



# NEWS

WINTER 2016

from The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City

*Dedicated to the recognition, preservation and restoration of greater Kansas City's unique heritage.*

## 2015 OKC a success!

*Gala raised money to support our mission*

The 43rd annual Outstanding Kansas Citian Gala held on November 10 was a very exciting evening! It started with being notified that our honoree Kay Barnes was very ill and was not going to be able to attend. Her husband, Tom Van Dyke graciously accepted the award for her.

Both Steve Kraske, who worked as a political correspondent for the Kansas City Star when Kay was Mayor, and Steve Glorioso, Chief of Staff to the Mayor, stepped in to reminisce about her achievements. So the evening was enjoyed by all of the 243 people who attended.

The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City were honored that Frank Boal, KSHB Sportscaster who has served as our Master of Ceremonies twice, agreed to be our wonderful host for 2015.

This year we recognized the Ethnic Enrichment Commission and presented them one of our historical markers that listed the sixty Ethnic Member Groups on the Commission. The marker is now located near the entrance of Swope Park (see the dedication article). It was a festive night when the different ethnic groups began to arrive, dressed in beautiful custom outfits of their countries. The stage was very impressive with the flags of the countries represented by those in attendance.

This was a special year to honor the Ethnic Enrichment Commission because Carl DiCapo, our NSDKC 2015 President and co-founder of the Commission, was present, as well as former Kansas City Mayors Charles Wheeler and Richard Berkley, all of whom were instrumental in starting the Ethnic Enrichment Commission in 1976.

The Founder's Club membership was established this year by Carl DiCapo. Special recognition was given to each of our 17 new members with a plaque that included the name of their Kansas City established company.

The evening would not have been possible without the support of some very special people—our sponsors! Thanks to each of you for continuing to support The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City!

We had a great meal again this year from Aramark and wonderful music from the Chuck Eddy Band with Lori Tucker.

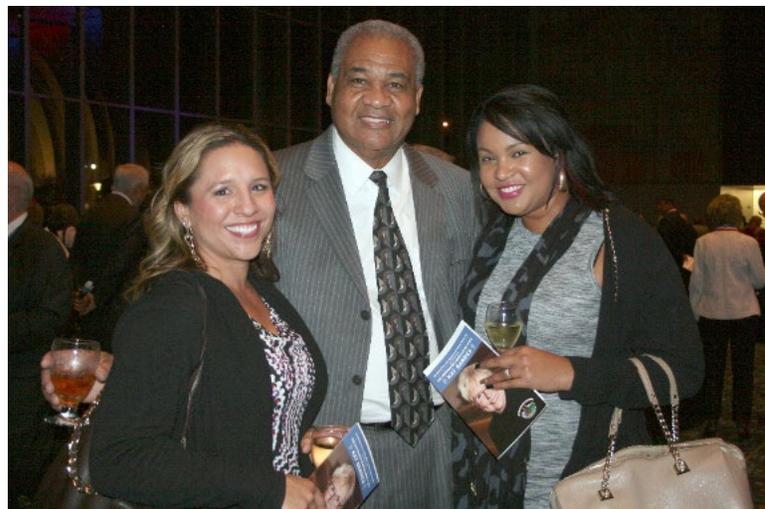
The auction committee did another great job after count-  
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Members of the Ethnic Enrichment Commission accept the marker at the Outstanding Kansas Citian Gala.



Kay Barnes' husband, Tom Van Dyke (right) accepts the OKC Award for Kay from John Dillingham (center) and Carl DiCapo (left).



# The President's Message

## To all our members:

For almost nine decades, our organization has provided the framework for fulfilling the mission of protecting and preserving the history of the Kansas City metropolitan area. However, it is the individual member who makes everything happen. Today's message is personal. It is directed at each member reading this letter.

Officers, thank you for your efforts in leading this great organization. Board Members, thank you for being in the trenches and fulfilling the NSDKC mission. Past Presidents, thank you for your guidance. OKC and Silent Auction Committee members, thank you for your heroic efforts in organizing this annual event. Members who participated in our Meet and Greets, thank you. Members who worked the NSDKC booth at the Ethnic Enrichment Festival, thank you. Members who supported our mission by attending the OKC event and silent auction, thank you. Members who attended the dedication of the markers at Harlem and Swope Park, thank you. Members who introduced their friends and associates to NSDKC as new members, thank you.

It has been a productive year, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as your president. My best wishes go to the new officers who will begin their duties on January 1.

Best wishes for the New Year,  
Carl DiCapo, President

P.S. About a month ago the Salvation Army's Holiday Food Committee, of which I have been a member since its founding, lost a primary donor. I sent a request to my personal email list, which includes many NSDKC members. You responded with contributions and in the week preceding Christmas, we sent boxes of food to 5,400 families in the Kansas City area. Rest assured that almost 24,000 Kansas Citians join me in thanking you for your generosity.

