



Dear Friends,

It's been a busy, exciting summer – what with all the races and shows and car events around the US. I've been busier than ever and have some exciting updates about my new role as Ambassador of the Hagerty Education Program at America's Car Museum.



Diane Fitzgerald (HEP National Director), Turner Woodard (businessman and vintage racer), and Lyn St. James (HEP Ambassador) hosted a wonderful event to promote the mission and goals of the Hagerty Education Program.

Q: How did you become involved with the Hagerty Education Program at America's Car Museum (HEP)?

Lyn: In January of 2013, I was asked to speak at an event for the then Collector's Foundation at the Penske Museum during Auction Week in Phoenix, AZ. The theme of the event was "Bring Back Shop Class". At the time I wasn't familiar with the Collector's Foundation, but since it was in Phoenix and about education, I agreed. Over the course of these few years I've gotten to know McKeel Hagerty of Hagerty Insurance (one of the founders of the Collector's Foundation), some other board members, and David Madeira, of America's Car Museum in Tacoma, WA. They asked me to become an ambassador and speak on behalf of the mission, which is to help provide a pathway to careers by ensuring that critical skills necessary to preserve and restore collector vehicles are not lost by providing scholarships and educational grants to students and organizations committed to hands-on training of the skills and trades. Since that time, the name has changed to the Hagerty Education Program at America's Car Museum, but the mission has remained the same.

Q: What are you doing now?

Lyn: These last few years I've become more active in the vintage racing community. With so many more race cars being restored for racing, I've noticed how many of the people working

on these vintage race cars are experts and have the same skills, often unique and becoming rarer, that are required to restore collector vehicles. And many of the people owning and racing these vintage race cars also own and restore collector cars. So I'm now trying to engage both sides – the Hagerty Education Program with the vintage race car community – to work together to support the mission: provide funding and educational opportunities that will provide a pathway to careers for a new group of young people.

One of the ways I'm doing this is by visiting more vintage racing shops, learning more about the owners and people who work in these shops, and look for "geographic centers of excellence" to see if we can connect educational institutions in those areas to be sure the appropriate skills are being offered. One example is for Indianapolis, where there are many race shops, vintage race car owners, and an active car collector community. Other areas of interest are Northern California, Charlotte, Phoenix, and South Florida. We're certainly not limited to those areas, but these are good places to start.

Another way to engage both sides is by hosting invitation-only events, such as what we call HEPpy Hours, to not only bring awareness to HEP, but to learn more to move the mission forward. I recently co-hosted our first HEPpy Hour with Indianapolis businessman and vintage racer Turner Woodard at the Stutz Business Center prior to the SVRA Brickyard Invitational at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Attended by about 15 locally-based vintage racers and shop owners—such as racers Phil Gumpert and Chris MacAllister, shop owners Jerry "Weeks" Baker and Walter Goodwin, and educators Danny White of Purdue University and Jeff Shively of the Indiana Region of CCA—we had an informative open dialogue about HEP's mission as well as what skills are being taught and NOT being taught in the area. I also scheduled meetings for Diane Fitzgerald, the National Director of HEP, with Terri Talbert-Hatch of IUPUI's Engineering



Diane Fitzgerald (HEP National Director), Danny White (Manager of Purdue Motorsports), Lyn St. James (HEP Ambassador) at the first HEPpy Hour reception in Indianapolis in June 2015.

Department (where they offer the only B.S. degree in Motorsports Engineering) to explore potential collaboration, and with Ellen Birely of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum to get a tour and explore opportunities for internships and/or apprenticeships.

I'm learning that the future of restoration is really in our hands and we need to take action.

If you are interested in hosting a HEPpy Hour, scheduling meetings with vintage race car collectors, shop owners, and/or educators in your area, please let me know. This is an important way to move the mission forward and to provide pathways to careers through scholarships, paid internships & apprenticeships, and funding programs in vocational schools, community colleges and universities.

We need your commitment!!

Thank you!

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