



NEWS

AUTUMN 2017

from The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City

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

Have you made your reservation?

Don't miss the Outstanding Kansas Citian Gala!

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Kansas City Convention Center • Grand Ballroom

The silent auction and gathering begins at 6:00 PM with dinner at 7:00 PM, followed by the program of honors at 8:00 PM. The OKC Committee is working diligently to make this a memorable event and we want you to share the evening with us.

We are thrilled to be honoring one of Kansas City's most prominent and beloved persons, the **Honorable Alvin Brooks**. Throughout his years in law enforcement and public service, he has become a well-respected man and one whom we look up to for solving problems and working with many different groups of people.

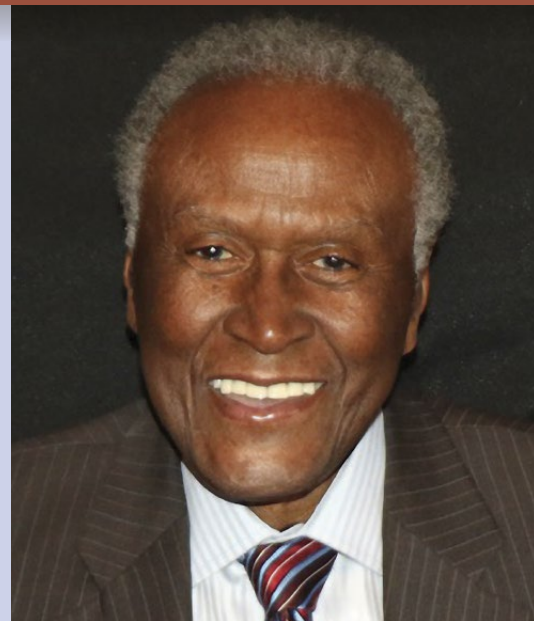
We will also be commemorating the **Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission**, in which Mr. Brooks was a leader for many years.

You should have received an invitation in the mail about the 2017 OKC Gala which provides information about sponsorship and purchasing seats or tables for this gala. **Sponsor a table and invite your friends and family to join you for a wonderful evening! Cost is \$150.00 each, or a table of 10 persons for \$1500.**

There will be a **silent auction** of some fabulous trip destinations and special items such as wine baskets, BBQ baskets, jewelry, sports memorabilia and more.

The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City will have membership applications available for those who want to join us in preserving Kansas City area history. Membership costs only \$35.00 for individuals and \$50.00 for families. Go to the website, www.NSDKC.org, to learn more about the NSDKC and join.

Mark your calendar and join us to honor Alvin Brooks and the Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at the Kansas City



Convention Center Grand Ballroom!

Buy tickets for the gala online or mail your reservation form with your check to NSDKC, P. O. Box 26071, Overland Park, KS 66225. For questions, please contact Linda Dillon at 913-207-3310.

Nancy Elder, Chair
OKC Committee
The Native Sons & Daughters of
Greater Kansas City

Groundbreaking held for NSDKC Monument

The long-awaited groundbreaking for our historic NSDKC Monument Project was held on Thursday, July 20, 2017 downtown at Ilus Davis Park at 10th and Oak Street. Yes, it was hot in the low 90's even though we started at 10:00 am, but it worked out extremely well!

More than 120 people were in attendance, including many public officials and community leaders, NSDKC members and

several of our past presidents.

The NSDKC Monument will be a memorial to not only the history and heritage of the Greater Kansas City area, but also to The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City. It will be an attractive large structure in the two-block square Ilus Davis Park between the Jackson County Courthouse and the recently constructed Federal Office Building,

perhaps the most ideal location in our area!

- NSDKC Past President Dr. Chuck Eddy served as master of ceremonies and introduced the various speakers:
- Current NSDKC President Diane Boos Pepper

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The President's Message

Dear members:

We were deeply saddened by the death of James Daley, one of our board members and a dedicated leader in our community. I enjoyed getting to know James this past year. He was an inspiration to me with all of his knowledge and his enthusiasm that he put forth putting together our meet and greets in his position as membership chairman. My sincere condolences to his wife Marsha and to the other members of his family.

