln Highway Bridge has started construction. Catherine Ollendieck, Tama County

Economic Development Director, has put together a task force to help move forward as a pedestrian bridge. State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) told Jeanie Hau the deck can be replaced, but the bridge cannot be widened to continue the listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Tama Board of Supervisors do not want the County Engineer to inspect the bridge. Economic Development is losing its funding July 1st. The group is trying to figure out how to get a new inspection as the last one is not valid due to time expiration. Garry Hevalow suggested the Corps of Engineers look at it as they have authority over all bodies of water and this bridge goes over a creek.

Red's gas station in Montour, owned by an LLC that includes Bob and Joyce Ausberger, has come quite a long way. The roof on the station was completed, John Fitzsimmon's painted a "Red's" sign and it was installed on the roof. A Phillip 66 metal sign is on a pole on the north side of the station. Metal siding has been repaired and some has been replaced. Bob Ausberger curtailed work for the winter but will start back up again and continue with siding and window/door work. Bob has some pumps that will be installed out front. He is trying to replicate how the station looked in the town's centennial book.

Henry Ostermann's accident was discussed and a suggestion that we mark where it happened at the east side of Montour. Joyce Ausberger said it once was marked, but new electric poles were put in and the marker gone. There is an interpretive panel about Ostermann installed in the nearby cemetery and created by Prairie Rivers a few years ago.

Marshall: Harlan Quick reported the City of State Center plans to tear down the historic Opera House/Masonic Hall Building on the east side of Main Street to make room for a major addition to the fire station next door. The Opera House dates back to 1890.

The 67th Annual State Center Rose Festival will be held Thursday, June 22 through Sunday, June 26th. The Rose Queen Talent Show starts off the weekend with coronation, live music, and fireworks. Saturday is the parade, car show, finals of the Kansas City BBQ competition. Sunday is an ecumenical service, State Center firefighter Waterball Fights. During the weekend, there will also be a craft and vendor show, food, and Extreme Fun Zone for the kids.

Marshalltown dedicated the Veteran's Memorial on March 29 on the Courthouse Square. Featured is a memorial to the 9/11 Tower of Voices in Pennsylvania, which was erected to honor the 40 Flight 93 passengers and crew members who gave their lives by attacking the hijackers on their plane, bringing it down before the plane could cause more death and destruction on 9/11. The tower can be seen from the historic Lincoln Highway which runs along Main Street in front of the Courthouse.

The first phase of Marshalltown's Main Street project has begun with the closure of center Street between State and Church Streets this phase will be to improve the city's underground public utilities and will last until mid-August when the road will be reopened

Jeanie Hau shared that the LH marker on the Marshall County Courthouse may be moved to accommodate an Arts Alliance project that has been in the works for 6 years. Jeanie suggests that ILHA write a letter asking the marker stay in its position as many books/websites list the location and people do drive to see it. Bricks and trolley rails were found on Center St- what can we do to preserve these? It was suggested that the marker location be preserved first and perhaps use the

bricks as a bargaining chip. They could use the bricks at a nearby location. There is a meeting every Wednesday on the courthouse lawn with the engineers.

Story: Jan Gammon shared the May 10th date for Pizza Pie Looza in Nevada. Musical groups will be Terri Clark, Blackhawk, and special guest Bryan White. The stage is near the LH/JH park outside the city hall. It will be a day of food, fun, and music.

The City of Colo is looking to sell the Reed-Niland Corner. They currently have ICap insurance (common for cities) that will not insure the new fire truck for replacement value. The insurance company they are hoping to change to accommodate replacement value will not insure them if they have the restaurant and motel. The motel and restaurant is being managed and rented by Kelsey Reed (no relation to the original owners). She is operating at a profit and has no debt. Everyone wants the café and motel continue to operate under her direction.

A task force has been created to perhaps create a new 501c3 to take ownership and continue to rent to the current concessionaire. The city does not want to do maintenance on the property anymore. The city will look at current needs and get those resolved. This new group could aggressively apply for grants. The City also deemed the property a local historic district. Shellie Orngaard will help them with the process of getting SHPO to recognize it as a local district, which could then lead to a National Register listing.

Boone: John Fitzsimmons reported there were once 2 “Welcome to Boone” arches that were scrapped for metal during WWII. One was at the corner of Mamie and Story and the other by 9th St. The one at 9th is going to be replaced. If you want to donate, contact the Chamber of Commerce.

The Mamie Eisenhower Home is open on Saturdays for tours. John Says the museum downtown is hanging on. The new Railroad Cart Rides are open for the season.

