

Corvairs of New Mexico Standing Award Francis Boydston Award

As approved by the Corvairs of New Mexico Board of Directors, November 6, 2021

Francis Boydston was a founding and charter member of Corvairs of New Mexico (CNM).

Francis' involvement in the Corvair hobby started long before CNM was organized in 1974 and continued after his departure from this earth as an influence and reminding force that good people take care of others, especially if they drive a Corvair.

Francis was always quick to provide help in solving Corvair problems and for many years was an authorized reseller of Corvair vendor parts and supplies. Francis was a mentor to many members and Corvair owners in their quest to learn and develop competencies in perpetuating the use of all things Corvair.

Francis was a long time Ultra Van owner and was a fixture at the Tri-State Meets. His influence reached far beyond the Tri-State Meets with his buying and selling of all models of Corvairs and Corvair powered vehicles. Even today, Corvair owners who have a former Boydston vehicle lay claim to that heritage.

To many, Francis embodied all of the positive social aspects of sharing in the Corvair hobby. He could easily be found working on some Corvair part or tinkering in his garage on a weekend afternoon. At the chapter meetings and Tri-State Meets, he was often found discussing obscure and difficult problems with other Corvair owners and experts and providing insight to fix problems. When these discussions occurred in his garage, Francis often had just the right part to solve the problem.

In keeping with Francis' participation, influence and support of Corvair activities within CNM and at the Tri-State Meets and even the Ultra Van Conventions, it is an honor for CNM to present an award in his name, including other CORSA chapters and their members who were also influenced by and continue to perpetuate the ideals and values that he embodied.

The following information was compiled from Enchanted Corvairs Newsletter articles:

Corvairs of New Mexico was founded in April 1974 and Francis Boydston was one of the founders. The club followed the trajectory of many Corvair clubs: We had not existed before General Motors terminated the Corvair in early 1969 but many of us had owned Corvairs for years and we wanted to get together with other Corvair owners to help keep our cars alive for years to come. Our club gradually coalesced into a robust organization with elected officers; monthly meetings; a board of directors; a monthly newsletter; and activities such as car shows, rallies, tours, tech sessions, swap meets and holiday banquets. Those who were more experienced mechanics helped others learn how to work on their cars and how to find parts.

Over the years the club flourished, due to the dedication of a core group of members and our good fortune that "enough" members had "enough" varied interests and skills to tackle just about any chore needed to support our local club and the national organization -- including putting on the very successful 1996 International CORSA Convention in Albuquerque. Francis Boydston served a term as treasurer and another term as CNM president. Despite his affinity for 1964 models (the number of 1964 Corvairs he owned defies enumeration) he worked on any and all Corvairs including Ultra Vans and always was a reliable source of parts and mechanical knowledge. His support for our CNM club, for CORSA and for Corvair parts vendors was unceasing.

When Francis died in 1997 our sense of loss was intense. At a CNM board meeting on September 17th it was proposed that a Francis Boydston Award be set up. We discussed how this award would be different from our Ike Meissner Award and proposed that while the Meissner Award would be for "Contributing Members" the new award might be regarded as a "Service" recognition award.

Saint Francis of Corvair: Francis Boydston 1923-1997

Enchanted Corvairs Newsletter - October 1997

Corvairs of New Mexico

Most of us knew Francis as one of the founding members of Corvairs of New Mexico, a champion of 1964 Corvairs, a reference point for how-to-do Corvair maintenance and repair, an unfailing source of Corvair parts, and a friend. He is gone now and we no longer have him to call up to find out how to do something, or to see if he has that special part we need, or just to talk to (maybe I should say, "listen to") about Corvairs in particular and the state of the world in general. Francis was a good friend to me and was always generous with his time and knowledge. He used to remark that the editor deserved special consideration, but the fact is, he was equally generous to a lot of people, especially to members of the Corvair Club.

At the wake the other night several people told of particular memories they had of Francis. I kept waiting for somebody to tell the "Saint Francis of Corvair" story but nobody did. I'm not the best qualified to tell it, but someone should and it might as well be me. Here's hoping I don't distort the facts too much.

The story is simple and illustrates the regard we all had for Francis. Years ago we had a new member who, I thought, wouldn't really get along with Francis very well. He was an opinionated, irreverent, loud, brash person who always set his own course without much regard for what others thought of him. I'll call him "Bob" and he owned Corvairs and he heard about Francis as "the man to see" to get parts or to find out how to do mechanical repairs. Francis often remarked on Bob's blistering vocabulary, but actually they became friends. Anytime Bob needed anything, Francis would help him out; conversely, Bob did favors for Francis as well.

One day Bob went by Francis' place on a routine visit, to get a part or find out how to do something, then went on his way to finish up a project. That night Bob woke up at three in the morning and couldn't go back to sleep. He lay in bed, thinking about how Francis, once again, had so generously and effortlessly contributed to keeping a Corvair alive and well. Bob was struck by the idea of our Club's "Saint Francis of Corvair" and had an inspiration for an appropriate gift to show his appreciation. He immediately got up in the middle of the night, went out to the garage, found a large wooden panel, got out his new router and set to work. He made a big plaque with the words "Saint Francis of Corvair" in bold letters. He could hardly wait to finish it and take it to Francis.

Francis was of course flattered but accepted the plaque as his due. He hung it up in the garage for all to see, and of course when anyone came by and remarked on it, he would tell the story about how Bob made the plaque and presented it to him.

