



# NEWS

SPRING 2019

from The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City

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

## Three new *History at the Monument* Programs!



Following the Monument's dedication in 2018, a new program was inaugurated at the monument through the leadership of NSDKC Past President Carl DiCapo. This program entitled *History at the Monument* is an informal lecture series presented by various civic and business leaders, and historians. Presenters offer insight into the history of our area sites. The speakers are typically those who are at the top level of leadership in their businesses or organizations, such as Bob Kendrick (Negro Leagues Baseball Museum) and George Guastello (Union Station).

In addition to speakers, NSDKC has partnered with Kansas City Parks and Recreation and local businesses to provide grilled Italian sausages, Italian cookies, water, etc. It is an informal event conducted adjacent to the plaza area at the Monument and it is FREE!

As members of NSDKC, we value the history of our community. These events are an opportunity to reap a reward through your NSDKC membership and to learn some history from those who know it from the inside!

Parking is free downtown after 6:00 pm and there are plenty of spaces along Oak and Locust streets. Our 2018 *History at the Monument* programs were a great success.

The Monument Committee recently met and we will have three events this year at our NSDKC Monument to highlight our Founders Organization, special speakers, and new members. The Monument is located in Ilus Davis Park, between 10th & 11th Streets in Downtown Kansas City.

If you have not visited and studied this great NSDKC accomplishment, please plan to do so on May 22, July 24, and August 21. More details on each event will be coming to you in the future. Mark your calendars now.

### **It's time to order your NSDKC Monument Inscriptions!**

At the southeast corner of 10th & Oak, located within Ilus Davis Park just north of the KCMO City Hall stands Kansas City's newest monument! Dedicated April 19th, 2018 this monument was erected in tribute to the heritage of Greater Kansas City's 10-county region. The Monument recognizes

*MONUMENT continued on page 3*



# The President's Message

## Dear members:

Happy Spring to each of our members, your friends and prospective members of The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City. Our committees have been working to make this a very special year with some great activities and community service work.

Marsha Daley and her committee are planning several meet and greet events to encourage more members—we need them—and to introduce our organization to more people interested in history and the preservation of it. If you have any ideas of an event for her, please get in touch with her at [marshadaley@att.net](mailto:marshadaley@att.net). We want to involve more of our current and new members in order to stay in touch with the organization and each other.

Watch your email for dedication dates of our two newest markers, one for the American Royal in the West Bottoms and one for the Boy Scouts of America to be located at 39th & Gillham Road. These markers were the result of our close association with Mr. Cliff Illig, Outstanding Kansas Citian for 2018, and in memory of Mr. Neil Patterson, both involved in these organizations and many others.

The Monument Committee recently met and we will have three (3) events at our NSDKC monument to highlight our Founders Organization, special speakers, and new members. The monument is located in Ilus Davis Park, on Oak Street between 10th & 11th Streets, in Downtown Kansas City. With longer daylight, parking is free on the street after 6:00 pm.

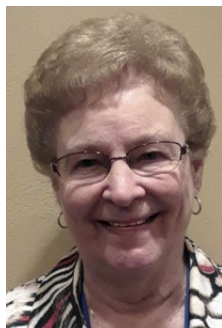
If you have not visited and studied this great NSDKC accomplishment, please plan to do so on May 22, August 21 or September 25. More details on each event will be coming to you in the future. Mark your calendars now.

We also want you to mark your calendar for this year's Outstanding Kansas Citian Gala on Wednesday, November 6. We will be honoring Mr. George Guastello, CEO of Union Station and prominent Kansas Citian. More details to come. Please get in touch with any of the Board Members, or specifically Linn Mills, Second Vice President, who is in charge of the OKC event.

So give her a shout. We are also gathering silent auction items.

If you have not visited Union Station for a while, plan to go and see their latest exhibit and take the grandchildren to Science City (new exhibits) to awaken special memories of the past about this building and its history.

