



SEK Museum Alliance

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

Leanne Githens, Wilson County Historical Museum, Fredonia

Treasurer

Terri Harley, Girard History Museum, Girard

Communications Chair

Gina McBride, Historical Society & Museum, Caney

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

W. Region VP

Carol Staton, Historical Cherryvale Museum, Cherryvale

Member

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

Contact us at:

sekmuseums@gmail.com

SEK Museum Alliance Newsletter

Spring 2021 Vol. 1, Issue 1

Keeping you informed about all things museum in Southeast Kansas

What's New?!

Mark Your Calendars!



The next general meeting will be held **Saturday, June 12, in Pittsburg, hosted by the Crawford County Museum.** COVID protocols will be in place as much as is possible.

The program will be on preservation techniques on a squeaky-tight budget (which most of us have)! Angela Watts, Collection Manager for KU's Spencer Museum of Art is the presenter. More information will be out prior to the meeting.



Please plan to attend. We want to hear how the Passport Project is working in your area!

Note – Meetings notes are emailed to all on the contact list, so if you can't attend, you won't miss out on what's happening!

Basket, Basket, Who's Got a Basket??



Are you feeling lucky! At our June 12 general meeting, you will have an opportunity to purchase chances on gift baskets. If you and/or your museum would like to provide a basket (minimum value of \$25), please contact organizer Carol Staton (cstaton58@yahoo.com). Tickets will be \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

The proceeds from this fundraiser will support the application for 501 (c)(3) status, necessary for grant applications.



Passport Project – FREE to the Public now!

Look what has been accomplished in a pandemic year! Despite all of the challenges of 2020, the Alliance has successfully taken a huge step towards fulfilling its mission of working together to promote SEK museums. The official Passport Project began January 2, 2021 and will end December 31, 2021. At that time submissions will be collected and the drawing held for the prize monies.



How it works:

- Passports are FREE to the public and may be picked up at one of the 34 participating museums and several Chambers of Commerce
- Visit as many museums as possible and get your passport stamped
- At the end of the year send in your Verification form in one of three ways: - take a photo of the form and email it to marcia.impressive@gmail.com, or mail it to PO Box 1241, Howard, KS, or drop it by the nearest participating museum.
- A drawing will be held in several categories for a total of \$1,000 in prize monies.

Participating Museum's responsibility:

- Read the instruction sheet you received!
- Prominently display and promote the Passports
- Stamp the visitor's passport
- Record the visitor's info on the Museum Passport Data Sheet
- At the end of each quarter, complete the Marketing Assessment form that will be emailed to you. The more data we collect, the better we can plan for future Alliance projects! We hope to prepare a presentation for a future Kansas Museum Association Conference.

Local Promotion Ideas:

Are you looking for suggestions for promoting the Passport Project? Here are a few you may not have thought of:

- Presentations to Chambers of Commerce
- Newspaper display ads
- Flyers posted locally
- Radio ads
- Presentations to City and County Commissioners
- Presentations to Civic Organizations
- Frequent Social Media Posts



Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!



This project would not have been accomplished without the diligent work of Marcia Taylor of the Howard Benson Museums. She collected much information, made lots of contacts, and worked cooperatively with the Alliance Board and our printer and designer to make this happen.

Whitney B. Powell with the Independence Community College FabLab was instrumental in the design work of the Passport.



Joanne Smith, editor of Southeast Kansas Living Magazine was an invaluable help in accomplishing a fantastic printed Passport.

THANK YOU to these people who gave of their time and talents to support this project and SEK Museums!

All About the Alliance

History of the Alliance

How did we get started? I'm glad you asked! In the fall of 2018, the KMA Conference was held in Independence. One of the presentations several of us attended was on the activities of the coalition of northwest KS museums, and the benefits they were gaining. That was the spark! In March, 2019, a meeting to assess SEK area interest in forming such a museum group for the purpose of mutual cooperation and promotion was held in Fredonia, hosted by the Wilson County Historical Society & Museum. The next meeting was held in June of that year, hosted by Ray Rothgeb of the Independence Historical Museum and Arts Center. What followed was the organizational work of determining our purpose, name, governance, meeting frequency and details, board structure, and general membership. At the Sept. 21, 2019 meeting, the present organizational guidelines were adopted.



