



MINUTES

SEK Museum Alliance Meeting

November 4, 2024

9:00 am – Noon

Host: Osage Mission Neosho County Museum
Chanute, Ks

Thirty-six people, representing 13 museums attended the SEK Museum Alliance quarterly meeting in St. Paul, Ks. SEK Alliance Board President Leanne Githens opened the meeting with a welcome and announcements.

She reminded everyone that the KMA Conference was November 6-8 at Fort Scott, Kansas. Ray Rothgeb explained that SEK Museum Alliance would have a table at KMA showcasing our three phase approach of video, passport and website. The video will run 1 of the 4 videos on a continuous loop.

Leanne reminded everyone we would have Board Nominations for the two open spots of Ray Rothgeb for the West and Carol Staton on the East. Nomination forms are on the sign in table if you want to nominate someone. Leanne thanked St. Paul for hosting the meeting.

Jolene gave the Treasurer's Report. Bank Balance was \$2,130.82. The Kansas Tourism grant of \$3,640 is a reimbursable grant, with the funds being received when the project is complete, and Leanne said she was working on the close out.

Membership Renewal Forms were handed out to all museums present. For those not present they will be mailed out. You can renew online on the Website. Membership Renewal Forms should be mailed to Jolene at the address on the form.

Communications report given by Gina. Gina provided instructions to the group on how to list your museum on Trip Advisor.

Passport Responses & Reporting – Ray reminded everyone to be sure and complete the Jot Form that will be emailed to the museum, showing how many visitors, passport stamped for the 4th quarter. The form can also be accessed on the SEK Museum website. Even if you were closed during the quarter, submit a zero so we have the data. This data is important as it helps us collect data for grants. Ray has contacted the non reporting museums, but he needs to be sure he has contact information. Ray shared the data for the first three quarters that had been reported.

Quarters	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Museums Reporting	48	41	25
Passports Stamped	437	785	22
Passport Visitors	531	1252	716
Total Visitors	10,843	32,052	12,671

Ray had passports at the meeting, if anyone needed more.

Take the Challenge – 2025 Project Introduction

Leanne unveiled the 2025 Project for the Alliance. For 2025 we would like to help museums maximize their potential by helping them set goals and working with them to hold them accountable to complete the projects they select. The tool can be used for museums to determine where they want to be. Use it as a framework to talk to your board.

She reviewed the worksheet that each museum could use to set 5 Smart goals – Specific – Measurable – Attainable – Relevant – Time Based. Members were asked to complete and bring back to the November 4th meeting. An example Leanne gave was:

- Specific – Increase Fundraising from \$ to \$\$
- Measurable – Raise More Money – How Much
- Attainable – Reasonable increase – nothing far fetched
- Relevant – Does the fund raiser pertain to the museum
- Time Based – Specify a specific date for completion

Examples of Goals might be – grant writing, programming, activities/games for young people, social media, print advertising, record keeping, files, etc.

Success and Challenges – Carol Staton read member success and challenges.

Board Elections – Terry Hartley from Girard Museum moved that Ray and Carol be elected as there were no other nominations. Lois Carlson seconded. Motion carried.

Education Program – Kate Sutter – Director of Programming for Freedom Frontier

Freedom Frontier is one of 62 heritage areas in the United States. It covers western Missouri and Eastern Kansas. It is a private non profit organization funded by the National Park Services and was established in 2006. Their mission is to promote: Settling the Western Frontier, Civil War, Enduring Struggle for Freedom. They currently have 200 partners. She gave a shout out to Allen County Museum, for sharing Freedom Frontier information regularly on their facebook page.

Their job is tourism and it is to get people to the partners site. They have given out 5,000 grants totaling over \$1 million in this Heritage area. Grants available – Field Trip Grants called “Bus on Us” pays \$250 to school districts to cover bus costs for a field trip. Educational Grants provides \$250 towards material, classes which relate to their themes for educators. Project grants up to \$3,000 for projects that deal with visitation and audience, and partner needs. Professional Development Grants up to \$500 for Staff or volunteer to receive training. One Time Only Grants – accessibility grant, America 250 grants, Interpretive.

To apply for grants you must have a SAM UEI, free to become a partner. Four quarterly partner meetings are held, which give members a chance for education and networking.

New maps are coming out with members location.

Member Museum Presentation

Terry Harley gave a brief talk on the Girard Museum. They established their non profit in 1989 to start the museum. She talked about the Heritage Trust Fund Grant they received to stablize their building, and showed pictures of some of their recent construction/remodel projects.

She talked about the “Little Blue Books’. Little Blue Books are a series of small staple-bound books published from 1919 through 1978 by the Haldeman-Julius Publishing Company of Girard, Kansas. They sold millions of these books which got reading out to the masses. She talked about the first airplane factory west of Mississippi which was in Girard – the “May Fly” was a bi-plane, but never flew.

Oswego shared a little about their history and museum. They started in 1963 with the Oswego Historical Society in a downtown building. In 2020 they had storm damage to the building and had to close. In 2022 they secured a new location and remodeled the building and opened in May of 2024. They purchased Dr. Bortman’s building for \$1. The do seasonal events, coloring pages for cildren “Color with Me”, local school visitations. Their plan is to expand outside with native praire grasses, and steel structures.

Next metting will be February 10 at Cherryvale Historical Museum.

St. Paul provided soup and sandwiches.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Staton, Board Secretary