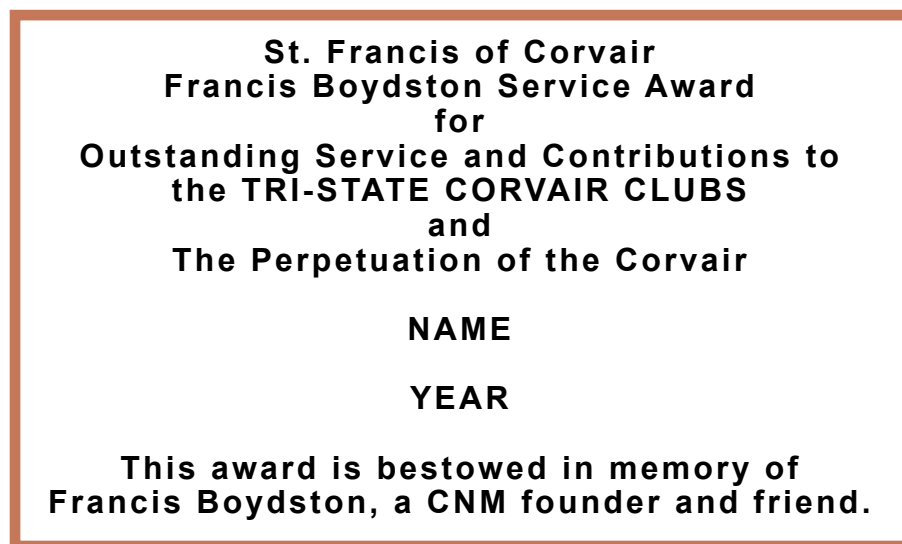
Many of us received more than our fair share of advice, parts, fellowship, and, yes, criticism from Francis over the years. He was always devoted to the well-being of the Club and always helped anyone who had any kind of Corvair problem. The "Saint Francis of Corvair" plaque was a symbol that all of us could see and acknowledge as very fitting to his place in the community and in our Club.

Everything that we now have in our Club is the heritage and contribution of many members over the years. We all have had some influence on the way the Club has grown and flourished. We have been extraordinarily fortunate in the particular mix of people and interests and skills we have had in our Club over the years. If any one person was representative of the spirit of Corvairs of New Mexico, it was Francis. We'll not soon forget him. -- Jim



The Francis Boydston Award was presented annually to a Tri-State CORSA Chapter member who best exemplifies the influence, support, ideals, and values that Francis embodied. It has been jointly awarded to members and spouses or jointly to separate members. *Some members felt it was not appropriate for CNM to be solely responsible for the Award. At a meeting of CNM, PPCC and RMC representatives at the 2009 Taos Tri-State Event it was agreed that each chapter would be responsible for managing the award as they saw fit, when that chapter sponsors a Tri-State event. At the 2019 Alamosa Tri-State this changed, and the Boydston Award was dropped from future Tri-States. CNM decided to move the award to the annual Christmas Party.*

To commemorate the occasion, the recipient is awarded a plaque suitable for prominent display:



Before 2019 a traveling plaque that has tags for the addition and date of each annual recipient(s). This has been discontinued.

The selection committee for the awards shall be comprised of at least three CNM members and the current CNM Vice President. It is recommended but not necessary that at least one of the three members be immediate past award recipients.

Guidelines for consideration for the Francis Boydston Award shall, in no particular priority, be:

1. Attend meetings and plan, coordinate or organize individual Tri-State Chapter and/or Tri-State Meet activities or events
2. Share Corvair knowledge and expertise.
3. Encourage owners to preserve, maintain and share in the lore of the Corvair.

The presentation of the Francis Boydston Award shall be made at the annual CNM Christmas Party.

Saint Francis of Corvair: Francis Boydston 1923-1997

Corvairs of New Mexico

The Francis Boydston Award was established in 1998.

Here is a list of all winners to date.

01.	1998	May	6	Jim Pittman	Corvairs of New Mexico
02.	1999	Jun	2	Kay & Tarmo Sutt	Corvairs of New Mexico
03.	2000	May	3	Sylvan Zuercher	Corvairs of New Mexico
04.	2001	May	19	Steve & Ruth Goodman	Rocky Mountain CORSA
05.	2002	May	18	Steve & Rita Gongora	Corvairs of New Mexico
06.	2003	May	31	Bill Reider	Corvairs of New Mexico
07.	2004	May	22	Ben Benzel	Pikes Peak Corvair Club
08.	2005	May	21	Wendell Walker	Corvairs of New Mexico
09.	2006	Jun	3	LeRoy Rogers	Corvairs of New Mexico
10.	2007	May	19	John Koll	Pikes Peak Corvair Club
11.	2008	May	17	Debbie & Dennis Pleau	Pikes Peak Corvair Club
12.	2009	May	30	Pat Hall	Corvairs of New Mexico
13.	2010	May	22	Garrie Fox	Pikes Peak Corvair Club
14.	2011	Jun	4	Chuck Vertrees	Corvairs of New Mexico
15.	2012	May	19	The Wilshire Family	Rocky Mountain CORSA
16.	2013	Jun	1	Jon Anderson	Pikes Peak Corvair Club
17.	2014	Jun	1	John Wiker	Corvairs of New Mexico
18.	2015	May	30	Eric Schakel	Rocky Mountain CORSA
19.	2016	Jun	4	Ed Halpin	Pikes Peak Corvair Club
20.	2017	Jun	3	Ray Trujillo	Corvairs of New Mexico
21.	2018	Jun	9	Dale Nielsen	Rocky Mountain CORSA
22.	2021	Dec	11	Terry Price	Corvairs of New Mexico
23.	2022	Corvairs of New Mexico



**St. Francis of Corvair
Francis Boydston Service Award
for
Outstanding Service and Contributions to
the TRI-STATE CORVAIR CLUBS
and**

The Perpetuation of the Corvair

Xxxxxx xxxxxxxx

2022

**This award is bestowed in memory of
Francis Boydston, a CNM founder and friend.**