## Administrative Assistants of Kansas Cities

# **AAKC Newsletter**

Spring 2006

#### AAKC Members

Darlene Provance	Sarah Somerhalder
Nancy Crain	Paula Flores
Lesley Shook	Janet Hackney
Nancy Turnage	Susan Wettstein
Barbie Boots	Megan Williams
Jimmie Ruth Diskin	Doris Wing
Jennifer L. Gutierres	Andrea Windholz
Sandie Masden	Carol Mitchell
Barb Slagle	Linda Razo
Susan Evenson	Kelly Passauer
Tami Cushenberry	Beth Ann Turner
Michele Rodriguez	Rhonda Maxon

The spring 2006 Conference in Hutchinson was educational, productive and entertaining! Carol Mitchell and Linda Razo did an outstanding job planning the conference. Thank you Carol and Linda! It was great fun to "Come Share Your Space!" The keynote speaker, Gary Carson, was thought-provoking, inspiring and humorous. I still chuckle when I think about some of his stories. Sgt. McClarty and Kelly Hutchinson gave us valuable information on how to avoid becoming a victim of financial crime. I found their handouts to be particularly helpful. Hope you did, too!

The President's Corner

I do want to apologize for extending our business meeting on April 4 to 1:00 p.m. I know that some of you had to go back to work that afternoon so I hope that it didn't cause you undue hardship. I appreciate your flexibility, patience and attention. I think we accomplished a lot. I'll try to make sure our September business meeting ends on time.

We will sponsor a booth at the **October League Conference** again this year. The 2006 LKM Annual Conference will be October 7-10, 2006 at the Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel and Kansas Expocentre.

If you are planning to attend

the LKM October Conference and would like to participate in the LKM conference committee, please let me know. Our LKM sponsored AAKC association breakfast during the LKM Conference will be at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday morning, October 10. You are invited!

We will be putting together another basket of city items to give away at the October League Conference. Please be thinking about what kind of gift your city would like to contribute to the AAKC basket. Please bring the gift to the AAKC fall business meeting and seminar in Abilene on September 7 – 8, 2006. Darlene Provance, Abilene, has some great ideas for our fall get-together! Darlene asked for you to email her if you have suggestions for training topics.

Darlene's email address is: adminasst@abilenecityhall.co m.

Susan Rowan has accepted the role of Chairperson for the Public Affairs Committee. Thank you Susan!

Susan will be contacting members of that committee soon. Active and proactive committee work can accomplish great things for AAKC. I encourage you to share your ideas with your committee members. Please refer to our AAKC web site for information about our committees. If you are unsure of what committee you serve on or need to change or update information, please inform Secretary Barb Slagle, City of Dodge City, at email address: barbs@dodgecity.org.

Linda Jones has completed the requirements and received approval of her application for CMA certification. **Congratulations Linda!** 

I'll leave you with this thought from a seminar I recently attended. The definition of being assertive:

Say what you mean; *Mean* what you say; Don't be *mean* when you say

My boss, Eric Wade, often has quotations on his calendar. This one was particularly meaningful to me: "Before you speak, listen. Before you write, think. Before you spend, earn. Before you invest, investigate. Before you criticize, wait. Before you pray, forgive. Before you quit, try. Before you retire, save. Before you die, give." ~William A. Ward

Best regards,

**Carolyn Sturgeon** 



## **Round Table Discussion Topics—Survey Results**

- 2-Council meeting agenda & minutes
- 11-Keeping your boss organized
- 8-Time management/ time consumers
- 7-Office/personnel policies
- 8-Professionalism in the office
- 8-Technology, web sites, imaging
- 6-Solving inner office conflict/negativity
- 11-Filing systems/ records management
- 5-Innovative community programs

•	4-Resolutions &
	ordinances

- 5-Solutions to pet peeves
- 8-Health and wellness
- 7-Customer relations 4-Dress, uniforms &
- image5-Working with other
- departments
- 10-Stress management
- 2-How to be a team player
- 8-Public relations

Those indicating an interest to lead discussions included:

- Nancy Crain/ Technology
- Barb Slagle/Customer relations
- Megan Williams/ technology and/or Innovative Community Programs
- Susan Evenson/Time Management
- Denise Duerkson/Health & Wellness
- Darlene Provance/ various topics
- Carolyn Sturgeon/ various topics
- Sandie Masden/various topics





