



AAKC

AAKC NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2009

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Are you an Administrative Assistant working for City Government in Kansas? Won't you consider joining AAKC? See page 4 for contact info.

FALL CONFERENCE HELD IN IOLA, KANSAS



Mike Ford & Donna Houser

The 2009 Fall Administrative Assistants of Kansas Cities (AAKC) conference was held in Iola, Kansas, September 10-11.

What a conference! The hostess of this conference was Beth Ann and her family. They did an outstanding job and the decorations fit the time of year. We missed all of you that were not able to attend.

Beth Ann went above and beyond to provide everything the Administrative Assistants were looking for: personal development, technology training, historical tour and a productive business meeting.



Trolley Tour Guides

AND AWAY WE GO



Zinc Civil War Statue

The conference began with the early bird check in on Thursday at the Best Western Hotel in Iola. We then gathered and had a wonderful trolley tour on Molly the Trolley. Our hosts for the tour were Mike Ford and Donna Houser. Donna gave us so much information that Mike had to slow down a number of times, and she was still not done when we had to go back to the restaurant to eat. We toured the Riverside park, through the older parts of town and the newer industrial area. It was explained that in the early days they had Zinc and Lead mines and Sulfur water in Iola. Donna explained we should go and visit the Old Iola cemetery that still has a Zinc Civil War Soldier statue, which is one of four left in the country. We were taken by a lot of historic places in town and saw many interesting sites. We even drove by the Russell Stover new Outlet Store but unfortunately we did not have time to stop.



Molly Trolley



Russell Stover Candy Outlet

When it was time to eat, we all gathered at The Greenery, which was right next door to the hotel. We had a buffet of sweet and sour pork chops, fried chicken, chicken strips, just to name a few of the main dishes. There was corn, green beans, salad, hot rolls and cobblers for dessert. The food was delicious. If you went away hungry it was your own fault!

Before we ate, we had a precious little lady better known as the "The Hat Lady" explain about all her hats. You really missed something if you were not there to hear how Emy Platt fixes her hats if they are too large. Emy shared stories about 25 to 30 of her 150 hats that she owns. She lives east of town in the suburb of Gas. She had a few one liners on this one.

Emy Platt (The Hat Lady) with just a few of her 150 hats



FRIDAY: A BUSY AND PRODUCTIVE DAY

On Friday morning we all gathered at the North Community Building at 505 N. Buckey Street. It is an old UPA project, that has been converted into the Community Building. What, you may ask, is a WPA project?

It was explained to us on our Trolley tour that President Franklin Roosevelt created the Works Progress Administration (WPA). It was then renamed to Work Projects Administration in 1939. The goal of WPA was to provide jobs to people by constructing these buildings and projects. There are quite a few of these projects still standing around the city today.

Beth Ann had decorated the inside of the Community Building to make it look like home. She had a fall theme and each chair had a bag of goodies.

A continental breakfast was waiting for us when we arrived. It was catered by Chartwells Catering Service. We had breakfast burritos, egg casserole, hash browns, fresh fruit, cinnamon rolls, blueberry muffins and pastries. Are you getting hungry yet? There was hot coffee (after they brought another pot because the first pot spilled all over Staci's van, poor Staci) and juice and water.

After eating, we had the Iola City Administrator, Judy Bringham, welcome us to the AAKC conference and expound on what a great asset Beth Ann is to Iola.

For lunch we had some out of this world barbeque brought in by Matt Kerr. The sandwiches were huge and the side dishes were absolutely fabulous.



SOME IOLA CITY HISTORY



Iola is celebrating its Sesquicentennial (Beth Ann could even say this word)! This means Iola is celebrating its 150th year anniversary, with a fun packed year of events. They have held celebrations in the "largest courthouse square in the United States", which was beautiful this time of year.

Iola is nestled along the bank of the Neosho River. Feeding it are the Rock, Elm, Coon and Deer creeks. It is located at the crossroads of Highways 54 and 169. The arch bridge was one of the treasures lost to progress when the new Highway 54 was built. Iola is home to the Allen County Community College which has an enrollment of 1,500+ students.

The Bowlus Fine Arts Center, along with four banks, the city library, and the Old Allen County Jail, are just some of the sites to see when you are on the trolley tour. The restored boyhood home of General Funston was moved to the town square and is a site to visit, along with the historic bandstand.



