

**Iowa Lincoln Highway Association
Business Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2022, 9:30 AM
Via Zoom**

Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 by Mary Helen Preston, President. Those in attendance:

President - Mary Helen Preston

Vice President – Dale Higgins

Secretary - Jan Gammon

Treasurer - Joyce Ausberger

State Director - Dean Parr

Linn County - Rex Martin

Benton County Consul - Mike Kelly

Greene County Consul - Joyce Ausberger, Dale Higgins

Carroll County Consul - Barbara Hackfort

Harrison County Consul - Kathy Dirks

Others Present: Bob Ausberger, Garry Hevalow, Shellie Orngard, Wendi Winkie, John Jackson, and Gene Rabel.

Mary Helen Preston welcomed the group, and each introduced his/herself.

Secretary's Report: The minutes were sent out after the last meeting and are included in today's packet. Joyce Ausberger motioned to approve the October 9, 2021, minutes and Dean Parr seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Joyce Ausberger reported there is \$1,916.58 in checking and \$5,758.00 in savings. In 2021 ILHA had \$4,355.10 in income and \$4,344.92 in expenses. She received 4 memberships before Dean sent out reminders! Joyce would like Prairie Rivers of Iowa to file the 990 EZ. Shellie should have instructions in Jan Gammon's old files to do this. Only takes a few minutes.

Membership Report: Dean Parr reconciled his list with Bob Beaudoin's (National Membership Chairman). We are up 1 Iowa member, 1 Life member, down 2 National and down 1 Comp member. Our current total is 206, the same as last quarter. Some members have not paid for the new year. Dean will send reminders then drop those not paid by June/July. National membership numbers are trending downward.

Director's Report: Dean Parr reported a national call was held November 18 and focus was the conference schedules: 2022, June 20-22 in Joliet, Illinois; 2023 in Sacramento, CA, and 2024 in Elkhart, Indiana. Russell Rein, LHA Field Secretary, has been talking to the Library in Ann Arbor about the LHA archives. Since Katherine Dow retired, no one has had a deep commitment to the files and most have been put away in the archives.

John Jackson- National Treasurer: In this 30th year of the re-formed LHA, John wanted to go back to where it began in 1992- Iowa. He is pleased with our membership numbers and our newsletter- and we

have the Ausbergers! The 2022 Annual Conference will include an auto tour that will begin June 12 in New York and end at the conference in Joliet. An application for the auto tour will be in the next *Forum*. As with everything these days, circumstances due to pandemic may alter these plans.

He encourages chapters to apply for the LHA Grant. There is money available and there are few requests for the funds. It does need to be a chapter project and is not open to outsiders.

A good amount of funds has been used to update the LHA website. There have been more hits since the Amor Towles book came out and gained popularity. National has experienced 100 new members. This might also be due to adding PayPal to the website and which make membership payments available on-line. They have seen some membership leaking out the other side and LHA created a new rack card for chapters and others to use to promote the LHA. If you need some to distribute, contact Jim Cassler at the LHA Trading Post.

Another new feature is the blog Trey Pitsenberger is doing from California. Trey has also agreed to serve as the new VP of the LHA. The *Forum* is now accessible on-line, and this change is a way to attract new members.

A new marketing committee has been formed. Mary Helen Preston is 1 of 6 on that committee. They are considering creating placemats to be used at restaurants across the nation and/or making a jigsaw puzzled for sale.

Old Business: Clinton County Consul position is still open.

Consul Reports:

Clinton: Mary Preston said a phone call will be held 2:00 Thursday of this next week about the Wapsie Bridge. She, Bob and Joyce Ausberger, and Shellie Orngard will be on that call and will use this opportunity to request the name of someone who will take the open ILHA Consul position in Clinton County. Bob Ausberger feels this 3- bridge area in western Clinton County is a unique story for the Lincoln Highway and Dean Parr likes the pavement still intact from a previous alignment, but accessible out in the woods. Getting there is a challenge and could use steps or a bridge to get to it. The ILHA hopes the bridge can be restored using the original railings and be open at least to foot traffic.

Joe Goodlove sent in a report and said the old hardware store that sat on the corner where LH travelers first came into Clinton/Lyons has been closed and is now boarded up with a big fence around it. Kathy Dirks researched while we were on this call and it has been condemned by the city as has most of that block.

Cedar: Joe Goodlove emailed in his report. Cedar County Board of Supervisors is voicing concerns about the Super 2 highway, although that is what IDOT has said is their selection. Clarence continues with community functions this fall and holiday season and promotes is Main Street Clarence and its role on the Lincoln Highway. Stanwood's historic motel lost part of its roof in the derecho and the eastern section appears to be in the process of being taken down. The single -pole gas station next door does not appear to have any business inside and is being used for storage. The Lowden city crew removed a sign marking the crossing of the Lincoln Highway and the Hoover Highway. Joe wonders who to contact about this sign. The group thought best to talk to City of Lowden about it. Bob Ausberger thought it was

a handmade wooden sign (not a metal DOT sign). Joyce Ausberger thought it was right outside the Lincoln Hotel.

Linn County: Rex Martin said the loop to Marion is open now, but the pedestrian portion not until spring. He will make sure the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway signs get put back up.

There was a concrete marker in an elderly lady's garage that was to be reinstalled after road construction. The woman passed away and her son who Rex had talked to about re-installing had been living there after her death. The son was found this winter, frozen out in the yard. The man has a half-brother in AZ and Rex will contact him about the marker. The half-brother (John Parks) had not wanted it re-installed before as he was unsure a new owner would want it or appreciate it. Then his brother had decided to live there instead of selling, but it will now be up for sale.

