



NEWS

SPRING 2017

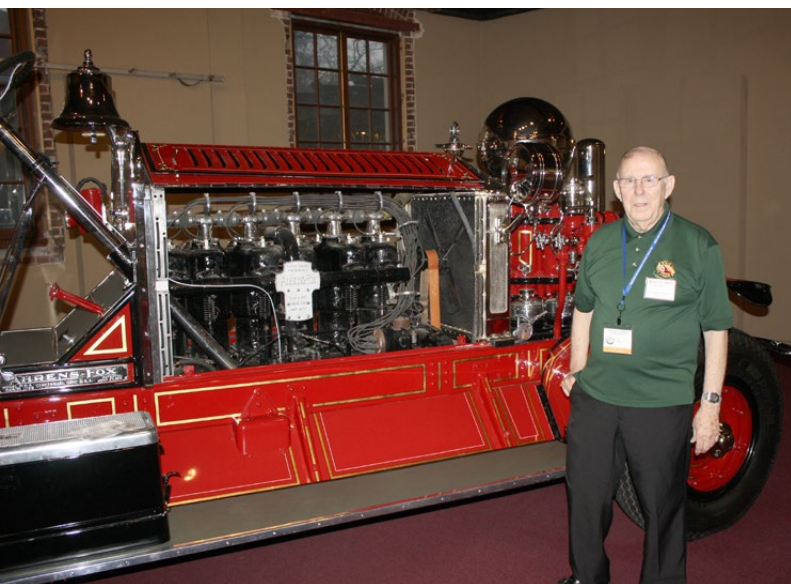
from The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City

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

Great turnout for KC Museum Meet & Greet!

More than 50 NSDKC members and guests enjoyed a wonderful evening Thursday, February 23, at the Kansas City Museum!

Our event was held in the Carriage House behind Corinthian Hall and featured very impressive exhibits relating to the history and legacy of the Kansas City Fire Department (KCFD).



Above is our own Ray Elder who served as guide and interpreter as we strolled around enjoying the exhibits.

The first firefighting team in Kansas City was formed in 1860 as an all-volunteer "bucket brigade." The KCFD continued to grow over the next couple of decades with paid firemen and steam fire engines by 1868.

In 1882, George C. Hale was appointed Chief of the KCFD, a role he held for 31 years. During this time, the KCFD twice represented the United States as the "American Fire Team" at the International Fire Congress, first in London in 1893 and at a Paris exposition in 1900. The London competition simulated a night alarm. The men had to begin the race from their beds, descend a flight of stairs, harness and hitch the horses, and clear the engine house. The best time was

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Join us at the College Basketball Experience!

At Sprint Arena – 1407 Grand Blvd.
Saturday, April 29, 2017, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Self guided tour with a Special Price of
\$10.00 per person (pay at the door)

Lunch on our own across the street
at Johnny's Tavern – 1310 Grand St.

Dress is casual

Parking available in Power & Light Garage on
13th just west of Grand Avenue
(Johnny's will validate our parking tickets)

RSVP to Susie Hughes by Mon., April 24
816-926-9397 or phughes9@kc.rr.com

The home of the nation's official hall of fame for men's college basketball! Fun for all ages on two floors of basketball exhibits.

Don't miss this exciting tour & lunch!

The President's Message

Dear members:

As I mentioned in our last newsletter we are in our 85th year as an organization!

My passion is genealogy. My hometown is Atchison, Kansas where my family has lived for six generations. My sons, Matt and Ben, are the eighth generation in Platte County so my research has been right at my fingertips. I get very excited when I run across original records that have signatures of my great-great-grandparents!

Eighty-five years of history of NSDKC is right at your fingertips on our website. Check it out! Under the Archives section of the website you can get a quick summary of NSDKC history in the 80th Anniversary brochure.

The permanent archives of NSDKC are maintained by the State Historical Society of Missouri. In honor of our 85th anniversary, I am planning a fall date for our membership to visit the campus of the University of Missouri-Kansas City to see our archives collection! Here is a list of holdings of the NSDKC collection (K0279): <http://shs.umsystem.edu/kansascity/manuscripts/k0279.pdf>

Two historical figures, General Robert E. Lee (Lane Smith) and Alexander Majors (Gary Hicks), attended our holiday brunch to remind us that we have very talented members on our Speakers Bureau that are willing to share their knowledge of Kansas City history. For further information, please contact our Speakers Bureau Chair Henry Leonard at 816-531-7774.