Greene: Joyce Ausberger said Jefferson Matters (Main Street program) was one of three Main Streets who won a Great American Main Street Award this year, A group from Jefferson traveled to Pennsylvania to accept the award. They won for their work with the Mahanay Bell Tower, rooftop art, and 3 restored alleys. Joyce also said the JC Penny building is being restored with new brick.

Bob and Joyce have a neon sign from an Ames motel that they hope to have restored. They applied for a grant to do that work, create a brochure, and create an interpretive panel. They did not get the grant. The estimate to repair the neon was \$10,000.

Carroll: Barbara Hackfort sent in a report saying the picnic table and signs at the M&M Divide survived the winter, but the large tree was damaged and taken down. The cement trash can was hit by a semi in the last snowstorm and was left in pieces, The county has replaced it, but no decision on the tree yet. Looks rather bleak there now.

Adam Schweers, head of the Highway 30 Coalition spoke to the Carroll County Board of Supervisors, urging them to support the expansion of Highway 30 to a four-lane between Ogden and Carroll. Barbara did not know about the meeting ahead of time, but she will email the BOS about it. One of the talking points was a 4-lane would make it easier for truckers to travel through Carroll. The city has already removed stoplights at two intersections- one at the main business intersection and the other at the intersection where the museum is located, impeding business

traffic and the safety of pedestrians. Barbara understands the plight of the truckers with the many stoplights in town and hills, but feels the LH is the Main Street of America and should be treated and valued as such with perhaps a truck route around town. When Barbara talked to the city about removing the two stoplights, she was told to just use 5th and 7th Streets instead.

Crawford: Bill Bruce emailed in a report saying he did talk with the local chamber about the LHA car tour coming through this summer. The Chamber will work with local merchants to create a real “rest break” stop for those traveling through the area.

Harrison: Kathy Dirks emailed in a report as she is working at the Welcome Center today. The detour between Denison and Dows City for bridge work started March 31st and is expected to be in place until late September. If you take the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway route, you avoid it. There is a rumor that Cronk’s has closed. She will investigate further (Jeanie Hau saw Cronk’s posted something recently on FB, so we think it’s open!)

Harrison County plans for another season of community events and another busy tourism season. Kathy has decided to retire as program manager of the Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center. Her last day is not set in stone, but it will be no later than June 30, 2025. Kim Crispin has been hired as her replacement and has worked in Harrison County her whole life. She is busy learning all there is to know about the Welcome Center operation- co-manager of the Welcome Center Farmers Market, gift shop buyer, day-to-day activities of the WC and museum, learning about the Lincoln Highway, Loess Hills, and Western Skies byways, tourism in Iowa, and the list goes on.

Pottawattamie; No report.

Prairie Rivers of Iowa: Shellie Orngard shared her report on National Register of Historic Places sites. She documented the condition state of the properties and what properties could be nominated for listing. This 65-page document will be available through a link posted on the PRI website. If you want a printed copy, they will be \$35 and printed on-demand only.

Jeanie Hau said the traveling exhibit will be in Logan for a time. If you know of other places, let her know.

The Seedling Mile Kiosk in Linn County will not be done for the June car tour, but hopefully by September. Linn County Historical Commission did add LH signs to the Seedling Mile signs. The City of Clinton has made a purchase, sale, and development agreement with HOBOR Renewable Diesel. The City would have 39 acres left at the Rail Park Hobo south of Atlas Roofing in a private-public venture.

Jeanie is working on developing a plan to fund the LH audio tour app and create a map for the website. National Scenic Byway Foundation has a new map app that they are adding to the Travel Byways website. All of the maps do different things.

IDOT Byways Program Manager, Emily Whaley wants to meet with each byway coordinator at locations along the byway. Jeanie is planning on Moss/Gregory Markers, the bridges loop, through Colo, and the LH Bridge in Tama. Replacement DOT Byway signs have not been put out for bid yet.

Old Business:

- Lincoln Highway Association Car Tour across Iowa- June 19-21
- Cars will be given a Bingo Card in their packet and can mark as they travel the Iowa route. Those turning in their card to Jeanie Hau in Ogallala will get a Koozie. Mary Helen Preston and Garry Hevalow are donating the Koozie with ILHA info on it. The LH Trading Post in Illinois will print the Bingo cards and get them into the tour packets. The tour will stop at Youngville, Belle Plaine, Tama Bridge, Interpretive panel in Montour, lunch at Amish restaurant near Montour, Ogden footprints, and Mamie Eisenhower house. There is a 50-car limit for the tour.
- Possible signage changes: Copies of proposed changes were included in this meeting's packet for everyone to review. The change (#6) at Ralston had already been approved for Jeanie to share with the Iowa DOT. We are reviewing change #1 in Eastern Boone County that will avoid a railroad crossing and change #3 that would create a loop to go to the Marsh Rainbow Arch Bridge, the "L" Bridge, and a better view of the LH bridge north of the railroad on the route between Ogden and Grand Junction. John Fitzsimmons moved; Garry Hevalow seconded to approve change #1. Motion carried. Joyce Ausberger moved; and Jan Gammon seconded to approve change #3. Motion carried. These two changes were the most imperative and we will have the mapping and details of changes from the subcommittee if the need to review arises.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: Garry Hevalow moved to adjourn: Jan Gammon seconded. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM.