Sincerely,  
Nancy L. Elder,  
2019 NSDKC President



**Nancy Elder**  
**2019 President**



## OFFICERS & STAFF

Nancy L. Elder  
*President*

Dick Retrum  
*1st Vice President*

Linn Mills  
*2nd Vice President*

Jim Flanagan  
*Treasurer*

Paul Christianson II  
*Secretary*

Ray Elder  
*Historian*

Steve Noll  
*Immediate Past President*

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

## Newsletter Production

Ross Marshall, *Editor*

Norman Besheer, *Proof Reader*

## Administrative Staff

Dr. Chuck Eddy  
*Business Manager*

Linda Dillon  
*Administration and IT*

## Contact Information

Phone: 816-363-5326

Email: [publications@nsdkc.org](mailto:publications@nsdkc.org)

**NSDKC.org**

8301 State Line Road, Suite 108,  
Kansas City, Missouri 64114

## 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!

Craig Woodward • Gayle Krigel

## Memorials

Nancy Baumgartner • Hugh Zimmer

# Historical Markers coming in 2019

The NSDKC Board of Directors approved proceeding ahead on the following markers at our January and March meetings:

1. Board of Trade marker, paid for by others. (Text work is in progress)
2. KC Fire Department marker, full expense covered by others. (text work is in progress)
3. Union Station marker, which is our OKC marker, always paid with our own funds. (Text work is beginning with some helpful people at Union Station). It needs to be ordered by July.
4. Steptoe Neighborhood marker requested by Whitney Kerr. He is chair of the Westport Today Board who has committed to cover the cost. Probably Whitney and I will prepare the text.
5. Garrison School Museum marker has been requested by our former Vice President Chris Sizemore. He asked me about it a couple of years ago. Now he has secured the full cost paid by the Clay County African American Legacy Inc, who owns the building. This 1911 school building is a replacement of the 1877 Garrison School building, and it is the only extant African American school in Clay County. It is listed on both the National and Local Register of Historic Places. Chris is working on the text.

The above five markers will be a full year! But it will work out very well.

Some months ago, we sent the 2012 Liberty Arsenal marker back to Sewah. It had been flaking off badly and Whitney Kerr (thanks, Whitney!) delivered it to Sewah in Marietta, Ohio for their refurbishing. Sewah covered the cost of refurbishing. It was delivered in February and Gary Hicks and I re-installed it on March 21.

We will plan to have two dedications, probably in April or early May, for the Boy Scouts of America marker and the American Royal marker which were presented at our OKC event in November. It was too cold to install and dedicate them then. You will be notified of the dates for the dedications of these two key historical markers.

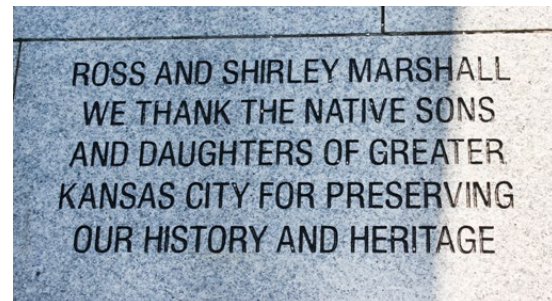
*Ross Marshall, Chair Historical Markers Committee*

*MONUMENT continued from page 1*

the various primary attributes which define our greater Kansas City area.

In the design process of the NSDKC Monument, the use of large granite pavers was selected for lasting distinction and correspondence with nearby granite surfacing of a reflecting pool located in Ilus Davis Park.

Springtime through fall in Kansas City are the best seasons to accommodate field inscription work at the Monument! Have you considered ordering an inscription in tribute to your parents, or early family settlers of our region? Or as a tribute for a special achievement? Or simply to note with your name an appreciation of the history and heritage of our greater metropolitan region. This is the season to get



**The paver picture illustrated above is an example of its appearance.**

your order placed for an inscription at the Monument.

Please see the NSDKC website ([www.nsdkc.org](http://www.nsdkc.org)) for cost and formatting guidelines for the purchase of your inscription. As you will see, the process is simple and competitively priced.

## Our Historical Markers website page getting revised

**A** much needed update of our markers website is now taking place.

Gary Hicks and Ross Marshall have been working for about a year and a half to update our website's plaques and markers information and pictures. The marker page is out of date and has several errors. We have spent hundreds of hours searching the NS and NSDKC archives and have completed new listings of all the markers.

We have taken hundreds of pictures to get the very best ones we can that will show a readable text and also a site picture that will give the reader a better idea of the marker's

location. Our Business Manager, Chuck Eddy now has all the information and photos and is in the process of inserting them onto our website.

This website update is not just for us, but for the public in general. An article from the Kansas City Star dated January 20, 1992 about our markers, says "These markers now stand sentinel to local history". All part of our mission to preserve our heritage!

The website listed these two markers, but no pictures were indicated. See them on page 4.

