

# LOD 2004 Vote Special

Maybe it was the reformation of the club at its new cyber-home. Maybe it was the show of cohesiveness the remaining members felt toward the place that they spend their evenings - when not shining up the Mark. Whatever it was, for the first time since the inception of the Lincolns of Distinction, we are lucky -- no -- we're *honored* to have 13 faithful LOD members step up to the plate to serve the club they helped create - for either a single year or three year term.

For many years past, the "election" (quotes intended) was merely a group of the same members running for office unopposed - only to repeat the process the next year - with no new blood entering the management of the club - or the site mechanics.



Well members - those days are gone forever - and the 2004 election - and its results - will begin to chart the second phase of the Lincolns of Distinction. Incumbents for Vice President, Treasurer, and the current Chairman of the Board, are all retiring this year - leaving a void in the leadership - that will be filled from over a dozen candidates that you see named in the next column.

This is an important election for many reasons. Some of the candidates have ideas that could change the shape and nature of the club forever - while others simply want their turn to serve the membership.

As a member, It's important that you know where you stand - before you cast your vote - either by way of the mail in ballot - or in the electronic voting page that will be posted on the LOD at:

<http://www.lincolnsclub.org/2004vote.htm>

Good Luck and may your choices win.

### Official LOD List of Candidates

(Listed as incumbents first, then alphabetic order)

#### OFFICERS: (One Year Term)

##### PRESIDENT:

- **Alexander** - (Incumbent)  
(Alexander Sosiak, Rego Park, NY)
- **JonnyD** -  
(Jon De Long, St Louis Park, MN)

##### VICE PRESIDENT:

- **Leo2**  
(Leo Cerruti, Long Island, NY)
- **scotty96lsc**  
(Scott White, San Antonio, TX)

##### TREASURER:

- **Ponyfreak**  
(Joseph Barrett, Independence, KY)

##### SECRETARY:

- **dsinclair** - Incumbent  
(Dave Sinclair, Grosse Pointe, MI)

##### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

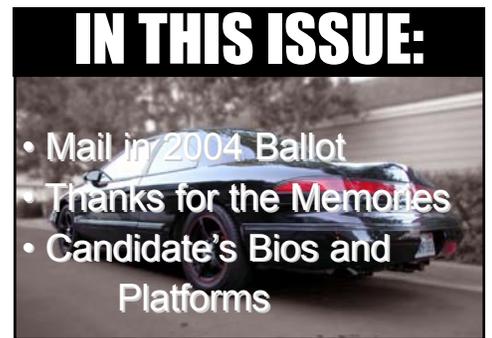
- **HOTLNK** - Incumbent  
(Jerry Heep, Fort Worth, TX)

#### BOARD of DIRECTORS: (THREE Year Term)

- **Joeychgo** (Joseph DeTomaso, Lombard, IL)
- **Neilster** - (Neil Holtby, Oshawa, Ontario)
- **Sandy** - (Sandy Block, Bloomfield, NJ)
- **Sleeper** - (Dave Hogan, Harrison Twp, MI)
- **Splat** - (Dave Lawson, Ontario, Canada)
- **Unstoppable** - (Chris Kaiser, United States)

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Mail in 2004 Ballot
- Thanks for the Memories
- Candidate's Bios and Platforms



# Thanks for the service

While we all get reved up about the new names that are soon to run the LOD for 2004 and beyond, it's important to formally recognize those officers and board of directors who are retiring after a long tour of duty - going back to the ranks as "just plain members".

It would be impossible to count the hours spent - or the effort given to the club by those that are retiring at the end of 2003.

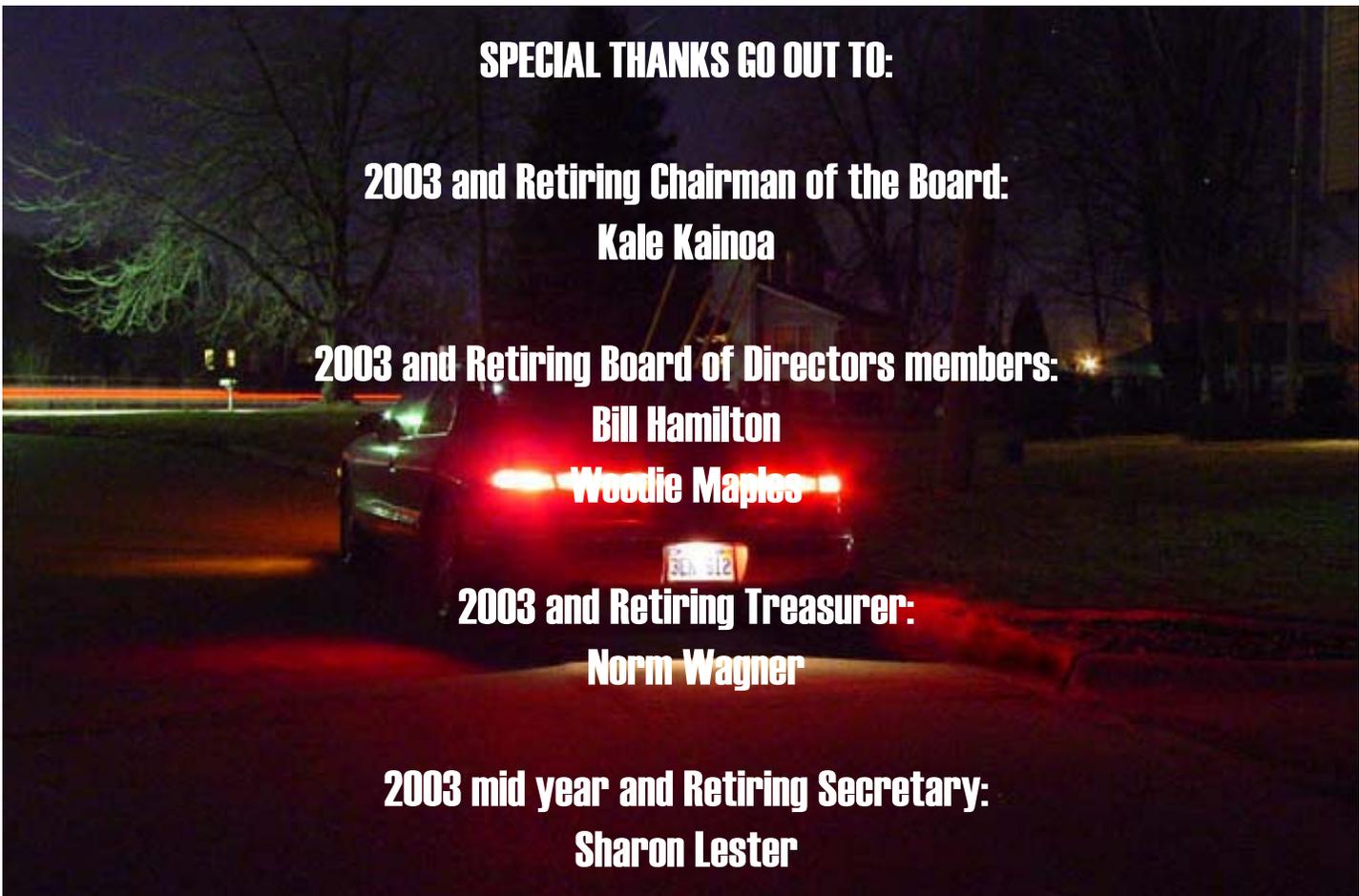
These are the folks that formed the club we are now beginning to take for granted. These are the people that came together - with a single goal - to talk about Mark VIII's - that became friends to the rest of us - as we discovered a truly great American automobile - bolt by bolt - slam by slam - and shutter by shutter.