Board of Directors - Seven members strong!



The board is comprised of 3 members each from the East Region and the West Region, and one at-large member. The East Region consists of all museums east of 169 Highway, and the West Region consists of all museums along and west of 169 Highway. This division provides for the most equal number of museums in each region. The terms of office are 1 year and there are no term limits. Elections are to be held each fall, but due to COVID, the current members have agreed to serve until fall 2021. The Board has continued to meet during this past year, and has worked diligently on the PASSPORT Project.

General Membership in the Alliance

- Membership is open to all institutions in the 15-county region as defined by the KS Convention and Visitors Bureau.
- Meetings are open to all people interested in promoting museums, historical information and preservation, and tourism in SEK.
- Representative *voting* privileges: one institution = one vote for election of board members and any other issues to be voted on by the membership at large
- At this time there are no dues. Simply attend meetings and get on the contact list.



General Meeting Formats



COVID has certainly upended many plans in the last year! The Alliance had hoped to have 4 general meetings each year, on the second Saturday each September, November, February, and April.

The locations of the meetings alternates between East and West regions, and museums volunteer to host.



Each general meeting includes these components:

- Welcome and mixer, brief Business portion
- Project or Committee reports
- Educational presentation
- Local museum presentation & tour

If you are interested in hosting a general meeting in the future, please contact us for further information. You won't have to do it all!

Responsibilities of the host:

- Send snail mail invites from a provided contact list and collect reservations
- Provide drinks/light refreshments for the welcome and break
- Present a short (30 minutes or less) program on a topic of local interest
- Plan for your museum to be toured after lunch
- Provide a lunch option – It is up to the host to determine. It could be “brown bag”, a provided list of local restaurants, etc. The host is not expected to provide a meal for attendees.

Responsibilities of the board:

- Plan the agenda and conduct the meeting
- Provide the sign-in sheet, printed agenda, and any other paperwork necessary
- Plan for and provide the Educational Program

Notices

How to support and promote your museum and the Alliance

- Promote the Alliance by word-of-mouth
- Use social media frequently to let the public know about the treasures in your museum, your planned new exhibits and activities, and how your museum is an important part of bringing tourism dollars to your community and SEK.
- Use social media to promote the Passport Project and the SEK Museum Alliance
- \$\$\$ Donations to support the Alliance and make future project possible. These donations may be sent to: Terri Harley, Alliance Board Treasurer, c/o Girard History Museum, PO Box 132, Girard, KS 66743



Museum resources

Quick Reference Resources for Historical Societies & Museums

1. **Gaylord Archival**, provides archival supplies for preserving and displaying archival and museum objects. <https://www.gaylord.com/>
2. **Hollinger Metal Edge**, provides archival supplies to help with the proper preservation and conservation of archival and museum objects. <https://www.hollingermetaledge.com/>
3. **Kansas Historical Society**, is an excellent resource for grants related to preserving and maintaining historic sites and buildings. It is also a great resource for information regarding preservation techniques. <https://www.kshs.org/p/grants/14613>
4. **Kansas Museum Association**, is an excellent resource for finding additional resources pertaining to collections care, preservation, and even grants specifically related to the state of Kansas. <http://ksmuseums.org/resources/offsite-links/>
5. **National Park Service**, is an excellent resource for the preservation of historical buildings and museum collections. There are two different links both maintained by the NPS the first one is related to preservation of historical buildings/sites: <https://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve.htm>. The second is related to the conservation of objects in a museum's collections: https://www.nps.gov/museum/publications/conservation/cons_toc.html.
6. **The Henry Ford**, is an excellent resource for the care, storage, and handling of artifacts. <https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-resources/caring-for-artifacts>
7. **American Institute for Conservation (AIC) Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC)**, is an excellent resource for best practices and current standards of collections care for museums and archival institutions. <https://www.culturalheritage.org/about-conservation/caring-for-your-treasures>
8. **Humanities Kansas**, is an excellent resource for a variety of grants for institutions related to the Humanities in the state of Kansas. <https://www.humanitieskansas.org/>

Thanks to Nicole Parker-Hardesty, Museum Curator of the Caney Valley Historical Society & Museum Complex for putting this list together!

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



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