Guess who else is celebrating 85 years of life? He is our 2017 Outstanding Kansas Citian Alvin Brooks! We are very excited to announce that we will honor Mr. Brooks for his commitment to the Kansas City area on November 15. He is an important part of our history.

Our first Meet & Greet of the year was an exciting one. We visited the Kansas City Museum and learned from our members Nancy and Ray Elder about the history and legacy of the Kansas City Fire Department.

We have just finished March Madness and I know some of you are probably a little mad that your teams didn't get to the final game, but you have the opportunity to go back in time and revisit some great basketball history if you join us on Saturday, April 29 as we tour the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,
Diane Boos Pepper
2017 NSDKC President



President Diane Boos Pepper



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John Hess, Jr.
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A list of all committees and committee chairs is available at NSDKC.org

Newsletter Production

Ross Marshall, *Editor*

Norman Besheer, *Proof Reader*

Administrative Staff

Susan Hughes
Executive Secretary

Linda Dillon
Administration and IT

Contact Information

Phone: 816-926-9397

Email: publications@nsdkc.org

NSDKC.org

6320 Brookside Plaza, Suite 213
Kansas City, MO 64113

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.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Steffany Jean Hedenkamp

Karen L. McKeever

Kathleen Dunn Parker

IN MEMORIAM

Ruthie Wornall

NSDKC 85 HISTORY

During 2017, under the above banner, each newsletter will contain a short story of our history. Watch for them!

2002 NSDKC Gala was benefit to Liberty Memorial

On April 6, 2017, public events at the Liberty Memorial attracted huge crowds as the 100th anniversary of the United States involvement in WWI was observed. In 2002, the NSDKC decided to do something unusual for a non-profit—hold a benefit gala to help renovate and maintain the Liberty Memorial.

For many years, the NSDKC has had a direct connection with that site through our Liberty Memorial Committee.

In 2002, a formal invitation was sent to our members and other key Kansas City area people (note our different name at the time):

*You are cordially invited to join
the Native Sons
in Keeping the Flame Alive
at a fund raising gala to benefit
the Liberty Memorial*

at

Union Station

Friday, May 24, 2002

Cocktails and Silent Auction 5:30 p.m.

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Black Tie Optional

The invitation for this Gala in the Grand Hall was sent by the Native Sons Liberty Memorial Committee. During construction, we had a rent-free office in the basement of Union Station.

The President of the Liberty Memorial Association (LMA) at the time was Carl DiCapo and he provided fundraising efforts that obtained large sums for the extensive renovations that were sorely needed at the Liberty Memorial,



Photos courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

which had been closed since 1994 due to safety concerns. John Dillingham was 1st Vice President of the Native Sons and 2nd Vice President of LMA at the time and became President of LMA in 2005. He is our current Liberty Memorial Committee Chair and just happened to have the above invitation in his files! For many years afterward, the late Bruce Pennington was our Liberty Memorial Committee Chair.

Emanuel Cleaver, who was between serving as Kansas City Mayor and as U. S. Congressman, was one of the speakers at the event. John Dillingham remembers that he mentioned the names of Native Sons members Carl DiCapo, Anita Gorman, and John in his remarks.

Gary Hicks remembers that he and wife Louise sat next to former Mayors Richard Berkley and Charles Wheeler.

Even though it may be somewhat unusual for a non-profit organization to host a meeting to help raise money for another non-profit, such as the Liberty Memorial, the auction and other donations enabled the Native Sons to donate \$83,000 toward their renovations. We were the first organization to have a fundraiser for the project.

It re-opened in 2006, with help from the Native Sons gala.

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77.5 seconds, but the team from Kansas City took only 8.5 seconds using a new idea called a sliding pole!

The KCFD continued to grow and progress under Chief Hale and he remains one of the most revered KCFD Chiefs.

The renovated fire engine behind Ray dates from 1927 and was involved in a serious accident in 1942. It was repaired but was retired and remained in storage until 1970. A difficult restoration project was begun which included hand-made parts that were no longer available. After many years, the renovations were complete and it now not only looks new but functions as effectively as when it was new in 1927!

All the buildings of this private estate of lumber baron (Long-Bell Lumber Co.) and civic leader Robert Alexander Long were completed in 1910. When Long passed away in 1935, his two daughters inherited it and deeded all of it to start a Kansas City Museum. That venture failed and the Museum came into the ownership of Kansas City for \$90,000 around 1940. Kansas City Parks and Recreation have been managers of the Museum since 2014.