Benton: Mike Kelly reported the Youngville group has a meeting this Monday afternoon. Mike is still in Virginia, but plans are to move his parents into senior care and he will return to Iowa. Youngville has plans to open this spring, but he will know more after the meeting. The roof has been repaired, but the whole yard and gas pumps need some work. The DOT is to put up signs directing travelers to the new entrance on HWY 218 instead off Highway 30.

Bob and Joyce Ausberger have no further report on the Herring Hotel, but they have formed an LLC to take on properties. The Heritage Preservation and Restoration Partners, LLC includes Bob, Joyce, Wendi Winkie, Dusti Winkie, Allison Hicks, and Darren Sellers.

Mary Helen Preston said Preston's Station had a great year. Things are closed for the winter but she and Garry look forward to spring 2022.

Tama: The gas station in Montour is in the possession of the LLC that Bob and Joyce Ausberger helped create. They would like to apply for a Tama County Community Foundation grant to create a site plan. It should be National Register of Historic Places eligible and all work should be done to protect that designation. The grant is due January 15th. The new LLC would like the ILHA to be their fiscal sponsor. The LLC has a bank account, but is not a 501 c(3) yet. Mike Kelly moved that the ILHA serve as fiscal sponsor for the Heritage Preservation and Restoration Partners, LLC's application for the gas station project in Montour. Rex Martin seconded. Motion carried. The LLC has an elderly lady who has many photos and much information about the station. They also have contact with a man who used to work there. The LLC has talked to Martin Gardner in Cedar Rapids, who can give them an estimate on the cost of a site plan.

The Tama bridge work needs to be rebid. There is some talk about moving the bridge to the park and building a whole new bridge for truck traffic. A new processing plant is being built which will increase truck traffic. A suggestion is to move the truck route. The rebid process is for restoration, not removal. Bob Ausberger and Alan Richards are working on keeping the cut-off to Chelsea open as a county road.

Gene Rabel asked about a concrete marker that was in a City of Toledo maintenance shed and wondered if it was still there or if it was re-installed after a new city hall was built. The group will check into it. Bob and Joyce are working with the Tama Historical Society on another issue and will ask them.

Marshall County: Harlan Quick emailed in that he had no report.

Story: Jan Gammon reported that water lines are being laid between Ames and Nevada, closing parts of the Lincoln Highway. That work should be done this spring.

Reed-Niland is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Original plans were to increase their hours, but that has not happened. They only offer 1-2 kinds of pies but have added cookies and other desserts.

Boone: John Fitzsimmons talked to Bob and Joyce not long ago and said the Mamie Eisenhower Birthplace is in good hands as is the Museum.

Greene: Bob and Joyce put Christmas lights around the Grand Junction Garden for the holidays and it looked very pretty. The Green Gables cabin was moved in and has been restored. Let Ausbergers know if you are in the area and they will open it for you. Recently some guys from Spain stopped in and the Canasta ladies talked to them and answered lots of questions. This was trip 2 of 3 for the Spanish group to come to America and drive sections of the Lincoln Highway. Bob and Joyce did not get to talk to them. But wouldn't be surprised if they wrote a book about their travels from all the questions the Canasta ladies fielded.

Dale Higgins would like some kind of sale to happen outdoors with Lincoln Highway knick-knacks for sale or a BuyWay sale as other states have found successful. Some people might not want to go into museum's just yet due to pandemic.

Carroll: Barbara Hackfort received a postcard collection, including one of the Lincoln Highway and a standard station. She will be inquiring about adding a picnic table to the M and M Divide pull-off by Arcadia.

Crawford: Ty Rosburg submitted no report.

Harrison: Kathy Dirks talked to Amy Zeigler at Iowa Tourism and the Byway passport program is being continued this year. She recently noticed the marker at Highway 30 and County L20 is missing after some road construction, so she will be checking into that getting reinstalled.

Pottawattamie: No report.

Prairie Rivers of Iowa Report: Shellie Orngard reported that PRI received funds for a traveling display which will consist of panels with photos and information, a replica of a concrete marker, and an old radio that will play recordings. Does anyone have an old radio? The shell of the radio could be used with a modern player placed inside. This project will be promoted in 3 counties to start with- Greene, Story, and Marshall and then expanded to all 13 counties.

Shellie will be traveling the entire Lincoln Highway this year for a conduct a sign inventory. Other grants will be applied for that promote outdoor recreation or inventory historical properties. PRI will also celebrate the National status for the Byway. Kathy Dirks suggested that more than one celebration be held since the byway is so long. As said, the Byway Passport program with Iowa Tourism will continue and Quick Stop has given two \$100 gas cards to be given away for each of the first 6 months at least.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Mary Helen Preston suggested we bring the ILHA newsletter back in-house instead of using Prairie Rivers of Iowa. She has someone willing to do it as in-kind and they have graphic arts background. We paid \$3,000 last year to Prairie Rivers of Iowa to do the newsletter, social media, and

the website - with most of it going towards newsletter work. Printing/mailing is an additional cost – around \$125 for the year. We did reduce the number of printed newsletters to 300, so that cost should decrease a bit. Joyce Ausberger moved we do the newsletter in-house. Jan Gammon seconded and the motion carried.

Kathy Dirks asked when the new Byway Activity Guide will be done. Shellie Orngard said they should have it from the printer “any day now.” The on-line version is on the Byway page on the Prairie Rivers of Iowa website.

Joyce Ausberger offered to hold the April 9th ILHA meeting in Greene County. Location will be in the newsletter.

