

## National Corvette Museum Report for February 2022

Since this is a short month I'll keep my comments short as well. As most of you know the National Corvette Museum is the "Home of America's Sportscar" and is located in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Hopefully, at some point in your life you can plan a visit or make a pilgrimage to the museum. A good opportunity will be coming up in 2024 when the once every 5 years National Corvette Caravan takes place to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NCM. There is a Pacific Northwest (PNW) Corvette Caravan committee planning the trip from the PNW to the NCM. The Caravan will take place from August 22-28, 2024. There is a web page with information and updates if you want to check it out: <https://www.corvettecaravan.com/northwest/>

Short of showing up in person at the museum, there is also the National Corvette Museum website where you can learn about the latest Corvette news, the exhibits and events at the museum, and at the Motorsports Park. You can learn about Corvette Racing, peruse Corvette Educational programs, and see all the ways you can help to support the museum by becoming a member. There is typically a half price membership available in February and as soon as I hear about it, I will communicate it to our club membership. You can also shop at the on-line store for lots of Corvette Merchandise and purchase raffle tickets which support operation of the Museum. You might win one of the several new Corvettes that are up for Raffle. Here's what else is happening from our friends at the NCM:

**Feed America First Partners with National Corvette Museum for disaster relief efforts In Kentucky:** Feed America First, in partnership with the National Corvette Museum, hosted a food distribution on Saturday, January 15, 2022, to serve those affected by the recent tornados in the Bowling Green area. Distribution took place in the parking lot of the NCM beginning at 8:00 AM and continued until 11:00 AM. Food was given to recipients on a first-come, first-served basis. Recipients remained in their cars and received the food via a drive-thru process. No proof of identification, income, or residency was required to receive food. Each family received approximately 60-80 lbs. of food, including both perishable and non-perishable items. This is the latest example of the NCM supporting the community in their hometown of Bowling Green.

**New at the Museum - Artifact of the Month:** As we begin the year leading up to the 70th anniversary of Corvette's debut at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City, the National Corvette Museum is launching the Artifact of the Month program! Each month, the Curatorial staff will select an artifact from their collection that is connected to a significant moment in Corvette history and share its story with you. To kick off this program the Director of Collections & Curator, Derek E. Moore, presents the **1983 Corvette Analog Gauge Cluster**



Some of the greatest mysteries in Corvette's rich production history revolve around the choice to skip production on Corvette's 30th anniversary in 1983. The transition from the third-generation (C3) to the fourth-generation (C4) Corvette was a major technological leap forward for Chevrolet and was the beginning of transitioning Corvette from being a brute American sports car to a global competitor of the European sports car market. During this major transition, every component of Corvette was being reimagined, redesigned, and reengineered – from the exterior to the interior.

An all-new look to the interior was key to this transition, and the instrument panel display was vital. The plan to bring Corvette into the “digital age” led to the development of a graphical cluster utilizing all digital read-outs and bar graphs to provide the driver with vehicle statistics quickly and cleanly. During the earliest stages of development though, engineers discovered that generating enough light to see the readouts on the cluster was difficult and there were concerns over the dash’s performance in cold climates. Therefore, an analog “backup” cluster was created, with its very standard, multiple gauge – speedometer, tachometer, oil pressure, fuel, oil temperature, voltage, and coolant temperature – layout. While functional, it was a very dated appearing cluster for this all-new Corvette. During testing at Milford Proving Grounds, both the analog and new digital dash were running in 1983 development Corvettes.

Corvette Chief Engineer, Dave McLellan, recently reflected on the development of the analog cluster for the C4 Corvette: “I was never happy with this cluster. It was always considered as a backup to the color graphic cluster. Why was I unhappy? It was uninteresting and it suffered from reflection problems. We had no intentions of using it if we could solve the problems of the graphical cluster.

The C4 was bringing the Corvette into the digital age. The instrument cluster was proposed by our Interior Design Studio led by Bill Scott. GM’s AC Division planned to engineer and produce it. Its “Achilles Heel” was getting enough light through the light pipes while at the same time not overheating the display. Only recently have we seen LED bulbs made available for this application which have given the display the brightness and color expected.

Why this design? The genesis of the design was the steering wheel graphics seen in F1. And, if you think about how to best display information – information like RPMs, that can change rapidly, are best displayed as a bar graph. If they were displayed as numbers, they would look like an incomprehensible blizzard of numbers.” This 1983 analog “backup” dash, donated by Marvin Owen, is one of only two known extant examples from the development of the 1983 Corvette.

