



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

Leanne Githens, Wilson County Historical Museum, Fredonia

Secretary

Carol Staton, Cherryvale Historical Museum, Cherryvale

Treasurer

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

Communications Chair

Gina McBride, Historical Society & Museum, Caney

E. Region VP

Gila LaRue – Chanute Historical Museum, Chanute

W. Region VP

Ray Rothgeb - Independence Historical Museum & Art Center, Independence

Member

Suzanne Shaffer, Woodson County Historical Museum

Contact us at:

sekmuseum@gmail.com

SEK Museum Alliance Newsletter

Fall, 2025 Vol. 5, Issue 2

Keeping you informed about all things "Museum" in Southeast Kansas

What's New?!

Mark Your Calendars! – Monday – November 10, 2025

Meeting details for 4th Quarter SEK Museum Alliance Meeting:

Date/Time –November 10, 2025 - 8:30 AM registration, meeting begins promptly at 9 AM – NOON

Location –Abernathy Room - 113 North State Street, Yates Center, KS

Hosted by: Woodson County Historical Museum

***Educational Program:** Round Table Discussion

Round Table – Developing a Marketing Plan for your Museum.

Round Table - SEK Alliance Meeting Programs

PLEASE RSVP on the website, <https://www.sekmuseums.org/>

Board Elections to be held at November Meeting

November is the designated month for elections to the SEK Museum Alliance Board of Directors. Just as a reminder, the Board consists of 3 members from the West Region (elected by West Region members), 3 members from the East Region (elected by East Region members), and 1 At-Large member (elected by all members).

Regional Board terms are 3-year terms, with no more than 1 Board member from each region up for election/re-election each year. **Suzanne Shaffer's position from the East Region, Gina McBride's position from the West Region and Gila LaRue At Large position are up for election/re-election this year.**

Nomination forms will be emailed and nominations will be accepted up until the time of voting. **Museums must be paid members to be eligible to vote on the board members.**

The Board officers for the coming year will be elected by the Board members following the November meeting.





Late registration: (October 1 – November 3) \$325

SEK Museum Alliance – 2026 Project Announcement

America 250 - Look for the Boards announcement of the 2026 project at the 4th Quarterly Alliance Meeting. The board is working on details for our 2026 project.

Stay Connected and Up-To-Date!



<https://www.sekmuseums.org/>

Have you bookmarked our website? It communicates what our organization is all about. The website contains the latest information about future meetings, ongoing projects, minutes from previous meetings, and much more.

Join us on Facebook at “SEK Museum Alliance” to share history, tips for museum operations, resources to share, etc.

SEK Museum Alliance - Continue to Promote SEK Museums with our Video

To assist you in advertising your museum and other SEK Museums the board is providing a thumb drive containing the 2024 Video. The thumb drive will allow you to show the promotional video at Chamber meetings, organizational and club meetings. It can also be set up to play on a loop in your local museum. They can be picked up at the Quarterly Meeting in November.

SEK Museum Alliance – Quarterly Passport Report – 2025 Visitor Statistics

Third Quarter Reporting: Please be sure you have reported your 3rd quarter attendance numbers, as well as all previous 2025 quarters, and the number of passports stamped by your organization. To report your information – open the SEK Museum Alliance website. Select SEKMA Information from the TAB Line. From the drop down select Passport Information, then click the link on the page [SEK Museum Passport Report](#), or click [here](#). The JotForm is easy to use and will only take a minute to complete. You can also report the numbers via email sekmuseum@gmail.com. Every grant we write needs to have attendance data reported, so we need your help.

2025 Dues - Remember Dues Benefit All Museums!



Southeast Kansas Museum Alliance (SEK MA) offers Individual, Institutional, and Business/Industry memberships. Paid membership supports the viability and sustainability of the SEK MA. Members represent a range of museums and organizations, professionals, and museum operators in a 15-county region of Southeast Kansas. The SEK MA is dedicated to nurturing collaboration among museums, supporting museums by promoting their events and activities, sharing resources, and providing learning opportunities that advance the unique histories of the region. **Watch your mail, 2026 Membership Invoices will be mailed the first of November.**



Annual Membership Fees:

Institutional:

- Annual budget less than \$10,000: \$25.00
- Annual budget greater than \$10,000: \$50.00
- Business/Industry: \$100.00

Individual:

\$20.00



Notices



Future Meeting Dates:

February 9, 2026

Parsons

April 13, 2026

To Be Determined

Successes and Challenges!

From the feedback the board receives, one of the most beneficial elements of our general meetings is the Successes and Challenges sharing time.

As expected, there are recurring themes on the Challenges side – need more visitors, volunteers, funding, space, upkeep of aging buildings, security systems, cataloging/accession, operating costs etc., etc. While solutions are sometimes difficult to find, at a minimum, knowing that you are not the only museum struggling with a particular issue is a help.

The Success column is always encouraging and exciting! Despite the challenges, small and not-so-small museums are making things happen. Just a few include:

- **Parsons** –Received shelving from City Library, and working on genealogy files.
- **Caney** – Received a \$3,500 grant from Humanities Kansas for obituary digitization
- **Cherryvale** – Replaced all lighting in the museum and repaired/repainted stained glass window trim
 - o Completed Vietnam Oral History Interviews and the companion Vietnam Grant Exhibit
 - o Successful Humanities Ks Program and Breakfast at the Museum Program
- **Oswego** – Received a \$1,500 oral history grant and \$500 youth activities grant.
 - o Successful Veterans Ceremony with 100+ in attendance
- **Anderson County** – Successful Arthur Capper Birthday Event – 125+ in attendance
 - o Developed a Partnership with the Capper Foundation in Topeka
- **Osage Mission** – Completed construction of the Log Church and is ready for tours
- **Girard History Museum** – Painted walls and developed two new display – high school summer help
- **Woodson County** – Organized a successful Yates Center 150th Birthday on Labor Day Weekend
- **Galesburg**- New Board Member creating Storyboards, new displays – Finished a Cookbook for fundraiser
- **Allen County** – Successful Sunflower Summer Program – Summer Intern working on displays
- **Independence History Museum & Art Center** – Successful Quilt Show and Verdigris Valley Art Show
 - o Installation of new archival system
- **Wilson County Historical Society** – “Museum After Hours – good following and posting to YouTube Channel
 - o Barn Loft Completed and Displays being built
- **Galena** – New Banners and better signage – purchase new computer and printer
- **Chanute Art Gallery** – Re-opened in August following April vandalism.
- **Howard Benson** - Mounting Tablet Kiosk for Veteran Exhibit
 - o New Building on Schoolhouse Complex 30x80 to display antique tractor collection
- **Martin & Osa Johnson Safari** – New HVAC Project Underway – increased Community Engagement
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This sharing time at the general meetings provides resources to help you meet your challenges, or gives you an idea you hadn't thought about. Just another reason to join us at the meetings!