



New Mexico Route 66 Association

Dedicated to education, promotion, and preservation of New Mexico's Historic Route 66 Scenic Byway and economic revitalization along its 604 mile stretch throughout the state since 1989. Est. 1989. A 501-(c)3 Non-Profit.

- **2004 New Mexico Heritage Preservation Award Winner**
- **National Scenic Byways Best Practices Recognition**
- **2003 Preservation Project of the Year: New Mexico Route 66 Magazine**
- **Regional Emmy Award Winner: Best Cultural Documentary "Rt 66 The Neon Road"**

President: Melissa Lea Beasley Vice President: Sue Montgomery Treasurer: Jennifer Lazarz Secretary: Connie Loveland

Jen Paul Schroer
Cabinet Secretary, Tourism Department
491 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87501

February 07, 2023

Dear Ms. Schroer,

Congratulations on your appointment to the National Board of the Route 66 Centennial Commission! This is an exciting time for The Mother Road and New Mexico is proud to have you on board as our state representative.

In 2015, a number of Route 66 entities, including myself, came together to create the Road Ahead Partnership to revitalize and sustain Route 66 as a national icon and international destination, for the benefit of all Route 66 communities, travelers, and businesses.

One of our goals was to draft legislation for the Route 66 Centennial Commission. After being introduced in the Senate in April 2019, becoming law in December 2020, and individuals being appointed in December 2022, we have much to celebrate. But there is still much work to be done over the next four years leading up to the centennial and the entire year of celebrations throughout 2026.

Officially stretching 604 miles, New Mexico's Land of Enchantment has the largest number of miles of all the eight states. We also lay claim to having the only "major" crossroads of The Mother Road, presiding in Albuquerque at the intersection of Central Avenue and 4th Street. We have this and so much more to celebrate in addition to revitalizing and preserving structures and areas along our 604 miles that make our state stand out from the others before the centennial.

Now that you have been appointed as a board member of the (National) Route 66 Centennial Commission, our next step is to establish a (State) Route 66 Centennial Commission that will assist you with gathering all the pertinent information you need regarding the needs of Route 66 throughout New Mexico. You, of course, will be the state commissions chair.

A first draft template of the New Mexico (State) Centennial Commission has been sent to the Legislative Counsel and is expected to be fine-tuned, numbered, and returned any day. I will be happy to pass it along to you once completed.

In the meantime, and as we progress over the next few years leading up to the centennial, I will be here to assist you with whatever you may need regarding New Mexico Route 66 past, present, and future information.



Sincerely,

Melissa Lea Beasley-Lee | President
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