## **Conference Survey Results**

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Organization of Conference	21	1		
Fox Theater Tour/Movie	15	1		
Speaker—Gary Carson	14	7		
Speaker—Sgt. McClarty & Kelly Hutchinson	21	1		
Spa Pamper Treatment	18	2		
Kansas Cosmosphere/IMAX	14	3		
Meeting Facilities	20	1		
Meals	20	2		
Accommodations	10	9		
Overall Conference	21	1		

\*22 surveys received - some didn't rate every item

What was the highlight of the conference for you? The whole experience—meeting everyone; The Nature Center—being with old friends; The Spa treatment and identify theft, Gary Carson; Presentation on identity theft; Nature Center and all presentations; Everything was very well put together; Meeting all the women; Enjoyed speech on communication from Gary Carson and meeting all the wonderful ladies; Cosmosphere; Cosmosphere; Both speakers were excellent; Meeting everyone and knowing the support is there! Speaker Gary Carson, IMAX movie and everything else; Dillon Nature Center was so relaxing! Meeting my counterparts—sharing work experiences; Speakers were excellent; Each were creative and invited participation from group; Fox Theater; The networking with all my fellow AAKCers! Identify theft.

What did you like least about the conference? Eating so late on Thursday; Going all day. Need to stop earlier in the evening. 10:00 back to the room is too late; Everything was great! Late Dinner; Rain :) Getting up early; Hotel room; Swipe key to get into hotel; IMAX—good show doesn't reflect—my frailty; Nothing—everything was great!

**Please list other topics you would like to learn about.** Office communication technology; Sharing and learning how to deal with Manager vs. council issues—politics among the elected officials; HIPPA certification;

Which other Kansas city would you like to visit? Wichita; Salina; Topeka, Olathe; Atchison, Cheney, Sedgwick; Junction City; All of them; Lenexa; Ark City; Winfield; Dodge City;

**Comments:** Excellent, excellent job!! The Hutch ladies worked very hard— Thank you—I think I gained 5 lbs. :)

Thanks for all your hard work—It was great!

I really enjoyed all aspects of the conference. All 3 speakers were great, the facilities were great, the motel was great, meals were delicious, the tours of City hall and the Public Works facility was very interesting (enjoyed seeing the neat, neat filing system and purchasing supply room). Your PW facility was simply awesome.

So busy-time passed so quickly!

Linda & Carol did a great job with the conference. Thanks so much.

Wonderful! Very well organized.

This was a wonderful conference. I really enjoyed it.

Everyone was so friendly and helpful. My City Adm. Encouraged me to join your organization and I am so thankful.

Thank you for this opportunity! I had a wonderful time!

Good job, girls! Carol & Linda, Thank you so much for a job well done!

Good job, Carol & Linda. You were excellent hostesses and planners for this conference!

#### **AAKC Newsletter**

#### Wichita

De Nelson started with the City of Wichita in January of 2002 as the Executive Assistant to the City Manager. She stays busy coordinating the City Manager's schedule, organizing meetings and conferences, special projects, citizen inquiries and supervising two clerical positions. De enjoys the variety and challenges that come to the office every day and keeps in touch with local business leaders and government officials. There's never a boring day in the City Manager's Office!

Prior to her position with the City of Wichita, De was employed at Westar Energy for 25 years in administrative support to executive management serving in various departments within that organization. De graduated from Central Business College in Wichita, Kansas and has taken additional classes at Wichita State University. De serves as Vice Chair on the Christian Business and Professional Women's After 5 Club board, and a member of Executive Women International.

De and her husband, David, have three adult children and 2 grandchildren. She enjoys being outdoors with nature,

#### Meet De Nelson-City of

spending time with family, and traveling whenever she gets the chance.





## Meet Rhonda Maxon—City of Junction City

I have lived in the Junction City, KS area my entire life. I graduated from Chapman High School and completed my Associates Degree from Cloud County Community College. I am a member of Xi Beta Chi sorority, Immanuel Lutheran Church and the Kiwanis in Junction City. My hobbies include horseback riding, reading, spending time with family and friends. I treasure my time with my nieces and nephews.





## Meet Janise Enterkin— City of Sedgwick

I have lived in Sedgwick, Kansas for 13 years with my husband Samuel and 3 children, now young adults, Adam 23 yrs., Cory 22 yrs., and Samantha 17 yrs.

I have been City Clerk for a year and a half and have worked for the city for 4 years.





