



NEWS

AUTUMN 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.



CLIFF ILLIG

2018 Outstanding Kansas Citian

November 13, 2018

Kay Barnes Ballroom
Kansas City Convention Center



Chairman of Board of
Cerner Corporation

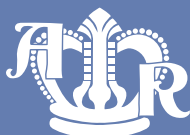
Executive Committee of the
Heart of America Council of
Boy Scouts of America

Co-owner of Kansas City's
Major League Soccer franchise,
Sporting KC

Board of directors of the
Stowers Institute.



RECOGNIZING THE
Boy Scouts of America and
the American Royal Association



Prepared. For Life.®

See article on page 4



(l-r) Pat Beer and Louise Hicks after they unveiled the marker.

Lake Lotawana marker dedicated

On a beautiful September 15 morning, we dedicated our first marker ever placed in southeast Jackson County. Gary L. Hicks, 2010 NSDKC President, has promoted a Lake Lotawana marker since 2005! About 40 people were in attendance, plus four dogs!

The marker is located south along Lake Lotawana Road near the Lake Lotawana City Hall. (the lake, city, and street all have the same names!) The marker's location is about five miles east of Lee's Summit, east of Highway 7 and just south of Colbern Road, near the lake.

We partnered with the Lake Lotawana Association represented by Pat Beer, former Mayor of the City of Lake Lotawana, and with Gary and Louise Hicks who paid half the marker's cost. The Association also paid a portion of the cost. During the marker project we had a warm relationship with Pat, whose grandfather was Cornelius Murphy, Jr., NSDKC (then Native Sons) President in 1943!

Pat opened the ceremony with greetings and remarks, then introduced Mayor Scott Miles of the City of Lake Lotawana, MO. Mr. Miles expressed delight to have

LAKE LOTAWANA continued on page 3

The President's Message

Dear members:

While the temperature outside still says "summer" most days, fall is indeed here. As we begin the last quarter of 2018 (and the last three months of my tenure as president of NSDKC), I invite you to join me in a look back at what we have accomplished this year.

FIVE new markers have been installed (three at Barry, plus the Crime Commission and Lake Lotawana) and two (Boy Scouts and American Royal) to go! In addition, the markers Committee successfully replaced, at no cost to us, the 2015 Harlem marker after an unfortunate traffic accident.

Finally, we witnessed the installation and dedication of our Monument in Ilus Davis Park. Now the site of some innovative and really outstanding history programs, NSDKC continues its mission to preserve and share our local history with the community. Congratulations to all of our members involved in these projects, and thank you for a job well done.

Yes, this has been an exciting year, but it ain't over yet! We are just six weeks out from what is shaping up to be an outstanding 2018 OKC celebration. As we honor Mr. Cliff Illig and the memory of Mr. Neal Patterson, we will also be saluting the extraordinary heritage of two of Kansas City's most revered institutions. The Heart of America Boy Scout Council and the American Royal will share the spotlight along with the accomplishments of these two extraordinary gentlemen. The accomplishments of both the honorees, with the civic and youth development roles that these organizations fulfill, will be recognized as essential in making Kansas City the great community that it is.

Finally, I want to recognize the three decades of service that Susie Hughes gave to NSDKC as our executive secretary. While her active participation is concluded, her heritage will always be part of the fabric of our organization. Susie, thank you for your service.

As the seasons change, organizations must also adapt to a changing world. We welcome Past President Dr. Chuck Eddy to his new role as Administrative Business Manager and look forward to growth and benefiting from his efforts on our behalf.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at OKC November 13!

Sincerely,
Steve Noll
2018 NSDKC President



**2018 President
Steve Noll**



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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.

NEW MEMBERS: Linn Mills and Chuck Nigro
NEW FOUNDER MEMBERS: Kansas City Parks and Recreation
Kansas City Life Insurance Company

★ 2018 CALENDAR ★

October 10 at 6:00 p.m. – Annual Membership and Board meeting

November 13 – 6:00 p.m. - Outstanding Kansas Citian Gala

December 8 at 11:00 a.m. - Annual Holiday Brunch

*LAKE LOTAWANA marker
dedication continued from page 1*

the marker in the park representing the heritage of the lake's development and its people.

Pat then introduced Terry Haug, current President of the Lake Lotawana Association, who shared a few remarks. I then spoke to inform everyone about NSDKC and our historical markers program that now has over 60 upright markers and plaques in place around the Greater Kansas City area. This marker has different texts each side, containing lots of history of the area.

Gary spoke next and gave an overview of the history of the lake's development and the huge holdings of Milton Thompson, who relocated here from Oklahoma ca.1920. He built the 1700 feet long dam completed in 1929, using nearly 2900 acres, that produced Lake Lotawana.



