

Presidential Ponderings with John Talbourdet

"On to Morgantown"

e are slowly getting back to gathering at Lincoln events in 2021, although not without challenges. 2021 has seen postponement of some events, while others scheduled for later in the year remain on track. The Lincoln Homecoming at the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, Michigan, was a success. I look forward to the Eastern National Meet (ENM) being held in Morgantown, Pennsylvania, in October.

There continues to be a fair amount of behind-the-scenes effort in preparing for 2022 and beyond. The COVID-19 virus continues to affect the world, with the Delta variant pushing a return to precautions such as masking and social distancing. Although prudent, this is certainly not conducive to thoroughly enjoying travel and gathering with friends.

The Homecoming went well due to the combined efforts of Bob Johnson and Dennis Garrett. They worked tirelessly, exerting a great deal of time and effort beforehand to ensure a well-organized and fun meet for the participants. The support continued at the meet with assistance from VP Paul Temple and Jim Blanchard, a museum trustee and president of the LZOC. Many of the events were held at the Gilmore under tents, allowing a re-acquaintance with the Gilmore campus. Attendees enjoyed the perfect weather at the winery event, including a country drive to the winery, lunch, and a tour through the vineyard. The Museum itself continues to evolve, with new Lincolns and displays highlighting the wide variety of Lincolns produced since inception. This year saw attendance by specialty Lincoln clubs such as the LS group, further widening the recognition to Lincoln aficionados.

The ENM is being hosted by the Philadelphia Region, Oct. 20-24, and they have lined up some great events for us to enjoy what Pennsylvania has to offer. There has been a great response to date, with many members planning to travel long distances to enjoy the area and see friends they have missed for a while. There may still be time to get your Lincoln ready for the only LCOC National Meet of 2021. I look forward to seeing my Lincoln friends and making new acquaintances at this meet!

The quiet 2021 allowed time to purchase trophies and supplies for 2022 and beyond, such as cloisonne emblems, grille badges, and also window badges or "clings." This was more difficult than expected, as these items are purchased in large quantities to last many years. We found cases where the previous vendor had gone out of business, requiring a search for new vendors. There is also a fine balance on the quantity versus

> unit price, total cost, and how long the items are held until these are sold or awarded at meets. Paul Temple used this time to appropriately re-stock these long-lead items well in advance of the anticipated need.

2021 continues the trend of 2020, and Mother Nature has been very active with fires, droughts, flooding, and most recently, an earthquake in Haiti, hurricanes off the Florida coast, and torna-

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Deadlines:

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dos in the Midwest, affecting so many people, along with the resurgence of the COVID-19 virus. Keep your Lincoln friends in your hearts and please, heed the suggestions of your local authorities for the health and welfare of you and your neighbors so that we might share time together soon. Until next time,

John

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Image courtesy of Ford Motor Company

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