



ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

Route 66 Association of Illinois Junior Membership Application

Free to all children until their 18th birthday. Only continental United States, please!

Each member will receive a membership card, decal, and a junior newsletter.

Our Goals: Promote, Educate, Preserve, and Enjoy Route 66!

Please visit our website – <http://www.il66assoc.org>

Name _____ Birth Date _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Parents Signature _____

Print Name _____

No application will be processed without parental signature line filled out!

Membership Application for parents (optional)

Membership for May 1st, through April 30th.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail: _____

1 Adult Member - \$20 a year, 1 Vote, 1 Membership Card, 1 Decal.

Family - \$30 a year, 2 Family Members, 2 Votes, 2 Membership Cards, 2 Decals.

Business or Organization - \$50 a year, 1 Vote, 1 Membership Card, 1 Decal.

Life Member - \$250, 1 Adult Member, 1 Vote, 1 Membership Card, 1 Decal.

All adult Membership will receive our famous Newsletter (4 times per year).

Please Mail Application to: Membership
Route 66 Hall of Fame & Museum
110 West Howard Street
Pontiac, IL 61764

"ILLINOIS — WHERE THE ROAD BEGAN."

It BEGAN IN ILLINOIS

Route 66 is probably the most well known road in this country, if not the world. It was created in 1926, along with the rest of the federal highway system. It existed until 1985 when it was formally decommissioned and replaced by interstate highways. In the time between it earned a home for itself in the hearts and memories of people across the country, that place can never be taken away by an interstate highway.

The road passed through eight states: Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. Illinois was the first state to have its section completely hard surfaced. It was also the first state to replace the old road with the interstate.

FORMATION OF ASSOCIATIONS

With the removal of federal Route 66 highway signs and the lack of designation on maps, many Americans thought the road no longer existed. In government terms, this was true. But while parts of the old road had disappeared under the interstate's path, most of its 2,448 miles of pavement still existed and could be driven, if one knew where to look!

By 1984, when Interstate 40 bypassed the last stretch of Route 66 in Arizona, a movement was already developing to resurrect the old road, put up new road signs and restore it to the maps and atlases of the world. It might not be the great commercial artery that it once was, but it could still be a road that people could use to enjoy a slower and more relaxed way of travel.

The first state Route 66 association began in February 1987. On March 5, 1989, 15 people met in Pontiac. From there a core group of Illinois Route 66, fans began meeting to form an association in Illinois. That association officially began in October 1989 in Dwight, Illinois. At that founding meeting, the association elected officers and adopted bylaws to govern its operations.

PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

As stated in its bylaws, the purpose of the Route 66 Association of Illinois is to "preserve, promote, educate and enjoy the past and present of U.S. Highway 66." Our focus shall be on that portion of Route 66, which lies within the borders of the state of Illinois, although we will also take part in cooperative efforts, which promote the highway's interests on a national level. Our primary activities shall be to promote tours, fairs and other public events along Route 66 or relating to it. We publish a newsletter and brochure, as well as other informational materials. We also cooperate and counsel with government in efforts to preserve and promote the highway.

GOVERNANCE

The association is governed by its officers the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, corresponding secretary, and its board of directors. The board consists of one member from each of the twelve Illinois counties through which Route 66 passes as well as five at-large members. All officers and board members are elected to rotating two-year terms.

MEETINGS

The association meets four times a year in January, April, July and October. There are also several planning sessions for the annual motor tour. Other meetings are scheduled as needed. All meetings are open to all members and they are encouraged to attend and take part.

MOTOR TOUR

Each year the association sponsors a motor tour the second weekend in June. It travels from Chicago to St. Louis and alternates north to south from year to year. The motor tour stops for music, meals, fun and fellowship in many towns along the way. We publish a quarterly newsletter that keeps readers up to date on Route 66 activities in Illinois and the rest of the country. We also hold a picnic for members every fall.

THE ROUTE 66 HALL OF FAME

The original Illinois Route 66 Hall of Fame was located at the Dixie Truck Stop in McLean, Illinois. In 2004 a larger Hall of Fame & Museum was established in the Historic Fire Station in Pontiac, Illinois. This new museum commemorates the people, places and events that gave Route 66 its special character. It features plaques and displays honoring members of the Hall of Fame, as well as many other exhibits of historic and unusual interest. The Hall of Fame is open year round. Admission is free. It is only fitting the Hall of Fame be in Pontiac where that very first meeting took place. Ceremonies for new inductees are held each year during the association's annual motor tour.

HISTORIC ROUTE 66

In spring of 1995 IDOT put up historic signs along Route 66 in Illinois, complete with arrows. This will lead to the establishment of many visitor centers, museums, roadside parks and other sites dedicated to the memory and enjoyment of Route 66. There is a Route 66 association in each state along the way now working toward these goals. These associations work independently on state projects, but they work collectively on national efforts. The more members we have who will work for these goals, the better our chances are of achieving them.

PRESERVATION

A preservation committee was formed to work on preserving what is left. We also talk to the people of Route 66 to make an oral and written history. We work with interested parties for placements to the National Register of Historic Places. In the fall of 1997 we had our first listing, the 1932 Standard Oil Gas Station in Odell. In 2001 this station was presented with the prestigious Cyrus Avery Award and declared it the best preservation site on all of Route 66. Numerous other preservation projects have been completed or are currently being restored by volunteers of Route 66. We work on projects we feel will be worth while and in the best interest of 66. The committee meets periodically as needed.

