



## From the President

On behalf of our Chapter 35 leadership team, I hope all reading this had a good holiday season. The years just go by faster and faster. Looking back, 2023 was a good growing season for farmers in our area, but for our club it was a sad year as we lost 8 members. That hurt. Five were charter members. The passing of charter member #112, Dr. Paul G. Schneible, DVM of Perry, NY, Wyoming County was a heavy hit. His status, humor and friendship will be missed. He attended our spring meeting at Steve and Sue Sondericker's Dairy Farm and entertained us by telling all about cows and their habits. Last to pass was charter member #013, Margy M. VanValkenburg of Bergen, NY. May they all rest in peace. I have ordered name plates for Paul and Margy for the memorial plaque at the clubhouse.

For myself, unexpectedly losing my younger brother Ken to cancer made the year a bad one for the family. His heart-warming visits will be missed. I wish everyone reading this a happy and healthy 2024.

Our big social event of the year, our Christmas Party-Installation of Officers Meeting at Batavia, NY was a fun time. Read all about it elsewhere in FF.

Our Annual Reorganizational Meeting and Election in the fall resulted in a fine Chapter 35 Officer and Board of Directors for the year 2024. See the list of names and positions elsewhere here in Farmall Flyer. I am so proud of our officers

and directors for all they do to keep Chapter 35 up and running.

Our next special event will be our Annual Farm Toy Show known as "Braggin' Rights." Most of our members have a proud collection of IH farm toys. This is the time to bring them out and show them off while our big toys are inside safely stored away for the winter. Plan now what you will bring. I am thinking about showing my Tru-Scale collection of IH tractors and farm implement toys. Members with displays will have an opportunity to stand up and brag about them.

We all remember the excitement and fun of meeting at Steve and Susan Sondericker's Dairy Farm last spring. Well, thanks to member John Langless, we will be meeting away from the clubhouse again for our May 19 meeting at his *LANGLESS CLASSIC TRACTORS* barn in Avon, NY. Details are in the Calendar of Events online and in Farmall Flyer. Plan now to attend. He says his barn has more old iron than we will have time to admire. Bring your lawn chair. We will feed you.

Awhile back member Tom Macauley announced that his tractor stable increased as he purchased a gold demonstrator 1456 and sent it to the paint shop. Then he sent his 1566 also to be repainted. These two tractors are far from routine models and it will be an exciting day when we can see the finished machines. Let me know if any of our readers own gold demos.

And for you grease monkeys out there, my Farmall 200 started dripping gasoline from the sediment bulb assembly last week. A text analysis with my online fix-it guy, Ontario, Canada Chapter 20 expert Erik DeKeyser who mailed me a new replacement cork casket. A second leak was easily fixed by tightening the nut on the shutoff valve. Hey gang, sometimes we get lucky.

I have been helping our busy membership secretary Dave Meacham by making phone calls to members not yet renewed. Most renew after talking with them saying they overlooked it.

Kathy Baker called me to tell of her brother James M. Baker, Charter member #034, passing away November 12, 2022 at age 68. It is sad when we hear of members passing long after they died. She said when he became ill and stopped farming, his membership was let expire and with no computer or newsletter, they became disconnected. I asked what became of his Super-H, and she said the engine set up and they sold it for \$300. Sad ending to a swell guy and his tractor.

I introduced a new Chapter 35 event to take place each year during the December meeting. A brief Memorial Service of reading names of deceased members during the year complete with the ringing of a bell after each name was appreciated by all. Sort of like in the old Christmas movie, "It's a Wonderful Life", where each time a bell is rung an angel is born. It is a fitting tribute to members who served the chapter and are now with us in spirit only.

In closing, stay warm this winter season and take advantage of the quiet time to heat up the barn shop and service those Farmalls so they are ready at spring time to hook onto the plows and get turning the rich soil such as we are so blessed with here in New York State. **Get Crankin'**

*Gene Preston*