Museum Director Anna Marie Tuter, who formerly was Director at the Alexander Majors House, addressed the crowd about the Museum's future.

For the past 20 months, the Museum, KC Parks and Rec



Anna Marie Tuter, Director of the Museum addressed us about the Museum's future plans.



and the construction firm of JE Dunn Company have been working on an architectural design plan that will cover all the buildings of the Museum complex. Some of the renovation work may begin in 2017.

By using the hundreds of thousands of historical and cultural objects, film, manuscripts, paintings, transportation collections and the Kansas City Fire Historical Society objects, etc., the potential of the Kansas City Museum is impressive.

Plans for the Museum have been slow to develop, but the current initiative sounds exciting and hints of a promising future for this iconic three-acre site that sits atop a bluff overlooking the Missouri River Valley, adjacent to historic Kessler Park and Cliff Drive, a state scenic byway.

Many thanks to Programs Committee Chair Dick Retrum, Ray and Nancy Elder, Susie Hughes, Diane Pepper and John Hess, Jr. for their work that made this a very enjoyable NSDKC event.



Above: 2016 NSDKC President John Hess, Jr. and 2017 President Diane Pepper stand in front of a display of firemen's uniforms

Upper left: At far right in front, President Diane Pepper welcomes some of the attendees who were watching a special video about the history of the Kansas City Fire Department

NSDKC 85 HISTORY

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Descendants of Kansas City's founders launch historic preservation

The above headline in the *Kansas City Star* and the *Kansas City Journal-Post* in 1932 announced a meeting to establish a new organization to preserve the history of the city called the Native Sons of Kansas City. On January 15 the *Star* wrote "the lore of Kansas City's pioneer families is to be preserved."

Six days later the *Journal-Post* reported that "about 100 native sons of pioneers [gathered] at the Hotel Muehlebach. Much of the session was devoted to reminiscences on the part of the members, many of whom had been born on what now are important sites in the downtown district."

The foundation for the organization had been in place for some time. The *Star* had called the group "City's Sons" and the *Journal-Post* called the group the "Native K.C. Sons of Pioneers." Officers were elected at that first meeting on January 20, 1832, including D. Ralston Spalding as the first president. His father, James F. Spalding, founded the Spalding Commercial College in 1865 and his grandfather, E. H. Spalding, was a member of the city's first school board.

Members had to be born within the city limits of Kansas City, MO and had to be at least 40 years old.

The Native Sons of Kansas City was born – 85 years ago!

NSDKC Monument Project PROGRESS REPORT

Under the leadership of Chair Carl DiCapo, the Monument Committee remains committed to erecting a fitting tribute to our region's heritage. Partnering with the City of KCMO and its Parks and Recreation Department, the committee has assessed numerous sites for placement of the Monument. Confirming site selection remains the critical issue to move the process forward.

The Committee desires for the Monument to be erected in a highly visible, accessible, and appropriate location in the heart of our greater Kansas City metro area. The 'seeds' of our City were sown from Westport and the Missouri River, and today downtown Kansas City, MO is the heart of a vibrant residential, business and legislative community. What a worthy location to erect a landmark to the proud heritage of our Greater Kansas City Metropolitan region!

Stay tuned!



Accompanying Jeff (right) to the ceremony were (l-r) James Upton, Jeff's successor trustee; and Luke Pitz and Arielle Bogorad, the house's new owners.

Kansas City restoration recognized

On Wednesday evening, March 22, our own Jeff Hon was honored by the Historic Kansas City Foundation for his restoration work on the late Bruce Prince-Joseph's home. Many of us were able to tour the home while it was on the market last year and can attest to its restored beauty and charm.

When Bruce passed away in April 2015, Jeff was entrusted with the management of his estate and the final distribution of his assets as set out in his will. His home was one of the assets but it needed tender loving care in order to preserve its unique heritage as Kansas City's first "fire safe" home.

