



NEWS

WINTER 2018

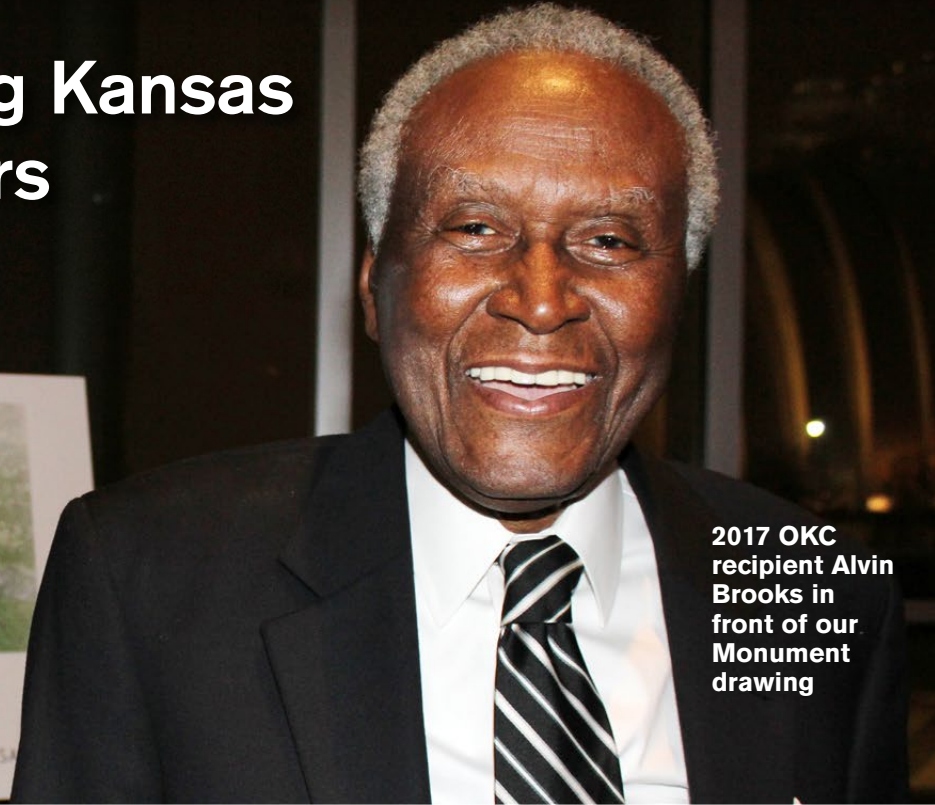
from The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City

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

2017 Outstanding Kansas Citian Gala honors Alvin Brooks



2017 OKC recipient Alvin Brooks in front of our Monument drawing



W

e do indeed have some Outstanding Kansas Citians, the most recent of which is Mr. Alvin Brooks, the 45th recipient of the OKC award made annually by NSDKC. The crystal award was presented by the Honorable Kay Barnes, the recipient of our 2015 OKC award.

The event was held on November 14, 2017 at the Grand Ballroom, Kansas City Convention Center, a spectacular place. This is an annual event to honor a person who has done outstanding work that benefits the Kansas City Community. Mr. Brooks has dedicated himself to reducing crime so Kansas City is a better place in which to live, work, and raise a family.

The event ceremonies were conducted by Frank Boal of KSHB TV, who has done a great job for us for many years.

Mr. Brooks was interviewed by Mr. Steve Kraske of KCUR Radio. He gave the audience insight to his years in law enforcement, on the Kansas City Council, as founder and



(l-r) Kay Barnes presents the OKC award to Alvin Brooks, plus Carl DiCapo and Whitney Kerr

director for the Ad-Hoc Committee Against Crime. And still, he continues to work tirelessly to improve our city.

Highlights of the evening were the silent auction consisting of gift certificates, Kansas City Chiefs wreath and basket, crystal items, original art works, World War I History Museum items, Kansas City Royals autographed ball and

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The President's Message

Dear members:

As 2017 slips away and we welcome 2018, it is my pleasure to begin serving as President of The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City. I am honored to be chosen for this role! Thank you for your support and I look forward to a new year highlighted by public events, our members only "Meet & Greet" outings and a continued effort to fulfill our mission: to preserve the unique and rich historical heritage of the Greater Kansas City metropolitan area.

Our 2018 calendar will be anchored by two incredibly important public events. The first will probably be scheduled in March when we all gather at Ilus Davis Park and dedicate The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City Monument. Located near the intersection of 10th Street and Oak, this high profile site is the perfect setting for this structure with a unique purpose: to highlight the growth and development of this unique City we call "home". The public is cordially invited to join this celebration. You will be notified soon of the exact date and time.