These are the core group that over and over again - answered the same questions about air suspension systems, door handles, transmissions, MAFs and chips, and all the little quirks that brought us to the club.

Yet - these are also the folks that were responsible for keeping us here after our cars were fixed - or our knowledge was sated. These folks made the LOD a place to hang out - a friendly garage. They created a sense of family.

From the earliest posts each member remembers - there was always a sense that we cared for each other - way beyond the mere ownership of a Mark - and as we had kids - got sick - got well - graduated - got married and lived life - the LOD became a place where we were all welcome - and excited to tell our story and listen to others.

That - is the legacy that the retiring officers and board members are leaving behind - and that passing of the flame - is what the new leadership of the LOD has to recognize and continue to foster.



## **SPECIAL THANKS GO OUT TO:**

**2003 and Retiring Chairman of the Board:**

**Kale Kainoa**

**2003 and Retiring Board of Directors members:**

**Bill Hamilton**

**Woodie Maples**

**2003 and Retiring Treasurer:**

**Norm Wagner**

**2003 mid year and Retiring Secretary:**

**Sharon Lester**



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# The Nominees and their Platform

*Over the next few pages you will learn about those who are willing to serve the needs of the Lincolns of Distinction - and what they hope to accomplish in 2004. Also note that no preference - other than that for incumbents was given to the order of presentation or layout within each section. Order selection was made for convenience only and not any convention of placement or order. Each candidate's words are shown here as received - except for minor spelling and reader references.*

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## The Presidency (One Year Term) (Vote for one)

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### **Alexander - Incumbent (Alexander Sosiak, Rego Park, NY)**

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I am proud to be one of the founders of the Lincolns of Distinction. This club has grown far bigger than the founders envisioned. From a dozen members in 1999, the club has expanded to serve almost 500 members around the world. We have a newsletter, vendor discounts and free web-space that we offer to members. We also offer a totally free message board for all Lincoln automobile enthusiasts. I thank all the members and guests to the Lincolns of Distinction sites for making this club one of the best and largest clubs in the country.

The club has gone through a difficult year. The Board of Directors and I made some painful and expensive decisions to preserve the independence of the club website and message board. We believe that the members would prefer a site run by and for the club rather than one individual. Along with other members, I have spent long hours bringing the independent message board and website back on line.

Club funds and donations have been spent to legally get back the domains and websites that were misappropriated from the club. We will continue to pursue what right fully belongs to the club, but we will not jeopardize the financial stability of the club.

The hardship that the club endured this year will not prevent the club from its foremost obligation - to serve its members.

As club president I will ensure that the club is the social automotive club it was meant to be. For the past few years I have done the planning for our part in the All-Ford Nationals at Carlisle. We have had an expansion of the number of judging categories for Lincolns at Carlisle because of my efforts. I also organize for this event the hotel arrangements for our club as well as the banquet.

This past year has seen the addition of two new chapters, the Northern California and Central Florida Chapters. There is a lot of enthusiasm in these new chapters. I hope to see the passion spread by the addition of additional chapters in the coming year, as well as participation of the club in major collector car events around the US and Canada in the next year. As always the club will help fund these events.

I built most of the original club website, using my own writings along with contributions of articles from club members. I will also keep on working with the club members to improve and update the message board and website, for this is the heart of the club.

I will continue to strive to make this club one of the best places in cyberspace and the real world for people to get information and have fun with their Lincolns.

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### **JonnyD - (Jon De Long, St Louis Park, MN)**

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Fellow LOD members: recently I have been nominated for the position of LOD President.

This may come as a surprise to some of you, but let me assure you, my intentions are nothing but the highest and purest.

Now as to who I am. My name is Jon (otherwise known as JD or Jonny D) and I live in Minneapolis. I've owned a black on black '98 LSC with (CHROME) directionals for three years and have been a dues paying member since then. I've learned quite a bit about this car through LOD, but more importantly, in my opinion, I have made several friends (and, well, also made more than any man's share of enemies).

My reason for running is simple. I don't want to sit on the sidelines and bitch bitch bitch, but rather, attempt to fix whatever I can to make this a better place for us all.