## Abilene-September, 2006

#### Hello AAKC Sisters,

I am looking forward to hosting the fall conference in September.

I sat down with my manager and discussed ideas for the meeting. Among items: Visiting the Historical Museum/ Independent Telephony, touring the LeBold Mansion, eating at the Brookville Hotel, having an Adobe Acrobat Forms presentation (hopefully by our Nancy Crain), touring Abilene on the trolley, a presentation from Cyphrus Bridge (made gift baskets for the Academy Awards), attending the Great Plains Theatre, tour Russell Stover's Candies plant.

So, we have many options and I would love any other suggestions you might have that I missed.

Just let me know!

Darlene



## **AAKC Executive Board**

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

Paula Flores Vice President City of Garden City pflores@garden-city.org

Barb Slagle Secretary City of Dodge City bars@dodgecity.org

Carol Mitchell Treasurer City of Hutchinson carolm@hutchgov.com





#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Sandie Masden - Dodge City - CHAIR Michele Rodriguez - Emporia Denise Duerksen - Newton Linda Jones—Osage City Ruth Patterson—League President - Ex-Officio Carolyn Sturgeon- Lenexa

#### PUBLIC AFFAIRS

#### - CHAIR

Tami Cushenbery - Emporia Beth Ann Turner – Iola Carolyn Sturgeon—Lenexa Ruth Patterson—League Susie Clem—Olathe Vice President - Ex-Officio Susan Evenson – Garden City

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

Megan Williams - Great Bend - CHAIR

Nancy Crain – Arkansas City Terri Edmonds - Lenexa De Nelson—Wichita Rhonda Maxon—Junction City Secretary - Ex-Officio Barb Slagle - Dodge City

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS

Pat King - Winfield - Chair Susan Wettstein - Garnett Sarah Somerhalder - Emporia Doris Wing – Hays Andrea Windholz – Hays Tracy Thomas – Wellington Susan Rowan—Newton Janice Enterkin—Sedgwick Jimmie Ruth Diskin—Cheney

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Linda Razo - Hutchinson - CHAIR Barbie Boots - Chanute Darlene Provance - Abilene Lesley Shook - Arkansas City Martha Wilkerson - Parsons Kelly Passauer - Independence Paula Flores—Garden City Barb Nelson—Ottawa Treasurer - Ex-Officio Carol Mitchell - Hutchinson

Web site address:

www.aakc.org

Contact Megan at <u>meganw@greatbendks.net</u>





## AAKC Fall Newsletter 2006

#### The President's Corner ~

Darlene Provance and her conference committee did a superb job of planning an outstanding AAKC 2006 Fall Conference. From workshops on time management, creating Adobe Acrobat forms, utilizing web resources to a discussion on best practices, I think everyone attending felt it was time well spent! The keynote speaker, Bernie Hayen, was educational, enlightening and entertaining. Thank you again to Darlene Provance, Susan Evenson, Megan Williams, Nancy Crain, City Manager Mark Arbuthnot, and last but not least, Bernie Hayen, for a great time in Abilene.

The 2006 League of Kansas Municipalities Annual Conference was October 7-10, 2006 at the Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel and Kansas Expocentre. Our AAKC booth at the Conference was very well done thanks to the special efforts of Chairman Susan Evenson, Jennifer Gutierres, Sandie Masden, Megan Williams, Nancy Crain and Linda Jones. Thank you for your city's contribution to the give away AAKC basket. It was a hit. Those AAKC members attending the conference enjoyed getting together at the LKM sponsored AAKC association breakfast on Tuesday morning, October 10.

I encourage you to be an active and proactive committee member. Together, we can accomplish great things for AAKC. Please share your ideas with your fellow committee members, get to know and keep in touch with them. Please refer to our AAKC web site for information about our committees at: <u>http://www.aakc.org/committees.htm</u> If you are unsure of the committee you serve on or need to change or update information, please inform Secretary Barb Slagle, City of Dodge City, at email address: <u>barbs@dodgecity.org</u>.

I have recently subscribed to a newsletter from the National Institute of Business Management, *Personal Report for the Administrative Professional*. Their web site address is: <u>www.Admin-Pro.com</u> The newsletter is very informative and timely. In fact, the November issue had an article about SurveyMonkey (<u>www.surveymonkey.com</u>). We are currently using SurveyMonkey to elicit employee's opinions about working for the City of Lenexa and it has been very rewarding and well received. In fact, I thought it might be fun to use it to generate ideas and get opinions about improving our organization. What do you think?

