

Third Quarter, 2004

# AAKC Fall Newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By: Carolyn Sturgeon, Lenexa

### Greetings from Lenexa!

We had a great fall conference in Newton with 19 members attending. Thank you to Denise and Susan for hosting a wonderful conference. We had a great time learning about "Authentic Happiness" with Donna Dixon, our speaker. Also, our tour of the Newton City Hall was enjoyed by all.

We accomplished a lot by reorganizing some of our Standing Committees at our Newton Conference. Those who wished to switch committees were encouraged to do so. We want you to find a committee that is right for you. Please check out our website for more committee information.

I'm excited to serve as your President and hope that we can continue to grow in membership and reach out to other Cities with tools such as our booth at the League Conference last week!

The League Conference was very well organized and the amenities were great. The consensus among our members attending, was that our booth was very worthwhile, and we hope we can do it again next year. We touched base with many cities.

The following cities showed some real interest in AAKC:

Pittsburg  
Clearwater  
Colwich  
Sterling  
Salina  
Lansing  
Bonner Springs (Their City Manager won our basket!)  
Shawnee  
Olathe  
Atchison  
Wyandotte County/Kansas City, KS

***If you have any contacts with anyone in the above-named cities, please make an opportunity soon to contact their Administrative Assistant/Secretary personally and follow up by inviting them to our next conference. The time is now while the booth is still fresh in their minds. :)***

Thank you to the following who assisted, created, transported items, or manned the booth:

Sandie Masden, Megan Williams, Barb Slagle, Susan Wettstein, Susan Evenson, Barb Nelson and Beth Ann Turner. Everything looked very professional and well put together. Sandie and I were very pleasantly surprised that our pooled efforts from a distance all came together so well. Thank heavens for email. :)

Thank you to all those who donated to the basket or made contributions in any way. The basket turned out great! Susan, thank you for putting it together and getting it delivered!

Our LKM sponsored AAKC Tuesday morning breakfast was fun. The following attended: Kelly Passauer and her husband, Susan Evenson, Barb Nelson, Doris Wing, Beth Ann Turner, Barbie Boots, Ruth Patterson, Sandie Masden, and ... me, too. Wish you ALL could have been there!

Thinking of you.  
Warmest regards,  
Carolyn



### Fall AAKC Meeting, Newton, KS



Denise gives us a tour of their City Hall. It was an impressive building with a lot of history, as was the Carriage Factory!



Looking at all the beautiful art work in the Carriage Factory Art Gallery was fun!



Newton's City Manager welcomes our group



Donna teaches us a name game to help us remember names! Donna's talk on "Finding Authentic Happiness in the Chaos of Life" was a truly uplifting experience for all!



Donna Allen, our speaker, from Nebraska Methodist College

**FALL CONFERENCE NEWS**

**Administrative Assistants/Secretaries of Kansas Cities  
Fall Business Meeting Minutes  
September 10, 2004  
Newton, Kansas**

**Members Presents:**

Barbie Boots	Nancy Crain	Tami Cushenbery	Denise Duerksen
Susan Evenson	Pat King	Wilma Lister	Sandie Masden
Carol Mitchell	Barb Nelson	Linda Razo	Michele Rodriguez
Susan Rowan	Lesley Shook	Barb Slagle	Sara Somerhalder
Carolyn Sturgeon	Beth Ann Turner	Megan Williams	

President Sandie Masden called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Minutes of previous meeting on April 2, 2004.**

Denise Duerksen moved and Michele Rodriguez seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report****Financial report**

Wilma Lister presented the financial report. The expenses from this meeting are not reflected in the report. Susan Evanson moved and Barb Nelson seconded to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried.

**Approve budget for 2005**

Wilma presented the 2005 budget. She noted that for 2004 we will come in \$200 under budget. Barb Nelson moved and Pat King seconded to approve the 2005 budget as presented. Motion carried.

**Standing Committee Reports.****Professional Development**

Denise Duerksen clarified some certification questions. For hosting a meeting/conference members will receive 5 points and college credit hours will equal the number of credit hours given by the college, i.e. 3 college credit hours will equal 3 points towards education points.

**Membership**

Barbie Boots had nothing to report. There was discussion about doing a new brochure with the updated logo for possible members.

**Publications**

Nancy Crain talked about keeping the web site updated.

**Public Affairs.**

Carolyn Sturgeon reported AAKC purchased the extended marketing packet for the League conference. It was discussed to contact those cities in the area and invite them to come to the AAKC breakfast. Discussion was held on how the drawing for the gift basket should be done. It was decided that it should be for an administrative assistant and city officials could register their administrative assistant's name. This will give us a list of potential members to contact. Anyone that can help man the booth should contact Sandie or Carolyn. A schedule will be worked out. An article will also be in the upcoming Government Journal about AAKC.

**FALL CONFERENCE NEWS, Continued****Public Relations**

Pat King distributed new information sheets and an updated membership list.

