



MINUTES - SEK Museum Alliance Board Meeting

August 14, 2025

Independence Historical Museum and Art Center, Independence, Ks.

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

President Leanne Githens called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Ray made the motion to accept the agenda and Carol seconded, motion carried. Minutes of the June 17th 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 July 31, 2025 was \$8,780.63. Savings account balance was \$2,000. Gina moved to accept the treasurer's report, Carol seconded. Motion carried. Discussion was held on moving the money from savings to a CD or Money Market. Ray moved, Carol seconded that we transfer the \$2,000 to either a CD or money market and let Jolene decide which is best. Motion carried. Gina reminded us that the debit card must have some activity periodically or it gets suspended.

Membership – Paid membership was 59. Jolene will send out by mail an invoice the first of November for 2026 dues. She mentioned Mulberry had a museum and she was wondering about reaching out to them. Jolene said she would talk to them about SEK Museum Alliance.

SEKTR Report – Ray reported that the SEKTR meeting was being held at Leroy, but he couldn't attend. Carol said she would attend. SEKTR was trying to determine ways to support the America 250 project and Route 66 100th Anniversary. Carol will give them an update on our decision to do a scavenger/bingo card with prizes.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Grants** — in the absence of Suzanne, Leann presented a grant application. Ray moved and Gila seconded to accept the grant application. Motion carried. Gina mentioned that we would do the application in jot form, she will check to see if you can put the information in and save and then go back to it. First reporting form will be given at the time the awardee is notified.
- **Be Present Award** – Winners will be announced in November
- **Conference Attendee Scholarship** – must be a first time attendee. Deadline for applying is September 19. Winner will be announced by September 25 by email.
- **September 8 Meeting** – will be held at Erie, Speaker will be Brandon West. He will give a presentation on grant writing. Move tech discussion to next meeting. Explanation of the Grant and Conference Attendee scholarship will be reviewed. Reminder that election of officers will be held in November. Open positions will be West – Gina McBride, At large Gila LaRue, East – Suzanne Shaffer. Leanne will check with Lois Carlson to be sure we are set for the meeting.
- **Meeting Survey Results** – No feedback was received to our announcement we would continue on Monday meetings.

- **2025-2026 Meeting Dates**

November 10, 2025

February 9, 2026

April 13, 2026

Yates Center

Parsons

Independence or Fredonia

- **Discussion of America 250th SEK Museum Alliance Project for 2026** – Gina suggested we create a theme for the America 250 relating to SEK. Such as “America 250 – Looking Back in SEK. “. The Logo could be the official America 250 Logo. The board continued discussion of how a scavenger hunt or bingo card could be used as the 2026 project for SEK Museum Alliance. The board discussed whether we would make our own bingo card or purchase premade cards and then have them inside a folder of some sort. Carol suggested that instead of requiring participants to send in their winning cards, we could give the prize money to the winners, when card was presented at the museum site. Ray moved we consider the Bingo/Scavenger Hunt project our 2026 SEK Alliance project. Carol will present the idea to the SEKTR board as our 2026 project.
- **Day Trip** – discussion was held on the request by Kansas Tourism to create Day Trips for our local areas. While it is a great idea and something that should be done, Leanne and the board agreed we did not have the resources to complete anything like this by 2026. We have various areas of interest by museum on our website and that will be where we put our emphasis for the next year.
- **Marketing Challenge** – Leanne suggested we should push for each museum to set a goal for more advertising for their museum. It could be more FB posts, Facebook Live, Articles in the paper, Signage, out reach programs. The board discussed whether we should have professional banners made or posters for the America 250 for each museum.

Potential topics for Next Year and Future Programs

- **250th Celebration** – Immigration into Kansas and genealogy trees.
- **November Meeting** - Potential programs would be either something on the 250th or an Exhibit workshop.
- **Tech Moment** –

Next Board Meeting will be October 16th at 9:00 at Independence, Suzanne will furnish refreshments.

Adjournment

- Jolene moved to adjourn the meeting and Carol seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.
- Suzanne will provide refreshments for the next board meeting.