Adjournment: Garry Hevalow moved, Kathy Dirks seconded, and Mary Preston adjourned the meeting at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Gammon, ILHA Secretary

**Iowa Lincoln Highway Association
Business Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2022, 9:30 AM
Lincoln Highway Museum, Grand Junction**

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 by Mary Helen Preston, President. Those in attendance:

President- Mary Helen Preston

Vice President- Dale Higgins

Secretary- Jan Gammon

Treasurer - Joyce Ausberger

Cedar County Consul - Joe Goodlove

Benton County Consul - Mike Kelly

Marshall County Consul - Harlan Quick

Boone County Consul - John Fitzsimmons

Greene County Consul - Joyce Ausberger, Dale Higgins

Carroll County Consul - Barbara Hackfort

Harrison County Consul - Kathy Dirks

Others: Bob Ausberger, Garry Hevalow, Shellie Orngard, Gene Rabel, Kay Rabel, Sandra Huemann-Kelly, Shirley Herrick, Gerold Herrick, Kathy Quirk, Dallas Edwards, Linda Borty, and Brad Boustad

Mary Helen Preston welcomed the group, and each introduced his/herself.

Secretary's Report: The minutes were sent out after the last meeting and are included in today's packet. Kathy Dirks motioned to approve the January 8, 2022, minutes and Garry Hevalow seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Joyce Ausberger reported there is \$4,092.30 in checking and \$5,718.07 in savings. She deposited a check from the National Treasurer for \$1,400. She will clarify with him if this is for one or two years of our portion of national dues. Check was also deposited from Jeff Benson Endowment for \$1,245. Gene Rabel presented Joyce and the ILHA with a check for \$1,000 as he lives in Minnesota and cannot be here to help with projects, but he believes in our cause very much.

Membership Report: Dean Parr sent in his report to Mary. We are down 15 members. Currently National - 98, Iowa - 54, Lifetime - 16, Complimentary - 23, for a total of 191. Carrol Stokesbury and Edie Hedagard are not current members, but are currently consuls. Sandii will contact Carroll to see if he is interested. Jan Gammon or Henry Corbin were suggested to fill that role if need be.

Director's Report: Dean is using the ILHA newsletter article about the traveling exhibit for the *Forum*. March 3 LHA meeting via Zoom focused on the cost of printing the *Forum*. Considering scaling back to 40 pages. Franklin Grove is open as of April 1 and has new volunteers. The LHA grant program needs updated. Bob is/was on that committee.

Old Business:

Clinton County Consul

Position is still open. Shellie suggested Steve Rolling to fill role. She will reach out to Steve to inquire his interest.

Bridge Updates:

Wapsi Bridge

Shellie Orngard has been talking to Todd Kinney, Clinton County Engineer, about the middle Wapsi Bridge (overflow). The deck needs replaced and none of existing bridge can be reused. Will need to build a new bridge. This would give access to boat ramp and where the ILHA wanted to develop with picnic tables, interpretive panels, and a trail. Prairie Rivers would like to get a second opinion on the bridge and use the Eureka Bridge as an example. Shellie has also talked with the Army Corps of Engineers and requested ILHA members send letters to both Todd and the Corps letting them know our opinions.

There is a programmatic agreement with the DOT that this area is historic and is the most intact Lincoln Highway in Iowa. A MOU has been written and a National Register of Historic Places application work had been started years ago that might be revisited.

Joe Goodlove said some of the locals would just prefer the westernmost bridge be removed as it hangs up logs and debris during flooding, which happens often. Then everything backs up to the north. Joe is also concerned about the Byway signage that directs travelers back there from Highway 30. Jan Gammon had spoken to Todd Kinney and taken him loop signs to add when the middle bridge was still operational. He needs to take down the byway signs and move them to the next gravel to the west to connect to the Lincoln Highway as it heads west to Wheatland.

Hometown Pride is also working in the area on trails that could connect to the trail the ILHA wants to create.

Tama Bridge

Many ILHA members and others had written to the Tama City Council letting them know how important this bridge is to Lincoln Highway history. Talk was to move the bridge to the nearby park but the engineer now on the project said it would never make that short move. The Council voted to for the State to let bids this summer for the work, using a wider net.

The bridge did have a weight limit, but it was never enforced and now the sign is down. Both the paper mill and packing plant ask their trucks to go a different route, but most do not comply and go over the E 5th St Bridge instead.

Byway Signs and Name

The DOT is talking to their communications team about the name for the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway and the addition of the word "National" to it. They are considering additional signs with the word "National" on it rather than manufacturing all new signs (about 1200 of them). The name and the sign logos are trademarked.

Consul Reports

Clinton County: Nothing further report.

Cedar County: The City of Clarence would like to use the LHA logo on street light banners. Joyce moved that ILHA approve this, Jan Gammon seconded. Motion carried. It will then be taken to Kay Shelton, National President, for her approval.

Joe Goodlove had asked about a sign near the Lowden Hotel regarding the Hoover Highway. He found it was installed by the Hoover Alliance in 1992. They have dissolved. The City took it down and Joe is going to ask for it. It is a bronze sign with raised lettering like the sign in West Branch.

Clarence is pushing for lots of functions and promotes its affiliation with the Lincoln Highway. Stanwood's motel on the Lincoln Highway has the second story removed and by summer, it will probably be all down.

The DOT and communities had agreed the Cedar County Highway 30 widening project would be a Super 2 (with a lane for slower traffic to get passed at select sections of the highway.) Now they have been pressured to consider a Rural 4 (4 lane with all roads and driveways having access with no overpasses, etc.) or make it a regular 4-lane.

Linn County: Rex emailed his report. He found another concrete marker at the Antique Auto Museum in Coralville. He gave this info to Gene Rabel who is cataloging all the markers across the nation. This museum has many consignment cars on display and all cars run. Gene visited the guy who donated it. He lives between Cedar Rapids and Iowa City, off I380, and has one on his property too.

Benton: Mike Kelly reported the Youngville had a reorganizational meeting. They have been closed for 2 years due to Covid and decided to open for lunch on Tuesdays from June 2 to the end of September. They will serve hamburgers/sandwiches, root beer floats, and pies (made by 92-year-old Joyce.) The yard still needs some clean-up and the garage needs rebuilt. The hope is some day it will be a Welcome Center, open more days and promoted effectively.