I do have several goals that I would accomplish if I am elected. The first being to shift directions (on the 'board). To me, the most important aspect of LOD (and the board) is to make friends, have a good time,

and support each other in hard times.

Debating, arguing, and discussing are inherent to our nature, so if elected I am going to push for a Political Discussion forum.

Also, since the majority of the members are mature, responsible adults, I would move to get the profanity filter less strict than it currently is. Do I think we need to have foul-mouthed content in every post? Hardly. I do, however, think that several 'choice' words can add interest or further implication in a post. If we hear these words on tv every night, why are we so shocked when we see it on the internet.

I think that communication makes a strong 'board, and would strive to implement a moderated chat room where members can stop in and meet each other. When it comes to issues like eBay, why argue back and forth and get nothing done? This club is for the members, and therefore the members should immediately vote on it. No bureaucracy, no red tape, no committees; none of that BS.

Let's make LOD and the LOD board an enjoyable place to hang out, chat, and make intelligent posts. I strongly encourage any feedback, comments, criticism, or your thoughts.

## The Vice-Presidency (One Year Term) (Vote for one)

### Leo2 - (Leo Cerruti, Long Island, NY)

My name is Leo Cerruti and I am running for the position of Vice-President of the Lincolns of Distinction.

#### My qualifications:

I am the president of my family textile and fashion company which was founded in 1368 in Italy. I have been in a leadership position in this firm for over 20 years. I also have extensive experience with volunteer organizations having served as Deputy Grand Knight and then Grand Knight of my Knights of Columbus Council for two terms. I also served and continue to serve on various committees within the Knights of Columbus. I am also active within local environmental and historical preservation groups. These positions have given me quite a good understanding of what it is like to work with volunteer groups and clubs such as the LOD.

I am married, no children but too many pets!

On the automotive side I have been involved with racing and showing cars for many years. While I no longer race I was, in the 1970's, heavily involved in CanAm racing (McLaren M3 and M8C) as well as endurance road racing (what is now called the American LeMans series) where I raced the 12hrs of Sebring three times as well as the 24 Hours of Daytona and once actually finished in 10th place in a GT40.

#### My Platform

The position of VP really doesn't have much power so anyone who tells you they will make changes, improve this, eliminate that, is really not in a position to do so. I can only put forth what my position is on various issues, what I would like to see change, and what I would propose to the rest of the Board of Directors.

My position on forums, forum moderators, and profanity on the forums:

- Contrary to what some candidates for office have said I do not believe there are too many forums nor do I believe they are confusing to navigate. While some slight consolidation may be called for I see no reason to

make major changes at this time but if the BOD of directors wishes to do so it should do what it feels is in the best interest of the club and the membership should put it's trust in the BOD to do what is best. There is no need for long winded discussions on this matter on the forums.

- No BOD member should be a message board moderator. I would propose to the board that there should be one BOD member (not an office holder) who would be the Moderator Chair. This new position of Moderator Chair would be chosen by the the BOD. Moderators, if they have a question or problem and need to consult with the BOD would go through the Moderator Chair who would then consult with the BOD. Conversely any communication from the BOD to the moderators would go through this Moderator Chair. Anyone who has a complaint about a moderator or about an action taken by the moderators (posts deleted, edited, etc.) should do so through the Moderator Chair.

- If an individual's post is removed or edited by a moderator that individual should have the right to inquire as to why the action was taken. The Moderator Chair should give this explanation within 48 hours of the request.

- The Rules of Conduct (ROC) are very explicit and do not single out any one individual or group. The rules do not allow profanity nor is there any tolerance for skirting the profanity filters by posting pictures that contain profanity. I am a believer in the ROC as I believe they make our forums a more civil and adult place to be and I do not believe there should be nay change in them whatsoever.

#### Vendors and advertising:

Even tough I am a vendor I believe that:

- Vendors should not use their company names or promote their products in their signatures. As is common practice on other forums product promotion should be strictly limited to the Vendor Advertisement forum which have been set up to allow vendors to promote their products for a reasonable fee. Vendors can also avail themselves of the Adopt-A-Forum program and sponsor a forum. The rules state that advertising should only be within the Vendor forum and this rule has not been fully

enforced by the BOD or moderators. This is a common rule among other online clubs and is strictly enforced. I am voluntarily removing the link in my signature and I call upon others to do the same.

- Lately there has been a series of screen savers and other pictures posted that contain vendor names. I believe this to be an attempt to skirt the vendor rules and I think activity of this nature should not be allowed to continue.

- I see no problem with vendors being officers of the club or BOD members. However, in order to eliminate the appearance of conflict of interest any vendors who are BOD officers MUST recuse themselves from any vote directly related to LOD/vendor relations.

#### Membership promotion:

- The LOD should design, print, and distribute membership information cards to any LOD member who wants them, not to exceed 25 free cards per year per member. Members are free to print their own or buy extra from the LOD if they need more. These cards can be used by members to give to prospective members, put on cars spotted on the street, etc. The card will have a space for the LOD member to put his/her member name. If the new member joins they should enter the member name in a space provided on the sign up form.

- Any member who brings in 5 or more new members he/she will get their membership dues waived for the next year. The membership director should oversee this activity.

- The membership director should do his/her best to see to it that a link to our web site is placed on as many search engines as possible and to allow other automotive sites to link to the LOD site.

[www.markviii.org](http://www.markviii.org) and  
[www.lodonline.org](http://www.lodonline.org):

- I stand firmly behind our President, Alexander Sosiak, in his efforts to reclaim the URLs that rightfully belong to the LOD. The theft of these URLs and the existence of the other board is an affront to what the LOD has been all about and all the hard work of the people who built that board. The names and the content of that board rightfully belong to the LOD and should be returned.

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(continued)  
The Vice-Presidency

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**scotty96lsc - (Scott White, San Antonio, TX)**

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I'm Scott White and I'm running for the office of Vice President.

