



# NEWS

AUTUMN 2020

from The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City

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

## Marker Dedication to honor our 2019 OKC honoree George Guastello, Union Station President and CEO - October 28 at 10:30 a.m.



**P**ictured above is Union Station, the location of the dedication of our marker on Wednesday, October 28 at 10:30 a.m. The dedication will be near the right (east) side of the Station, the location of the installed marker. Free parking will be available at the east end of the parking lot in front of the Station.

George Guastello was honored at our OKC Gala last November 6 as our 2019 Outstanding Kansas Citian for all his accomplishments as the President and CEO of Union Station. The marker was displayed at that event as is our usual practice.

Our marker dedication was planned for spring of 2020. However, the Covid-19 Pandemic hit us in March prohibiting the dedication ceremony.

We will have several speakers who will make brief remarks from a podium with a microphone and amplifier. After Garrison School, this will be our second marker dedication this year.

Union Station is a great setting, and this will be a fun event! **Please wear masks and observe social distancing.** We have plenty of room. Plan to come and join us for this incredibly special ceremony!

### **FIREFIIGHTERS MARKER TO BE DEDICATED**

Led by member Ray Elder, a Firefighters marker draft has been completed. Ray worked with the State of Missouri to get approval for the location at 5th and Wyandotte. That is where the first steam fire engine in Kansas City was tested.

It will be dedicated on Sunday, March 14. More details later.



# 2020 President's Message

## Dear members:

Hopefully this newsletter finds all of you safe and healthy. It looks like we are going to be dealing with COVID-19 for a while before a vaccine is available to all of us. Very strange times!

I want to thank Gary Hicks for following up on promoting inscriptions for our NSDKC Monument paver inscriptions. See the article in this newsletter.

The Union Station historical marker that honors our 2019 OKC honoree George Guastello will be dedicated on Wednesday, October 28 at 10:30 a.m. It has been a long time coming! See the article in this newsletter. Please join us for this special event.

Just a brief update on my medical issues. I have improved greatly. I have great doctors and fantastic care at St. Luke's on the Plaza. Will be receiving outpatient care for the next five weeks on a new medication. Thank you for your prayers.

Sincerely,

Richard Retrum

2020 NSDKC President



**Dick Retrum**  
**2020 President**

## NSDKC AWARDS NOMINATIONS NEEDED

The Awards Committee is organizing for the annual internal NSDKC awards presentations at our annual Holiday Brunch on December 12.

The Committee needs nominations from our NSDKC members concerning members that you think should be recognized for their work.

Just go to our website **NSDKC.org**. Click on "About Us", then click on "Member Awards".

Stated here will be a list of the names/titles of the various awards and related information. And there will be specific information about nominating someone, how to fill out the necessary information, and then submit it to the committee for consideration. Use the NSDKC address at the bottom of the page.

We need your help. Just go to the website.

Thanks, Joe Vaughan

Awards Committee Chair



## OFFICERS & STAFF

Dick Retrum  
*President*

Linda F. Mills  
*1st Vice President*  
(Unoccupied)  
*2nd Vice President*

Jim Flanagan  
*Treasurer*

Paul Christiansen II  
*Secretary*

Ray Elder  
*Historian*

Nancy L. Elder  
*Immediate Past President*

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

## Newsletter Production

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PO Box 25513

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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.

Oct. 21, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. Annual Membership & Board Meeting

Oct. 28, 2020 – 10:30 a.m. Union Station Marker Dedication

Nov. 16, 2020 – 11:00 Annual Presidents Lunch, River Club



## CALENDAR



Dec. 12, 2020 – 11:00 Annual Holiday Brunch  
Indian Hills Country Club

Mar. 14, 2021 – Firefighters Marker Dedication  
5th & Wyandotte, KCMO

## 2020 OKC “Heritage of Johnson County” Marker to be installed



**T**hese are crazy times! Yes, the above headline is not in error!

Rather than just eliminate the year 2020 from all our OKC annual procedures, we decided to proceed ahead and order the 2020 OKC marker that honors our 2020 OKC honorees, who are Commissioner Ed Eilert and General Richard B. Meyers (RET). The text was already finalized by the markers committee.

The marker is to be installed at the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center (above) at 8788 Metcalf in Overland Park. The Center is also the location of the Johnson County Museum. This marker will be the first NSDKC marker to be located in Johnson County, Kansas!

The basic location for the marker will be where the photographer is standing, which is the entrance from the large parking area. This marker location will be highly visible to everyone who enters and/or leaves the Center!

We had planned to have the marker dedication this fall and Mary McMurray, the Director, wanted very much to have a nice reception inside the Center immediately after the dedication. However, Covid-19 restrictions are still in place and since this site is a Johnson County site, Mary has requested on advice from County officials, that we postpone the dedication and reception until next spring.

Rather than have the marker stay in storage for another six months, we have decided to install the marker so that it is visible to the public for education and inspiration. That installation will be completed by the middle of October.

At the 2021 OKC Gala, which will be held at the Convention Center on November 9, 2021, we will unbolt the marker and display it on a stand in front of the attendees as we always have in the past. In addition, the marker will be presented to our honorees, Mr. Eilert and General Myers, as we always have done in the past. When the Gala is over, the marker will be re-installed on the same post at the Arts & Heritage Center.

We will advise you concerning the date of the marker dedication and reception next spring when that date is set. As stated above, these are unusual times, but it all will work out eventually!

## NSDKC Board Meetings Resumed

Our Board of Directors meetings had a little hiatus because of the Covid-19 between March 11 until we resumed July 15. The picture below was taken on July 15 at the de Leon Events Center at 3235 Gillham Road in KCMO. It was a nice setting in a building owned by NSDKC Past President Steve Noll.