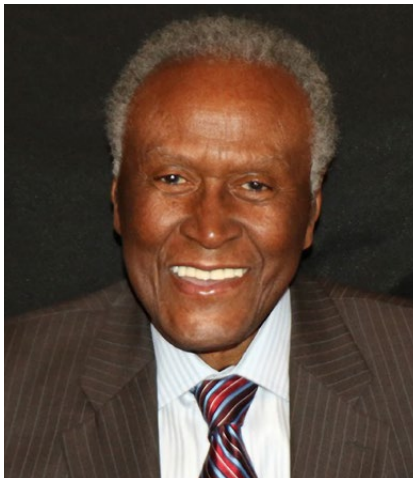
So nearly eighteen months later, the concrete home was brought back to its original glory with some much needed upgrades that would ultimately bring the 1927 jewel up to current standards. Much care was taken to preserve the home in such a way that future owners would not feel the need to make historically inappropriate changes to the house.

On March 22, Jeff received one of three Preservation Practices awards given to companies and individuals for their work in preserving historic Kansas City treasures for future generations. Therefore, the Ernest Brostrom House at 6540 Pennsylvania (or as we know it, the Bruce Prince-Joseph home) will continue to be a conversation piece in the Armour Fields neighborhood for many years to come.

The Outstanding Kansas Citian For 2017 is Mr. Alvin L. Brooks

The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City are pleased to announce that Mr. Alvin L. Brooks, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime is to be honored as the Outstanding Kansas Citian for 2017. The gala will be held at the Kansas City Convention Center Grand Ballroom on Tuesday, November 14, 2017. Mr. Brooks is the former Mayor Pro Tem and 6th District at-Large City Councilman. He was first elected in 1999 and re-elected in 2003.

He received National recognition from President George W. Bush in 1989, and named one of America's "1000 points of light." His professional experience includes: President/Consultant-Movement for Urban Progress (Move Up), founder/president Ad Hoc Group Against Crime, Director of the City of Kansas City Human Relations Department, Assistant City Manager for KCMO, Director of the Office of Public Information for Title I Program for the KCMO School District, and KCMO Police Department officer and detective.



In 1989, Mr. Brooks received national recognition from President George H.W. Bush who named him as one of America's "1000 points of light."

His many accomplishments and civic involvement are an indication of his devotion to Kansas City and its citizens, Some of these are as follows: three-year term at the President's National Drug Advisory Council; Board of Governors Avila University; Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, University of Central Missouri; Alumni Hall of Fame Metropolitan Community College; Missouri Association of Social Welfare- Kansas City Chapter; William Booth Award; Spiritual dedication and service to others by the Salvation Army; Humanitarian Award, American Red Cross; Distinguished Alumnus Award, Kansas City Tomorrow; Centurion Leadership Award; UMKC Alumni of the Year and Kansas City; and MO Board of Police Commissioners.

The City of Kansas City Missouri is honored to have Mr. Brooks as one of its citizens and The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas is very pleased to continue the honors he has received. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, November 14, 2017 and plan to attend this very special annual event!

Nancy L. Elder, Chair

Outstanding Kansas Citian Committee

Spring at the Shawnee Indian Mission

Spring at the Shawnee Mission will be held on Friday May 12 from 5:30 to 8:30. Visit the site and enjoy the exhibits that describe the rich history of the Mission, the people who lived there and the impact it has had on the development of our community.

John Forbes, Chair of NSDKC, Shawnee Indian Mission Committee.

Historical Markers Committee Update

This is a busy years for markers! Below is a list of markers that has Board approval.

1. Lake Lotawana in Lee's Summit: approved in 2016, partnering with Gary and Louise Hicks, no location.
2. Crime Commission: Awarded during the OKC gala honoring Alvin Brooks. Expense are very likely covered by the Commission.
3. Three Barry town area markers: Expenses covered by our partner! Lots of history in the area of the old town of Barry which was located on Barry Road and today's Platte Purchase Drive, the old Missouri state line.
4. R.T. Coles Jr. High School: Partnering with the 1954 class of this Black Jr. High School, the only one in Kansas City. It was closed and torn down immediately after the 1954 decision on Brown vs. Board of Education that prohibited school segregation. We had a call recently from the Archivist for the Black Archives who is working with representatives of the class. They have taken up a collection that will pay for the marker. They called us because they are impressed with the quality and attractiveness of the markers we erected by the Negro League Museum and the American Jazz Museum in 2013 and 2014.
5. Plus two other markers that we are discussing with partners.

The best part of the story is that very likely each marker's expense will be partly or fully covered by a partner. It is nice to have someone call about a marker with money in their hand!

Yes, the committee will be very busy this year and we will have lots of dedications this fall. But that is the purpose of our markers program – to erect historical markers in our area that interprets and preserves history of sites, events and our culture.

Ross Marshall, Chair