**Qualifications:**

Currently I'm the production manager and beta tester for a 5-year-old software company, AlaMark Technologies in San Antonio, Texas. The company sells software, hardware and E-commerce solutions to industrial distributors to help manage their marketing programs. I'm also the primary trainer for new customers who use our software to manage their product databases and build data-based published materials. Before that, I spent 20 years in the U.S. Air Force as a photojournalist. During those 20 years, from Feb. 1978 until March 1998, I served in Abilene and San Antonio; Texas, Miami, Florida; Ramstein Germany, and Norfolk, Virginia. During that time I was a newspaper editor, freelance sports reporter, desktop publishing and photography instructor, European Theater air show coordinator, graphic artist, and magazine managing editor.

My automotive background is based on stylish cars. I love sleek, smooth, eye-catching cars. My first car was a Porsche 914. Currently my 1998 Lincoln Mark 8 is without a doubt the nicest car I have ever owned. I also owned a 1996 Mark VIII LSC, black/black, that was totaled the first of the year. That car was a personal statement that "I had made it." After the insurance settlement there was only one choice for another car - another Mark. If it was up to me, I'd resurrect the Mark again.

**What I stand for:**

My experiences in the military and software business have given me a solid foundation for understanding people. People have a common need of belonging and my platform

is geared toward having this great site grow even more into a club that people want to belong to. This should be a club for friendly automotive and personal interaction, idea exchanges and escape from life's forks in the road. I strongly support open forums where constructive ideas can be submitted, discussed and incorporated when necessary - all for the betterment of the club and not for an individual(s). I'd like to see a weekly "on-line chat" where we can freely voice our ideas and concerns with a board member.

**Personal positions:**

1) I think the feel and look of our current site is unique and user friendly enough to give us an identity. The one thing that can really muddy a club is getting caught in a copy-cat web page where a surfer or member is not 100-percent sure where he or she is. Our current club site offers enough distinctiveness to let people know where they are and who we are. Still we can "tweak" certain aspects of the site to make it even more user friendly. One would be to increase the search functions so more people would use it. At that same time, track certain searches with software that we can look at and then incorporate into more FAQs.

2) At times it is necessary to terminate certain threads as they do not meet the Rules of Conduct of the Club or are of such a nature that offend and personally attack people. This is a place to share not offend. At the same time, it's not the club's right to end a thread without letting all members know why. One of things I'd like to look into is a way for more volunteers, outside of the board, moderate the forums on a monthly basis. Giving one person the power to "keep or delete" is wrong.

3) I think all of the vendors who regularly participate in the club provide valuable information to all of us. I think our club would benefit even more if we could attract more vendors for them to add to our knowledge base. When they are willing to

participate as a member first and business person second we all win.

4) Even though the latest information shows our club on the climb, it's not there yet. But to attract members doesn't take fancy campaigns, windshield fliers or other written or web materials. It takes people. The reason I joined the club 2-plus years ago was the people I met. Sure we could do a better job getting our name out in front of the public, but we have to make sure people want to stay once they get here. We are all the ambassadors for this club. Each of us know why we renew each year. Those reasons are what we need to convey to others to become members of Lincolns of Distinction too.

With that said, there still needs to be goals. You can never hit a target if you don't have anything to aim at. I'd like to see a specific, logical goal that we can agree on. Once that is set, we can work towards obtaining that goal. Members can come up with their own ways to promote the club - taking an active part in their club. Monthly updates by the membership secretary would help us track our growth. The top three members who referred the most people to join the club should get a prize -- \$100 or something like that -- just before Christmas.

5) One of the things I would like to personally work on is getting more businesses offering us discounts for a good patronage. This does not mean just automotive business but food, travel and recreation as well. These could all be used to further membership.

**Finally:**

I'm not mechanically inclined, don't know a differential from a fan belt, and I would rather look at a fast car than see how fast a car is. I'm just a guy who enjoys classy, luxurious cars and the people who drive them. I enjoy people's company. I'd like this club to be a place where people can enjoy other people's company too.

**The Treasury  
(One Year Term)  
(Vote of support)**

**Ponyfreak - (Joseph Barrett, Independence, KY)**

My name is Joseph Barrett. I currently own 3 Lincoln Mark VIII's. A 93, 94 and a 95.

This December will be the fourth or fifth time I have sent my dues to the LOD. I have been posting questions/ answers on the LOD forum since September 1999 just months after I bought my first Mark VIII.

I currently live in Independence, KY, just 10 miles South of Cincinnati, OH. I moved here 10 months ago to accept a job as Sales and Service Technician for SWECO, ITS division. I have an Associates Degree in Env. Tech, and plan on returning to school to work on my Bachelors in Business.

I have many hobbies which, unfortunately, I do not have much time for as of lately. Many of them have to do with speed.

I enjoy racing quite a bit so I try to spend a lot of time at the track. I have raced go karts, and my 125cc shifter kart for a while. Now I have focused more on racing my 94 Mark VIII. I enjoy working on a car and seeing positive results from my work. Other hobbies include snowboarding, billiards, and metal fabrication.

**The Secretary  
(One Year Term)  
(Vote of support)**

**Dsinclair - Incumbent (Dave Sinclair, Grosse Pointe, MI)**

I would like to ask for your support as I run for re-election for the post of Secretary for the LOD in 2004.

Obviously, my baptism of fire in this position was forged in the heat of the re-establishment of the club after its demise at its old home during 2003 as a mid-year appointee.

As 2004 approaches, my primary objective as your Secretary is to supply the means to improve the communications of the club.

I began to fill that objective during 2003 as your newsletter editor.

In 2004, I hope to propose the following:

1.) Supply a cost effective way for LOD officers and board members to meet as a group - to discuss issues as needed. This is an important part of making sound group decisions and speak with "one voice" when communicating to members. It is something that I was unable to supply in 2003.

2.) I hope to propose a full review and definition of the role and rights of the 'Moderator' position and how it fits into the overall structure of the LOD.

