

The Museum Messenger

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Changing America	2
Hometown Teams	2
Project Committee	2
RSVP	3
Pie Supper	3
Research Center	3
Conference	4
Art Club	4
Luncheons	4
Board Members	4

Coming Events:

"Changing America"
Aug. 22 to Sept. 29

"The Things They Carried
Home"
Sept. 20

"Independence: A Bat and a
Ball
Oct. 6 to Nov. 21

Arts & Crafts Fair
Dec. 6

You will find a Membership Renewal form enclosed. Please call the office to check the expiration date of your membership.

Letter from the President – Ray Rothgeb

We are ALL happy to have Sylvia back from vacation. Thank you to all the volunteers who so ably covered the office in her absence. * If you haven't visited the "Changing America" exhibit, you must. It is a quality presentation that commemorates two events that changed the course of our nation; the "Emancipation Proclamation" of 1863, and the March on Washington in 1963. Dr. John Tidwell, an Independence native, addressed sixty people at the opening reception. Many thanks to board members present. Kudos to Brandon West for his work on this project. Brandon wrote the grant and has done an outstanding job managing the events. Many activities are planned for the next several weeks. Be sure and check them out! * Get ready for baseball! The "Hometown Teams: A Bat and a Ball" exhibit opens October 6. Give Sylvia a call if you want to volunteer to help with the event. * The art club continues to engage artists and bring art opportunities to the area. Already, the group has a four-show season planned for 2016. * The Board approved a bid from Brian Ring to construct the Law Enforcement exhibit walls. This area will house artifacts appropriate to the theme and includes the steel jail door from the old Montgomery County Jail. This project is being paid for with funds from outside of the general fund. * At the last board meeting a financial challenge was presented by Treasurer Randy Hoffman. While ADA fundraising is doing well, the general fund is facing some challenges. This was not totally unexpected. The Board has been carefully monitoring the Museum's finances on a regular basis. The cause for concern is attributed to a number of reasons: Renovation pledges included some 30 members who received free membership resulting in less money from membership dues; exhibits funded by state and federal grants prohibit admission charges resulting in a loss of about \$300 to \$500 in gallery rental; income from donations and gifts has not kept up with budget; and utilities have exceeded anticipated budget. In an effort to address a potential general fund shortfall the Board will be looking at some corrective actions: A request for members who are entitled to free membership to consider paying for their annual membership; increase new members by at least 30; appeal to organizations and groups that use our facilities to contribute to the general fund, if they haven't contributed to the renovation fund; pursue outside grants for maintenance and programming; consider immediate measures to reduce utility costs among the three museum facilities; and tighten spending in general. * You are blessed with a knowledgeable, dedicated board. They are committed to making things happen. We look forward to your participation and encouragement.

“Changing America” Exhibit

September 1-Emancipation Proclamation presented by Dr. Isaias McCaffery-**IPL**
September 8-Serving As One presented by Dr. Shawn Leigh Alexander-**IPL**
September 10-Let Freedom Sing-**IPL**
September 15-Documentary Screening-**IPL**
September 16-From Slavery to Civil Rights-Children’s Story time-**IPL**
September 19-City Spirit –
September 22-Book Discussion-“Race Matters” by Cornel West-Discussion Leader Marilyn Klaus-**IPL**
September 29-Closing Reception-Keynote Speaker Gretchen Cassel Eick-**IHMAC**
(Locations-**IHMAC**-Independence Historical Museum & Art Center / **IPL**-Independence Public Library)

Baseball

There are some updates for the “Hometown Team event scheduled for this coming October/November. The baseball luncheon is scheduled for October 17th from 10 AM to 1 PM. There will be a board of celebrities on hand to discuss the baseball history of Independence. The board will include past baseball players and book authors. One of the distinguished guests, Jan Sumner, will be available to autograph his latest book, “Independence, Mantle and Miss Able”. Jan will also have a book signing event at the Museum on October 16th from 12 to 4 PM.

Some new additions to the baseball room include team photos of the 1950 Independence Yankees, a copy of the 1949 Independence Yankee scorecard, artwork by local artist Shelly James and a red brick from the Shulthis Grandstand. If anyone would like a guided tour of the baseball room exhibit, please contact the museum to make arrangements.

