



## MINUTES

SEK Museum Alliance Meeting

April 9, 2022

9:00 am – Noon

Host: Emmett Kelly Museum, 204 E. Main St, Sedan

Meeting held at: First Christian Church, 204 N. Chautauqua St., Sedan, KS 67361

Twenty-seven people attended the SEK Museum Alliance quarterly meeting in Sedan. SEK Alliance Board President Ray Rotheb opened the meeting with welcomes and introductions.

Ray shared a series of announcements and updates:

- The SEK Museum Alliance rack cards have arrived and were shared for distribution. Members were encouraged to share their museum brochures with each other and distribute them in their communities.
- Mugs are still available for purchase. The cost to the Alliance has been fully covered to date and we are in the profit zone now.
- Participants were encouraged to become members of the Alliance. To date we have not received as many memberships as had been anticipated.

Treasurer Jolene Born reported a balance of \$1,428.57 as of April 6, 2022. It was noted that the cost of the application for 501c3 status has increased dramatically, but she is still pursuing that. The treasurer's report was accepted as presented by consensus.

Communications chair, Gina McBride, reviewed the Alliance website, highlighting the organization's documents posted to the site, including general and board meeting minutes, applications to host future meetings, and other links. She presented a survey of proposed educational programs for participants to rank. The board will use this input to determine next year's meetings.

Secretary Leanne Githens presented information on the Big Kansas Road Trip coming to SEK May 5 – 8. It is sponsored by the Kansas Sampler Foundation and will feature Borubon, Cherokee & Crawford counties. There is a nice guidebook available online and in select locations, and Leanne reviewed several features that could be adapted for museums to include in their Day Trips.

Carol Staton, 2022 Project Chair, presented a recap of the project: "Day Trippin' Driving Tours – SEK Museums & More". Progress updates were provided by several museums and Gina reminded participants to share their information for her to post to the website and FaceBook page.

Museum Successes and Challenges in the last 3 months were shared. There is much to celebrate going on in SEK museums, and many ways we can support each other.

The program, "Digging in the Morgue – A News Writer's Perspective", was presented by Andy Taylor, editor of the Montgomery County Chronicle. He reviewed the best ways to conduct successful searches on Newspapers.com, the wealth of information available from that site and nine others, and suggestions for interpreting the information we find.

Local history was presented by Rosie Sweaney with the Emmett Kelly Museum in Sedan. Emmett Kelly, born in 1898, was both an artist and a clown, inhabiting the persona of "Weary Willie".

Final remarks by Ray included:

- The next Alliance general meeting will take place September 10 at a location to be determined. The educational portion of the meeting will be Kelli Orender with TravelKS.
- Future meeting dates are: Sept. 10, 2022, Nov. 12, 2022, Feb. 11, 2023, and April 8, 2023
- Attendees were encouraged to pick up an "Application to Host a General Meeting" form, as well as the membership application.

Rosie Sweaney announced lunch options in Sedan, and that the museum would be open for tours in the afternoon.

Respectfully submitted,

Leanne Githens, Board Secretary