3.) I also hope to propose a review of both the Club Charter and the Rules of Conduct - in order to make sure both documents work together for the best interests of the current structure of the club

Thanks for your support during 2003 and I look forward to serving you in 2004.

**Membership Secretary  
(One Year Term)  
(Vote of support)**

**HOTLNK - Incumbent (Jerry Heep, Fort Worth, TX)**

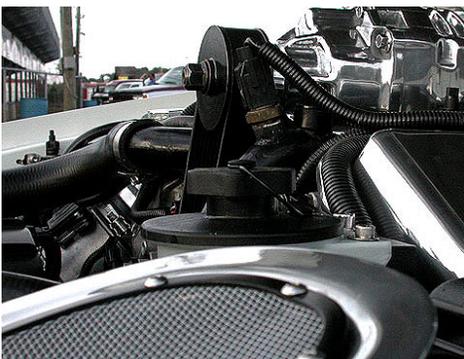
I've been employed by for Radioshack as an application and project engineer since June of 1975. I hold 14 patents, none of which are automotive related. I have been a shade tree mechanic for over 40 years.

I am a current active member of www.TheDieselStop.com, a web based Ford Diesel site. Having never owned or worked on a diesel before, this website has given me the confidence and support I needed when I had to dig camshaft deep into my 87 crew cab, 6.9L fuel oil burner.

Before I broke my rotary habit cold turkey, I've owned rotary powered Mazda's between 1973 to 1998.

My wife of over 33years, Vivian, has been hot rodding my cars ever since we were teenagers. We have two daughters, Nikki and Sabrina.

**Support the  
LOD in 2004  
by renewing  
your  
membership  
today**



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## The Board (Three Year Term) (Vote of Support)

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**Joeychgo (Joseph DeTomaso, Lombard, IL)**

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My name is Joseph DeTomaso and I am running for a seat on the Board of Directors of the Lincolns of Distinction.

My user id is JOEYCHGO.

My qualifications:

I am married with no children and live in a suburb of Chicago.

I have been in the restaurant business for 20 years, 15 of which have been in various levels of management and ownership. I am currently consulting and teaching in this field. I possess 2 college degrees, one in culinary arts and another in management. Accordingly I am a team builder and seek to develop and drive the team concept. I have also consulted and/or beta tested for companies such Hewlett Packard, Intuit, America Online, Poker.com and a few other small companies.

I have owned Lincolns & Fords exclusively my entire life. I try to keep my cars to be in top stock condition. This is an ongoing task which I enjoy. I am presently looking for a Mark V to restore to stock condition. (Was the first Mark I ever drove.....My Dad's) Presently I own a 1994 Mark VIII, 1994 Town Car and a 1993 Mustang Convertible.

I truly enjoy the LOD community and people and love being a part of it. I was part of the old board before the split, and have 100% loyalty to this site and the LOD club. I became a forum moderator because I want to help this club be as big a success as possible.

My Platform:

Those of you who know me, or have read my posts know that I am outspoken and passionate about my views. I will continue to be. I don't expect everyone to agree with me on every point. But I do what I believe in my heart of hearts is the best for the club and the right thing to do.

First and foremost, I believe this club

is for the members, individually and as a whole. In short, this club is OWNED by the members. Accordingly the members should be treated with respect and their thoughts heard and considered. This club IS about the members and wouldn't exist if not for them. I am a member and include myself in that group, and treat people in a manner in which I wish to be treated. I believe there has not been enough information regarding the administration and health of the club passed down to the membership. I would seek to have a financial report presented to the members at least quarterly. I would also seek to have a BOD meeting quarterly with the agenda and minutes posted for the members to see and comment on.

This said, what I believe is that we need to look at and plan for the future of this club. I believe we need to work to increase our membership rolls and expand those beyond just the Mark VIII. We need to define our mission for the future and work to get there.

One thing I see is that our chapters are underutilized. I think we should find some ways to build our chapters, and that our chapters can be a strong force in membership building through local advertising and area meets among other ways. Membership building is also something we need the members themselves to actively help with. I support and will put together a program to encourage members to bring in new members. Another concern I will seek to deal with is lost members. We have lost members not only from the switch from the old site to the new, but also due to frustration at the actions of a few members. I will seek to bring these members back home.

I believe the administration should be active in the club and shouldn't be figurehead that leave the work to just a few people. I believe it should be a team effort and will encourage such an attitude and drive in other administration members.

In regard to my position on the lawsuit. I strongly believe the old site was inappropriately taken from us and is truly our property and that we should do all that is appropriate to reclaim our property. That said, I do not know enough details regarding the legal position we are in to definitively

comment as to what I think should be done. However, I will do a cost / benefit analysis if elected and determine if the lawsuit is worth pursuing. I don't know the costs or likelihood of winning at this point as I am not privy to such info. I do not believe this lawsuit should be pursued at all costs, but only if it is smart to do so. This needs to be a business decision and I will encourage the BOD to handle it as just that. For example, you don't spend \$20k on lawyers to win back something worth \$10k. That's bad business. However, if worth the risk, we should take all appropriate steps to succeed. I say again that I do not know the details, but will learn them upon election and make a determination as to how I think we should progress. This should also be placed on the ballot as a referendum in my opinion, just to ensure we are acting in the best interests and within the wishes of the membership.

Also, I have no reason to believe that there is any possibility of amicably rejoining the boards. I will extend the "Olive branch" to Calvin and hope I am pleasantly surprised. However, I see no reason for him to do so. Beyond that, I again state that my belief is that our primary focus should be on growing and strengthening the club, now and for the future. Additionally, I have no problem with members who visit both sites. There is a wealth of knowledge on both and everyone is entitled to seek that knowledge anywhere they can find it.

I ask if anyone has questions or comments to please email me with them. I am always open to new or different ideas and opinions and want to hear them.

In conclusion, I would like to quote something another member said sometime ago.... The Mark VIII Founding Fathers have set up two sites over the years....fought one civil war, expanded into new territories....recruited an army of followers...found "gold" in them hills.....conquered our complicated car problems..... and they did it their way.... May the lantern be passed with honor.

