**MINUTES SEK Museum Alliance Meeting**

**February 10, 2025**

**9:00 am – Noon**

**Host: Cherryvale Historical Museum**

**Cherryvale, Ks**

Forty-one people, representing 18 museums attended the SEK Museum Alliance quarterly meeting in Cherryvalel, Ks. SEK Alliance Board President Leanne Githens opened the meeting with a welcome and announcements.

Jolene Born gave the treasurer’s report. Received 2025 dues from 48 museums. We have $9,943.63 in our bank account. In addition to regular collection of dues, we had one corporate sponsor of $2,000 and the receipt of funds from our KS Tourism Grant of $3,640. Leanne explained the $2,000 received from the corporate sponsor is to be held in reserve for special funding needs. She explained that often when we apply for grants we have to have either matching funds, or wait to receive funds till the project is completed such as the case with the Freedom Frontier Grant and the Ks. Tourism Grant. In 2024, our bank account would not cover necessary expenses to complete the video project, so a board member loaned money to SEK Alliance to pay bills till the funds came in. This is why the funds will be held in reserve and not used in normal operations.

Leanne then presented the 2025 budget. The budget contains a line item for the $2,000 Designated Reserve fund and a $3,000 line item for Grant Opportunities ( Reimburseable Grants) in addition to the normal operating expenses. Also included in the budget:

1. Scholarship/Grant to Museum to attend KMA – 1st time attendee application Aug-Sept
2. Be Present Award – museums attending 3 of the 4 Quarterly Meetings will be placed in

a drawing for one of 3 - $100 awards to be used for museum related projects.

1. Budget of $750 to be awarded as grants to museums for preservation or technology

Projects.

Leanne asked for those interested on serving on a grant committee to let her know. These people would be responsible for reviewing applications and awarding the grants.

Leanne presented the following discussion topics that came out at KMA in November

**NAGPRA – Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act** – this was discussed extensively at KMA in November. Native American Artifacts in museums custody may need to be sent back to the tribes. This topic will be discussed as a followup in future meetings.

**2026 FIFA World Cup – in Kansas City -** It is expected that towns within a 90 mile radius of Kansas City will see visitors looking for rooms, entertainment, and historical stories.

**2026 – 250th Anniversary –** Museums need to start thinking about programs and events they could present or prepare for the 250th Anniversary – partnering with the schools.

**Pocket Sights** – an app on your phone that is used for walking tours. Annual fee of $500, but SEK Museum Alliance will look into the process to see if several museums could use the same annual fee and develop walking tours in their town. The walking tours use a google map and allows ten stops to be set up with photos and descriptions to develop a map for the walking tours.

Gina McBride gave the communication report. She reminded members to be sure all addresses and emails were up to date. If you are new to the SEK Museum Alliance all of our previous meeting programs can be found on the SEK Museum Alliance Website. She also reminded everyone about the Event Sheet and Calendar. The Calender is blank for events, get your events to her so she can get them on the calendar. Calendar is open to the public for viewing. Be sure someone in your museum is reading the emails from SEK Museum Alliance.

Ray Rothgeb gave a quick update on the Quarterly responses for the Passport Project. You can now turn in your information on the SEK Museum Alliance website. He stressed that even if your not open in the quarter be sure to enter your information. He had 59% of the museums turn in data for the 3rd quarter and 31% of the museums turn in data for the 4th Quarter. We will continue to collect the data in 2025 as it is good information for future grants. Ray had passports at the meeting for museums wanting more.

**Take the Challenge** – As an encouragement for the Smart Goal project, Leanne asked each table to answer a set of designated questions on how your museum was doing on the Smart Goal challenge. Each group then gave feedback on the questions.

Carol Staton went through museum success and challenges.

Our program was “Building Museum Exhibits from the Ground Up” by Jill Warford. Jill was in charge of the Gordon Parks museum in Fort Scott, KS. and she detailed the process they went through in developing the museum. Gordon Parks had gifted the museum 30 photographs, some personal affects, and awards. They hired a KC firm to develop an exhibit design at a cost of $35,000. To use this firm to complete the project the budget would have been $800,000. But using their design they were able to complete the museum for far less.

She showed what the plan had proposed and what the actual end result was. Per Jill, “the eveolution of a museum changes as you go along. You determine things you need and things you don’t need.”

They use Pittcraft in Pittsburg for the large printing of wall pictures, and the time line. She suggested that for any exhibit you need to plan it out – determine what to include and what not to.

**Member Museum Presentation**

Lisa Brookover – Coffeyville Aviation Museum gave a report on their museum. She gave a brief talk on the museum and its location and contents. She talked about the 2024 programs they had done – WASP & Tuskegee Airmen program and Tuskegee airplane and the NASA program. She told about upcoming 2025 programs

Carol Staton – gave a report on the Cherryvale Historical Museum. The museum had moved into this location in May of 2024 and she showed slides of the move and described the process of setting up the new museum. She discussed the Storyboards made for the new museum and encouraged members to reach out the Independence Community College FAB lab for assistance with printing.

Next metting will be April 14 at Iola at the Iola Public Library

Cherryvale Museum provided soup and sandwiches.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Staton, Board Secretary