Our 85th year is flying by with lots of exciting things going on! We were very excited to see so many people come on July 20 to our groundbreaking ceremony for our NSDKC monument in Ilus Davis Park! If you missed it you can visit our website to see all the live TV coverage and pictures of the celebration.

On August 19 we were thrilled to see the NSDKC archive materials located at UMKC which have been collected over the past 85 years. Lucinda Adams and her staff worked very hard to put together a slide show and a variety of displays of pictures, documents, and memorabilia. We are very grateful for the extra effort they did to make our visit so special. It was very interesting to see original signatures of some of our early members that started our organization. Afterwards we enjoyed lunch at Buca di Beppo Italian Restaurant on the Country Club Plaza.

Another exciting thing we did was to tour the new Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center. It was fun to see all the amazing exhibits that reflect the history and heritage of Johnson County. We also enjoyed the wonderful buffet at Cinzetti's. A big thanks to Dick Retrum for putting this together!

We have a few more events to celebrate as we finish our 85th year. Please plan to come to the Outstanding Kansas Citian Gala on November 14 as we honor Alvin Brooks. He is celebrating his 85th too! We will be honoring the Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission with one of our historical markers.

Sincerely,
Diane Boos Pepper
2017 NSDKC President



President Diane Boos Pepper



OFFICERS & STAFF

Diane Boos Pepper
President

Steve Noll
1st Vice President

Nancy Elder
2nd Vice President

Jim Flanagan
Treasurer

John Dunnewind
Secretary

Dick Retrum
Historian

John Hess, Jr.
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.

Saturday, October 14 at 1:00 pm
Dedication of Coles Jr Hi NSDKC Marker

Tuesday, November 14, 6:00 pm, Outstanding Kansas Citian Gala

★ 2017 CALENDAR ★

Saturday, December 9, 11:00 am
Holiday Brunch - Indian Hills Country Club

MONUMENT continued from page 1

- Monument Committee Chair Carl DiCapo, who conceived the idea of the Monument, reviewed the nearly five-year progress of the project.
- Monument Committee Co-chair Gary Hicks reviewed his role in developing the architectural design and also doing the historical research and text development for the 10 panels which will be mounted on the 10 faces of the star-shaped Monument column.
- Mark McHenry, Director of Parks and Recreation, has been very supportive and spoke glowingly of the project.
- Kansas City Mayor Pro-Tem Scott Wagner spoke about the value of the project in preserving our city's history and heritage.
- Allen Dillingham spoke about the role of NSDKC in the preservation of our area's history.

After the speakers finished, more than 30 people participated in the groundbreaking.

Bill Dunn of JE Dunn Construction Company, our general contractor, was there with his three sons and families including Terry Dunn and his wife Peggy Dunn, the Mayor of Leawood, as well as other employees.

Among other notables in attendance were Henry Bloch (his 95th birthday!) and Anita Gorman.

A wonderful barbeque lunch was served by the KCMO Parks and Recreation with food supplies provided by Costentino's Food Store. Entertainment was provided by Chuck Eddy's Dixieland Band. Local NBC News Channel 13 covered the event and segments were shown at various times the rest of the day.

Construction will start soon and hopefully will finish before the end of the year. At that time, a dedication ceremony will occur that will likely be more spectacular than the groundbreaking!



(l-r) Bill Dunn, Henry Block, Carl DiCapo, Gary Hicks, Diane Pepper and Scott Wagner



(l-r) Chuck Eddy, Carl DiCapo



(l-r) Diane Pepper, President and Chuck Eddy



(l-r) Artist's rendering of Monument, Carl DiCapo and Gary Hicks



Support the NSDKC Monument!

The vision of past NSDKC President Carl DiCapo is nearing reality. Soon we will begin to erect a monument to honor those who came before us, and who developed our greater Kansas City metropolitan region into the cosmopolitan area known today as the Heart of America. The heritage of our region extends from the early cultures who resided in this region; to the explorers and pioneers who crossed or settled this land; and to the entrepreneurs who worked the soil or built upon this land. Today, Kansas City's attributes are expressed through its grandeur, arts and education, science and research, agriculture, industry and transportation, sports and leisure, technology, sports, ethnic diversity and hospitality.