And, here are some more Internet website addresses to add to our web resource list ~

- □ Find out whether you've been rude via e-mail at <u>www.netmanners.com</u>
- □ Locate a phone number at <u>www.switchboard.com</u> or <u>www.superpages.com</u>
- Read career advice articles at <u>www.bbmcareerdev.com</u>
- Learn about yourself by taking the Take-12 Questionnaire at <u>www.bragbetter.com</u>
- □ Find out salaries for Administrative Professionals at <u>www.officeteam.com</u>

At our fall conference, DJ Curtis shared one of her favorite travel planning sites: <u>www.sidestep.com</u> Have you tried it? I think you'll like it. I've found it very helpful.

Now we can look forward to our 2007 Spring AAKC Conference in Emporia. If you have ideas for conference topics, please submit them to Sarah Somerhalder, Michelle Rodriguez or Tami Cushenbery. I'll look forward to seeing you April 4-6, 2007 in Emporia!

Signing off now by sending this Irish Blessing to you ~

May you have warm words on a cold evening, A full moon on a dark night, And the road downhill all the way to your door. ~ Anon.

Happy holidays and warmest regards, Carolyn Sullivan Sturgeon



September 14-15, 2006 Abilene, Kansas

### How Was Your Conference Experience?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Highlights: Bernie , Brookville, Adobe, Outlook,			
Organization of Conference	10	10			networking, Friendships. Like least:: Sound quality, too many side conversations when speakers were talking, lodging, no computers,			
Speaker Susan Evenson	6	12	1	1				
Speaker – Megan Williams	7	12	1					
Speaker – Bernie Hayen	15	5			<u>Future topics</u> More Outlook, supervisory helps for the busy Exec Asst., Getting your manager organized, records retention, Excel – creating spreadsheets, shortcuts, Motivating fellow employees – develop a positive working environment, retirement, dealing with change (new boss), Grammar			
Speaker Nancy Crain	10	10						
Brookville Dinner	17	3						
Best Practices Discussion (4 N/A)	8	8						
Meeting Facilities	7	12	1		Which other Kansas city would you like to visit?			
Meals	13	4			Wichita, Overland Park, Dodge City, small cities, Lenexa, Salina, Topeka, Manhattan, JC, Olathe, Independence, Ark City, Ottawa, Hays			
Accommodations	1	7	8	3				
Overall Conference	12	8						



Administrative Assistants of Kansas Cities Fall Business Meeting Minutes September 15, 2006 City of Abilene, Civic Center Abilene, KS

#### **Members Present:**

Darlene Provance Jennifer Gutierres Megan Williams Wilma Lister De Nelson Linda Razo

Denise Duerksen Lesley Shook Sarah Somerhalder Susan Wettstein DJ Curtis Susan Evenson Barb Slagle Nancy Crain Rhonda Maxon Linda Jones Janet Hackney Sandie Masden Susan Rowen Pat King Andrea Windholz Susie Clem

President Carolyn Sturgeon called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of minutes of previous meeting on April 7, 2006.

Denise Duerksen, Newton, moved and Pat King, Winfield, seconded that the minutes be approved. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report

The financial report and 2007 Proposed Budget were distributed for review. Susan Wettstein, Garnett, moved and Sandie Masden, Dodge City, seconded to approve the financial report and the 2007 Budget as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Committee Reports

<u>Professional Development:</u> Sandie Masden, Dodge City, reported on the CMA (Certified Municipal Assistant) certification. Sandie reported on the following:

- Applications for CMA certifications are accepted in the fall. The Professional Development Committee will review the applications that have been submitted and award the CMA plaques and pins at the Spring Conference.
- Sandie reviewed the point structure on the CMA application.
- A survey was sent out for topics of discussion at future conferences.
- The committee is working on a pin for the CMA award.

<u>Membership</u>: Linda Razo, Hutchinson, reported the City of Horton has expressed interest in joining AAKC. She passed out an updated membership sheet. Linda requested that the Publications Committee design a new post card for mailing to prospects.