*MARKERS continued on page 4*



MARKERS continued from page 3



**Above: "The Old Graveyard" - "Mt. Memorial Cemetery" Old Lexington Cemetery, William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri, placed 2007**



**Santa Fe Trail plaque on Ward Parkway and Wornall Road, placed 1975, near Intercontinental Hotel**

Some of the new listings have explanatory information that will help the reader understand both the significance of each marker and any uncertainties that still exist.

We have 17 plaques and 36 upright markers still existing (including the Boy Scout and American Royal markers that will be in place soon), plus seven other kinds of markers that we helped to fund or that we gave some other kind of assistance to other organizations.

The current website says we have more than 100 in place, but it really is only 53 plaques and markers. Four of our early bronze plaques (no upright markers) have been stolen in previous years.

*Ross Marshall, Chair Historical Markers Committee*



## 2019 Outstanding Kansas Citian Gala November 6

We are pleased to announce that our Outstanding Kansas Citian for 2019 is Mr. George Guastello II. He has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Union Station Kansas City since December 31, 2009. He is responsible for the operation, management and development/growth of the Station and surrounding property it owns.

Guastello has steered many noteworthy accomplishments from association management to economic and community development. He is a highly respected area leader with over 30 years of demonstrated impact and success.

He is a native Kansas Citian, earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in Marketing and a Master's Degree in Business Administration in Finance from the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

Guastello's deep passion for Kansas City and its citizens has earned him numerous awards, including the 2015 Non-Profit Professional of the Year from Non-Profit Connect and inclusion in 435 Magazine's "KC's 50 Most Powerful People" listing.

**Join us on Wednesday Evening  
November 6, 2019**

**The Kay Barnes Grand Ballroom  
Kansas City Convention Center**

**Reception and silent auction 6 pm  
Dinner 7 pm, Program 8 pm.**



# Thirty-five attend Shawnee Indian Mission Meet and Greet

**T**hanks to the work of our Program Committee Chair Marsha Daley, our Meet and Greet event on Wednesday, April 3 went very well! About 35 people attended, enjoyed a nice table of light dinner refreshments and had time to visit.

We were greeted very warmly and introduced to the Mission by Site Coordinator/Director Jennifer Laughlin.

We then watched a 15-minute video in the east building which reviewed the history of the Mission and had a half-hour of discussion, questions, etc. monitored by Jennifer and NSDKC member John Forbes, who has been a volunteer at the Mission for 35 years. On our own, we toured the upper level and also the north building. They have great historical exhibits and interpretations throughout those two buildings.

After the 1830 Indian Removal Act, which called for eastern Indian tribes to be moved to west of the western border of Missouri, missions were established to minister to these displaced Native Americans. The boys were taught farming, wagon making, blacksmithing, etc. The girls were taught sewing, cooking, gardening, etc.

This Methodist Mission to the Shawnees was first established just north of the Wyandotte County line in 1829-1830 near where Turner is today by Methodist Missionary Thomas Johnson.

He moved his mission a mile or so south to its present location in 1839 to be on the Santa Fe Trail which was in its early days. It occupied about 2000 acres, running from near the State Line to Nall and from 47th Street (the Wyandotte County Line) to about 68th Street. The west building was built at that time.

The east building, which is the main museum building today, was built about 1841. The north building was built in 1845. The Shawnee Mission



(l-r) John Forbes, Marsha Daley and Jennifer Laughlin



Our attendees surrounded by historic exhibits

served as a manual training school for Native Americans, principally from the Shawnee and Delaware tribes.

Soon after, a Baptist Mission and a Quaker Mission was founded nearby.

Johnson County was named after Johnson. He closed the Mission in

1862 and was murdered at his front door on the Missouri side on January 2, 1865 by unknowns.

The State of Kansas bought the Mission site (12 acres) in 1927 and still owns it. It is operated now by the *SHAWNEE photos continued on page 6*



*SHAWNEE photos continued from page 5*

City of Fairway where it is located and is a designated National Historic Landmark.

The Shawnee Mission served as the second capital of the Kansas Territory. The capital was moved to the mission on July 16, 1855, after pro-slavery delegates to the Territorial Legislature voted to depart the first capital at Pawnee. It served as territorial capital until August 8, when the seat of government became Lecompton.

An ambitious conceptual Site Plan is being developed to preserve and enhance the site.



**Top: Native Americans in one of the many exhibits**

**Left center: North building of the Shawnee Indian Mission**

**Right center: The crowd watching Thomas Johnson on the video.**

**Right: NSDKC member Keith Nelson led the line at the table.**