Lunch at Fire Box on Main St- 813 12th St

Next Meetings:

- July 12, 2025 location TBD
- October 11, 2025 location TBD

Iowa Lincoln Highway Association
Business Meeting
July 12, 2025
Ames Public Library
Ames, Iowa
9:30am – Noon

Call to Order: Mary Preston welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 9:38 am. There were no guests and introductions were suspended.

Roll Call: Those In attendance-

President: Mary Preston

Secretary: Jan Gammon

Treasurer: Joyce Ausberger

State Director: Dean Parr

Cedar County Consul: Joe Goodlove

Tama County Consul: Allan Richards

Marshall County Consul: Harlan Quick

Story County Consul: Jan Gammon

Boone County Consul: John Fitzsimmons

Greene County Consul: Joyce Ausberger

Carroll County Consul: Barbara Hackfort

Others: Bob Ausberger, Brad Boustead, Jeanie Hau, Lyell Henry, Garry Hevalow, and Shellie Orngard.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the April 12 meeting were sent out previously and copies distributed at the meeting. Garry Hevalow moved to approve the minutes and Joe Goodlove seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Joyce Ausberger reported that Gene Rabel and his wife have donated \$1,000 to the group (as he does yearly). He had wanted to be at the meeting but had some health issues. We now have \$7,073.94 in the checking account. Joyce moved to send \$1,000 to the Jeff Benson Family Iowa Lincoln Highway Endowment Fund. Dean Parr and multiple others seconded. Motion carried.

John Fitzsimmons would like ILHA to buy \$100 memorial bricks at Preston's Station Historic District and put the names of former longtime members, now deceased, on bricks to honor them for their commitment to ILHA. Joyce was going to suggest that ILHA donate \$1,000 to Preston's Station. She made the motion for 10 bricks at \$100 each and Shellie Orngard seconded. Motion carried. Mary Preston will work with John Fitzsimmons for the names that could be put on the bricks.

Membership Report: Dean Parr mailed 103 copies of the newsletter. Vendor charged him \$400 for 150 copies this time. It had been around \$200. Mary will put the newsletter back out for bid. Dean said we are down 29 members; mostly national members and he deleted those who had not paid for over a year. Then we gained 3 new members, including a new life member from Marshalltown-Shelley Barron, for a total of 147 members. Our "Iowa" year runs January- December and National's

is based on whenever you join. National dues can be paid online. Mary Preston is redoing the website and will see about adding Venmo or PayPal as options for the website. Right now, the website is not up to date, but Mary has the new one almost ready to be published. John suggested that we consider giving out T-shirts or some kind of incentive to join.

State Director Report: Dean Parr reported the minutes from the Ogallala Meeting held during the conference show that Kay Shelton is still the president, David Allen is the vice-president, and the 3-consuls running un-opposed were re-elected. Ohio has divided their state meetings into 3 regions. We could do that and have 2 regions. Something to consider.

Joyce Ausberger reported the Ogallala Conference held in June was interesting and 5 Iowa members attended. Jim Kassler organized the conference and only 1 Nebraska member attended. Jess Petersen, former LHA treasurer from Tooele, UT, was in attendance. Next year the conference will be in York, PA. It is suggested that we register and get hotel rooms early as the country is celebrating 250 years in 2026 and PA will be a hotbed of celebrations. Motel rooms can be cancelled just a few days prior if need be. The 2027 conference will be in Ohio (Lima?) and the 2028 conference in Cheyenne, WY

Old Business: We still need consuls in Clinton and Pottawattamie Counties.

County Consul Reports:

Clinton: Joe Goodlove reported the DOT is working on Highway 30 and the road is closed by Wheatland, making for a very long detour.

Cedar: Clarence hosted the Middle Third Tour, and they enjoyed the Elvis Presley Museum (a lady's home with a large collection.) The community is part of Main Street America, and the community is very enthused and organizes many activities and promotions. They have a vibrant farmers market. The county has "Park Days" with rides, farmer's markets, and other events.

