



Mission Statement

The Mission of the SEK Museum Alliance is to work together to support the museums of Southeast Kansas through promoting their events and activities, sharing resources, and providing learning opportunities to advance our unique histories.

SEK Museum Alliance Board President

Ray Rothgeb, Independence Museum and Arts Center, Independence

Secretary

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E. Region VP

Carol Staton, Historical Cherryvale Museum, Cherryvale

W. Region VP

Marcia Taylor, Howard Benson Museums, Howard

Member

Ed Born, Osage Mission – Neosho Co. Museum, St. Paul

Contact us at:

sekmuseums@gmail.com

SEK Museum Alliance Newsletter

Spring 2022 Vol. 2, Issue 1

Keeping you informed about all things museum in Southeast Kansas

What's New?!

Mark Your Calendars! – April 9

Do you currently use newspapers for historical research? Travel to one of our southern counties to learn about digging into the rich resources that newspapers hold.



Meeting details:

Date/Time – April 9, 8:30 AM registration, meeting begins promptly at 9 AM – NOON

Location – First Christian Church, 204 N Chautauqua St., Sedan, KS. Meeting hosted by the Emmett Kelly Museum, 204 E Main St., Sedan

***Educational Program:** "Digging in the Morgue – A News Writer's Perspective" presented by Andy Taylor, editor of The Montgomery County Chronicle University of Kansas with a

*** The 2022 SEK Museum Alliance Project, Day Trippin' Driving Tours,** will be discussed. You will have an opportunity to share your progress in planning your tours, and seek advice and support.

*** A lunch** will be available for a small donation

*** SEKMA coffee mugs** will be available to purchase for yourself or for your museum to sell for profit

***Members with rack cards** may bring two-hundred rack cards (pkgs of 25) to the meeting for distribution

**** Attendees of this meeting will be encouraged to pay dues at the meeting, or prior to it. See the article below.**

PLEASE RSVP on the website, <https://www.sekmuseums.org/>

Dues Structure in Place

A group of museum employees, volunteers, and history buffs first met in Fredonia in March, 23, 2019 to determine interest in forming an organization to support each other and work together for a common goal. This meeting would come to be known as the first meeting of the SEK Museum Alliance. From its inception, the question of collecting dues for formal membership has been discussed.



The purpose of collecting dues is to be able to promote SEK museums, provide education for museums through programs, and establish 501(c)3 status for the pursuing of grant funding.

To date, some of our expenses have included: website hosting, publicity in KS Living Magazine, postage, membership in SEKTR, and purchase of rack cards advertising all SEK Museums. We are in the process of applying for 501(c)3 status and it is notable that the fee has nearly doubled recently to over \$600.

At the February 12 Alliance meeting in Chanute, a dues structure was approved by those in attendance.

So how much are they, and what do I get for my dues payment?? See the next page for the answers!

Dues Benefit All Museums!

Southeast Kansas Museum Alliance Membership Southeast Kansas Museum Alliance (SEK MA) offers Individual, Institutional, and Business/Industry memberships. Paid membership supports the viability and sustainability of the SEK MA. Members represent a range of museums and organizations, professionals, and museum operators in a 15-county region of Southeast Kansas. The SEK MA is dedicated to nurturing collaboration among museums, supporting museums by promoting their events and activities, sharing resources, and providing learning opportunities that advance the unique histories of the region.

Annual Membership Fees:

Institutional:

- Annual budget less than \$10,000: \$25.00
- Annual budget greater than \$10,000: \$50.00
- Business/Industry: \$100.00

Individual: \$20.00



Benefits:

All Members

- are invited to attend SEK MA general meetings (4 to 5 meetings per year).
- can obtain mailing lists of all members.
- are able to interact with colleagues throughout the region through the general meetings and by getting involved.
- are given practical and valuable tools for managing exhibits.
- are presented best practices in the industry.

Museum members

- are eligible to participate in special projects (Passport, Day Trips, etc.).
- are included in regional marketing and promotional activities (Rack Cards, etc.).
- are eligible to vote on SEK MA business, etc.
- are eligible to vote on SEK MA board members
- are represented in Southeast Kansas Tourism region via SEK MA's membership.
- are able to promote museums and activities on the SEK MA Facebook page.
- are able to list employment opportunities on the SEK MA Facebook page.