**Scott Miles,
City of Lake
Lotawana Mayor**



**Gary Hicks speaking to the
crowd at Lake Lotawana**

At the Monument: The Negro Leagues & Union Station Program

On July 26, the History Program #2 was held at our Monument in Ilus Davis Park at 10th & Oak. More than 30 people were present to hear about the history and culture of Kansas City. The Kansas City Parks and Recreation assisted by serving Italian sausages, hot dogs and ice cream at 6:00.

At 6:30, Dr. Chuck Eddy welcomed everyone and introduced Bob Kendrick, President of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. The NLBM, founded in 1990, opened its doors in 1997 and was recognized by the U.S. Congress as America's National Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in 2006.

He said Kansas City was a leader in the integration of Major League Baseball stemming in part from having the Kansas City Monarchs Negro League Baseball team from 1920 to 1965.

From 1947 when Jackie Robinson, played briefly with the Monarchs, became the first African-American player in the Major Leagues with the Brooklyn Dodgers, it was not until the 1959 Boston Red Sox that all Major League teams had broken the color line.

Bob reviewed the magnificent career of Robert LeRoy "Satchel" Paige (July 7, 1906 – June 8, 1982) who, at 42 in 1948, was the oldest rookie to play in the Major Leagues and was the first NLB player to pitch in a World Series. He was born in Alabama and is buried on Paige Island in the Forest Hill Memorial Park Cemetery at 6901 Troost Avenue in Kansas City.

Bob is very knowledgeable and talked about a number of additional people who played a part in the integration process in Kansas City.

Negro Leagues continued on page 5

Don't miss the 46th Annual Outstanding Kansas Citian Gala



**2018 Outstanding Kansas Citian Gala on
November 13**

The Kay Barnes Grand Ballroom

Kansas City Convention Center

Reception and Silent Auction at 6:00 pm

Dinner at 7:00 pm

Program at 8:00 pm

Black tie optional, but let's dress up for this one!

This year's Outstanding Kansas Citian event may be the biggest ever! We are honoring the Co-Founder of Cerner Corporation, Mr. Cliff Illig.

You won't want to miss this event. **Space is selling fast!**

In addition to recognizing Mr. Illig, we will unveil two historical markers. One will honor the Heart of America Council of The Boy Scouts of America and the second will honor the American Royal in tribute to Neal Patterson, Co-Founder of Cerner Corporation.

Frank Boal will be our Master of Ceremonies again this year. Mr. Illig will be interviewed on stage by Steve Kraske, the renowned reporter for the Kansas City Star and host of Up to Date on KCUR with additional questions that you in the audience provide. Mr. Illig is not only a leader of Cerner but also involved with 15 other companies he started. He is a true Kansas City icon who deserves to receive this recognition.

Reservations need to be received by

Tuesday, October 31, 2018

\$1500 for a table of 10 or

\$150 person

RSVP today and pay with credit card at www.nsdkc.org or
mail your check, payable to: NSDKC

PO Box 26071

Overland Park, KS 66225

For further information, call 913-207-3310

All of the proceeds benefit the programs of The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City.

NEGRO LEAGUES continued from page 4

NSDKC President Steve Noll then introduced George Guastello, President and CEO of Union Station. He reviewed the history of Union Station which opened in 1914. Out of necessity, it replaced a smaller Union Depot in the West Bottoms built in 1878, which after the 1903 flood and lack of room for expansion, needed to be replaced.

Starting in the mid-1950s, Interstate Highways greatly diminished railroad passengers. The Union Station closed in 1985, but in 1999 a \$250 million restoration was completed. It is now the 2nd largest Railroad Station in the nation, housing Science City and lots of events, drawing two million visitors annually and is prospering.

Steve then introduced Carl DiCapo who reviewed the five-year NSDKC project that resulted in the Monument (Carl's dream project), dedicated this year on April 19.

It was a very entertaining night as we reviewed the exciting history of Kansas City! Stop by and read the ten historical panel texts on the Monument, the inscribed granite pavers and other Monument features. You will love it!



Dr. Chuck Eddy greets the crowd



Left: George Guastello, President and CEO of Union Station

Left: Bob Kendrick, President of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum.

Below: Carl DiCapo



At the Monument: a history of KC Parks & Recreation

More than 50 people joined us for our History Program #3 on August 23. Because of rain the event was across the street at the JE Dunn Construction Company office building, not at the Monument in Ilus Davis Park at 10th and Oak. Thank you for making the space available Bill Dunn and Director David Disney!

Kansas City Parks and Recreation partnered with us in hosting the event. They arranged for the refreshments as well as presented the program itself.

Our friend Mark McHenry, long-time Director of KC Parks and Recreation, was Master of Ceremonies and presented the program entitled *The History of Kansas City Parks and Recreation – Past, Present and Future*.