Bowlus Fine Art Center



Old Allen County Jail



General Funston Home

FRIDAY, OUR EDUCATION CONTINUES

Jonathan Morris with the KU Public Management Center was up next and gave a talk on "How Things Really Work: The Critical Role of Administrative Staff." We watched a video on "Give them a pickle" (or something like that). He had an exercise with ten people to see how long it would take them to "Lower the Bar." The object was to lower the bar with your finger tips to the floor. We took just a "little bit longer" than usual but the bar was finally lowered to the floor after it had been raised high above our heads.



LOWERING THE BAR ?

We welcomed two new members at this conference - Marsha Toler and Jessica Lemons from the City of Shawnee. We also lost two members - Beverly Hayden from Spring Hill (retired June 10, 2009) and Tabetha Ketzner (Bird City) accepted a new position at a hospital. We had four people celebrate their 10-year anniversaries: Sarah Somerhalder - Emporia; Wilma Lister - Winfield; Terri Ogilvie - Lenexa; and Carolyn Sturgeon (not pictured) - Lenexa (now retired).



Sara Somerhalder 10 year award
presented by Lesley Shook



Terri Ogilvie 10 year award
presented by Lesley Shook



Wilma Lister 10 year award
presented by Lesley Shook

FINAL PART OF THE DAY . . .

The minutes of the April 3, 2009 meeting were approved. De Nelson took over the Treasurers report as Nancy Crain was unable to attend. De asked that we keep her in our prayers as she is having some health issues. *She lost her battle with cancer on October 19, 2009.* Each Committee gave short reports. The new Municipal Administrative Professional of the Year Award nomination form and policy was handed out and explained, then accepted unanimously. The newly elected officers are Janise Enterkin, Vice

President and Susan Rowan is our new Treasurer. President De Nelson explained the new Constitution and By Law Revisions and it passed. We all signed the Code of Ethics form. It was also asked if there were volunteers for the Website. Our 2010 spring conference will be in Abilene and the fall conference will be in El Dorado. In the Spring of 2011 our meeting will be in Dodge City. We filled out our evaluation forms and then headed for home.



De Nelson presenting Beth Ann Turner with a
thank you gift.

An Invitation:

If this is your first time visiting our website, we hope you find AAKC an interesting organization. We invite you to email our President, De Nelson, at dnelson@wichita.gov, if you have questions or are interested in joining AAKC.



For our AAKC Members:

If you have a talent, idea or suggestion, please email De Nelson and let her know your thoughts.

Take a look at the AAKC Committee and members listed below. If you are not on a committee, please consider joining one or more. Just contact the Chair of the committee you'd like to join. They'd be happy to have you!

AAKC Executive Board

De Nelson
President
 City of Wichita
dnelson@wichita.gov

Janise Enterkin *
Vice President
 City of Sedgwick
janise@cityofsedgwick.org

Janet Hackney
Secretary
 City of Gardner
jhackney@gardnerkansas.gov

Susan Rowan *
Treasurer
 City of Newton
srowan@newtonkansas.com

Ta Da!

The 2010 AAKC Spring Conference
 will be held in Abilene

AAKC MEMBERS AND COMMITTEES

Professional Development

Advisor: De Nelson
 Chairman: Denise Duerksen
Members

Susan Evenson
 Lois Landwehr
 Charlotte Newkirk
 Barb Slagle
 Linda Jones

Membership

Advisor: Janise Enterkin*
 Chairman: Lesley Shook
Members

Terice Watts
 Jessica Lemons
 Sharon Brongiel
 Carol Mitchell
 Darlene Provance
 Sherry Conyers
 Nancy Crain

Did you know:

The AAKC Organization was formed from a desire to promote and improve proficiency of its members and public administration in Kansas and to provide a network of information, ideas and support to its members.

Publications/Media

Advisor: Susan Rowan*
 Chairman: Megan Cates
Members

Cindy Weeks
 Angela Wornkey
 Charlotte Newkirk
 Nancy Crain
 Janise Enterkin
 Terri Ogilvie
 De Nelson
 Page Achilles
 Janet Hackney

* Effective January, 2010

Member Relations/Public Affairs

Advisor: Janet Hackney
 Chairman: Jeannie Gochenour
 Vice Chair Sarah Somerhalder
Members

Pat King
 Wilma Lister
 Susan Wettstein
 Susan Denham
 Jennie Hiatt
 Beth Ann Turner
 Linda Jones
 Andrea Windholz
 Jimmie Ruth Diskin
 Jennifer Gutierrez



A special thanks to those that helped me with this newsletter: Tamie Snow, Kristy Bansemer, Beth Ann Turner, and Janet Hackney.