I am honored to be the President of The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City for 2016 and am looking forward to a fun and exciting year!

A recent meeting of the NSDKC leadership produced the following potential plans for 2016:

- National Museum of Toys and Miniatures
- Jackson County Art Museum
- Ben Ferrel Mansion in Platte City and McCormick's Distillery near Weston
- One of the Car Museums in the Kansas City area.
- Our much-anticipated Outstanding Kansas Citian Gala and Annual Membership Meeting in the fall, and the Holiday Brunch in December.
- Marker dedications and perhaps some other events as well.

Dates and details will be available soon in email blasts and newsletters. I would like everyone to consider asking one person to an event this year that might be interested in joining our organization. Let's make it a great year!

Sincerely,  
John Hess, Jr.  
2016 NSDKC President



2015 President Carl DiCapo



## OFFICERS & STAFF

John Hess, Jr.  
*President*

Diane Boos Pepper  
*1st Vice President*

Steve Noll  
*2nd Vice President*

Jim Flanagan  
*Treasurer*

John Dunnewind  
*Secretary*

Nancy Elder  
*Historian*

Carl DiCapo  
*Immediate Past President*

*A list of all committees and committee chairs is available at NSDKC.org*

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## MISSION

The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City, Inc. is dedicated to the historic preservation of the unique and rich heritage of the greater Kansas City metropolitan area, both in Missouri and Kansas, through advocacy, education and restoration. It also seeks to preserve and maintain archives of historical interest relating to the development of the Kansas City region and to recognize individuals who have resided therein and contributed to such development.

**OKC15** continued from page 1

less hours of meetings and collecting items. The auction raised more than \$5,000, which added to sponsorships and donations, will help continue our mission for the historic preservation of the rich heritage of the Greater Kansas City area. One of the many unique items was a window from the Muehlebach Hotel collected by Mike Burke. A special thank you to each and every one of you for being so dedicated to our cause.

And special thanks to our members and guests who attended. It was a great evening to socialize, renew old friendships, and create new ones.



The auction had lots of unusual items from one-of-a-kind bottles of wine to Royals souvenirs.



Diane Boos Pepper, Chair of the OKC with Carl DiCapo, NSDKC President 2015.



L to R: Ben Nachum, Israel; Oay Slaughter, Thailand; Milan Hansen, Norway



Left: Steve Kraske (right) interviews Steve Glorioso, former aid to Kay Barnes.



Former Kansas City Mayor Charlie Wheeler between Irma Arthur, St Lucia (left) and Debra Haynes, St. Lucia.

# Annual Holiday Brunch – great food, music & awards!

**H**eld at the Indian Hills Country Club, our Annual Holiday Brunch on December 12 was well-attended and enjoyed by over 94 members and guests!

A wonderful buffet lunch was followed by President Carl DiCapo introducing and thanking his Officers and Board of Directors.

Awards Chair Cherie Davis then came forward and presented several awards to NSDKC members for their outstanding achievements and service, as shown in the pictures below.

Carl presented 2016 President John Hess, Jr. who then briefly addressed the crowd and introduced the new Officers and Board members.

As usual, excellent music during the reception and luncheon period was provided by the Chuck Eddy Band and vocalist Lori Tucker. Closing music was presented by vocalist Jeffrey Hon and our own wonderful pianist Past President Dan Sturdevant.



Carl DiCapo (left) receives the 2015 President's Award and introduces our 2016 President John Hess, Jr. at right.



Holiday Brunch Attendees, past-president Dot Benner at right



Past President Ross Marshall (at right) receives the Lee I. Pickering Award of Excellence for outstanding service in a number of roles with NSDKC.



Peggy and Bob Miller received a Founders Membership from President Carl DiCapo for all of their help and support with photos and video of the OKC events the last five years..



Silent Auction Committee Chair Susan Prestia (at left) receives the Special Recognition Award for her years of leadership on the OKC Auction.

President Carl DiCapo receives the George E. Hicks Award for Perseverance, from Awards Chair Cherie Davis for his truly outstanding accomplishments on many fronts as our President



# Ethnic Enrichment Commission Marker Dedicated November 23

Our second marker dedication for 2015 was the Ethnic Enrichment Commission Historical Marker, which had been presented to the Commission as part of the Outstanding Kansas Citian event on November 10. Over 40 people attended on a sunny fall day, including several from the Commission.

The two-sided marker was placed in Swope Park near the Meyer Boulevard entrance and close to the Pavilion around which the spectacular Ethnic Enrichment Festival that attracts thousands of people, is held each August.