**Old Business****Plans for LKM Conference**

This was discussed under the public affairs report.

**Discussion of membership partners**

Discussion was held regarding opening up membership to counties, colleges, etc. Consensus of the group was to keep the membership to those working for cities. If a member would like to bring a guest to any meeting they are welcome to do so.

**Discuss plans for Spring 2005 Meeting in Great Bend**

Megan Williams will host the 2005 Spring Conference in Great Bend. Those helping Megan with the conference plans include Sandie Masden, Barb Slagle, Linda Razo and Carol Mitchell.

**New Business****Election of President & Secretary**

The nominating committee tabulated the votes. Results: Carolyn Sturgeon, President and Barb Slagle, Secretary. Since Carolyn was the Vice President her position was now vacant. Sandie opened the floor for nominations to fill the Vice President position. Carolyn Sturgeon nominated Susan Evenson. Michele Rodriguez seconded the nomination which carried. Wilma distributed gifts to the outgoing President, Secretary and hostess.

**Reorganize standing committees**

Members were given the opportunity to pick which committee they wanted to be on. The new committees are posted on the web.

**Confirm meeting place for Fall 2005**

Beth Ann volunteered to host the Fall 2005 meeting. It was suggested to have round table discussions on best practices. Round table discussion ideas should be submitted to Beth Ann.

**What's going on in your City?**

Time did not allow for this discussion.

**Adjournment.**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted  
Denise Duerksen, Acting Secretary



**2005 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Carolyn Sturgeon                      President  
City of Lenexa  
*csturgeon@ci.lenexa.ks.us*

Susan Evenson                      Vice-President  
City of El Dorado      *sevenson@eldoks.com*

Barb Slagle                      Secretary  
City of Dodge City      *barbs@dodgecity.org*

Wilma Lister                      Treasurer  
City of Winfield  
*wlister@winfieldks.org*

**NOTICE TO ALL AAKC MEMBERS**

Our newly updated web site



is now up and running.

<http://www.aaskc.org>

**Thanks to Megan Williams (Great Bend) for her hard work on this. Let Megan know if you have any suggestions for other items on the web site that you would like to see. We have added the group e-mail again to the web site and have plans to add e-mail addresses to the Membership page for each member.**

**2005 COMMITTEES*****Professional Development:***

*Chair—Sandie Masden, Dodge City  
(sandiem@dodgecity.org)  
Michelle Rodriguez, Emporia  
Linda Jones, Osage City  
Denise Duerkson, Newton  
Carolyn Sturgeon, Lenexa, ex-officio*

***Public Affairs:***

*Chair—Barbie Boots, Chanute  
(bboots@chanute.org)  
Tami Cushenbery, Emporia  
Beth Ann Turner, Iola  
Ruth Patterson, League  
Carolyn Sturgeon, Lenexa  
Susan Rowan, Newton  
Susan Evenson, El Dorado-ex-officio*

***Publications:***

*Chair—Megan Williams, Great Bend  
(meganw@greatbendks.net)  
Nancy Crain, Ark City  
Terri Edmonds, Lenexa  
Barb Slagle, Dodge City, ex-officio*

***Public Relations:***

*Chair—Doris Wing, Hays  
(dwing@haysusa.com)  
Lucille Freeman, Wellington  
Susan Wettstein, Garnett  
Sarah Somerhalder, Emporia  
Pat King, Winfield  
Andrea Windholz, Hays  
Tracy Thomas, Wellington  
Carol Mitchell, Hutchinson*

***Membership:***

*Chair—Linda Razo, Hutchinson  
(lindar@hutchgov.com)  
Darlene Provance, Abilene  
Lesley Shook, Ark City  
Martha Wilkerson, Parsons  
Paula Flores, Garden City  
Barb Nelson, Ottawa  
Wilma Lister, Winfield, ex-officio*

*If you haven't yet volunteered for a committee, pick one that interests you and volunteer at the next meeting you attend!*

# LEAGUE MEETING BOOTH QUITE SUCCESSFUL!



The AAKC booth at the League Meeting, Oct. 2-4, 2004, was very well received and several contacts were made!



 Thank You!

Thanks to all those who participated in preparing, setting up and manning the booth at the League Conference!

## NEWS ABOUT OUR KANSAS CITIES

### NEWS FROM INDEPENDENCE

By Kelly Passauer



It's October in Independence which of course means NEEWOLLAH. If anyone is interested in the festivities going on in Independence they can check out [www.neewollah.com](http://www.neewollah.com).

We completed our new swimming pool this summer which cost a little over \$3 million. We are working on bid documents for renovating our Memorial Hall and expanding our Carnegie Library. Each of these projects are also a little over \$3 million dollars.

All three projects (pool, library and Memorial Hall) are all being funded from a 3/4% quality of life sales tax.