I will do my best to serve with honor and dedication. Please vote for me for election to the LOD Board of Directors.

**The Board (continued)**

**Sandy - (Sandy Block, Bloomfield, NJ)**

Many of you might think that I have been a member of the Board of Directors {BOD} ~ especially in view of the fact that Dave Sinclair and I are therein named twice on the official LOD masthead listing. However, I call to your attention that I have never been on the BOD. Now, however I have been nominated to offer my participation.

Now, I know that some of you may feel like you are BORED of Directors, but I promise you, if chosen to fill this position that I will work in harmony with the other new BOD(s) to make the membership once again proud of how LOD is run! I am NOT a politician. Having been in one field where one is hated, I certainly do not need to jump out of the frying pan - and into the fire!

Car Salesman to Politician ... Good Grief! I cannot predict what the future holds, but only to do my very upmost to promote and guide LOD

the way the majority of LOD wishes. As always, I will be the voice of reason, and I believe that less is more when it comes to vastly complicated rules. Simplistic is better. Common Sense, contrary to what you may have heard, is NOT dead, here.

I cannot promise the future, but I can call attention to what I've done in the past. If the past is any indication.....Imagine the future!! So, I'll let my past contributions point the way to my future contributions.

I appreciate the endorsements of Leo Ceruti, John Peters (driller), Dave Edwards (Dr. Dave), Paul Christenson (Last Mark), Jack Carter (JC), MOE Alphabet (Grand\_LS400), Scott White (scotty96lsc), Marcia Culver (Marcia), John Zaug (topcat), Scott Miller (avu3), Robert King (rking), John Schmidt (johnaec), Stanley Roberts (MrRobertsTV) and those who have privately e-mailed me over the past weeks.

Have you received your club decal? If so, I either sent it out to you or saw to it that my helpers sent it out to you. I am the committee of one, better known as the Welcoming Committee and I am the first person a brand new member has contact with, via my "Welcoming Letter" enclosing the latest club newsletter and their decal. I have worked tirelessly to get the LOD onto the national Lincoln website. So far, it has not happened, but I have not given up hope.

Getting involved ? This is my 1,300th post here, plus another 5,758 at another time & in another place, where many of us met, originally, for a combined total of 7,058 posts, many of which answered questions and/or helped fellow LODers.

Newsletter: I have contributed an article in every newsletter put out. Sometimes it was difficult, but every paper had a contribution from me in it. I just about built the Tech/FAQ section of LOD ~ including many prior contributions. Now, if I did all that as just a regular club member, imagine what I'll contribute as a BOD member?

I leave you with a thought provoking question: Have I earned your vote of confidence ??

A good Car Salesman always ASKS for the deal. I am asking for your vote. My cards are on the table, in front of you, now. Remember me on Election Day.

Thank You, Thank You VERY much!! Charter Member # 10 ~ Autumn 1999.

**Sleeper (David Hogan, Harrison Township, MI)**

23 years old, graduate of Kettering University (this spring) with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. I currently work for the US Army Tank-Automotive Research, Development, and Engineering Center (TARDEC) located at TACOM-Warren as an Engineer.

I have owned 3 Mark VIII's and a Thunderbird (even though i only owned the first one for 2 weeks). I have been a member of this club for a while now, i'd say a little over 2 years.

I was a member of a Fraternity during college, and I held two leadership positions there. I served one year as the House Manager, overseeing maintenance, repair, and cleaning of the chapter house.

I served one-half year as Treasurer, after taking over from a member who didn't fulfill his duties. I was responsible for a budget of about \$30,000 for each 3-month term.

**Unstoppable - (Chris Kaiser, United States)**

Under heavy pressure from more than a few members I have decided to run for a BOD spot.

The only thing holding me back at first was the amount of time it will take out of my day.(especially with all my recent developments)

I've discussed this with quite a few people and I'm assured a BOD spot is no where near as time consuming as some of the more stressful positions.

I have been wanting to take a more active part in the club for a while now and this is a great place to start.

For those that do not know me, My name is Chris Kaiser. I have been a member of the club for a little over 3 years I believe.

I have been about as active with the club as I could. I have been to Our annual meeting in Carlisle ever since I joined the club. I have also been to the large Midwest meet held in Chicago this year.

I have such a passion for these cars that I opened a shop to help people with a similar passion, by having a place where they can have custom work done.As we all know, not many people will touch these cars.

I recently had to shut down the shop to handle some family business and I didn't have the time to handle the day to day customer service stuff like I used to.

But nothing would make me happier than to be able to help out the site by helping us grow and making it the fun happy family place it was when I got "hooked" LOL!

Not to say things are going bad, but I'd like to see a little more personality back on the board. That's a large reason people come back day after day.

And a little note about my cars. I currently own 2 Marks -- a 94 and a 95.

My 94 is pretty much a race car / show car now. It was built to show people what a little 4.6 liters can do. My 95 is my daily driver.

The fact that it's black has made quite a few people on the board happy.

When its done it will be one of the stronger running N/A cars prowling the streets.

## The Board (continued)

**Dave Lawson (aka: Splat)**  
**Ontario, Canada**

LOD dues paying member and certifiable car nut.

How I became a mark'ed man

Let me begin with a little background. Growing up the love affair with cars began when I was probably 10 to 12 years old in the late 60's with the trips to the dealer grand openings included all new goodies like Camaros big block Mustangs and Hemi Road Runners, well one in particular.

You see, if I could nail this lifelong love of the automobile down to one incident I would have to lay the blame on the boyfriend of a next door neighbor's daughter, and his shiny new 68 4 speed Hemi Road Runner and a few rides I managed to pester from him in that car. I was hooked, the sounds, the feel of that car doing what it did best and the bug was planted, one more hopeless car nut is me from that point on.