Project Committee Plans

The Project Committee has started work on improving the signage of Museum items and displays. A uniform font will be used on all signs and may include either a story about the item or some history. Diana Hoffman has volunteered to work on this project. She has started with the paintings in the Gallery, so look for these new identification signs in the near future. After the paintings are finished, work will continue on other items in the Gallery. Be sure to thank Diana the next time you see her.

Some changes will be taking place in the near future in the Blacksmith area to make room for a display of Montgomery County law enforcement items and history. Art Schenk, former Montgomery County Sheriff, has donated a jail cell from the county courthouse along with several other items. In order to make room for this new display, some items currently in this area need to be rearranged or moved to more appropriate places in the Museum. The plan is to provide an area display of agricultural and construction items. The area will be renamed “The Way We Worked”. As part of the ADA/Safety renovation, a fire resistant wall is going to be built around the boiler.

“The Things They Carried Home”

A Reception and Exhibit of the 1011th History Preservation Project will be held on Sunday, September 20th from 1:30 to 4:30 PM at the Independence Historical Museum and Art Center. This event is the story of service throughout the years.

For more information contact Kathy Shepard at 620-332-1954.

This event is sponsored by RSVP Four County through a grant of the Kansas Humanities Council. Funding for this project is provided by the Kansas Humanities Council, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities Standing Together Initiative.

PIE SUPPER

Be watching the Newspaper and your e-mails for more information on this fund raiser.

If you would like to help out (with homemade pies or other homemade desserts) contact Ray Rothgeb, Randy Hoffman or Joy Barta.

Historical Research Center

The Historical Research Center will be participating in the 100-Mile Sale on September 11 & 12. We will have some unique items for sale that day, including the following:

Old Independence City Directories – 1964 through 1986 (not Inclusive)
Orange & Black Independence High School Yearbooks (1911-1951)
Inkanquil and Communico Junior College Yearbooks (1926-1943 and 1970-1982)
Neewollah Program Books (1962-2013)
Special Addition Neewollah Program Book Covering 1919-1989
Neewollah Pins and Cups
Two-drawer file cabinet

We would certainly appreciate any contributions to the Research Center that we might sell those days. If you have any items that you would like to donate to include in our sale, please call Susan Johnson at 331-7599. We do not want to include in our sale any clothes, shoes or small knick-knacks. Thanks to all our museum members who have supported the Research Center in the past and continue to support our efforts in helping people with their genealogical research.

Volunteers are needed to help with the set up of the sale items and manning the Center on both days. If you would like to help call 779-0496 or 331-3515.

**Independence Historical
Museum & Art Center**

123 N. 8th
PO Box 295
Independence, KS 67301

Phone:
(620) 331-3515

E-Mail:
museum123@cableone.net

We're on the Web!

See us at:
ihmac.org

Art Club

The Art Group will meet for working on personal art projects September 14th and 28th from 9 AM to Noon. Please note that one does NOT have to be a great artist to work with us; any level of artist is welcome. Also note we enter the museum via the back door on the dock.

Mark Metcalf is donating his time on Saturdays to escort us to places featuring sites which would be good for photographing. More and more interest is being shown in regional art, and Southeast Kansas is a fantastic region. Contact the office for more information.

September 21st is a drawing workshop with Steven Greenwall. We meet from 9 AM to Noon. The cost is \$20.

We would love to have you join us anytime.

Thank you to all that helped out while I was on vacation. It was greatly appreciated. -Sylvia-

Scholarship Awarded for 2015 Conference

The Mountain Plains Museums Association and the Kansas Museums Association have awarded Coordinator Sylvia Augustine a prized scholarship to the 2015 Joint Conference in Wichita, September 27 – October 1.

Scholarship recipients will attend a variety of workshops focused on advancing their professional career and providing innovation in the museum community. They will take part in a mentoring program and have opportunities to network with colleagues at workshops and on tours of local museums.

The conference is expected to draw over 300 attendees from 10 states, including states along the corridor between South Dakota and Texas.

Luncheon

Luncheon Menu:
Ham & Potato Casserole, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Ice Cream Cups, Coffee and Tea

Program: Installation of the Board of Directors

Please make your reservations by Noon on September 9th.

2015-2016 Board of Directors

Ray Rothgeb-President
Kym Kays-1st VP
Mike Flood-2nd VP
Donna Dittmer-Secretary
Randy Hoffman-Treasurer
Norman Chambers - Ellie Culp - Isaias McCaffery - Joy Barta - Drew Demo - John Koschin - Tim Emert