This monument began as a simple idea presented to NSDKC five years ago in the spring of 2013 by Mr. Carl DiCapo. Members can still participate by purchasing inscribed granite blocks to be set into the plaza's surface. Most importantly, write this date into your planner or appointment book, **IN BOLD LETTERS AND PERMANENT INK!** This will be a once in a lifetime experience.

While it seems like we just concluded honoring Mr. Alvin Brooks as the 2017 Outstanding Kansas Citian, planning has already begun for the 2018 OKC event. Sponsors are being solicited, auction items are needed and it is never too early to start the preparations. Look forward to another exciting event in mid-November 2018, as we again honor a worthy individual and organization.

In between these two events we hope to also schedule three or four member events. I am looking at a couple of ideas, but I would love to hear what YOU, our members, would like to see and do. Please call or e-mail me with your suggestions . . . soon!

I am excited about 2018 and hope you are too. Let's get rolling....

Sincerely,
Steve Noll
2018 NSDKC President



**2018 President
Steve Noll**



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1st Vice President

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2nd Vice President

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Diane Boos Pepper
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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.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Lane Smith, Carmen Sabates, Marsha K. Daley

MEMORIALS

**Tom Skates, James Daley, Arthur Stoup
Neal Raupp**



Message from the 2017 President

Dear members:

As our organization's 85th anniversary year comes to a close, we enthusiastically look forward to an exciting new year, a highlight of which will be the dedication of our new Monument at Ilus Davis Park this spring. I want to



**2017 President
Diane Boos
Pepper**

express my gratitude to everyone who supported me in my role as President in 2017. It was an extraordinary year and with a lot of dedicated people we have accomplished much!

We had several enjoyable Meet and Greets. We honored Alvin Brooks as our Outstanding Kansas Citian of the Year, presented two of our historical markers, and had a wonderful commemorative booklet published by our 85th Anniversary Committee and distributed at our annual Holiday Brunch at the Indian Hills Country Club. Above all, we had our Monument Groundbreaking ceremony and have seen the tower and granite paver inscriptions installed as its construction nears completion.

I am proud to be on the board of The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City and am eager to continue serving our membership and supporting Steve Noll as our new president. Steve has already shown his strong dedication to our organization through his many years of active involvement, including several years in key leadership roles.

Thank you for all the support you have given me during this past year and for your ongoing efforts to continue the NSDKC's mission of recognizing and preserving Kansas City's great history.

Sincerely,
Diane Boos Pepper
2017 NSDKC President

NSDKC 85th Anniversary booklet completed

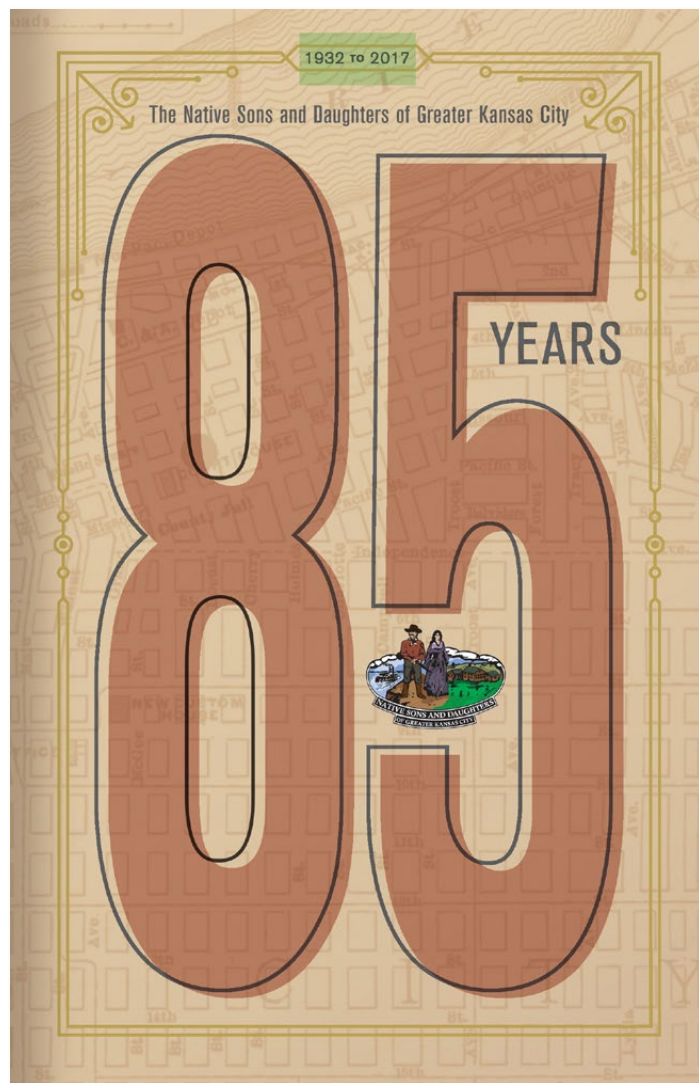
NSDKC, formed in 1932, was 85 years old in 2017! President Diane Pepper began to talk about an 85-year anniversary publication last spring. She formed a committee composed of herself as chair that included Gary Hicks, Dan Creasy and Ross Marshall and we conceived the idea of a multi-page 5½" x 8 ½" sized booklet, pictured below.

