MINUTES - SEK Museum Alliance Board Meeting
June 17, 2025
Independence Historical Museum and Art Center, Independence, Ks.

Board members present: Leanne Githens, Jolene Born, Gina McBride, Ray Rothgeb, Gila LaRue, Carol Staton and Suzanne Shaffer.

President Leanne Githens called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Carol made the motion to accept the agenda and Suzanne seconded, motion carried. Minutes of the March 11th Board meeting was reviewed. Ray moved to approve the minutes. Gila seconded; motion passed.

**Finances** - Jolene gave the treasurer’s report. The checking account balance as of May 31, 2025 was $8,780.63. Jolene informed the board that she had set up a savings account and transferred $2,000 to the savings account. Gila moved to accept the treasurer’s report, Ray seconded. Motion carried.

**Membership –** Jolene reported that we had received 1 more membership for 2025 from Dalton Defenders Museum, and they had paid their 2026 dues as well. Total paid members are 59.

**SEKTR Report** – Ray reported that the SEKTR meeting was tomorrow at Pittsburg. He said SEKTR was working on travel programs for the area, trying to identify points of interest that could be combined into a tour.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Grants –** Suzanne presented a sample Alliance Grant application form for the Board to discuss.
	+ Should the SEKMA grant have a in-kind cost share? Most grants require a cost share of some type. Ray wanted to make our grant process as simple as possible. Board decided to require a 20% cost or in-kind share on the grant. As part of the grant papers a glossary will be attached explaining key concepts and terms. Wording was changed on the proposed grant to make it clearer.
	+ Payment method on the grant. Board decided to pay 80% up front at the award of the grant and 20% when the project has been completed and paper work completed.
	+ Board will make the selection of the winner, and will select the theme each year for the grant.
	+ A time line was developed for the grant process:
		- 1st of September – grant applications mailed out to museums
		- Grant Application will be presented at September Alliance Meeting, with examples of completed grant. – Perhaps due one with technology.
		- Applications will be due by October 15 – Board will select winner
		- Award announced at November meeting – and 80% paid out
		- Awardee will give an update presentation at April, 2026 meeting
		- Project Completion and Reporting at September, 2026 meeting
* **Be Present Award –** Suzanne presented a draft of the guidelines for the Be Present Award. Board clarified it was for participating Museum Members, not individual members.
* **Scholarship -** The Board will review the KMA scholarship application and pattern our application to agree with their application.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Meeting Survey Results -**Ray gave the results of the meeting date survey. The majority of the 19 museums responding preferred staying with the Monday meeting date. Based on the data, Ray moved and Suzanne seconded that the Alliance stay with Monday’s for future meeting dates.
* **2025-2026 Meeting Dates**

**September 8, 2025 Erie**

**November 10, 2025 Yates Center**

**February 9, 2026 Parsons**

**April 13, 2026 Fredonia**

Leanne will contact Lois Carlson at Erie and the Parsons representative to confirm their dates and places.

* **Potential topics for Next Year and Future Programs**
	+ **Pocket Sights** – Leanne reported the company had sold and it appeared prices had gone up significantly. She will try to get a representative to discuss how this could work for the SEK Alliance.
	+ **250th Celebration -** Ray gave an explanation of what Independence Museum is doing for the 250th and items were discussed, but no one had a clear vision of what this should look like. Gila, thought the

**B**ingo cards would be a good way to get museums involved. Ray suggested some type of writing contest for students, discussion was held on immigration and genealogy trees.

Topic was tabled till next meeting, but Board members were asked to think about ideas.

* + **NAGPRA –** it was decided to table further discussion. Leanne has provided website.
	+ **Grant Workshop Presentation – September Meeting -** Since we will be kicking off our Grant, it was decided that it would be a good topic to have a presentation on. Carol mentioned a KS Humanities grant writing program she had attended, and offered to get the speakers name and pursue it.
	+ **November Meeting -** Potential programs would be either something on the 250th or an Exhibit workshop.
	+ **Tech Moment –** Leanne mentioned that we might do a quick tech moment on the scanner CZUR. How it worked and the benefits.
* Follow Up Items – Ray will draft a letter to the museum regarding the meeting dates and report the survey results and send to Leanne.

Next Board Meeting will be August 14th at 9:00 at Independence, Suzanne will furnish refreshments.

**Adjournment**

* Ray moved to adjourn the meeting and Jolene seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.