<u>Publications:</u> Barb Slagle, Dodge City, reported that the Publications Committee has completed the following items since the Spring 2006 meeting:

- Updated the AAKC Web site Membership page, conferences page, committees page, and links page
- Assisted Darlene (City of Abilene) with the Fall Conference brochure—designed and printed it for mailing
- Made an advertisement flyer for the Kansas Government Journal

Barb also reported that the Publications Committee is working on other projects as follows:

- Online form for attendance tracking at conferences
- Adding membership page to the web site
- Adding By-Laws to the web site
- Adding Agendas and Minutes to the web site, perhaps in a "Document Center" structure

The meeting was temporarily adjourned for lunch at 12:10 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m., resuming under Committee Reports.

<u>Public Affairs:</u> Susan Rowan, Newton, stated they had no report. Carolyn Sturgeon, Lenexa, reported on the Legislative Policy Committee for LKM (League of Kansas Municipalities).

<u>Public Relations</u>: Pat King, Winfield, passed out updated pages for our Membership Directory. New members were given Membership Directories. Sarah Somerhalder has updated the birthday list and they were passed out. Discussion was held on recognition for 5-10 year members. Pat showed some samples of plaques. Discussion was held on giving a plaque to departing members. Wilma Lister, Winfield, volunteered to be on the Public Relations committee. The committee will clarify their committee description and submit it at the Spring 2007 meeting.

- 4. Old Business
  - A. Carolyn Sturgeon discussed the booth at the LKM Conference in Topeka, Oct. 8-10, 2006:
    - Susan Evenson, El Dorado, will chair the Booth Committee. Others who volunteered to help with the booth were Jennifer Gutierres and Sandie Masden, Dodge City; Linda Jones, Osage

City; and Megan Williams, Great Bend. Megan will help with design of publications, etc., but may not attend the LKM conference.

- Carolyn reminded everyone that the AAKC Breakfast is on Tuesday, October 10, at 7:30 a.m.
- Discussion on a give-away from our booth was held. It was decided to give away a smokecolored pen-like tool that contains a small screwdriver, etc., with our AAKC logo on it.
- Nancy Crain, Arkansas City, volunteered to share the Power Point presentation that she had prepared for last year's booth so it could be updated for this year.
- B. AAKC Constitution and By-Laws

President Carolyn asked if everyone had reviewed their copy of the AAKC Constitution and By-Laws, which had been updated by Barb Slagle, Secretary, and reviewed by the officers prior to this meeting. There was no discussion and no changes at this time. If there are changes that need to be made, we can update them again at a future conference. Sandie Masden moved and Susan Evenson seconded to approve the AAKC Constitution and By-Laws as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Discuss plans for Spring, 2007 meeting

Emporia will host our Spring, 2007 meeting. President Carolyn suggested that members submit ideas for conference topics to Sarah Somerhalder, Michelle Rodriguez or Tami Cushenbery. The Professional Development committee will review the conference agenda. Linda Jones, Osage City, volunteered to assist them also.

4. New Business

A. Election Report (President and Secretary)

The Nominating Committee retired to count the ballots that were submitted by e-mail, fax and in person. The Nominating Committee returned and Darlene Provance announced that Carolyn Sturgeon was re-elected as President and Barb Slagle was re-elected as Secretary.

B. Location for Fall 2007 Conference

De Nelson, of Wichita, has volunteered to host the Fall 2007 conference. Nancy Crain, Ark City, volunteered to assist her. It was suggested that the conference be either a 1-1/2 or 2-day conference. Early bird or optional activities could be planned for the first day of the conference, similar to the way this conference was organized.

C. Location for Spring 2008 Conference

President Carolyn announced that D.J. Curtis, of Overland Park, has volunteered to host the Spring 2008 Conference.

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Barb Slagle, City of Dodge City Secretary

## **AAKC Executive Board**

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

Paula Flores – Garden City Vice President City of Garden City pflores@garden-city.org

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

**Carol Mitchell – Treasurer** City of Hutchinson carolm@hutchgov.com

### More pictures from Abilene ....

## A.A.K.C. COMMITTEES

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Sandie Masden - Dodge City - CHAIR Michele Rodriguez - Emporia Denise Duerksen – Newton Linda Jones – Osage City Ruth Patterson – League Susan Evenson - El Dorado President - Ex-Officio Carolyn Sturgeon- Lenexa

#### **PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Susan Rowan – Newton - CHAIR Tami Cushenbery - Emporia Beth Ann Turner – Iola Ruth Patterson – League Susie Clem – Olathe Vice President - Ex-Officio Paula Flores – Garden City

