

KANSAS WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE (KWWICC) MEETING  
MAY 18, 2016  
KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY (KSHS)  
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM, 1:30 PM  
MEETING NOTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

- Mary Madden, Director, Kansas Museum of History, Kansas Historical Society, Chairperson
- Blair Tarr, Curator, Kansas Museum of History, Kansas Historical Society
- Patrick Zollner, Director, Cultural Resources Division, Kansas Historical Society
- Matt Veatch, State Archivist, Kansas Historical Society
- Adrienne Landry Dunavin, Education Program Manager, American College of Medical Toxicology
- Tom Jorsch, Assistant Professor of History, Bethany College
- John Daley, Professor of History, Pittsburg State University
- James Patton, Volunteer, United States World War I Centennial Commission

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Madden welcomed members to the meeting.

MINUTES

Mr. Daley moved to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2016, meeting as submitted. Mr. Patton seconded and the committee approved the motion.

OLD BUSINESS

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UPDATE ON WEBSITE

Ms. Landry Dunavin noted that only limited content – Mr. Patton submitted a post titled “Memorials to the Missing” – had been added to the KWWICC website since the last meeting. She asked whether the committee still thought the blog-style website was the best approach. Committee members expressed their continued support for the website as the appropriate delivery mechanism for Kansas WWI centennial information. Ms. Landry Dunavin said she would begin outreach efforts to try to gather additional content for the website. She also will add the KWWICC logo to the website.

Ms. Madden reported that she would add information to the website about the KSHS’s upcoming exhibit *Captured: The Extraordinary Adventures of Colonel Hughes*. Mr. Tarr and Ms. Madden agreed to prepare a blog post with basic guidance on artifact preservation. Mr. Veatch will prepare a blog post on KSHS collecting efforts related to WWI. He suggested creating a calendar of potential blog posts. Ms. Landry Dunavin agreed to put together a Google Sheet or something similar to serve as a blog post schedule.

Ms. Landry Dunavin also reported on the KWWICC Twitter account: @KansasWWI. She encouraged committee members to follow the feed and noted that website blog posts automatically result in a tweet.

## NEW BUSINESS

### COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Patton reported that the State of New York was seeking letters of support from other WWI centennial committees for an effort to establish a NY committee. Ms. Madden agreed to send a letter of support. Mr. Patton will forward information to Ms. Madden.

### SHARING KWWICC MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Landry Dunavin asked committee members whether they wanted to post meeting minutes to the KansasWW1.org website. Members agreed that the minutes should be posted. Mr. Veatch will send minutes of past meetings to Ms. Landry Dunavin.

### NOVEMBER 11, 2018 COMMEMORATION PLANS

Mr. Tarr reported that he attended a meeting of the National WWI Centennial Commission (NWWICC) in Kansas City a few weeks earlier. He noted that much of the discussion concerned requests to use the commission's logo. Mr. Tarr also reported that the NWWICC talked about commemorating the November 11, 2018 centennial of the armistice, including potential collaboration with state committees and European centennial organizations. Mr. Tarr commented upon a couple of suggestions for commemorative activities including the ringing of bells and/or a moment of silence at a designated time.

Ms. Landry Dunavin suggested the possibility of asking each state to designate a representative – perhaps someone with a relative who served in WWI – to attend a ceremony at the National WWI Museum for a November 11, 2018 ceremony. She asked about the logistics of getting ideas to the National WWI Committee.

### COMMITTEE MEMBER ACTIVITIES

#### KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY – STATE ARCHIVES DIVISION

Mr. Veatch reported that the first of three planned WWI-themed mini-exhibits – Kansas Trains for War – in the KSHS research room would be mounted in July 2016. He noted that State Archives Division staff members would prepare several blog postings on the topics highlighted in the mini-exhibit.

#### PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Daley reported on a WWI colloquium he conducted recently. He will prepare a blog post about it. He also received approval for a WWI course in the fall.

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#### KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY – KANSAS MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Ms. Madden distributed promotional materials for the exhibit *Captured: The Extraordinary Adventures of Colonel Hughes*, which will open on May 27, 2016. A monthly Friday night lecture series will be held at the museum in conjunction with year-long run of the exhibit. Mary extended an invitation to all committee members to attend the May 27, 2016, exhibit opening from 6-8 pm.

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#### BETHANY COLLEGE

Dr. Jorsch reported on a planned digital humanities project to document Lindsborg's experiences during WWI. He recently worked with the Old Mill Museum to submit a Kansas Humanities Council grant proposal seeking funding for the project. He also plans to attend a digital humanities seminar in the near future to gather information on how to execute a project of this type.

Dr. Jorsch commented on the Spanish Flu and the origins of the Dust Bowl as two Kansas-specific WWI-related topics that the committee might want to consider highlighting. Ms. Landry Dunavin expressed support for doing something related to the Dust Bowl.

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#### KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY – CULTURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

Mr. Zollner reported that he and his staff continue work on a project to add WWI monument filtering to [Kansas Historic Resources Inventory](#) online database.

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#### NATIONAL WWI CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Mr. Patton reported that the NWWICC was still exploring the potential to co-brand products with state committees. One idea that has gained momentum is a commemorative coin – the national commission has already created a coin – and they encourage other states to create a coin for sale to the public. Mary asked about the cost of producing the coin. Mr. Patton said he did not have cost information yet but hoped to have it soon. Mary posed questions about the potential market for a commemorative coin.

June 2 update from Jim that we will address under New Business at our next meeting.

1. The Challenge coin. Nothing new here except style details. The coin will also be struck in bronze and can be more than one color.
2. The national commission has decided to issue a 'Request for Support' form, which any group that would like to claim an affiliation with the national will have to fill out and submit. We should probably do this.
3. There is a group called Saving Hallowed Ground (<http://www.shgfo.org>) with which the national has partnered in a tree-planting program. Something for us to investigate?
4. The national intends to get packets of poppy seeds to give away. It may possible for us to get some with our logo on the package.
5. The national is going to roll out a program to give small grants to local organizations to help restore memorials. Something else we might want to investigate.

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#### UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Ms. Landry Dunavin reported on a recent lecture at KU that compared Warsaw in WWI and WWII; 100 people attended; a Watson Library exhibit titled "[Eastern Front 1914-1918: An exploration of the conflict](#);" a Spencer Research Library exhibit called "[Easter 1916: Rebellion and Memory in Ireland](#);" the Hall Center for the Humanities interest in programming on Lawrence of Arabia; and a possible Dole Institute of Politics program on the treatment of Armenians during WWI. Finally, she commented on a book called Ali & Nino that had been made into a [movie of the same name](#) that was well received at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival.

#### NEXT MEETING

The committee will meet again on September 21, 2016 at 1:30pm at the Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, KS.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The committee adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Meeting notes prepared by Matt Veatch.