Herring Hotel: Bob, Joyce, and others created an LLC - Heritage Preservation and Restoration Partners, LLC so the organization can purchase and restore properties along the Lincoln Highway (examples for properties include the Herring Hotel and the gas station in Montour).

There have been some road closures due to construction, so getting to Belle Plaine is more challenging with Highway 21 closed.

Preston's Historic District was closed for the winter, but still have people stopping by. The signs were removed, and the master plan created. Need to work on funding for restorations. Rex Jones in Selma, AL contacted Mary about creating a mural of Preston's on his building next to the Edmond Pettis Bridge in historic Selma. He is 2nd generation of Cougar Oil. Took a few days and it was done! Mary is working with him to get some Cougar Oil memorabilia.

Tama: Allen Richards sent in a report that the Lincoln Highway Bridge Festival will be in early May. King Tower looks OK, except for the parking lot but it needs a savior. The original road to Chelsea is gone, but new road is big and nice.

The Montour gas station is still in the Kupka family hands, but are working on getting it to the Heritage Preservation and Restoration Partners, LLC created by Bob, Joyce, and others.

Marshall County: Harlan Quick reported on the events scheduled: State Center's Rose Festival is Friday June 17-Sunday June 19. Will have a Rose Pageant, Rose Queen Coronation, Rose Parade, craft show, fireworks, inflatables, water ball fights, and extensive car show.

Monday, July 4 fireworks at Marshall County Fairgrounds. July 13-16 the Central Iowa Fair at the Fairgrounds. Friday, September 23, Watson's Fall Festival will be held on Main Street, State Center. September 22-25. Octoberfest, held in Marshalltown on Main Street and November 19, 5-7 PM Marshalltown's Holiday Stroll on Main Street. State's Center's Old-Fashioned Christmas on Main will be Friday, December 2.

The State Center Historic Preservation Commission is working on getting the Home Oil Service Station on the Lincoln Highway placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Story: Jan Gammon reported water lines are being laid between Ames and Nevada, still closing parts of the Lincoln Highway. That work should be done this spring. She talked to Amy, the Colo City Clerk about Reed-Niland Corner. The café and motel are closed. The new Colo Historic Association will be taking over the Station and use it as a museum, with open hours. The City is looking for new management for the café and motel. Amy's dad operates the Ames Motor Lodge on east Lincolnway in Ames and feels he could help fill rooms every day, but it's a question of who would occasionally clean rooms, do laundry, etc. Brad Boustad suggested any residential/business cleaners might be able to help.

Boone: John Fitzsimmons gave a presentation recently to Tall Corn organization about highway signs. The old Fareway was torn down and nothing being built in its place. The Historical Society building is open. There is an old 1934 International truck by Sparks station in Beaver if anyone wants to stop and take a photo of it after the meeting.

Greene: Joyce Ausberger introduced Ruth Quirk who shared some photos of Quirks cabins and her father's (George Kennedy) Phillips 66 gas station in Grand Junction just west of the museum we are meeting in.

There was a nice article in the Forum about the beginning of the modern-day Lincoln Highway Association and Joyce is being contacted to do programs for the Questors and PEO. Grand Junction has received several grants to improve playground equipment, fire department, etc. The old Watts home burned down. The doorknobs in it were crystal. It had servants' quarters and back stairs leading to the quarters, Watts was a Lincoln Highway Consul person. He had the bank which is now the museum we are meeting in. Joyce said the vault is still intact.

Dale Higgins said the J.C. Penny building in Jefferson is abandoned and needs someone to restore and repurpose it. He also reminded the group of the two Marsh bridges on the Lincoln Highway in Greene County- the "L" Bridge and the Rainbow Arch bridge. Mr. Marsh lived in Greene County but built bridges all over the country.

Carroll: Barbara Hackfort asked the group for \$300 towards a shaped picnic table for the M and M Divide east of Arcadia. The Carroll Parks and Rec put in trees there years ago and the state provided the access. The Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway added an interpretive panel last year. Conservation will pour a concrete pad for the picnic table. Arcadia and Carroll will each give \$300 towards the \$900 picnic table. The Historical Society will pay for engraving. Joyce Ausberger moved for ILHA to give \$300 towards this project. Garry Hevalow seconded. Motion carried.

Crawford: No report.

Harrison: Kathy Dirks is not aware of anything in Harrison, Crawford, of Pottawattamie that is getting torn down. She is happy to report that every town in Harrison County now has a coffee shop and a boutique. Woodbine is working on adding 150 new houses. The Welcome Center is starting to see an up-tic in travelers.

Father Tom, Lincoln Highway Association member from Council Bluffs, had a postcard collection from his travels on the Lincoln Highway. When he passed, the person receiving those asked Kathy if the Welcome Center could use them. They are scanning them in, front and back (as he wrote on some of them) and

they will be put in a book for all to see. Mike Kelly has a photo of Father Tom that he will get to Kathy to put in the front of the book.

Pottawattamie: No report.

Prairie Rivers of Iowa Report

Shellie Orngard said the Iowa Byways are working on a grant application for the new FHWA funding that was recently announced. They will be working on Experience Hub Interpretive installations with 4 panels, two on each side.

She has the new LHHB Activity Guide with her and passed them out to those who needed them. She also is working on a traveling display that received funding from Iowa Tourism. Another grant PRI is working on is a listing of Historic places on the Lincoln Highway and what condition they are in.

Old Business

None.

New Business

National Conference is June 20-24 in Joliet, ILL. Mary Preston has forms if anyone wants to sign up. They should also have been in with the latest *Forum*. There will be a car tour, Great Race, and a pre-conference drive of the Dixie Highway.

