

July 19, 2021

The following is from lifetime club member Bobby Petersen as he remembered the great event.

My memory isn't what it used to be. But here is what I can remember about the Corvette Plate. I was having lunch with my good friend Rex Green from the Department of Motor Vehicles. He is also a "car guy" and we were discussing cars and Corvettes in particular. I said: "wouldn't it be cool if we could have a Corvette Specialty Plate". Rex responded that he thought it could be done. Rex Green was instrumental in walking me through what needed to happen to make the Corvette Plate a reality. One of the main elements was that I wanted the proceeds from the plate to go to children's charities. Rex felt that that might be the key to getting the plate approved. I met with Del Bunce who I think was the Club President at the time and he was very excited. I think Del asked Jim Ball to help and that is when things really took off! Jim worked tirelessly to get the plate done. He even designed it. Surprisingly, we had problems with General Motors to get permission to use the Corvette logo. Del had lots of connections in Bowling Green from his time at the Corvette Museum. He and Jim were eventually able to make a deal with GM to use the Corvette logo on the plate.

Next there was a lot of work behind the scenes with club members contacting their legislators and convincing them that this was a good idea. Many Club members participated. Frank Murray and Floyd and Linda Sager, Don Tanner and others were always available to show support when we needed it. We had to go before the legislature to testify twice, once for the Senate and again for the House Transportation Committees. This was tough because many of the legislators at this time had gone on record as not wanting any more specialty plates.

We had another ally in Governor Kempthorne. He was a Corvette enthusiast and had attended Vette Fest at least a couple of times. Many of our members got to know him personally. Still the Corvette plate was touch and go. Eventually our plan to give the money raised to children's charities in Idaho carried the day! Senate Bill 1442 Passed and was signed into Law by Governor Dirk Kempthorn on March 22, 2002.

It may have been my idea but the reality of the Corvette Plate was truly a team effort. It never would have happened without Jim Ball, Del Bunce and many other club members working so hard!

The Idaho Corvette specialty license plate became official on Friday, March 22, 2002. Senate Bill 1442 was signed at 10:30 am by Governor Dirk Kempthorne.