### **NCM & NCRS Offer Scholarship to Students**



The National Corvette Restorers Society has provided funding for the National Corvette Museum to offer an annual scholarship in the amount of \$2,500. Scholarship applications for the 2022 – 2023 school year are now available! The deadline to apply is February 28, 2022. Applicants for this scholarship must be members or children/grandchildren of NCM members. Also, they must be pursuing a degree related to the automotive, museum, or non-profit industry, or a field which would work in those industries. You can find eligibility requirements and download an application here:

<https://www.corvettemuseum.org/explore/educational-programs/scholarship/>

### **Hear NCM President & CEO on Women Shifting Gears Podcast:**



Are you scared of taking a leap of faith? If so, this is the podcast for you. Sharon Brawner recently took that leap of faith in a career change that makes for a perfect full-circle story. From growing up around cars and racing, to her 20 years with the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville all the way to her new role as President and CEO of the National Corvette Museum in Kentucky, it's a story of meant-to-be moments that will surely touch your heart.

A self-proclaimed “car chick”, Brawner shares her journey for the love of cars, especially the Corvette, and how she is the perfect choice to take the National Corvette Museum to new heights. She’s ready for the challenge, especially with her dad proudly looking down on her. Brawner’s story is one of true inspiration. Enjoy the show here: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/season-2-episode-33-sharon-brawner-president-ceo-of/id1559369027?i=1000546968845>

**Current Corvette Raffles:** The Corvette raffles at the NCM are a major fundraiser that helps to keep the museum operating. All you need to do to enter a raffle for a chance to win one of these fabulous Corvettes is go to the NCM Raffle web page: <https://raffle.corvettemuseum.org/> click on “download an Order Form” (near the bottom of the page) which will enable you to open or download and print the latest form. Just fill it out & send it in to the NCM with a Credit Card number, and they will purchase the tickets for you and enter it into the raffle drawing right there in Kentucky! Also please note, there is also an “Enter Interactive Mode” button (midway down the page) you can use on the same page to print out a form that has your Credit Card number scrambled, if you are queasy about mailing your full credit card information. To use the Interactive mode, you must have a user ID and Log in to the NCM site. Either way, please jot down on the bottom of the form “Ticket sold by Kevin Wilson NCM Ambassador” so our club gets credit for the order. Also, please let me know if you send in an order ([kevinwilson@q.com](mailto:kevinwilson@q.com)). Here is the current Raffle line-up:



**2022 Build your own Corvette or \$70,000  
Limited to 1500 Tickets  
Price: \$250  
Drawing: February 3, 2022 2:00 PM**

	<p><b>2022 Hypersonic Gray Corvette Coupe</b>  <b>Limited to 1500 Tickets</b>  <b>Price: \$150.00</b>  <b>Drawing: February 24, 2022 2:00 PM</b></p>
	<p><b>2022 Arctic White Corvette Convertible</b>  <b>Unlimited Raffle Tickets</b>  <b>Price: Just \$20.00</b>  <b>Drawing: April 30, 2022 3:00 PM</b>  <b>These are the least expensive tickets – Great for gifts!!</b></p>

**Here is the latest winner of the last Corvette Raffle:**

**The 2022 Black Corvette Coupe** was won by Phil Deddens of Louisville, KY with ticket #724 drawn on 1/13/2021. 1861 of the 2000 available tickets sold at \$100. This raffle was not sold out.

***Current National Corvette Museum Events:*** The NCM has set up some great trips for 2022. In the West this year there will be TWO of the Southwest (Utah & Arizona) National Parks driving tours. This is a very popular tour and sells out quickly. There are other driving tours and travel events scheduled in different areas of the US and abroad. Here is the current schedule of events and adventures, both on the road (Museum in Motion events - MiM) and at the museum (NCM). Be sure to keep an eye on this space for upcoming trips to consider for your future vacation planning purposes. These events are popular and can fill up fast. You can check the NCM website for more details about them and sign up for them here:

<https://www.corvettemuseum.org/explore/events/>

- MiM Sights & Sounds of New Orleans 3/29 - 4/2/2022 (Registration opens soon)
- MiM 2022 9-Day Caribbean Cruise | April 15-24 2022 (Registration is OPEN)
- NCM Michelin NCM Bash | April 28 - 30, 2022 (Registration Opens early 2022)
- MiM Dragon Run Presented by Michelin at Biltmore Estate | May 1 - May 4, 2022 **(SOLD OUT-Wait Listed)**
- MiM Branson Experience 5/24 @ 3:00 pm – 5/28 @ 11:00 am. For shortlist please contact Bryce @ Bryce@CorvetteMuseum.org or Maci @ Maci@CorvetteMuseum.org
- MiM Le Mans Tour 6/3 @ 8:18 pm – 6/14 @ 9:18 pm (Registration Opens early 2022)
- NCM Le Mans Race Weekend 6/11 @ 7:00 am – 6/12 @ 10:30 am (Registration Opens early 2022)
- MiM Colorado Springs 7/10 @ 4:00 pm – 7/14 @ 11:00 am. For shortlist please contact Bryce @ Bryce@CorvetteMuseum.org or Maci @ Maci@CorvetteMuseum.org
- MiM Northeast Ohio 7/31 @ 3:00 pm – 8/4 @ 11:00 am For shortlist please contact Bryce @ Bryce@CorvetteMuseum.org or Maci @ Maci@CorvetteMuseum.org
- NCM 2022 28th Anniversary Celebration 9/1– 9/3 (Registration Opens mid 2022)
- MiM National Parks Tour Week 1 9/ 18 @ 4:00 pm – 9/24 @ 11:00 am (Registration Opens Spring 2022)
- MiM Lap of Kentucky Tour (1) 9/19 @ 4:00 pm – 9/24 @ 11:00 am (Registration Opens Late Spring 2022)
- MiM National Parks Tour Week 2 9/25 @ 4:00 pm – 10/1 @ 11:00 am (Registration Opens Spring 2022)
- MiM Lap of Kentucky Tour (2) 9/26 @ 4:00 pm – 10/1 @ 11:00 am (Registration Opens Late Spring 2022)

- MiM Lap of Kentucky Tour (3) 10/10 @ 4:00 pm – 10/15 @ 11:00 am (Registration Opens Late Spring 2022)
- MiM Lap of Kentucky Tour (4) 9/19 @ 4:00 pm – 9/24 @ 11:00 am (Registration Opens Late Spring 2022)

**Did you know:** There is a group of philanthropic women associated with the NCM known as Elfi’s Silver Pearl Sisterhood?



Elfi Wolfe Duntov is considered the Godmother and First Lady of Corvette. She would often accompany Zora Arkus-Duntov, the first Chief Engineer of Corvette, to car shows and special events. Everyone who met Elfi was immediately impressed with her grace, enthusiasm and knowledge of America’s Sports Car. She attended the Grand Opening of the National Corvette Museum in 1994 and plays a pivotal role in the story of the Corvette. In 1965, Corvette introduced a new and exciting color – Silver Pearl. It was sleek, elegant and powerful, much like the women who love Corvette! Pearls symbolize wisdom acquired through experience as well as generosity, integrity and loyalty. While pearls make the perfect complement to flashier gemstones, they also possess an elegance that can shine alone.

Elfi’s Silver Pearl Sisterhood is a group of women with a shared passion for Corvette, who enjoy celebrating the Corvette experience, uniting with other Corvette enthusiasts, promoting the traditions of America’s Sports Car, and collaborating to advance the mission of the National Corvette Museum. Members pool their financial gifts and allocate the funds to a project or program at the Museum to maximize the impact of their philanthropy. Each member of the group has a unique opportunity to be connected to other women who are enthusiastic about all things Corvette, and to learn about the Museum’s priorities and initiatives in a group setting specifically geared toward women. Members have an equal voice on how the pooled funds are utilized annually. A member may be as involved as she wishes, from serving as an ambassador to simply making a financial gift.

Any enthusiast, owner, member or friend who wishes to connect to other female Corvette lovers and advance Museum priorities through philanthropic engagement and a collective voice may become a member. Each member commits to a gift of \$1,000 per year (donate by Aug. 1 to receive a vote). All donations are deposited into a restricted fund. The full membership of the group will meet at the NCM Anniversary Celebration each year and will vote on the distribution of the funds. Each member has one vote. The full membership of Elfi’s Silver Pearl Sisterhood votes on the distribution of the funds. The amount of money available for distribution is dependent upon the number of members and can vary each year. To speak with the NCM about this exciting group or to join, please contact Bobbie Jo Lee, Philanthropy Manager, 270-467-8833 or [bobbiejo@corvettemuseum.org](mailto:bobbiejo@corvettemuseum.org).

**That's all for now – Save the Wave!**