Gene Rabel sent an article in about the Egyptian Theatre the Conference will tour. At one time there were 13 water fountains there with inscriptions. One concrete marker was refurbished and placed by a water fountain. The museum in Sterling has an original marker on their grounds and one in storage. He also sent information to Jim Cassler about a statue in a park and a plaque commemorating Lincoln giving a speech there in July 1856 and spending the night in town. Perhaps Jim can use this info on the bus tour.

Garry Hevalow moved the ILHA order more map packs as we are running low. Joe Goodlove seconded. In 2013, 500 were orders at a cost of \$3,450. Joyce Ausberger is thinking we should just order 300 this time. She does not have a new quote, but when she gets it, will email everyone to approve.

Mary Preston asked everyone to send in info for the newsletter- Youngville's vision, National Conference, Hoover plaque, NRHP application for Home Oil, Montour Station, Marsh Bridges, Concrete markers, etc. All of this would make for good articles for the ILHA newsletter.

Adjournment: Garry Hevalow moved, Jan Gammon seconded, and Mary Preston adjourned the meeting at 12:25 AM. The group was invited to tour the Green Gable Cabin next door and have lunch at the 30 Yard Line, just east of Casey's. July meeting is tentatively at Youngville.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Gammon, ILHA Secretary

**Iowa Lincoln Highway Association
Business Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2022, 9:30 AM
Youngville Café, Benton County**

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 by Mary Helen Preston, President.

Those in attendance:

President - Mary Helen Preston

Treasurer - Joyce Ausberger

Membership & State Director – Dean Parr

Cedar County Consul - Joe Goodlove

Benton County Consul - Mike Kelly

Marshall County Consul - Harlan Quick

Boone County Consul - John Fitzsimmons

Greene County Consul - Joyce Ausberger

Carroll County Consul - Barbara Hackfort

Harrison County Consul - Kathy Dirks

Others: Bob Ausberger, Garry Hevalow, Shellie Orngard, Penny Brown Huber, Jeannie Parr, Gene Rabel, Kay Rabel, Sandra Huemann-Kelly, Lyell Henry, Bill Paeth, Jennifer Morrison, and Bryan Helmus

Mary Helen Preston welcomed the group, and each introduced his/herself.

Secretary's Report: Janice was unable to attend today, so minutes were taken Mary Helen and Shellie. The minutes were sent out after the last meeting and are included in today's packet. Joyce Ausberger indicated a change in the minutes regarding the Map Packs; Map Packs ordered were 500 for this reprint with 1,000 Map Packs sold from the last order. Jeannie made a motion to approve the April 9 minutes with the amounts of the Map Packs correction and Jennifer Morrison seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Joyce Ausberger reported there is \$2,246.42 in checking, this includes the distribution for the Map Packs and \$300 for M&M Divide picnic table; there is \$4,708 in the investment account. Map Packs will cost \$4,700, funds to pay for the Map Packs funds will come from two donations (\$1,400 and \$2,000), transfer of \$1,000 from investment and pre-payment from National membership. Map Pack new price is \$15. Some corrections didn't get made in the reprinting. Jennifer Morrison stated she has been working with Iowa DOT construction documents online and has found additional corrections for the Map Pack. These corrections/additions will be inserted individually into the Map Packs. Jeff Benson's Memorial Fund gives \$1,000 provides annual income. Dean Parr made a motion to approve and Bob Ausberger seconded. Motion carried.

Membership Report: Dean reported there are currently 191 members; 98 National members; 54 Iowa; 24 complimentary and 15 Life. With the last newsletter, he mailed 154 with 40 preferring email.

Directorship Report: State directors met by Zoom prior to Conference in Joliet.

Recap of Board Meeting in Joliet

- Treasurer's Report: Even with monies reallocated and prepayment of member dues allocations to States, overall looks good.
- Mapping Committee: Committee wants to find businesses to advertise and offer discounts to LHA members.
- Endowment Committee: Grant process being revitalized; have not received any submissions over past 3 years.
- Marketing Committee: No report.
- Bylaw Review: An ad hoc committee was formed to review. David Allen, At-Large Member is heading up Committee. Dean Parr is on Committee.
- National Officers were elected.
- Future Conference sites: 2023 – Folsom, CA and 2024 – Elkhart, IN

National Conference Recap

There were approximately 79 attendees. The ILHA was named Chapter of the Year for its work getting the Iowa Lincoln Highway named a National Byway and for its work to preserve the Tama Bridge.

Old Business

Open Consul Positions

Clinton County Consul Position

Position is still open. Shellie indicated Steve Rolling while a support of ILHA; he wouldn't have the time necessary. Need to continue looking.

Story County Consul Position

Reached out to Carroll Stokesbary to gauge his desire to continue as Story Consul and he is not interested. Mary Helen reached out to Henry Corbin at Main Street Nevada and has not received a response. Will continue to get a response.

Bridge Updates

Tama

IDOT to let bids within the next month; project seems to be moving along without any glitches.

Wapsi

Penny Brown Huber has been speaking with engineers for next steps. Want to attempt to persuade to look at reconstruction/preservation of Eureka Bridge and get engineer into contact with Clinton County. Section 106 not resolved.

Byway Sign Inventory and Name

New individual in charge so has been delay on audit. Have been informed no Lincoln Highway signs in storage, will need to order. NOT willing to include "National" designation on sign due to trademark, may request smaller "National" under sign.

Consul Reports

Clinton County: Calumus pole painting not done; route through town not aligned – shows 2 routes; attempting to align. Jennifer Morrison provided some clarification as to route for guidance.

Cedar County: Mechanicsville and Clarence are becoming more involved. Joe Goodlove has provided brochures. The Lincoln Highway and Hoover Highway marker has been reinstalled. Clarence had asked for approval to use LH logo and received a grant to make promotional signage produced. They will be using the Iowa Byways logo on banners.

