



From the President.....

Hello everyone. The holidays are over and we can now try to get back into a groove again as best we can with lingering pandemic regulations. Many years ago at the firehouse my boss used to tell us it was okay to get into a groove but not into a rut. This whole COVID thing has been just that, a rut. A tough bunch, we will survive just like our forefathers and old red iron tractors have survived.

I will begin my column for 2022 by boasting about our grand Chapter 35 Christmas Party held in Batavia, NY, December 4, 2021, our first holiday party since COVID concerns started. Scheduled for a Saturday afternoon so members did not have to miss the Sunday Buffalo Bills game, night time deer hazard driving, and Sunday church services, it proved to be good planning as a good turnout enjoyed the fun party. Thanks to Dave Meacham and Patty Feeney for helping with the work. Read more about the day's

activities in a separate report elsewhere in this newsletter titled, 2021 Christmas Party.

Our installation of officers consisted of swearing in our officers and directors including our new treasurer, Tom Macauley. Re-elected board members Sharon Rissinger and Bob "Goober" Andrews ran unopposed and have begun their new three-year terms. It was my pleasure to call on past president Randy Broughton to officiate the swearing-in oath of office to all. Thanks again Randy.

Our calendar of events for the coming year is posted here in Farmall Flyer. I encourage members to attend as many meetings and events as possible. Start 2022 out right by planning to support our club more than ever. If you have any ideas for meeting locations or guest speakers for future meetings please give me a call.

Two major events for our club will take place in mid-winter and late spring if COVID restrictions and the Omicron dominant variant does not spoil our plans. First our Annual "Braggin' Rights" Farm Toy Show and Memorabilia display is scheduled for February 13, 2022. This year we will be blessed with a famous guest speaker who is a member of 35 and nationally known for his farm toy expertise. Author/writer Doug Harke of Geneseo, NY has agreed to be our guest speaker and we look forward to that exciting time. Dust off those favorite IH farm toys and haul them down to the Gillate Road clubhouse for Doug to describe and reveal their special features. See the show poster in this newsletter.

Second event new to us in a while is our return to Lew Esten's popular long-running

plow days at Elba, NY. Lew is our very first club president and has gained a reputation for putting together a plow day weekend every year that has drawn tractors and plows from as far away as PA. Our day will be Sunday, May 8, 2022 for a fun day including our directors and general membership meetings. Put this on your calendar and plan on bringing a Farmall or Cub Cadet and turn some furrows on a nice spring day. More details to come on this.

I have talked with our newsletter editor Becky and we have agreed to establish a mailing schedule similar to that of the national newsletter, *Harvester Highlights*. We hope to have *Farmall Flyer* in your hands during the months of January, April, July and October. This will provide us with ideal timing to inform you of dates and times for events such as our farm toy show, plow day, picnic, Canandaigua Steam Show and Alexander Rally meetings, annual election and Christmas Party.

You are urged to regularly check our website www.ihcc35ny.com for additional information on events. Breaking news of unexpected CANCELLATIONS and CHANGES will be announced there. For members not having a computer, we will attempt to telephone you. As you know in these uncertain times, sudden pandemic activity is a constant threat to our calendar events.

Added excitement grows as the Annual Winter Convention nears. Word has spread that on the way to Pigeon Forge, TN traveling from the north, Benham, KY awaits in all its International Harvester glory and history. Harvester history fans will recall that

Benham, KY is known as "The Little Town That IH Built." Much has been written mostly by the late Darrel Darst and his wife Kevin about this coal mining town that IH laid out and built for employees to live in and raise their families. In its beginning Benham had its own everything including post office, police and fire department. Today the population is fewer than 600 and much has been preserved for tourists interested in IH history. Patty and I look forward to taking the tours as does my friend and noted Chapter 17 President Ben Trapani, who also wrote about this trip highlight in their recent newsletter, *Harvester*. We are booked to stay one night at the old school now renovated into the Benham Schoolhouse Inn. More on all this when we return in early April.

We at Chapter 35 are a large family concerned for one another. If you know of members that are ill or in need of help, please let a club official know so that Becky can send a card, or we can take other appropriate action.

As I put the wraps on my first writing for 2022, public health concern builds with the pandemic once again. Keep an eye out for last minute event changes and updates. Until we meet again, stay warm and healthy. Be thankful for our many blessings.

Best regards,

Gene Preston