The well-attended groundbreaking of July 20 expressed the interest of our community for such a monumental tribute to our heritage. We are grateful to have a large part of the estimated \$500,000 Monument of NSDKC paid by generous contributions from our business and community leaders, some of whom are not associated with our organization. **As members of NSDKC we each have an opportunity, and obligation, to support this project through the Monument's inscription program.** These inscriptions will pay tribute to the people of our past who planted the seeds of the heritage we now harvest. It is anticipated that the granite paved plaza area surrounding the Monument's tower will be fully inscribed within the next year!

Compliments especially to JE Dunn Construction Company and BNIM Architects for their service to this project, and to our Committee Chair Carl DiCapo for his leadership.

**Be part of Kansas City's History!
Inscribe your name on the NSDKC Monument!**

**YOUR NAME
HERE**

**Contact us today to be a patron
at one of the following levels and sizes:**

\$10,000 <= 1-1/2" tall name
\$5,000 = 1-3/8" tall name
\$1,000 = 1-1/4" tall name
\$500 = 1" tall name
\$200 = 5/8" tall name

*The Native Sons and Daughters of
Greater Kansas City is a 501 (c) (3) organization
Tax ID #48-085007*

**See www.NSDKC.org to contribute
or call 913-207-3310**

Monument construction will commence right away. Construction funds are being held and dispensed by the City of Fountains Foundation of Kansas City Missouri.

Gary L. Hicks, NSD Monument Committee

Historical Markers for 2017

R. T. Coles Junior High School marker: This marker will be dedicated on Saturday, October 14, at 1:00 PM at the Black Archives located at 1722 E. 17th Terrace, KCMO. It will be hosted by the Black Archives and the R. T. Coles Junior High Alumni Class of 1954. A reception, a tour of the Black Archives plus a visit to the installed marker three blocks away will follow. An email blast has been sent out to our membership containing this information.

Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission marker: The marker has been ordered and is scheduled for delivery in October. The marker will be presented to the Commission as part of our 2017 OKC Gala. Crime Commission President Rick Armstrong is planning to have the marker installed in front of Hotel President at 1329 Baltimore Avenue, the site of the Commission's organizing meeting.

We will have the installation and dedication after the

November 14 OKC Gala. You will be notified of the date and time.

The three Barry markers: They were ordered in early September and will be delivered in early December. NSDKC member Keith Nelson has been great to work with and has been the contact person with Wes Minder, who works for City Manager Troy Schulte. The project was Wes's idea and he has already paid us the cost of the three markers.

The markers will be on key locations a few hundred yards apart between Platte Purchase Drive and Old Stagecoach Road along the new pedestrian trail that Kansas City Parks and Recreation has built and will be near a new YMCA complex. These sites are about 3/4 mile north of the old town of Barry in the north part of Kansas City.

The above five markers will be our total for this year. And very likely will be at no cost to NSDKC!

NSDKC visits new Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center

It was a fun day as more than 20 of us toured the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center (JCAHC) on Saturday morning, September 16 at 10:00 a.m. Dedicated at a grand opening on June 10 this year, it is located in the completely reconstructed King Louie bowling alley and ice skating rink building located at 8788 Metcalf Avenue in Overland Park, Kansas.

Coordinated by our Program Committee Chair Dick Retrum, we had an hour to look around on our own followed by a guided tour at 11:00. Then many of us went to nearby Cinzetti's Italian Market Restaurant for lunch.

The JCAHC is a rather large two-story building that replaces the Johnson County Museum building which was formerly located at 6305 Lackman Road in western Shawnee. The new Center contains the Museum and its 1950s All-Electric House.

In addition, the Center contains the 330-seat Black Box Theater, a KidScape area, the Overland Park Historical Society office and display area, a 330-person event space that is available for rental, and many other amenities. The signature exhibit "Becoming Johnson County" (see picture) occupies 12,500 square feet and contains more than 400 objects and over 500 photographic displays.

If you could not be with us at this NSDKC event, it would be worth your time to visit the new JCAHC, which seeks to interpret and preserve the history and heritage of Johnson County.