Sadly by the time I got a drivers license the new cars in the showrooms were the 74 model year, and we all know what a dark period that was for performance vehicles. As I recall the motto of the day was "welcome to the 70's the age of slow cars and fast women" (well, it wasn't all bad). So my interests, at least where they related to cars, found me with most of my friends deep into the hot rodding of the era salvaging the then just old used cars and breathing new life into them, when we weren't raping and pillaging them. Ironically enough when I go to the local cruise nights I find many of the same old faces and even with a few of the same old cars, it's just that now, it's well received and publicly accepted, as opposed to then when we were the non conformist, low life rebel youth of the time. Races held weather permitting every Saturday night on a quiet little dead end county road, beginning at midnight and continuing till dawn or when the police showed up, whichever occurred first. Ahh the good old days. During that period (74-79) I spent some time working in the body shops and paint booths of a couple local dealers, primarily the local

VW/Porsche/Audi dealer and a Ford dealer so I was in fact getting a close up view of the junk being sold as the latest and greatest the industry had to offer. It was truly depressing.

Between the gas crunch of the late 70's early 80's along with the realization that dependable boring daily transportation was in fact a necessity the love affair with the car was relegated to the back seat for a few years. Still I always kept track of where the industry and the aftermarket were at in terms of performance and as the auto industry came to terms with dependability, performance and economy the products began to look interesting once again. I've really never been particularly loyal to any one manufactures product owning various Chevy's, Dodge's and a couple Ford products but I'd always liked the execution of the MarkVII's. At the time I was driving an 89 Jeep Cherokee Larado when I spotted the first magazine add for our beloved MarkVIII. I read the spec sheet with utter amazement and disbelief and by the time I'd read it a half dozen (or so) more times I was in love, you know the details, IRS RWD, dohc4v 1hp per ci aluminum V8 and the music it makes and all packaged in a nice personal luxury coupe. I wasn't sure how or when but I knew I just had to have me one. By 96 the Jeep had really not been abused but had been pushed hard all it's life and it was in need of some expensive repairs so I decided to have a look at my options and wouldn't you know it, I found my VIII.

Now as any self respecting car nut knows with the spec sheet of a MarkVIII there's a lot of car there in it's production form and the potential for a whole lot more, the only question there is, is how to go about unlocking that potential as well as the obvious routine service issues. Given a little time and enter a web search and what do I find but LOD. Who'd have ever thought, 100's of other car nuts with similar discerning tastes as my own and all gathered together under the same banner of friendship and goodwill and all with a passion for the same understated elegance and performance we all enjoy in our Lincolns.

Given my work, ethic background in small business, and my #1 obsession

of motorsports, acknowledging, learning and participating in the team player environment is not only a set of principals I strongly believe in, it's also a mindset that's almost second nature to me, my having a strong interest in actively participating in any way I can for the greater good of the LOD community seemed to be the next logical progression to me.

In the 3 years now that I've been involved with LOD I've moved slowly but continually from an awe struck onlooker to a more active involvement when and where it seemed like the right thing to do, in what I perceived to be the best interest of our club and the plan is to continue to do what I can as a team player to make LOD the best it can be for all of us who enjoy the atmosphere of camaraderie and friendship that LOD has, and continues to provide for all who choose to be involved with what I see as, the finest car club in the world.

***This could have  
been YOUR AD!***

***Advertising in the LOD  
Newsletter reaches all  
members and their  
families.***

***For only \$50 for a full  
page, \$35 for a half -  
and for the first time -  
\$20 for a quarter page  
(4.25 X 5.5)  
you can advertise  
right here***

***At \$20 - you could sell  
those left over parts in the  
garage - or that extra set  
of directionals -  
or promote your  
non-Mark or  
Mark business  
to members.***

## The Board (continued)

**Neil Holtby (aka. Neilster)**  
**Oshawa, Ontario, Canada**

### Background

LOD Member Since Fall 2001  
 Lincoln Owner 1994 Mark VIII  
 Base 1998 Mark VIII LSC

### Candidate's Platform

As a member of the LOD Board of Directors, I pledge the following:

- To serve and promote the ideals of the Lincolns of Distinction
- To actively participate in matters that concern the club membership
- To freely share ideas and concepts for the benefit of all members
- To openly and honestly represent all members
- To conduct myself at all times as a professional board member

Issues the Candidate Would Like to Address:

- The key issues facing the membership that require our attention are:
- Fair and equitable treatment of message board participants
- Fair and equitable application of message board rules and regulations
- Respect and appreciation of message board moderators and administrators
- Message board and web site security and stability
- Improving the value proposition of the club to attract new members
- Vision, planning and execution of initiatives to ensure club longevity
- Managing organizational change

### Candidate's Strengths

Please consider the following



A number of East Coast members took it on the chin this November with a record snowfall - that put a number of Marks in the freezer.

One life-long florida resident asked if snow laying on a car "hurts" it.  
 Answer: Yep - it hurts the owner.

# SHOW OFF YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE LOD

Here's a sample of the LOD merchandise available at:

<http://mark8.org/lod/merchandise.htm>

## Limited Edition Matchbox Trucks & LOD Teddies



Each truck is \$24 including shipping (U.S.) Bears are \$16.00 each including postage to anywhere in the USA

## Cool Glassware and Travel Mugs



Set of four clear glass 16 ounce (pint) glass is \$38  
 Set of four black glass 1.5 ounce shot glass is \$30  
 Set of four clear glass 7.5 inch bud vases is \$36



(Left) Deluxe Mugs are \$20 including shipping (U.S.)  
 (Right) Regular Mugs are \$15 including shipping (U.S.)

strengths of this candidate when voting:

- Organizational skills and experience
- Commitment to the club and its members
- Portrays a positive and respectful image of the club
- Very good people skills
- This candidate wants the job and hereby solicits your vote

- Solutions consulting
- Business development
- Relationship management
- Recipient of several awards for outstanding contributions
- Passionate owner of a fine Lincoln automobile
- Respected by the membership

