



Presidential Ponderings with John Talbourdet

“Changes for Spring”

Things are looking up for enjoying our Lincolns after the lockdown last year. Spring’s warmer weather is encouraging us to get our treasures out of the garage. The weather patterns seem to be more fickle than ever, so take advantage of any good, warm day to enjoy driving around and showing off your Lincolns.

As vaccinations are getting into more arms, the COVID restrictions are relaxing bit by bit. People feel more comfortable returning to pre-COVID activities, but that does not mean there aren’t still restrictions in place that impact social activities. Those restrictions can change, depending upon the infection rate and what local governments feel is necessary to minimize the impact on the public. The fluidity of the restrictions continues to hamper the plans for 2021 National Meets.

The 2021 Mid-America National Meet planned for Springfield, Illinois, in September, has fallen victim to COVID and been postponed. The Lakeshore Region worked diligently to make this event happen. The team ran into issues with the hotel and event sites about handling the potential restrictions that would be in place in the early fall. Since local restrictions are moving targets, the venues could not commit to hosting events the size of typical LCOC national meets. This made it impossible for that region to plan interesting events where the attendees could gather and enjoy themselves. This is unfortunate for the Lakeshore Region and the LCOC membership, as we lose another opportunity to gather, renew friendships and make new friends. The region looks forward to hosting this meet in the future as they had many interesting activities planned in Springfield, an area where a national meet has not been held.

The Lincoln Homecoming is on schedule for Aug. 13-15, with new events to complement the improvements in the Lincoln Motor Car Heritage Museum displays. Recent discussions were focused on creating appealing events while complying with the anticipated restrictions. The Eastern National Meet is still scheduled for Oct. 20-24

in Morgantown, Pennsylvania, and will be hosted by the Philadelphia Region. Let’s hope that these meets are held, and we can enjoy Lincolns and good friends.

Membership Chairman John McCarthy has stepped down after holding this position since 2014. John has done an outstanding job in this role with many new and creative programs and data analyses of the membership. The monthly reports, while they revealed good months and “bad” months, John always took a positive attitude to the data and provided comments on what contributed to the monthly results. The committee reviewed the lapsed memberships and instituted a calling plan to contact these members to encourage renewal or to understand the reason for dropping out. This is helpful in understanding the trends and maintaining many memberships. John’s PowerPoint presentations were always something to look forward to at the Board Meetings with their concise and creative presentation of the data. These presentations take a long time to assemble (I can attest to that fact!), but they provide the attendees the critical information, both text and graphs, for clear comprehension of the data and trends. James Cappello, from the Philadelphia Region, has agreed to take over from John. A sincere thanks to John for all his hard work, and welcome aboard to James!

On a brighter note, check out our website feature called “Flashbacks.” These are rotating articles from the *Comments* archives that are posted on the homepage highlighting members and their vehicles from years past. These are contributing to increased website volume since implementation. Take a look!



Policy on Editing Articles for Continental Comments.

The submission of articles and letters to the Editor of *Lincoln and Continental Comments* is encouraged; however, it is the policy of the Lincoln and Continental Owners Club that material submitted to be part of any publication sponsored by LCOC will be rejected if, in the opinion of the Editor or other persons designated by the Board of Directors, such submissions contain statements that are inflammatory, contain personal opinions that could promote dissension among members, are pejorative or disparaging to a member or member’s cars, and/or contain derogatory or uncomplimentary comparisons of one or more types of Lincolns. Submissions to *Lincoln and Continental Comments* are subject to unrestricted review and editing. Longer articles may be returned for revision and all submissions will be edited for grammar, accuracy, clarity, and length. The opinions expressed in *Lincoln and Continental Comments* by members and others are not necessarily those of The Lincoln and Continental Owners Club, its officers, directors, and staff.

Deadlines:

Lincoln and Continental Comments

Nov. 1 for the Jan-Feb. Issue

Jan. 1 for the March-April Issue

March 1 for the May-June Issue

May 1 for the July-Aug. Issue

July 1 for the Sept.-Oct. Issue

Sept. 1 for the Nov-Dec. Issue

No matter your local COVID restrictions, remember you can always socially distance by driving around in your Lincoln. Toss a picnic lunch and some masks in the back and enjoy your own corner of this country.

Until next time,

John

John Talbourdet, *Lincoln & Continental Owners Club* president, lives in Danvers, Massachusetts.