

## KCAA Spring Meeting (Zoom) April 9, 2021

Samantha Bradbeer, Senior Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 2:05 PM. She began by announcing the end of her term as Senior Co-Chair and by giving a recap of KCAA's accomplishments during the last few years. To revitalize and grow the organization, the newsletter was restarted, the Social Media Chair position and a LinkedIn page were both created, and dozens of virtual and in-person networking opportunities and events were held, including happy hours, exhibit openings, and archives tours. KCAA will continue to grow and provide resources and opportunities for its members and Samantha said she is looking forward to helping out with these future endeavors. She then officially passed the title of Senior Co-Chair to outgoing Junior Co-Chair Megan Burton.

Megan thanked Samantha for her service and for giving members thoughtful and engaging ways to network over the last two years. She said her main goal is to continue this momentum with more events, mixers, and socially conscious programming. Attendees were encouraged to pass along any suggestions or ideas for future events.

Liz Lumpkin, Membership Chair, gave a brief report on membership numbers. Currently the organization has 45 total members (39 individuals and 6 students) as well as one institutional member. Samantha asked everyone to renew their memberships if they have not already done so. Yearly memberships are still \$15.

Next, Samantha presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Treasurer Lindsey Warner. The organization has a total current balance of \$12,781.91. Over the past year, revenue increased by \$1,100. This increase included membership fees, donations, and dividends. KCAA's biggest expense was for speaker fees. In previous years, speakers were members or friends of members and had not charged fees. Samantha explained that this year the Steering Committee wanted to expand outside of our network and showcase some different voices. She encouraged attendees to continue to do this.

Tara Laver, Scholarship Chair, next presented the scholarships report. Tara stated that there are still scholarships available. Three scholarships of up to \$250 can be awarded per year. She reminded attendees that these funds can be used for virtual events as well as in-person events. Applications are available on the website and are accepted on a rolling basis. Applicants must be KCAA members and afterward must write a summary of their experiences for the newsletter.

Samantha presented the minority internship report on behalf of outgoing Minority Internship Chair Letha Johnson. Due to funding issues, the internship has not been offered recently. Letha had looked into how the internship could be offered in the future in either a virtual or hybrid format. She wrote a report on tasks and issues for the Internship Committee and Steering Committee to consider.

Laurie Austin, Newsletter Editor, announced that there will be another newsletter published shortly. She thanked everyone who has sent content so far and encouraged attendees to share content related to programs or content that may connect with readers.

Samantha gave a social media update on behalf of Social Media Chair Lynn Ward. Samantha, Lynn, and Lindy have discussed rebranding the social media pages in a way that is more clearly identifiable. Attendees were encouraged to pass along any content they would like to share on the organization's social media pages.

Lindy Smith, Website Administrator, next gave an update on the website. She shared a mockup website she had created using SquareSpace. Lindy reported that SquareSpace has built-in e-commerce, offers a members-only area, is easy to edit, allows for multiple types of user profiles, and would allow KCAA to roll over its current domain name to the new site for free. Maintaining the domain name would be \$100 per year, which is cheaper than the current service. As the current website subscription ends in August, Lindy recommended migrating content from the current website to the new one over the summer. She also said that the current website is challenging to work with and is not as secure as it should be. Lindy has recently updated the website by adding past newsletters as well as a page on Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DEAI) resources. Laurie suggested adding a section where members could include information on their respective institutions.

Samantha announced that KCAA will be looking to fill quite a few positions soon. Lindsey is exiting as the Treasurer and Letha is leaving as the Minority Internship Chair. The Junior Co-Chair and Education Committee Chair are both vacant as well. Information on all positions can be found on the website. Attendees were encouraged to apply and were reassured that none of the positions are a major time commitment.

Megan then discussed the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment commemoration exhibit at the Kansas Historical Society (KHS). Entitled "Upward to Equality," the exhibit focuses on the story of suffrage in Kansas. Megan helped edit the script and said the pandemic hit just as it was set to open, so no one has been able to see the exhibit in person. She shared a 15-minute virtual tour of the exhibit and then answered questions. It is unclear whether "Upward to Equality" will ever be open in-person as KHS is currently undergoing a capital campaign to redesign its museum. Megan also said the planning for the exhibit took over one year, with the build itself lasting five months. As part of the exhibit, programs were developed for fourth and seventh graders. These materials can be found on the KHS website.

Tara announced that the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC) Fall Symposium will be held November 4-5 in Kansas City. MAC is planning on hosting the symposium in person, but it is still unclear whether it will be held virtually, in person, or a combination of the two. The event will focus on collecting and archiving local history in the digital age. Information on other upcoming conferences will be included in the upcoming newsletter. Lastly, Samantha reminded attendees of the upcoming Spring Mixer co-hosted with the Heritage League of Greater Kansas City on May 19 at 5 PM.

The meeting ended at 3:21 PM.