In 1976, Kansas City Mayor Charles Wheeler appointed a Mayor's Ethnic Enrichment Commission chaired by Carl DiCapo. Approximately 60 nations are represented today on the Commission.

Invaluable help was extended to our Historical Markers Committee by the Kansas City Parks Department including Melinda Marks, Heidi Downer and Director Mark McHenry.



Above (l-r) are Melinda Minks, Carl DiCapo, former Mayor Charles Wheeler, Carol Duncan (wife of co-founder John Duncan), and KC Parks Director Mark McHenry. Both Carl and Mark spoke at the dedication.



At the close of the dedication, many members of the Commission and NSDKC gathered around the marker. The lady in the wide-brimmed hat and pink dress is Rose Marie Mendez, Chair of the Commission and one of the speakers at the dedication.

# Annual Past Presidents Luncheon welcomes 2016 NSDKC President John Hess, Jr.

As customary, NSDKC Past Presidents gathered and extended a warm welcome to our incoming President John Hess, Jr. on November 2. The luncheon was held at the River Club. The group picture was taken in front of the spectacular Thomas Hart Benton “Trading at Westport Landing” which is near where the River Club is located.

Standing (left to right) are John Dillingham (2003), John Mura (1986), John Hess, Jr. (2016), Carl DiCapo (2015), Chuck Eddy (2013), Jim Bernard, Jr. (2004), and Gary Hicks (2010).

Seated are Whitney Kerr (NSDKC Board member and luncheon host), Dan Sturdevant (2009), Norm Besheer (2011), John Hess, Sr. (2002), Dan Creasy (2005), and Ross Marshall (2014).

This has been an important event for many years as NSDKC Past Presidents gather and offer help and encouragement to the new president for the coming year.



**NEW MEMBERS**  
Janice Henderson-Cohan  
Philip Cohan

**IN MEMORIAM**  
Bev Platt  
Bill Partin

(People) make history, and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.”  
—Harry S. Truman

# Harlem Marker Dedicated November 20

Some of Kansas City's early history is now displayed for the public on the Harlem Historical Marker dedicated November 20. Nearly 50 people attended this first marker dedication of 2015, even though it was a cool dry day - but not bad for a rainy week!

About two years ago, NSDKC member Charlie Broomfield suggested that our Historical Markers Committee consider erecting a marker in the Harlem area because very few people know about this early chapter of Kansas City history. Charlie was born and raised in this small community which is practically deserted now.

It took quite a bit of research, much of it done by Charlie, but we finally got it done and completed the text for the two-sided marker.

Additionally, two of his friends who also grew up in

Harlem, Robert Jones and Floyd Jones, became interested and the three of them shared the cost of the marker with NSDKC. Another friend, Jason Withington, was invaluable for all his help coordinating with Kansas City officials.

Harlem is located on the north bank of the Missouri River directly across from downtown Kansas City. It was first settled by German immigrants in the 1820s when the south bank was being settled by French immigrants. In 1838, fourteen men including John McCoy, who started Westport about five years before, bought the 257-acre Gabriel Prudhomme estate on the south bank and began the town of Kansas, which later became Kansas City.

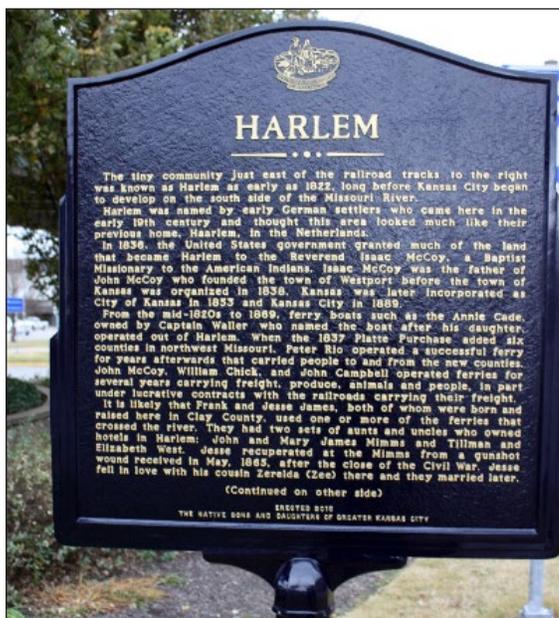
The location of the marker is on the north side of the Broadway Bridge in the roundabout adjacent to the Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Airport.



Historical Markers Committee Chair Ross Marshall addresses the crowd. President Carl DiCapo and Chuck Eddy are left center and former Kansas City Mayor Charles Wheeler is at right.



Above (l-r) are men who were born and raised in Harlem: Louis Grace, Art Homer, Charlie Broomfield, Mitchell Burch and Bob Jones.



Additional speakers were KC Mayor Pro Tem Scott Wagner and 4th District Councilwoman Jolie Justus