

## MINUTES OF THE SEK MUSEUM ALLIANCE MEETING

Twenty-eight SEK Museum Alliance members met at the Crawford County Historical Museum in Pittsburg Saturday morning for their quarterly meeting. Nine baskets were presented by the following entities: Caney Valley Historical Society and Museum, Wilson County Historical Museum, Independence Historical Museum and Art Center, Independence Chamber of Commerce, The Cherryvale Historical Museum, The Crawford County Historical Museum, Galesburg Historical Society and Museum, and the Emmett Kelly Historical Museum which brought in \$171.00 as a fundraiser. The treasurer reported that the Alliance's balance is \$1107.38 after all expenses were met thus far. Expenses included the cost of the Passports and the ad in SEK Living magazine. One thousand of the balance will go toward the paying of the rewards for the Passport Project that will be paid after the contest closes at the end of December 2021. The 501c3 status is being worked on. The cost for this is expected to run between \$300-\$500.

President, Ray Rothgeb, asked for reports from members regarding the Passport survey and about how the Passports were being received at their museums. A physical survey had been returned by over 67% of the Alliance; those in presence at the meeting were very positive about the turn out and requests for Passports, as well as about the numbers that are visiting museums. Out of 3,000 ordered, 2775 have been distributed to museums and Chambers of Commerce to be given away. Rothgeb pointed out that the Passport gave physical proof of the value of the museums to their communities, giving museums ways to show that proof to tourism and commerce committees when requesting money for their operations.

Members signed a note for Marcia Taylor, Chairperson for the Passport Project, for her work, noting the excellence of the physical result and coordination of the Project. Three get-well cards were signed by the group for those having had surgery: Leanne Githens, Sylvia Augustine, and Jacque Borgeson-Zimmer. Two members, Terry Harley from Girard and Gina McBride from Girard and Caney, respectively, gave three-minute reports on their museums.

Angela Watts, Collection Manager from the Spencer Museum in Lawrence, shared a presentation entitled, "Rehousing Basics for Museums." Eagerly and enthusiastically received by Alliance members, Angela agreed to make the PowerPoint presentation available to members who request it to show to their staffs at their museums. Contact Ray Rothgeb for a digital copy of Angela Watts' presentation by emailing [rrothgeb62@gmail.com](mailto:rrothgeb62@gmail.com) or go to the Spencer Museum website [spencerart.ku.edu](http://spencerart.ku.edu) and communicate with Angela for the presentation. Angela's suggestions included examples of materials used to rehouse objects for protection from damage, supplies needed for doing this, some of the easiest things to do for protection, and resources needed. Ways to present exposure to light, pest pollutants, gravity issues, and pressure from handling were some of the damage possibilities. The use of arsenic present with taxidermy items was mentioned.

Materials used that are given in the PowerPoint presentation include the use of unbuffered tissue, polyester fiberfill, stockinette tubing, Ethafoam (a liner for boxes and shelves) twill tape, unbleached muslin, and Tyvek were among those mentioned. Gaylord was

one of the main vendors used by Angela Watts, but others include Conservation Center and another given in the PowerPoint presentation, important for their webinars.

The meeting adjourned with an invitation from Amanda Johnson, Executive Director and Curator of the Crawford County Historical Museum, to visit the holdings of the location used for today's Alliance meeting. Amanda gave a brief accounting of how the CCHM came into existence prior to releasing members to make the visit, suggesting also that the receptionist was waiting to validate their Passports.