This was not the first time such an anniversary booklet has been published. NSDKC did one five years ago and The Native Sons of Kansas City, Missouri did three or four over the years before we changed our name in 2006.

The committee began to do research in our archives which are stored at the State Historical Society of Missouri at Newcomb Hall on the UMKC campus. There are many boxes of documents that we have deposited there over the years. We did not have time to look through everything, but we were able to find all we could handle before the publishing deadline.

The first batch of the 85th Anniversary booklets was printed just before the Annual Brunch and handed out to those attendees. It is 40 pages long, well-illustrated and attractive. Laurie Chipman of Chipman Design & Marketing did a good job on the design and layout and Henry Leonard of Marthabelle's Printing & Mailing printed and bound the book.

We are hoping to be able to publish some more, although the number, cost and timing has not been decided. But thanks Diane for your idea! Preserving and publishing the marvelous history of NSDKC that includes all of the very significant preservation projects, events, markers, educational and advocacy efforts, and our partnering with local private and public entities is a worthwhile endeavor. We need to keep doing it!





Historical marker presentation by Ross Marshall at left, to KCMCC President Rick Armstrong at far right



(l-r) President Diane Boos Pepper, Joe Vaughan, 2108 President-elect Steve Noll and wife Marianne

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poster, books, and many others.

A NSDKC historical marker for the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission was presented to their President Rick Armstrong. It will be installed at 14th and Baltimore in front of the President Hotel, the site of the original meeting of that organization. A marker dedication date will be announced soon.

Mark your calendars for the 2018 OKC Gala on November 13, 2018 when we honor another Outstanding Kansas Citian. You won't want to miss it!

Nancy Elder,
1st Vice President and
2017 NSDKC OKC Chair



Annual Past Presidents Luncheon welcomes 2018 NSDKC President Steve Noll

As has been our custom for many years, NSDKC Past Presidents gathered and extended a warm welcome, support and encouragement to our incoming President Steve Noll on November 27 at the River Club.

The group picture below was taken in front of the spectacular Thomas Hart Benton painting 'Trading at Westport Landing'. Westport Landing is located very close to the River Club.



Standing (left to right) are Ross Marshall (2014), Dan Sturdevant (2009), Dot Benner (2012), John Dillingham (2003), Ted Seligson (1989), Steve Noll (2018), Diane Boos Pepper (2017), Chuck Eddy (2013), John Hess, Jr. (2016), John Hess, Sr. (2002), and Carl DiCapo (2015). Seated (left to right) are Whitney Kerr (NSDKC Board member and luncheon host), Gary Hicks (2010), Norm Besheer (2011), Dan Creasy 2005), Joe Vaughan (1998), and Steve Goodman (1992).

Members feel holiday spirit at the Annual Holiday Brunch

The 2017 Holiday Brunch was well attended and was very enjoyable! Held at Indian Hills Country Club on Saturday, December 9, we delighted in a sumptuous meal, warm fellowship, excellent entertainment, reviewing our events of 2017, and participating in special recognitions of NSDKC leaders.

After the wonderful buffet lunch, President Diane Boos Pepper greeted everyone. She introduced and thanked the officers and members of the Board of Directors, and then reviewed the various events, activities and accomplishments of our organization in 2017.

Diane also chaired the 85th Anniversary Booklet Committee, who authored a splendid 40-page booklet of NSDKC history. Copies were available to attendees.

Awards Committee Chair Cherie Davis presented the following awards to NSDKC members:

George E. Hicks Award for Perseverance - Carl J. DiCapo

Lee I. Pickering Award for Excellence - Gary L. Hicks

Special Recognition Award - Ross Marshall

OKC Committee Chair Nancy Elder presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Overland Foresters volunteers who provided help for our OKC auction. Their leader Larry Kuhl accepted the award.

Diane introduced 2018 President-elect Steve Noll, who presented her with the 2017 President's Award. Steve briefly addressed the crowd, mentioned some of the plans for next year's events, and introduced the 2018 Officers and Board members.

We were entertained with some excellent music by the Chuck Eddy Band with vocalist Lori Tucker, who have shared their musical talents with us for many years. Our brunch was closed with our own Dan Sturdevant, and Millie Edwards, singing entertaining Christmas songs – what a delightful treat!