NSDKC 1st Vice President Nancy Elder presented one of our Founders Awards to Kansas City Parks and Recreation, accepted on behalf of the department by Mark.

Mark introduced the above past Parks and Rec Commissioners and NSDKC members Carl DiCapo (1986 – 1992), Anita Gorman (1979 – 1991) and Ollie Gates (1982-1999), owner of Gates and Sons Barbeque. All three have been very valuable Parks and Rec Commissioners continue to be actively involved with Parks and Rec.

The following is a summary of what all four of them said about how Parks and Rec has served the City in the building and maintenance of our public parks, recreational and historical sites.

In 1987, Parks and Rec purchased a long-time youth athletic field and stadium at 51st and Swope Parkway and renamed it Satchel Paige Memorial Stadium after the great baseball player. Mr. Paige was at the dedication but sadly passed away just a few days later. Parks and Rec invested \$876,000 in it and 1987 was its first full-year of use.

Mr. DiCapo pushed to get Cliff Drive, designed by George Kessler in the 1890s, upgraded. It reopened in 1990 and in 2000 was named a Missouri State Scenic Byway, one of

Carl DiCapo, Anita Gorman and Ollie Gates



only five in the state of Missouri.

Thirty years ago, Starlight Theater almost folded. Parks and Rec gave them \$100,000 and, with Mrs. Gorman's help, the Theater raised the rest of the funds and it is doing well today.

At one time, only eight of the 48 fountains in the city were working. Commissioners Gorman, Gates and DiCapo raised the money to make them functional. In addition, Mrs. Gorman helped restore the many bronze monuments across the city. Today, Anita, Ollie and Carl are still on the City of Fountains Foundation Board.

In the 1990s, a \$50 million bond was passed to enable restoration of the Kansas City Zoo. Today, it is one of the best zoos in the nation with a record attendance of one million in 2017.

The Liberty Memorial bond passed in the 1990s, plus fundraising by Carl and others enabled it to be remodeled. The National World War I Museum and Memorial is designated as the nation's official World War I Museum.

A huge amount of lawn care, tree and bush maintenance on boulevards and parkways, the providing of city recreational activities, and much more is conducted daily by Parks and Rec.



Mark McHenry, Director of Kansas City Parks and Recreation and Nancy Elder

What a wonderful program by Mark, Anita, Carl and Ollie! Kansas City Parks and Recreation is one of the very best in the nation!

At the Monument: The Irish Are Coming! program

On Thursday evening, September 27, we held History Program #4 at our Monument in Ilus Davis Park at 10th & Oak. Approximately 25 were present on a pleasant fall evening to enjoy the program.

Kansas City Parks and Recreation continued partnering with us by serving corned beef sandwiches and green cookies beginning at 5:30.

At 6:00, Dr. Chuck Eddy welcomed everyone and introduced Bob Lager, who sang “Danny Boy”, a cappella, in Irish style. Great voice!

Chuck then introduced our speaker for the evening, Pat O’Neill, who presented to us an overview of the history of the Irish in Kansas City from the mid-1800s to the present.

Pat traced his Irish family’s roots in Kansas City back to the 1880s. His father, Pat O’Neill Sr., was the founder of the local St. Patrick’s Day Parade in 1973,

and his great-grandfather was John Patrick O’Neill, a KC Parks Board Commissioner. Pat raised lots of money to restore many of the fountains in Kansas City. Pat has written a book entitled *From the Bottom Up: The Story of the Irish in Kansas City*.

Back in 1870, 10 percent of Kansas City’s population was born in Ireland. The Great Hunger in Ireland in the 1840s drove half of Ireland’s population to other countries, and many went to the U.S.

Pat mentioned Father Bernard Donnelly, who served as an early

Dr. Chuck Eddy, standing, gets the program rolling



Pat O’Neill shows family photos.

city leader. Also Alderman James Pendergast (Tom Pendergast’s older brother) was a leader in developing city industry and utilities. Charles Kearney built the Hannibal Bridge and was prominent in the development of Kansas City and Westport. Nell Quinlan “Nelly Don” Donnelly Reed became one of the most successful dressmakers in the world and founded a large fashion industry. Mary Fitzgerald, Patrick Shannon, Joseph McArdle, Dennis and Sarah Malloy, Martin Hynes, Robert Hunt, Joanna



Bob Lager sings Danny Boy in Irish style.

Sullivan, Florence Burnett McGonigle, William Fitzsimmons and Francis Walsh were also mentioned by Pat as early Irish leaders in the area.

President Steve Noll then introduced Carl DiCapo for closing remarks. Carl’s dream was to build a Monument to NSDKC and the Greater Kansas City area history and he made it happen!

A wonderful program!