



### 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

LeNoir Rowland, Mem-Erie Historical Museum, Erie

### Contact us at:

sekmuseum@gmail.com

# SEK Museum Alliance Newsletter

Summer 2024 Vol. 4, Issue 1

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

## What's New?!

### Mark Your Calendars! – Monday – September 9, 2024

#### Meeting details for 3rd Quarter SEK Museum Alliance Meeting:

**Date/Time** – September 9, 2024 - 8:30 AM registration, meeting begins promptly at 9 AM – NOON

**Location** – Chanute Memorial Building, Alliance Rm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 101 S. Lincoln. Hosted by: Chanute Historical Museum

**\*Educational Program:** Tai Edwards, PHD – Professor of History, Director, Kansas Studies Institute, Johnson County Community College will give a presentation regarding "Oral Histories". How to record Oral Histories from individuals in your local community. Dr. Edwards received her B.S from University of Kansas, a M.A. from George Mason University and her PHD from University of Kansas. Dr. Edwards research interest include North American colonization, Indigenous peoples. She has written several books and articles on the Osage Indians.




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

## Marketing Project – Passport – Video-Website Updates

Passport - The SEK Museum Alliance hit a home run with this years Passport. The Passport's are flying out the door at museums across Southeast Kansas. Be sure to complete your Passport Tracking Page each time you stamp a Passport. The next quarterly Passport Tracking Report is due in July. Information was emailed to your museum on the reporting process in June. Check your email and send your information in. This information is important for grant reporting.

Video – SEK Museum Alliance video produced by Prairie Nation Creative LLC has hit the Facebook media. What a wonderful short video highlighting the museums of Southeast Kansas. Be sure to share it on your Facebook page and Website. Gina McBride provide the instructions below on how to add it to your Facebook page.

- 1) Open FB page as administrator to Manage Page
- 2) Go to Meta Business Suite
- 3) Go to Content tab
- 4) Click on the blue "Create Post" tab in upper right
- 5) Under the text box, click on the link icon: 
- 6) In the Link preview box, paste the URL for the video and SAVE:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJhUog02poU>



A big shout out to the Marketing committee members for all the time spent on the passport and video project.

## KMA Conference – Nov. 6, 7, 8, 2024 – Plan to Attend



**Reconnect & Rediscover Kansas**  
**Kansas Museum Association Annual Conference**  
Thursday, November 6 – Friday, November 8, 2024

**Fort Scott, Kansas**

Mark your calendar and watch for upcoming reservation and conference information. Be sure to join the Kansas Museum community for dynamic sessions, focused networking, and inspiring speakers.

## Stay Connected and Up-To-Date!



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

Have you bookmarked our website? It communicates what our organization is all about. This is the place to look for 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.

## Notices



### Future Meeting Dates:

**Monday, November 4, 2024**

St. Paul – Osage Mission Neosho Co. Museum

**February 10, 2025**

Cherryvale – Cherryvale Historical Museum

## 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 – Started a genealogy group – they plan to assist with cataloging research books.
- Caney – Received a grant to replace Heat & Air. Successful Kansas Day School Tours
- Cherryvale – Moved into a new facility – the former First Baptist Church – Donor for paint and flooring.
- Chanute Art Gallery – New Secure Metal Back Door
- Oswego – Purchased a building and completing remodel with a reopening date of May 18 – Hired a curator
- Mound City – Restoration of 9 buildings have new volunteers
- Anderson County – Named Organization of the Year by Chamber of Commerce – Climate controlled museum
- Osage Mission – Working with School for a work day for the community
- Girard History Museum - Construction of an office at museum – new electrical panel
- Independence – Successful young artist exhibit, completed 3 phases of 4 phase \$500,000 project
- Woodson County – Received a Humanities Kansas Grant for a speaker on Osage Indian
- Howard Benson – New Website completed, Received Sunflower Summer Travel Kansas
- Oak Grove School – Created historical displays inside the school
- Wilson County – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Museum After Hour programs are successful
- Greenwood County – Celebrated 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary – Improvements made to Website
- Crawford County – Added workshops based on life style activities of our ancestors.
- And the list goes on!

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!