Steve and Marianne Noll



Above: (l-r) Diane's mother Cecelia Patton, Diane's fiancé Steve Pickman, and Diane Boos Pepper



Left: (l-r) Jeff and Cherie Davis, Dan and Sylvia Creasy, Louise Hicks, back Dan Sturdevant



Left: Seated are 2nd VP Dick Retrum, Carl and Sugie DiCapo. Standing at rear is Ray Elder, Past President Dot Benner and Sylvia Creasy



Bob Brown, Shirley Marshall, Gary Hicks and Ross Marshall



Above: Singers Millie Edwards and Dan Sturdevant. Standing is Dot Benner



Left: (l-r) Carol Retrum, Susie Hughes, Linda and Dave Dillon

R. T. Coles Jr. High School marker dedication

About 40 people attended the dedication on Saturday, October 14 at 1:00 at the Black Archives of Mid-America at 1722 E. 17th Terrace in Kansas City. Among the attendees were several from NSDKC plus our Outstanding Kansas Citian 2016 honoree Jackson County Executive Frank White and 2017 honoree Alvin Brooks. Also attending was Joanne Collins, former NSDKC Board member. It was great to have them.

Anthony Arnold, Board member of Black Archives of Mid-America, welcomed us and opened the ceremony. Robert Morgan gave the invocation.

Geri Sanders, Black Archives of Mid-America Archivist, introduced the speakers which were:

- Dr. Ray Doswell, Vice President and Curator of Negro Leagues Baseball Museum
- Michael Sweeney, State Historical Society of Missouri and former Black Archives Archivist
- NSDKC President Diane Pepper and NSDKC Markers Chair Ross Marshall
- Ron Walton, President Lincoln/R.T. Coles Alumni Class 1954

After the dedication ceremony, we received a guided tour of the Black Archives led by Geri Sanders. That facility is fairly new by reason of a grant by Ewing Marion Kauffman and is well-exhibited and informative.

A reception followed as well as an opportunity for the attendees to drive by the marker which is about three blocks away at 18th and Tracy.

It was a very nice event. One of the few times that we have had a dedication of a marker offsite. The threat of rain made it a good plan!

The group in top photo plus Gary Hicks and Ross Marshall installed the two-sided marker on September 15 on

(l-r) Dr. Ray Doswell, Ron Walton, (unknown), and Geri Sanders.



the northeast corner of 18th and Tracy where the original school was located until it was torn down in about 1963.

Both Ron and Geri called Ross Marshall in April about doing this marker. They wanted it done rather quickly and offered to raise the funds

for it. Who could say no to that!

Ron Walton and Geri Sanders supplied most of the text material and were very good partners to work with on this project and it was an enjoyable experience.

Thanks Ron and Geri!



It's not too late!

**Get your business or
name inscribed on the
Monument plaza!**

For information see
nsdkc.org/monument



**Looking west across Oak Street
toward downtown Kansas City**

Monument project is nearly complete!

The construction of the NSDKC Monument is within its final stages! Compliments to Project Chair Carl DiCapo for his leadership, and for fulfilling the task of raising the necessary funding to construct this Monument as a tribute to all those who have placed their hands upon the heritage of our Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area. The Monument is located on the west side of the 5.2 acre Ilus Davis Park (north of City Hall), at 10th and Oak in downtown Kansas City, MO.

Following our July 31 Groundbreaking Ceremony, BNIM Architects coordinated effectively with our project committee to finalize the monument's design so that construction could proceed. JE Dunn Construction's initial site preparation and mobilization was followed by construction of the star-shaped tower foundation. Included is a new stairway access off Oak Street into the Monument's new circular plaza area that features the inscribed granite pavers of our sponsors.

Compliments to Frisbee Monuments for its efforts to acquire the granite units from China, and to inscribe the notations of each sponsor! Dunn has now completed installation of the entire granite paved plaza area, and its appearance is stunning!

On the morning of December 16, the Monument's pre-cast concrete star-shaped units were delivered by Enterprise Products of Omaha, and immediately installed by the Dunn crew. The 16-ft concrete star tower gives the Monument a distinctive form, and the new in-ground lighting units around the tower's base provides distinctive nighttime enhancement to the Monument.

The narrative for each of the ten etched metal panels has been researched, composed, and reviewed. Red Quill Communications has developed the graphics required for each of the panels. The 66-inch-high panels are to be installed on the tower and are themed with primary attributes of the heritage of our greater Kansas City area. In addition to the manufacture of the metal panels and a metal cap to be placed on the top of the tower, Star Signs, Inc. of Lawrence, KS is manufacturing an information wayside exhibit noting significant sponsors and features of the Monument. Installation of all these items will be completed by the end of January.

Our dedication of the Monument will be this spring, probably in March. Stay tuned for date and time! See you at the NSDKC Monument Dedication!