Linn County: Tara Templeton of The History Center in Cedar Rapids presented a Lunch and Learn about the Lincoln Highway, featuring its history in Linn County. Those in attendance from ILHA were: Rex Martin, Mary Helen Preston, Dean Parr and Mike Kelly. During the Lunch and Learn it was confirmed that the History Center has one concrete marker on display, they are considering option for the recently donated Johnson Avenue marker and a third marker is damaged and is in offsite storage. Tara agreed to make arrangements with Rex Martin to come photograph the marker offsite.

According to the Marion City Engineer, the Iowa Lincoln Highway Byway sign which was removed for road work is in their possession and will be reinstalled in the next 2-3 weeks.

Benton County: Youngville opened four weeks ago one day a week on Tuesdays 11am-2pm. There was a lot of damage from the derecho, but the inside is cleaned up. The roof is waiting to be finished. IDOT will install road signs on Hwy 30 and 218. Pumps need to be restored. They are working on rebuilding the garage and would like to rebuild the cabins which burned down.

Herring Hotel: Nothing to report.

Preston's Station: Continuing efforts.

Tama County: Still waiting on paperwork from Kupka family for Montour Gas Station.

Marshall County: Watson's Grocery Store Museum in State Center is open Saturday and Sunday, 1pm – 4pm during the summer. Upcoming events in State Center are (1) Watson's Fall Festival on Friday, 9/23 and Annual Old Fashioned Christmas on Main on Friday, 12/2. Upcoming Marshalltown events: (1) Oktoberfest will be September 22-25, and (2) Holiday Stroll is November 19 from 4-8pm. The Flying Elbow in Marshalltown won Iowa's Best Burger for 2022.

Story County: Janice Gammon sent in the following report. The Lincoln and Jefferson Highway Heritage Park outside Nevada's City Hall had its finishing touches installed in June. NuCara Pharmacy had donated the funds for Nevada Monument to create a replica Boy Scout Marker. It is made of granite instead of the concrete with bronze medallion. Nevada Monument has an original marker near the street outside their business that was used as an example. Installation of this marker was delayed due to Nevada's downtown infrastructure project. The Lincoln Highway Association assisted with the park ribbon cutting in 2019 when the LHA Motor Tour came through town as they celebrated reenacting the 1919 Army Convoy.

Reed-Niland corner has activity once again! The café is open Wednesday – Sunday and the motel is ready for guests. Kelsey Reed is the new manager and has many local and family members working for her. A bar area has been added to the front room. Several bike groups and auto clubs have made it a stop and it sounds like Niland Café is doing brisk business.

Lincoln Way from Nevada to Ames is open.

Boone County: The Boone Scenic Valley Railroad has added battery-assisted handcars. The diesel train runs daily. Boone County Tourism has released a 30-second video featuring drone footage.

Greene County: The Bell Tower Festival in June was a big success. Bob would like to promote 80 Lincoln Highway related locations in Greene County, including Danger Hill.

Carroll County: The octagon-shaped picnic table has been ordered for M&M Divide rest stop/interpretive panel. Location will have cement pad and be wheelchair accessible. It will be engraved. Will be looking at landscaping.

Crawford County: No report.

Harrison County: Kathy Dirks reported the following – No major news to report at the moment. City celebrations, county fair, etc. are back in full-swing. Travel hasn't slowed down much with the price of gas and inflation. Have had travelers along the Lincoln Highway and try to encourage them to do so. It's a much more enjoyable drive than busy I-80.

Pottawattamie County: No report.

Prairie Rivers of Iowa

The exhibition *Promise Road: How the Lincoln Highway Changed America* debuted at the Greene County Historical Museum. Bob and Joyce Ausberger gave a presentation about the Lincoln Highway with about 65 attendees. The exhibit will go to Marshall County next followed by Story County, then Linn County (The History Center in Cedar Rapids) in October. Author Darcy Maulsby attended and has written a book on the Lincoln Highway in Iowa scheduled to be released October 2022.

Coordinators for all 14 of the byways in Iowa collaborated to apply for funding from the Federal Highway Administration for “experience hubs” to guide travelers. Included in the application would be funding for 6 experience hubs along the Lincoln Highway. If the grant is received, the hubs wouldn’t be slated for installation until 2025.

Shellie made a proposal to paint poles along the Lincoln Highway next summer using a grant from Paint Iowa Beautiful/Keep Iowa Beautiful. Applications can be made beginning in the fall.

Penny Brown Huber announced Prairie Rivers of Iowa is interviewing for a new Byway Coordinator, with plans for new individual to begin September. Shellie will transition to managing an Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs grant which assesses the condition of National Register of Historic Places along the Iowa’s Lincoln Highway. The objective is to identify endangered properties and funnel resources to preserve them.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Mary Helen Preston reiterated be on the lookout for spam emails received from anyone from the ILHA. She noted no one from the Association would EVER ask anyone to purchase gift cards for any reason.

She again asked for members to forward any information they believe would be of interest to put in the newsletter. The information may not get in right away but as long as it isn’t time sensitive it will get in.

Next Meeting

With October being the month in 1992 when the LHA was reorganized, we will meet in Ogden on Saturday, October 8 beginning at 9:30a. Watch of details.

Adjournment: Lyell Henry moved, Garry Hevalow seconded and Mary adjourned the meeting at Noon. Lunch was furnished by Youngville Café compliments of Sandii and Mike Kelly.

Respectfully submitted.