The corner by Victory Lane (where we had a meeting recently) was repaired and 2 underground tanks were found in the process. At one point, there was a garage there and oil was dumped into the tanks. They cut holes in them to make sure they were empty (They were.) Joe passed around an article and photos of the tanks. Digging did not uncover any bones from the mule that legend said was lost in the original construction of the road.

Clarence has created a history walk with temporary plaques being added to the sidewalks that give the history of the buildings downtown. They have also installed 6' solar lights that look like streetlights and have the "L" logo on the base.

Linn: Rex Martin was unable to be at the meeting due to his wife's recent surgery, and he had nothing to report. Dean Parr said the Mount Vernon Road to 8th street now has a large roundabout. Mary Preston reported that Bev Becker passed away shortly after the ILHA met in April. She had attended that meeting.

Benton: Mike Kelly is in Minnesota for a conference and emailed in a report. There are no leads on the stolen pump at Youngville. Mike will post a “WANTED” poster on FB or on the website. He thanks ILHA for putting it in the newsletter.

There was a nice article in the Vinton paper on Joyce Wheeler and pie at Youngville- share the link on the Youngville FB page if you are able and please “like” the post.

There have been long lines for Tuesday lunches. Mary Preston confirms that statement as when she goes by, the parking lot is full. Mike also said he talked to the great grandson of the owner of the former gas station on Hwy 30 by the Belle Plaine corner. He is hopeful to save the building. ILHA members confirmed it is in bad shape.

Tama: Allan Richards said the bypass by the Lincoln Highway bridge is about to reopen. He is concerned about cars parking in front of the bridge and obstructing the view of the bridge and lettering. He would like a park and parking plan developed.

Jeanie Hau said she, Garry Hevalow, Mary Preston, Bob and Joyce Ausberger, the Tama city clerk, and Katherine Ollendieck, with Tama Economic Development, formed a group to work on the bridge. Katherine was lining up a new inspection for the bridge and the group was going to have a “work session” when the Tama County Board of Supervisors decided not to fund the Economic Development organization so Katherine no longer had a job. The group wants to restore the bridge and make it a pedestrian bridge. It is reported that some people still walk across it to get to work. Garry Hevalow suggested Jeanie talk to the Corps of Engineers as they work with all bodies of water.

Bob Ausberger reported a gas pump has been installed at Red’s Station in Montour. Brad Boustead joked that it is the one from Youngville. Nope! Allan Richards did most of the work. The canopy has been painted and an Amish guy, who is also a youth leader, has helped tremendously and has youth that volunteered to put shingles on and install a second layer of flooring.

Marshall: Harlan Quick reported State Center still plans to tear down the historic Opera House/Masonic Hall building on East Main Street for a fire station addition or for an entirely new station. The Opera House dated back to 1890, sitting along the 2nd route of the Lincoln Highway.

The National Park Service has approved the Home Oil Gas Station for a listing on the National Register of Historic Places after eleven years of hard work. This makes the 4th property in State Center to have this distinction. Other properties are 1) Watson’s Grocery Store, 2) a three-block downtown section on Main Street, 3) the Victorian home and barn of the mayor and his wife, Craig and Mary Pfantz, and 4) the Emma Wohlert House, a former maternity hospital and present-day home of former Marshall County Lincoln Highway Consul, Catherine Noble.

The 67th Annual Rose Festival was held June 22-25 and had the usual queen coronation, fireworks, and music. Harlan Quick and his wife were the Grand Marshals in the Saturday parade. The hot and windy day also included a car show and Kansas City BBQ competition. Sunday featured an ecumenical church service and the fire department’s water ball fights. The next event will be Watson’s Fall Festival.

In Marshalltown, the fair is up and running and a concert will be held this evening. The original Lincoln Highway ran down Marshalltown's Main Street. Currently Center Street between State Street and Church Street is closed. This initial phase of the project to improve the city's underground public utilities will last until mid-August, when the road will be reopened.

Story: Jan Gammon reported that she, Jeanie Hau, and Shellie Orngard have been helping the citizens of Colo establish a new non-profit that can take over the ownership of the Reed-Niland Corner from the City of Colo. Jeanie is representing the Lincoln Highway, Jan representing the Jefferson Highway, and Shellie helping develop the application for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. They had Tom Richards, who recently restored the old Nevada Journal building in Nevada and received a State Preservation Award for his efforts, tour the property and offer his advice. Shellie has contacted the SHPO office and will have a field services expert come and view the property as well. There may be an article about this effort in the *Forum*. Lyell Henry hopes the restoration will honor its historical significance. He created the displays that have been removed.