Our group – Dick Retrum in front



"Becoming Johnson County" theme mural



"American Progress" mural visualizing the idea of Manifest Destiny in settling the West



Several tables of our manuscripts

Our visit to the UMKC Archives August 19

We had a great turnout! Twenty-eight people were very excited about visiting the State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center—Kansas City in Newcomb Hall on the UMKC campus on Saturday, August 19 at 10:00 a.m.

Our sizeable collection of documents and manuscripts pertaining to the history of NSDKC and Greater Kansas City has been at that location for several years.

Associate Director Lucinda Adams and Archivist Whitney Heinsmann were very gracious to host us. They went to great lengths to put together a slide show that revealed a lot of historical items that are in the collection.

They also organized a large display of actual artifacts laid out on tables that filled the large research room on the 3rd floor. Included were pictures, membership applications, scrapbooks, maps, meeting notes and all kinds of organizational papers.

It was a very special day in the 2017 commemoration of our 85 years of history. We not only have a history of events, accomplished projects and memories of special people that made it all happen, but we have hard copy proof of all of it. Very impressive!

I am assembling an 85-year anniversary booklet that reviews our history that should be ready for distribution by the Holiday Brunch in December.

Gary Hicks and Ross Marshall have searched some of our boxes of archival documents at the Center and have found some very interesting information. In addition, they are visiting sites of our present and missing markers and soon will be updating the marker information and pictures on our website.

By the way if anyone is interested in putting together a group of people to get together on an occasion and help organize and work with our records, please do! It gives you a chance to visit with your friends!

Please contact Lucinda Adams at 816.235.1543 or email her at kansascity@shsmo.org

President Diane Pepper

Thanks to Norm Besheer!

I just want to say a public thank you to Norm for being the proof reader for our newsletter during my five years as editor. He does a great job and saves me from making lotsa mistakes in my articles! In addition, he stores our historical markers after they arrive until we can install them, which is a great help!

Norm has held many offices for NSDKC including being our president a few years ago. He has been an attorney, writer, Major in the U. S. Marine Corps and is still chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Gunter Pest Management, Inc.

In addition, I recently learned that he was inducted into both the Missouri and Kansas Pest Management Associations Hall of Fame in 2016, and this year has been named their Man of the Year. He has also been included in the Marquis Who's Who.

Quite a career Norm! And thanks for your help.

Ross Marshall, editor



A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties.

—Harry S. Truman

Annual Membership and Board Meeting



(l-r) Harrison Frawley, Brianna Wagoner, Mary Shepherd and Christina Mackenzie

Our Annual Membership and Board meetings were held Wednesday evening October 11 at The Brasserie at Westin Crown Center with about 50 people attending.

Special guests for the evening were the four Liberty High School students who received our \$100 History Day award at the annual High School History Day competition in Columbia, Missouri last April as covered in our last newsletter.

After dinner, they re-enacted their 15 minute presentation Writing History: The Mary Paxton Keeley Story about the first woman graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism, who then became the first female reporter in the Kansas City area with the Kansas City Post a little over 100 years ago. It was a great presentation!

The Membership meeting was then called to order by President Diane Pepper, who gave a brief summary of our 2017 activities and accomplishments. We then elected new Board members Carl DiCapo, John Hess Jr., Sharon Smart, Ray Elder, Steve Noll and Tom Platt.

Dan Creasy, in the absence of Bylaws Committee Chair John Dunnewind who was in Germany, presented two amendments to our bylaws concern-



Members and guests had a tasty dinner and good time.

ing membership details. They were approved.

Carl DiCapo then gave an update on the Monument Project. Construction will begin in a matter of days. 2nd Vice President Nancy Elder spoke about the upcoming Outstanding Kansas Citian event on November 14 and urged everyone to not only come, but to be a donor and also to donate items for the silent auction.

After the Membership meeting adjourned, Diane called the Board meeting into session. Nominating

Committee Chair John Hess Jr., presented the 2018 officer nominees President Steve Noll, 1st Vice President Nancy Elder, 2nd Vice President Dick Retrum, Secretary John Dunnewind and Historian Ray Elder. They were elected.

Steve Noll presented a motion that we make available up to \$80,000 from our reserve funds to enable construction to start on the Monument, most of which will likely be restored by already committed donors. The motion passed.