Speaking is our current President Dick Retrum with various officers and board members scattered around. One of the principal actions taken was to accept the resignation of our Administrator Linda Dillon. Nancy Elder is now our Administrator who is doing a great job.



Since then we have met in August and September at the Hereford House at 5005 Town Center Drive in Leawood, KS as we have for the last couple of years.

See page 4 for  
**NSDKC Annual  
Membership and Board  
Meeting  
announcement**



**MEMORIALS:**  
Herb Ziegler



## NSDKC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AND BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, October 21, 2020 -  
Dinner 6:00 p.m.  
Hereford House  
5005 Town Center Dr., Leawood, KS

Dinner choice- Prime rib or salmon  
Please reserve by 6:00 p.m. Oct. 16,  
2020

**NO WALK-INS FOR DINNER**  
PLEASE RSVP TO: [https://  
nsdkc.org/annual\\_meeting\\_  
announcement](https://nsdkc.org/annual_meeting_announcement)

Pay by check to:  
The Native Sons and Daughters of  
Greater Kansas City  
P.O. Box 25513  
Kansas City, MO 64119-0813

Business meeting – Election of Board  
of Directors will be held at 7:30 p.m.  
(May attend without dinner)

**FACE MASKS REQUIRED TO  
ENTER BUILDING**

Social distancing at tables will be  
provided

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

**O**n April 2018, NSDKC dedicated its new Monument located in Ilus Davis Park at 10th and Oak, KCMO. This Monument was designed, built, and dedicated to all who placed their hands on the history and heritage of the Greater Kansas City metropolitan area. NSDKC is grateful to our local philanthropists who, through their generosity, made this half-million dollar project possible!

As the picture shows, in addition to its star-shaped tower, one of the Monument's primary elements is its 30-ft diameter, granite paved plaza area. This area allows for inscriptions by individuals and businesses to be engraved representing the pride of being Kansas Citians; to honor family members or membership within NSDKC! To date, nearly 60 personalized inscriptions have been engraved in the plaza area! **The purchase of inscriptions defrays the costs of the architectural fees to prepare design drawings required to construct the Monument!**

Inscriptions on the large pavers are done in the field with the same quality and expertise as if they were done in the shop. There are five pricing levels for inscriptions below: (See picture for examples)

**Level 1 \$250.00:** 1" Text. Text Zone Size: 6" x 9", 3 Rows Maximum, 13 Characters per row Maximum

**Level 2 \$500.00:** 1" Text. Text Zone Size: 12" x 18", 4 Rows Maximum, 24 Characters per row Maximum

**Level 3 \$1,000.00:** 1-1/4" Text. Text Zone Size: 12" x 27", 5 Rows Maximum. 31 Characters per row Maximum

**Level 4 \$5,000.00:** 1-1/2" Text. Text Zone Size: 18" x 27", 5 Rows Maximum. 25 Characters per row Maximum

**Level 5 \$10,000.00:** 1-3/4" Text. Text Zone Size: 24" x 36", 6 Rows Maximum. 30 Characters per row Maximum

**NOTE:** Since the Monument plaza area does not use standard 'red' bricks, designated zones are applied for each level. The larger the zone size, the larger the text size, and more rows of text are available for the engraving!

### The inscription setup & purchase is simple:

**Option 1:** Use the online process through the NSDKC website [www.nsdkc.org/nsdkc\\_monument](http://www.nsdkc.org/nsdkc_monument) to layout your inscription order. Payment can be through one of the online payment services offered.

**Option 2:** Request an order form through [admin@nsdkc.org](mailto:admin@nsdkc.org). Pay with a check or money order.

With the holidays before us, what better gift to recognize someone or your business with an inscription engraved in granite at our wonderful NSDKC Monument!

**If you haven't visited the Monument you are in for a rewarding experience! GO SEE IT!**



**Level #3 at top, level #2 at bottom and Level #1 at upper right**



# Garrison School marker dedicated July 24

The first dedication of an NSDKC historical marker in 2020 was on Friday evening, July 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Garrison School Cultural Center. The location is about five blocks north of the Liberty Courthouse on Main St.

There was an hour-long meeting in the School building with various speakers including Liberty Mayor Pro Tem Michael Hagen and other political leaders of Missouri and Clay County.

NSDKC President Dick Retrum presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Clay County African-American Legacy, Inc. (CCAAL). Both Dick and NSDKC Markers Committee Chair Ross Marshall presented brief remarks about NSCKD and our historical markers program.

The 35 or so attendees wore masks for the meeting inside the School and outside at the unveiling as well.

The marker was funded by CCAAL with a grant from the City of Liberty. The school is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places and the registry of historical sites of Clay County.

Garrison School was established in 1877 to educate Black youth of Liberty and continued to serve African American students until it was integrated following the Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education decision. The CCAAL purchased the school from the Liberty School District in 2003. Today, the school provides a home for CCAAL to present ongoing programming for Clay County residents and the Greater Kansas City area.

The marker dedication was also a part of the Juneteenth Celebration at Garrison.

Our other markers existing in Liberty are the Liberty Arsenal, Weekly Dale Farm and Liberty Cemetery (Wm Jewell College).

A special thanks to former NSDKC Vice President Chris Sizemore who worked with Ross and our markers committee for more than a year to complete this project.



Several of the 35 or so attendees, 'socially distanced', are on the right hand side of the large auditorium



The marker unveiling by A. J. Byrd at left, NSDKC Member Chris Sizemore at right, with NSDKC President Dick Retrum behind him



Pictured above is A. J. Byrd (at left), President of CCAAL, who chaired the event. At right is Chris Sizemore, Dick Retrum and CCAAL Historian Cecilia Robinson.