Shellie Orngard and Mary Helen Preston

**Iowa Lincoln Highway Association
Business Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2022, 9:30 AM
Ogden Community Center, Ogden, Iowa**

Welcome and Introductions

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

President- Mary Helen Preston

Vice President- Dale Higgins

Secretary- Jan Gammon

Treasurer - Joyce Ausberger

Cedar County Consul - Joe Goodlove

Linn County Consul: Rex Martin

Benton County Consul - Mike Kelly

Marshall County Consul - Harlan Quick

Story County Consul: Henry Corbin

Greene County Consul - Joyce Ausberger, Dale Higgins

Carroll County Consul - Barbara Hackfort

State Director: Dean Parr

Others: Bob Ausberger, Garry Hevalow, Penny Brown-Huber, Shellie Orngard, Gene Rabel, Kay Rabel, Jonathon Sherwood, Jeannie Parr, Susan McKinney, Russ O'Rourke, Danielle O'Rourke, Fred Clark, Andy Bock, Jennifer Morrison, Bryan Holmers, and Brad Boustad.

Mary Helen Preston welcomed the group, and each introduced his/herself.

Secretary's Report: The minutes were sent out after the last meeting and are included in today's packet. Jeannie Parr moved to approve the July 9, 2022, minutes and Garry Hevalow seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Joyce Ausberger reported there is \$2,147.84 in checking and \$4,736.5 in savings. This quarter's expense was for reprinting the map packs. We will have the expense of one more newsletter yet this year. Joyce is selling calendars from the Ohio chapter for \$10. They included pictures of Youngville, Preston's and the Tama Bridge in the calendar. Garry Hevalow moved we accept the report and Dean Parr seconded. Motion carried.

Membership Report: Dean Parr reported we currently have National - 101, Iowa - 53, Lifetime - 15, Complimentary - 24, for a total of 193. 157 newsletters were mailed out as more are taking it electronically. Cost of printing newsletter is \$107.09. Postage went up so mailing cost totals \$201.29

Director's Report: Dean Parr reported that John Jackson is retiring from the treasurer position at the end of 2022 and nationals is looking for a replacement. Bob Beaudoin is cleaning up the membership list. The 2023 LHA National Conference will be held near San Francisco June 6-12. Mike Kelly is concerned as it conflicts somewhat with the Jefferson Highway's national conference to be held in Mason City, Iowa (June 7-10). Many people like to attend both.

Russel Rein, LHA Field Secretary, has been in contact with the University of Michigan and the LHA archives. Russell has a collection of LHA items that he would like to donate, but staff is not very helpful. Kathryn Dow is missed as she was a great LHA supporter at the U of MI library.

The Towles book about the Lincoln Highway may have renewed interest in the Lincoln Highway. Although it is not a historical fact-filled novel, it does have Lincoln Highway threaded through the content. The LHA's google maps has seen an increase in number of hits since the book's release.

Old Business:

Clinton County Consul

Position is still open.

Bridge Updates:

Wapsi Bridge

Shellie Orngard reported there is not much change, but there is interest in making it a National Register of Historic Places District and talks now are about the boundaries of the district.

Tama Bridge

Engineering firm of Shuck-Britson posted the job as of last Thursday and 5 companies have downloaded the info. Hoping to review bids by the 18th.

Consul Reports

Clinton County: Joe Goodlove reported the old hardware store at the corner in the original town of Lyons (now Clinton) is no more and is now just a dirt lot.

Cedar County: The City of Clarence used the LHA logo on street light banners. They have activities planned almost every weekend. Lowden will host a "Trunk or Treat" night. Stanwood had about 1/3 of the old motel come down. Another 1/3 is being made into apartments. And another 1/3 is used for storage, but it is deteriorating and may come down soon as well. Mechanicsville has some fall activities too.

Linn County: Rex Martin said the loop signage has now been replaced. It took several city council meetings and talks with the city before it happened. He followed up regarding a concrete marker that a 102-year-old woman gave to the Historical Museum. Anything the museum gets, it is catalogued into their collection for storage on a shelf. They do not want to use it for its original purpose. They have one on display and now 2 in storage.

There was a lengthy discussion about Byway signage and the lack of them or being installed in incorrect locations. This is not only in Linn County, but across the state. Mary Preston suggested that Jonathon Sherwood and Jennifer Morrison head a task force to talk to the Iowa DOT about signage corrections.

Benton: Mike Kelly reported Youngville just closed after having a successful season being open just one day a week. The past 3-4 weeks has been extremely busy. The volunteers get "paid" with leftover meals and lately there were no leftovers. The damage to the roof has been repaired and the building is now in need of tuckpointing. Mike and others are looking at grants and he is working with Jan Gammon to get new drawings of the property ready for grant application. He is also looking at working with other groups such as the Boy Scouts and other service and historical groups. He envisions showcasing all 64 named highways in Iowa from the 1930s-40s.

Herring Hotel: Joyce thinks the City of Belle Plaine is looking at grants to tear the structure down.

Mary Preston said the road closure on Highway 21 continues to cut Belle Plaine off somewhat. Preston's is working on a capitol campaign and looking for grants to continue their restoration process. A group is working on restoring the depot in Belle Plaine.

Tama: Allen Richards is not at the meeting. The Kupka gas station in Montour has been transferred to the LLC formed by the Ausbergers and others. Bob and Joyce met with the City and residents to see how they would like the property to be used after restoration. The town's sesquicentennial is coming up and they hope to have it ready by then. It was once a Phillips 66 station and a man once offered to give them a 66 sign. We need to connect with this guy, if we can remember his name.

Marshall County: Harlan Quick reported on the events scheduled in 3 communities: 1. Le Grand's Fall Bluegrass Festival will be held tomorrow, Oct 9, 2-4 PM in LeGrand Park. 2. Marshall County will be rededicated on Nov 19. It was first dedicated on this date in 1886, then rededicated on this date in 1978 after being restored. Now in 2022, it is being rededicated after repairs were made due to both a tornado and derecho damage. 3.) State Center's Christmas on Main will be Friday, December 1 with live music, hayrides, craft show, and visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Come visit the new businesses that have been added to the newly restored Main Street business district.

Mike Kelly added that a 20-minute video about Watson's Grocery store has been created and can be viewed when visiting the store. Plans are to place it on-line for the public to view.

