



NEWS



SPRING 2023

from The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City

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



Annual Past Presidents Luncheon welcomes 2023 NSDKC President Ray Elder

Standing (l-r) Steve Noll (2018), Dan Creasy (2005), Nancy Elder (2019), A. J. Cameron (1990), Linn Mills (2021), Ray Elder (2023), John Mura (1986), Diane Boos Pickman (2017), Dan Sturdevant (1964), Gary Hicks (2010), Whitney Kerr (our host). Seated (l-r) John Dunnewind (Acting President after President Karl Roscoe passed away last summer), Norm Besheer (2011), John Dillingham (2003), John Hess, Jr. (2016), John Hess, Sr. (2002) and Joe H. Vaughan, Jr. (1998). (Ross Marshall (2014) took the picture)

As has been our custom for many years, NSDKC Past Presidents gathered to extend a warm welcome, support and encouragement to our incoming President. This year it is **Ray Elder**. We met on Monday, January 9 for our Presidents Luncheon at the River Club in downtown Kansas City which overlooks the Missouri River. Our longtime member **Whitney Kerr**, who is also a member of the River Club, again hosted the event.

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Dear Members:

Spring is here, but we can't complain much because the Kansas City area has not had a really bad winter. According to the charts, we are behind some 15 plus inches of snow. We send thoughts and prayers for those in California and the northern states who have had record amounts of snow.

The Bylaws Committee has had a second meeting to work on clarifying the terms of officers and how we might change to make more people eligible for office and not lose the experience any of the offices need to move forward. The Committee has also been looking over the complete document and will want to continue to work to update some of the wording and responsibilities as well as possibly combining for efficiency some of the committees that overlap. Stay tuned.

The OKC Committee and the Board has been working on approving an individual for honor in November this year as the Outstanding Kansas Citian. This program has been in effect since 1973 and this year's person will be one of importance to Kansas City and be well known.

You will want to mark your calendar for an early November date and much more will be in the next newsletter and on the NSDKC website (www.nsdkc.org). Check it out often so you can keep informed and make arrangements to order your tickets.

For now I will wish you good health, and be safe.



Ray Elder
2023 President

CALENDAR

Highland Farms School Marker Dedication

Tentative date: May 5, 9:00 a.m.

J. Rieger Distillery Tour

Tentative date: May 18



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 **Ray Elder**
2023 President

MEMORIALS

Michael Burke



OFFICERS & STAFF

Ray Elder
President

John Dunnewind
1st Vice President

Christy Chester
2nd Vice President

Nancy Elder
Treasurer

Paul Christiansen II
Secretary

Nancy Elder
Historian

Linda F. Mills
Event/Programs Chair

*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.





Annual Past Presidents Luncheon Welcomes 2023 NSDKC President Ray Elder

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As usual, the group gathered in front of the spectacular Thomas Hart Benton painting Trading At Westport Landing. Westport Landing is very close to the River Club, just down the hill at the river. It is where Kansas City started in 1838 with the name of Kansas.

After the group picture was taken, we gathered for lunch down the hall.

After lunch, the group met at another room for lunch as shown in these pictures. At left near the back wall, **Administrator Nancy Elder** and incoming **President Ray Elder** are facing the camera.

At left front is **John Hess, Jr.** Seated at **Nancy's** right is **John Dunnewind** and **John Dillingham**. Seated at **Ray's** left is **Whitney Kerr** and **Gary Hicks**.

Nancy called upon each one of us to offer encouragement, ideas and suggestions to our incoming President that may aid him in the coming year.

Each of us offered a couple of minutes of thanks, thoughts and comments about NSDKC and the challenges and opportunities in the upcoming year. Many of us mentioned ideas to **Ray** and also extended offers to help him in the months ahead.

As has always been the case at these Luncheons over the years, the meeting was very beneficial in terms of assisting **Ray** and promoting.

At left are two tables with various Past Presidents seated at lunch preparing to offer their comments to **President Ray**.

At the back table at far left is **Dan Sturdevant**, then **John Hess, Sr.**, **Linn Mills**, **A. J. Cameron**, and **John Mura**.

At the near table l-r is **Norm Besheer**, **John Hess, Sr.**, **John Hess, Jr.**, **Steve Noll** and **Diane Boos Pickman**.

It was a very enjoyable and beneficial affair as usual! A teamwork atmosphere among our officers and Board as we enter 2023!



NSDKC MEMBERSHIP



Dues are \$35.00 for individuals and \$50.00 for couples. We encourage members to sponsor a family member or friend with a membership. The membership dues are tax deductible. NSDKC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. The membership application is on The Native Sons and Daughters website: nsdkc.org.



NSDKC Event at Midwest Genealogy Center



On March 31, 2023, arranged by our **Program Committee Chair Linn Mills**, 16 of our NSDKC members gathered at the Midwest Genealogy Center (MGC) at 3440 S. Lee's Summit in Independence for a tour and catered dinner.

Tour Guide **Sherry Golding** welcomed our group in the main meeting room at right. She introduced us to what MGC was all about for a few minutes.

Then we went out into the large library room, as pictured below, with work tables, shelves of books and guides on how to investigate our ancestries and family histories no matter where in the U.S. they are from. She explained how the resources of this beautiful facility that houses nearly 750,000 resources could be used to discover family history.

MGC is one of the United State's pre-eminent resources for family history, providing access to almost three-quarters of a million research documents and files. MGC features 52,000 square feet of space that houses all of the free resources needed to research your family history. You will find access to databases, scanning and digitation stations, oral history record-ing kits, microfilm reader scanners, and more.

MGC offers customers various free resources and services, from books to movies and music in physical and streaming formats. We had a great time listening and having a look at all that they offer. And they furnished a great catered dinner to top off the event!

Several of us declared that we would like to come back and examine it in detail. It is a very impressive Genealogy Center!



Midwest Genealogy Center (MGC)



Our tour guide Sherry Golding is pictured above in the white shirt.





Standing at left (l-r) – President Ray Elder, Gary Hicks. Seated (l-r) – 2nd Vice President Christy Chester, John Hess, Sr., John Hess, Jr., Whitney Kerr, Joe Vaughan, Jr., Stephen Noll, Jim Flanagan, Michael Gerken, Thomas Platt, Secretary Paul Christiansen, II, Marsha Daley, 1st Vice President and Immediate Past President John Dunnewind, Sunday Siragusa, Linda “Linn” Mills and Treasurer and NSDKC Administrator Nancy Elder.

NSDKC Board Meeting Feb. 15 at Kansas City Carriage Club

• Our Vice President Christy Chester receives the Trotter Award •



Each year the Historic West Bottoms Association presents their Trotter Award to a person whose exceptional efforts have contributed to the success of the Association and the betterment of the bottoms.

This year's Trotter award was presented to **Christy Chester**. **Christy** and the West Bottoms have known each other since she was a child. Since then, **Christy's** immersion in the culture of the West Bottoms has given her an understanding and appreciation of the economic and historical significance of the area and the importance of the heritage of Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas City, Kansas and the region.

Christy has spent decades leading and supporting the Association as its President, Treasurer and in other leadership roles. She has worked with the city on neighborhood cleanups, Heritage Day events, Infrastructure, Wayfinding, and Streetscape planning implementation.

Christy's civic commitment is not motivated by self-interest but by a sincere love for the area and doing what is in the best interest of the people and businesses in the Bottoms.

NSDKC is happy to congratulate **Christy Chester** for receiving the Trotter Award!