Lincoln Highway Days in Nevada will be held the last full weekend in August and includes a rodeo, music, food trucks, parade, flea markets, etc. "Music On the Porch" will be held July 13, Aug 10, 17 and Sept 7 at Evergreen Lane/Briggs Terrace at the mansion at 1204 H Ave in Nevada. Each event has a different free item. The July event will have free root beer floats.

Boone: Bob and Joyce Ausberger, Jeanie Hau, and Shellie Orngard took a secret tour of Boone County. One of the stops was at John Fitzsimmons to see his collection. John gets offers all the time from visitors to purchase things, but he wants to keep it as a collection. They also toured historic bridges- the 1915 "L" Bridge and the 1915 Rainbow bridge. Joyce Ausberger gave a 1928 poster about Nicollett Park to John Fitzsimmons. The amusement park is no longer there, but at one time had a roller rink, boxing events, horseshoe pitching area, and more.

The road from Beaver to Ogden is closed for repairs. Joyce Ausberger says it will reopen August 16th.

Greene: Joyce Ausberger said the Greene County Engineer is talking 4-lane again, but says it would cost over a billion dollars, so the super 2 version might be a better choice. The Grand Junction LH Museum hosted 60 people from the Middle Third Tour. They like the little cabin that was moved in from Jefferson. The interpretive signs that were created years ago about Eureka Bridge, wetlands, and the DOT overpass design have not been installed. Dean Parr's sister is a friend of the engineer and he will see if she can spur him on.

Carroll: Barbara said she was rather disappointed in how *Road Trip Iowa* portrayed Carroll County. But she was glad they had Dr. Jack talk. He was a good friend of Bob Owens. Another Ghost Tour will be held at the end of September. Carroll will also host a Carnegie Library talk and the attendees will then tour the Museum in the Carroll's Carnegie Library (if they can make it across the street since stop light has been removed.) A lady with a walker had to have traffic stopped both ways for her to cross, but she made it. The museum ceiling and wall were fixed by the city, as it is their building.

Crawford: No report from Bill Bruce. Mary and others will check with him. Jan Gamon reported that she saw on Facebook Cronk's restaurant is permanently closed and is for sale.

Harrison: No report from Kathy Dirks.

Pottawattamie: No report.

Prairie Rivers of Iowa: Jeanie Hau had given each person a bag of brochures, etc. including an Iowa DOT map (with the Lincoln Highway marked), a form for the LHA Conference in York, etc. On the “share table” you can also pick up an audio tour brochure which will include the Lincoln Highway soon. The 1928 marker in Marshalltown will be installed and the contractor will take care of it. Emily at the DOT met with Jeanie to talk about replacement signs and the sign changes approved at the last ILHA meeting. Jeanie is working on a larger kiosk at the Seedling Mile and on a joint kiosk in Logan. The Middle Third Tour liked Red’s Station in Montour. Jeanie will be in the Iowa Tourism booth at the Iowa State Fair. Jeanie is promoting the book “Red Earth Nation” about the Meskwaki people.

Old Business: None

New Business: Lyell Henry has a new book out “Trekking Across America” and tells the stories of people who walked backwards, rode odd things, etc. across America. In his research years, he has compiled quite a list of things. He passed out a list of what he has. He just donated Jefferson Highway things to Pittsburg State University in Kansas. He would like to keep his collection intact and not parse it out. The archivist at Pittsburg State is interested, but it is not located on the Lincoln and is far away. He also has things he will donate to the African American Museum in Cedar Rapids.

At the Ogallala Conference Paul Geiger brought up the issue of where to store Lincoln Highway artifacts. Russell Rein (who also has LH artifacts) was appointed to look into solutions. Bob and Joyce Ausberger also have quite a collection in the Grand Junction Museum. Local people don’t stop, it’s usually organized groups that do. Jan Gammon suggested we look into Iowa State University since it is halfway across the state, on the Lincoln Highway, and has a history with Tom McDonald (ISU prof) who started the Iowa Highway Commission and later headed the national organization, now known as the Department of Transportation.

Mary Preston appointed a committee of herself, Shellie Orngard, Jeanie Hau, and Jan Gammon to work with Bob, Joyce, and Lyell on this issue. Mary Preston has a friend with climate-controlled storage that Lyell’s things could get moved to if he is ready to get them out of the house. Harlan said it is important to bring history/archivist and economic development together.

Adjournment: Lyell Henry moved to adjourn, and Garry Hevalow seconded. Motion carried and Mary Preston adjourned the meeting at 12:10.

Next Meetings:

- October 11, 2025, location TBD
- January 10, 2026, via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Gammon, ILHA Secretary