Story: Jan Gammon mentioned the success the Niland Café is having. She had been added to the 3 Facebook pages after the Starbucks closed it and then continued on while the Wilson's ran it. They closed on January 30, 2022. In the early spring of 2022, she was getting messages with people asking if they could stay in the motel, see a menu, and what are the hours? She posted on April 14th that the location was currently closed and the City of Colo is looking for someone to manage it. Kelsey, who also has a restaurant in Baxter, answered the call and took on management of both the café and the motel. She opened on June 15th. Her post about opening the café was shared 127 times! Glad to have the FB pages and followers saved as word traveled quickly.

Russ and Danielle O'Rourke and Susan McKinney, Colo Historical Society, talked about the plans being made to restore the gas station at the Reed-Niland Corner. They would like to restore the original fixtures and create self-guided tours. Another goal is to be on the National Register of Historic Places. Anyone with suggestions is encouraged to contact them. Mary Preston just went through the NRHP process and could be a resource and Mike Kelly and his wife, Sandii ran it for several years. It was suggested that it is best to hire a consultant to do the NRHP application and to be sure to adhere to the National Parks Service Secretary of Interior Standards when doing restoration work.

Henry Corbin reported Nevada's Lincoln Highway Days Rodeo had record attendance. Next year will be the 40th annual LHD and old events will make a comeback. The Lincoln and Jefferson Highway Heritage Park outside Nevada City Hall has a replica of a Boy Scout LH marker made from granite installed. The 4th and 5th building projects are underway in downtown Nevada. The Camelot Theater is currently undergoing exterior work and interior work will soon follow. December 10 is the the downtown Christmas festivities with horse/wagon rides and Santa. Downtown should look like a Hallmark movie. A gourmet popcorn business opened. Sad news is that Ben Franklin is closing after 50 years

Boone: John Fitzsimmons is doing a Civil War reenactment and did not send in a report. Joyce Ausberger pointed out that the meeting today is in Ogden as we celebrate the 30th year of the Lincoln Highway Association. In 1990, the Eureka Bridge in Greene County was due for restoration, but some in charge wanted the road re-routed to a new bridge. (A court case over it developed.) In 1991 the Greene County Lincoln Highway Association was formed and in 1992, the national organization was created once again at a meeting in Ogden, Iowa in a basement of a bank. just down the street from today's'

meeting. Three of the original members are in attendance today- Bob Ausberger, Joyce Ausberger, and Andy Bock.

Greene: Dale Higgins had nothing to report. Joyce Ausberger said Darcy Maulsby's book about the Lincoln Highway will be coming out soon. Darcy will speak Nov 14th at the community center in Grand Junction. Bob had someone help with the LH garden in Grand Junction. This young person painted the gazebo and wooden tractor and helped create a brochure. Bob encourages everyone to create brochures about the Lincoln Highway in their county. Bob is working on restoring an old motel west of Grand Junction and Miller's Mobil Station in Grand Junction. He's identified 20 things for a traveler to see in Greene County- enough things to do and see to stay for a week!

Carroll: Barbara Hackfort passed around pictures of the picnic table installed at the M and M Divide east of Arcadia. She is working on getting a trash can put at the pull-off as well. While she was there, someone stopped to look at the interpretive panel. Barbara recently did a Carroll County ghost town tour and it was well received.

Crawford: No report.

Harrison: Kathy Dirks is not able to attend today as she is traveling in Wisconsin to see the fall colors, but she did send in a report. The weather has remained pleasant and there are still many people vacationing and taking day trips. The Welcome Center has been busy! She heard via the grapevine that over 18,000 attended Woodbine's Apple Fest. And close to 400 cars were in the car show. Missouri Valley had a new celebration the third weekend of September called Mo Valley Rally with many well attended activities. Lincoln Highway-wise, we've had some visitors touring the byway!

Pottawattamie: No report.

Prairie Rivers of Iowa Report

Shellie Orngard is thankful for the ILHA and all that they do. The Iowa DOT has a fairly new byway coordinator- Emily Whaley. She has been out to travel the Lincoln Highway and other byways. Shelley is moving into a new role at Prairie Rivers and Jonathon Sherwood is taking on the role of the Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway coordinator.

Jonathon introduced himself. He has a degree in community and Regional Planning and is currently studying Landscape Architecture at Iowa State. He has been busy learning about the Lincoln Highway people and places. He grew up one house off the Lincoln Highway in Nevada. The Byway's traveling exhibit has ended its tour in Nevada, but Hank Zaletel will make a presentation about the Lincoln Highway yet. The exhibit then travels onto the Historical Museum in Cedar Rapids. It is a 3 panel display with an antique radio with different recordings to choose from.

Shellie will be working on a grant to survey NRHP properties or properties that should be listed, their current condition, and future needs. The State Fair booth was well attended.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Mike Kelly requested anyone with old movies of downtowns, farm life, or rural settings contact him. He also transfers slides to digital platforms. Mary Preston asked Prairie Rivers to post a call to action on the Facebook page.

Joyce Ausberger said she has given more talks this year about the Lincoln Highway than she ever has. She encourages us all to volunteer to talk to local organizations looking for a program.

Bryan talked to a guy who rides motorcycles and enjoys traveling the Lincoln Highway. He sees so much more of the countryside than taking the interstate. Bryan recently took Hwy 30 on a trip to Ann Arbor and saw many Halloween displays and other sites not visible on the Interstate. Bryan also suggested the Urbandale Library might be interested in the traveling display.

Adjournment: Garry Hevalow moved, Jan Gammon seconded, and Mary Preston adjourned the meeting at 11:548 AM. The group posed for a group photo taken by Mike Kelly and then moved down the street to the Lucky Pig for lunch.

Next Meetings: January 14, 2023, via Zoom and next in-person meeting is April 8, location TBD.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Gammon, ILHA Secretary