We are also working on installing an 80' X 120' skate park which is being paid for primarily through donations. We hope to get the post tension slab installed this fall. The features will cost approximately \$90,000 and we still need to raise another \$78,000 in order to purchase all of them so it may be a little while before the features are all installed.

We also completed a master plan for a new 9.2 acre park this summer. The Skate Park is the first component of this park. The total cost to complete the park will be around \$1.6 million so we are looking into some grant opportunities to help fund development of this park in the future. The site this future park is located on has been abandoned for over 40 years and contained debris and abandoned equipment from an old construction company who had owned the site since the early 1900's. This site is located just a few blocks north of downtown and a few blocks south of our main park so we were excited to have it donated for future park purposes and to have the opportunity to clean up a blighted area of our town.

### NEWS FROM HUTCHINSON

by Carol Mitchell

A Selection Committee has announced three finalists for the position of Hutchinson City Manager. They are John Deardoff of Dodge City; Bernice Duletski of Arvada, Colorado; and Kathy Sexton of Wichita. The City Council will make the final employment decision in November. Joe Palacios, current city manager, retires in March 2005.

The City of Hutchinson has hired Annette Duncan as Downtown Development Manager. Duncan will begin work November 15, 2004, and was the economic development director of Harper County.

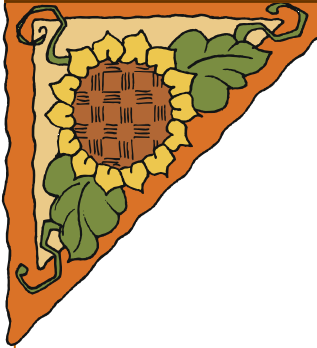
The City of Hutchinson is commencing its five-year comprehensive plan with a series of public meetings to seek citizen input beginning November 1 and concluding November 13.

Hutchinson City Hall and Information Technologies will have a Fall Festival with chili/soup/ chowder cook-off and costume contest on Friday, October 29. Voting will take place by employees and prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place in the cook-off and to the three individuals with the best costume.

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS!**



## NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS



Megan Williams' (Great Bend) husband, has just been dismissed from the hospital. Please keep him and Megan in your prayers!

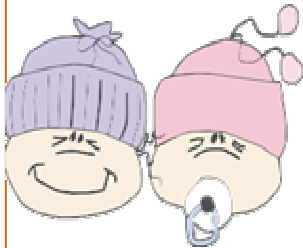
Linda Jones, Ark City, has recently suffered a fractured foot so as a result was not able to attend the League Conference. We hope Linda will be back on both feet again soon!

Michele Rodriguez, Emporia, also recently suffered a broken limb. Here's what she e-mailed us for the newsletter, "LINDA JONES & I ARE NOW AMONG THE WALKING WOUNDED. WE WOULD MAKE A GOOD PAIR - HER WITH HER BROKEN FOOT & ME WITH MY BROKEN LEFT ARM (I'M LEFT HANDED). MAYBE WE NEED A CLASS ON HOW TO BE MORE CAREFUL AND PREVENT ACCIDENTS. I'M BLAMING MY ACCIDENT ON THE FIRE DEPT - I WAS AT THEIR STOP, DROP & ROLL SKATING PARTY WITH MY FIVE YR OLD GRANDDAUGHTER FOR FIRE PREVENTION WEEK.

EVERYONE BE CAREFUL - ACCIDENTS USUALLY HAPPEN IN 3'S. I AM DEFINITELY LEARNING TO USE MY RIGHT HAND MORE & GETTING GOOD AT TYPING WITH ONE HAND. I'LL BE IN A CAST FOR 6 WEEKS. MICHELLE"

Beth Ann Turner's (Iola) husband, Max, is doing much better and is back to work full-time (regular duty).

Sandie Masden (Dodge City) recently experienced the empty nest syndrome once again, with her daughter, Nicole, moving back to Hays to finish her degrees and her son, Eric, going back to K-State to school this fall.



Barb Slagle's (Dodge City) youngest son, Eric, and wife, Meghan, are expecting twins in December! They and Barb's 2 year old grandson, Devon, recently moved to Castle Rock, Colorado, so she is experiencing major granny withdrawal pains!





AAKC

c/o City of Dodge City  
P.O. Box 880  
Dodge City, KS 67801

*We are on the  
Web  
[www.aaskc.org](http://www.aaskc.org)*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall KACM Conference, Nov. 11-12, 2004, Dodge City, KS  
Spring AAKC Conference, April 7-8, 2005, Great Bend, KS  
Fall AAKC Conference Sept. 9, 2005, Iola, KS



**Your assignment if you should you desire to accept it for this quarter!**

- 1. Resolve to enjoy life and bring enjoyment and happiness to others.**
- 2. Determine not to sweat the small stuff.**
- 3. Listen to your elders.**
- 4. Be a responsible elder.**
- 5. Decide each day to be happy!**
- 6. Do something creative each day.**
- 7. Hug someone!**