### Additional Background

- LOD Chapter Affiliation
- President, LOD Ontario Canada Chapter
- Took the initiative to drive this Chapter's formation
- Developed Chapter Charter

### Other Notable Contributions

- Ontario Canada Chapter Web Site Development
  - Design
  - Content
  - Updates
- Newsletter Article Contributor
- Carlisle 2002 Attendee
- Enthusiastic Club Supporter
- Over 400 Posts on Message Board
- Posted fixes, flyers, business cards
- Contributes positive and forward thinking ideas
- Projects and promotes a positive image of the LOD car club

### Candidate's Qualifications

- Previous experience as an executive of a professional association
- More than 25 years in the field of information technology
- 10+ years as an independent consultant with hands on experience in:
  - Project management
  - Business analysis

**Lincolns of Distinction**  
PO Box 754157  
Forest Hills, NY 11375-9157

Websites:  
[www.lincolnsclub.org](http://www.lincolnsclub.org)  
[www.mark8.org](http://www.mark8.org)

Fax: (713) 664-0579  
EMail: [LODclub@prodigy.net](mailto:LODclub@prodigy.net)



Chairman of the Board:  
Kale Kainoa

President:  
Alexander Sosiak

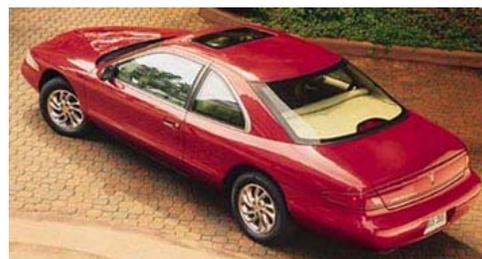
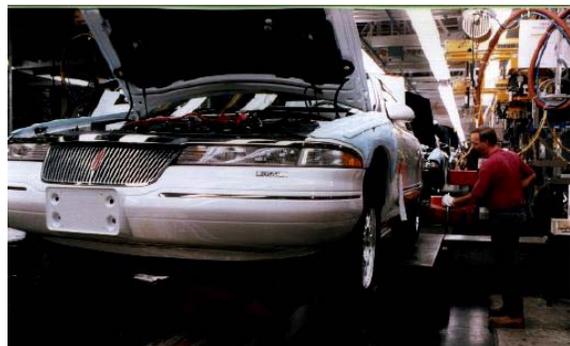
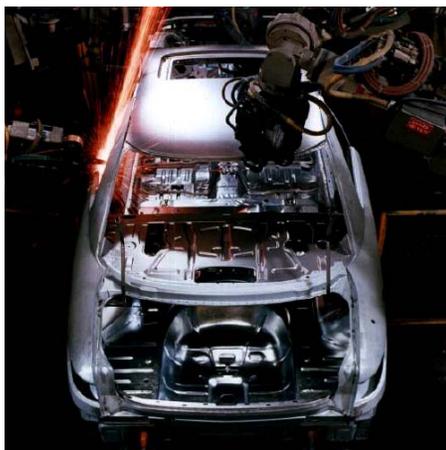
Secretary:  
Dave Sinclair

Membership Secretary:  
Jerry Heep

Treasurer:  
Norm Wagner

Board of Directors:  
All members from left column  
plus:  
William Hamilton  
Woodie Maples

LOD Newsletter Editor:  
Dave Sinclair  
Webmasters:  
Alexander Sosiak  
Kale Kainoa  
Welcoming Committee  
for new members:  
Sandy Block  
Ford Liaison:  
Sandy Block



# OFFICIAL Lincolns of Distinction election ballot for 2004

WRITE YOUR SCREEN NAME BELOW TO VERIFY YOUR IDENTITY - FAILURE TO DO SO WILL VOID YOUR BALLOT:

## INSTRUCTIONS:

Please read and follow these instructions carefully. Any suspect ballots or ballots which are improperly filled out will not be counted.

You will be voting for a number of candidates in a number of offices. Please be careful to read the vote directions for each office - as they may be different:

After you have completed the ballot - fold it into thirds and mail it to the following address:

David Sinclair - Secretary  
16879 Saint Paul Street  
Grosse Pointe, MI. USA 48230

The ballot must ARRIVE no later than January 15th - so mail accordingly. If you believe your ballot will not arrive on time - but is sealed and postmarked - call the LOD Secretary at (313) 319-4211

## OFFICERS: (One Year Term)

PRESIDENT: (VOTE FOR ONE)

**Alexander** - (Incumbent)  
(Alexander Sosiak, Rego Park, NY)

**JonnyD** -  
(Jon De Long, St Louis Park, MN)

VICE PRESIDENT: (VOTE FOR ONE)

**Leo2**  
(Leo Cerruti, Long Island, NY)

**scotty96lsc**  
(Scott White, San Antonio, TX)

TREASURER: (VOTE FOR ONE)

**Ponyfreak**  
(Joseph Barrett, Independence, KY)

SECRETARY: (VOTE FOR ONE)

**dsinclair** - Incumbent  
(Dave Sinclair, Grosse Pointe, MI)

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: (VOTE FOR ONE)

**HOTLNK** - Incumbent  
(Jerry Heep, Fort Worth, TX)

BOARD of DIRECTORS: (THREE Year Term)  
(VOTE FOR AS MANY AS SUPPORTED)\*

**Joeychgo** (Joseph DeTomaso, Lombard, IL)

**Neilster** - (Neil Holtby, Oshawa, Ontario)

**Sandy** - (Sandy Block, Bloomfield, NJ)

**Sleeper** - (Dave Hogan, Harrison Twp, MI)

**Splat** - (Dave Lawson, Ontario, Canada)

**Unstoppable** - (Chris Kaiser, United States)

### \*Important Note on Board of Director Voting -

Only the Board of Director candidates that receive 50% or more (a majority) of the total votes will receive positions on the LOD Board of Directors.

EXAMPLE: If 100 LOD members cast votes - then **each** BOD candidate would have to receive at least 50 votes to be placed on the board.