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS Pat King - Winfield - CHAIR Susan Wettstein - Garnett Sarah Somerhalder – Emporia Andrea Windholz – Hays Janise Enterkin – Sedgwick Jimmie Ruth Diskin – Cheney Wilma Lister - Winfield

#### PUBLICATIONS

#### Megan Williams Great Bend - CHAIR

Nancy Crain – Arkansas City Terri Ogilvie – Lenexa Rhonda Maxon – Junction City De Nelson – Wichita Janet Hackney - Gardner Secretary - Ex-Officio Barb Slagle - Dodge City

#### MEMBERSHIP

Linda Razo - Hutchinson - CHAIR Barbie Boots - Chanute Darlene Provance - Abilene Lesley Shook - Arkansas City Kelly Passauer – Independence DJ Curtis – Overland Park Treasurer - Ex-Officio

\*Updated 9/13/2006

Carol Mitchell - Hutchinson









## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR CITY?



## From Hutchinson~

The Kansas Underground Salt Museum is now scheduled to open in late 2006 or early 2007! Let's take a tour!

## From Olathe ~

There is a lot happening in the city that Money Magazine recently named as the *thirteenth best place in the country to live*. Here are a few highlights:

## 127<sup>th</sup> Street Overpass

- Project is ahead of schedule
- Scheduled to be open to traffic in December (original completion time was September of 2007)
- Improvements to surrounding roads as well
- Improvements to Kansas City Road are near completion
- Improvement to 127<sup>th</sup> and Mur-Len are starting

## **Railroad Track Elevation**

- Project is in response to top priority of citizens to reduce traffic congestion
- Project will eliminate railroad crossings at Ridgeview, Santa Fe, Park and Loula
- Forty trains per day cross these four streets
- Santa Fe crossing is 2<sup>nd</sup> busiest in the state
- Trains will run on new tracks by August of 2007
- Further improvements will continue through April of 2008

## K-State-BioScience

- Project includes Kansas State University, a bioscience research park and a bioscience business incubator
- Located on northwest corner of College Boulevard and Kansas Highway 7
- In partnership with Johnson County Government, the Kansas Bioscience Authority and Kansas State University

## Destination Retail Plan at 119<sup>th</sup> and I-35 (Bass Pro Shop)

- Bass Pro Shop two story retail store is on schedule to open on February 22, 2007.
- The store will open complete with the Islamorada Fish Company Restaurant and Starbucks
- 19,000 gallon fresh water aquarium construction within the store is scheduled to be stocked with native fish species on January 1, 2007
- The Olathe Bass Pro Shop is the first in Kansas, and is expected to create 250 jobs
- Renner Road will be complete with final surfacing and ready to open from KC Road to 119th in November as scheduled
- Construction of the lifestyle center (retail shops with open plaza area) to begin in about 2 weeks

### <u>From Emporia ~</u>

The turnpike project has started on the west side of Emporia. The Kansas Turnpike Authority decided the time had come to straighten out the maze ("spaghetti bowl") with some help from the city government and the Kansas Department of Transportation. "With luck, and a pair of roundabouts, spaghetti would soon be off the menu." The project includes a new plaza and the roads leading up to it, particularly on a new set of entrance and exit ramps for northbound and southbound traffic. Also, two new bridges will be constructed over one of the roundabouts. During construction, there will be four detours to reroute traffic until the project is completed (project to be completed in approximately two years).

Planning Emporia's 150th year anniversary on February 20, 2007. On February 20, 2007 there will be a 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary birthday party at the Civic Auditorium arena. The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary time capsule (safe) was opened 4-1-06) and the contents removed. The contents of a scrap book, movie, top hat, centennial coin and mold and other items are on display at the Lyon County Historical Museum. 150<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary activities will continue throughout the year.

Emporia will be getting information kiosks to be put throughout the downtown area. These kiosks will be attached to light poles (if approved) similar to the ones in Garden City.

## From Arkansas City ~

The City of Arkansas City hired a new City Manager, Doug Russell. He will start December 4, 2006. He is currently town administrator of Lovell, Wyoming.

## Mark Your Calendars ...

Spring 2007 – Emporia Fall 2007 – Wichita Spring 2008 – Overland Park



On the Web ~ www.aakc.org

## SNAPSHOTS FROM THE LEAGUE MEETING – AAKC BOOTH October 7-10, 2006