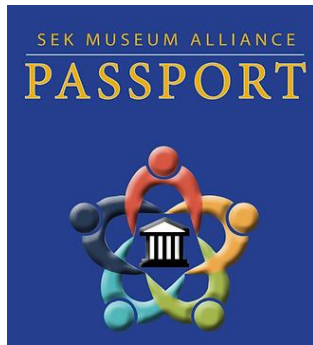
Business/Industry members

- gain the satisfaction of supporting SEK Museum and SEK tourism.
- are recognized at general meetings.
- are promoted as an SEK Museums supporter on the SEK MA Facebook page.
- have name listed in SEK MA press releases and at general meetings.



Membership is for the calendar year. To join SEK Museum Alliance, complete the SEK MUSEUM ALLIANCE APPLICATION, scan and send the form to SEKMuseums@gmail.com or mail it with your payment to: SEK Museum Alliance, P.O. Box 381, Independence, KS 67301.

Our 1st SEK Museum Alliance Project a Success! Passport Winners Announced!



The official Museum Passport Project contest came to a close at the end of 2021. Project chair Marcia Taylor reported that a total of 31 Passport Project entries were received, although we know that many more people participated. The Passport Project drawing took place in Fredonia January 21, conducted by Ray, Marcia, and Leanne, and verified by Wilson County Museum board member Emma Crites and Fredonia Public Librarian Chanda Ecton. Drawing winners are:

- Level 1 – 30 museums visited - \$300 – Summer Salzweidei
- Level 2 – 25 museums visited - \$250 – Patrick A. Black
- Level 3 – 20 museums visited - \$200 – Juanita J. Alloway
- Level 4 – 15 museums visited - \$150 – Phyllis Nelson
- Level 5 – 10 museums visited - \$100 – Jamie Ramsey Goodwin

Anecdotal comments indicate an overall increase in visits to museums during the project timeframe, as well as an enthusiastic response to the project itself by the public.

The \$300 Grand Prize winner, Summer Salzweidei from Iola, KS. She and her son Tayten visited all 34 museums.



"Day Trippin' Driving Tours – SEK Museums & More" – 2022 SEK Museum Alliance Project



We're so excited about our 2022 Project! *Day Trippin' Driving Tours* are a way for you to provide tourism value to your community by extending interest beyond the walls of your museum, as well as extending the time visitors spend in your community.

How is your planning coming along? Do you need some ideas and/or support to get your ideas off of paper and on the road? Join us at the April 9 meeting to share your progress and get encouragement from the group. Planning forms can be found on our website: <https://www.sekmuseums.org/projects>



Carol Staton with the Cherryvale Museum and others have valuable experience with this type of tour and can provide practical ideas. This is going to be fun!

Stay Connected and Up-To-Date!

<https://www.sekmuseums.org/>

Have you bookmarked our website? It communicates what our organization is all about. This is the place to look for the latest information about future meetings, ongoing projects, minutes from previous meetings, and much more.

Join us on Facebook at "SEK Museum Alliance" to share history, tips for museum operations, resources to share, etc.



Notices



Future Meeting Dates:

September 10, 2022

November 12, 2022

February 11, 2023

April 8, 2023

Programs and Locations TBA

Mug Sales Promotion: Profit for You, Profit for Us – Promotion for All!

Still available!



**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE
SEK MUSEUM ALLIANCE AND
BEING A VIBRANT PART OF THE
MUSEUM COMMUNITY!**



Planning Your Summer Vacations/Staycations? Learn more about SEK

SEK is an area of the state rich in natural resources, human resources, and just plain fun and interesting places to enjoy spending time. Some of you are looking forward to summer visitors and planning excursions to entertain your guests. While some families are planning trips out of state, others among us are looking to travel more locally this summer until fuel prices moderate. Which websites and sources do you go to for undiscovered treasures in the the SEK area? We have a few suggestions:

<https://www.travelks.com/places-to-visit/regions/southeast/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ discoversoutheastkansas/>

What does this have to do with museums? Well, these sites and others like them, combined with your *SEK Museums Alliance Passport, provide ways to plan excursions that benefit the tourism industry. And YES. We are part of that tourism industry. Let's promote each other, along with our entire area!

*While the Passport contest ended at the close of 2021, much of the information in the Passport is still accurate. Please continue to pass them out free to visitors, always with the suggestion that they call ahead or confirm the museum status on Facebook or their website.

