

KANSAS WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE (KWWICC) MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 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
- Matt Veatch, State Archivist, Kansas Historical Society
- Adrienne Landry Dunavin, Volunteer, Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies, University of Kansas
- Thom Rosenblum, Historian, Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site
- John Daley, Professor of History, Pittsburg State University
- James Patton, Volunteer, United States World War I Centennial Commission
- Dennis Cross, Volunteer, National World War I Museum
- Rebecca Schulte, University Archivist, University of Kansas

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Madden welcomed members to the meeting.

MINUTES

Mr. Daley moved to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2016, meeting as submitted. Ms. Schulte seconded and the committee approved the motion.

OLD BUSINESS

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Ms. Landry Dunavin described recent updates to the KWWICC website (<http://www.kansasww1.org/>) including:

- uploading the KWWICC meeting minutes;
- adding a “Subscribe To” option to allow people to sign up to a Kansas WWI email list; and
- creating a Resources section with links to Kansas-related WWI online materials.

Ms. Landry Dunavin asked committee members to send her links to Kansas WWI-related sites for inclusion on the Resources page. Mr. Tarr volunteered to identify appropriate links to National Archives records related to Kansas in WWI.

Ms. Landry Dunavin presented metrics for kansasww1.org and the @kansasww1 Twitter feed. As reflected in the tables below, the website now has over 60 posts and over 38,000 total unique visitors, while the Twitter feed has seen substantial growth since its spring 2016 launch.

KansasWW1 Website Metrics		
	5/18/16	9/20/16
# of posts	3	66
# of authors	2	7
# of unique visits	385	5,323
# of visitors	2,769	38,658

@KansasWW1 Twitter Metrics		
	5/18/16	9/20/16
Tweets	3	66
Tweet Impressions	116	2,032
Profile Visits	20	5,323
Mentions	1	38,658
Followers	23	68
Likes	0	42

Ms. Landry Dunavin noted that the website events page had been down for several days; she is working with KU technical support to get it fixed. She also reported that a link to the KWWICC website now appears on the National WWI Commission website, and that she has the ability to add Kansas events to the national calendar. Ms. Landry Dunavin asked for help in adding events to the national calendar; Ms. Schulte said she would check on the availability of a student worker at KU.

COMMEMORATIVE COIN

Mr. Patton reported on his efforts to gather additional information about a potential Kansas WWI centennial commemorative coin. Mr. Patton has been working with the company that creates the coins on a potential design incorporating the KWWICC logo. He asked for feedback from committee members about the level of interest in pursuing a Kansas coin. Ms. Madden suggested it could be viable to market a small quantity of the coins – the minimum order is 100. She did note, however, that the committee did not have the funds to pay for the initial production of the coins. Ms. Landry Dunavin suggested the potential to conclude the committee’s work in 2018 with a gathering at which institutions participating in WWI centennial events would receive a coin; this would, however, require fund raising. Mr. Patton will gather additional information on the price for production of the coin. He will also ask about sales of

the National WWI Commission's coin. Ms. Madden suggested that once this information is obtained, the committee could explore finding a sponsor for the production of the coin.

KANSAS MUSEUM ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Ms. Madden reported that she, Mr. Tarr, Tom Jorsch, and Mr. Veatch will participate in a roundtable discussion on Kansas WWI Centennial activities at the Kansas Museum Association annual meeting this fall.

NEW BUSINESS

WWI CENTENNIAL COMMISSION UPPER MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING

The committee discussed the potential to join a regional group similar to the WWI Upper Midwest Region, which is sponsored by the Pritzker Military Museum in Chicago. Kansas is not eligible to join the Pritzker group. Members expressed interest in joining a regional WWI group if another state committee initiated the establishment of one in our region.

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FORM – NATIONAL WWI COMMISSION

Mr. Patton reported that the National WWI Commission is asking groups that would like to claim an affiliation with them to complete a Request for Support form. Mary will complete the form on behalf of the KWWICC and bring copies to Kansas Museums Association annual meeting to distribute to other groups.

SAVING HALLOWED GROUND

Mr. Patton noted that the National WWI Commission has partnered with the "Saving Hallowed Ground" organization (<http://www.savinghallowedground.org/>) on the National Centennial World War I Memorial Tree Program that will plant memorial trees in communities across the country. Mr. Patton proposed that the KWWICC promote the planting of memorial trees in the state. Ms. Madden suggested a possible partnership with the Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism.

POPPY SEED PROJECT

Mr. Patton observed that a previously discussed potential project to distribute poppy seeds has not moved beyond the conceptual stage. Ms. Landry-Dunavin asked about the status of a possible collaboration with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) to plant poppies on Kansas highways. Ms. Madden said she had not yet discussed this possible project with KDOT officials but she will before the next meeting.

100 CITIES / 100 MONUMENTS GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. Patton and Mr. Tarr noted the recent announcement of the National WWI Committee and Pritzker Military Museum & Library "100 Cities / 100 Monuments" initiative (<http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/100-cities-100-memorials-home.html>). The program will offer 100 matching grants of up to \$2000 for the restoration of 100 WWI memorials in the United States. Mr. Tarr will share this information at the KMA meeting.

PRESS RELEASE

Mr. Patton suggested that it might be time for the Committee to issue a press release about its activities. Members strongly supported the idea and Ms. Madden will work with the KSHS marketing staff to prepare and distribute a press release.

NOVEMBER 11, 2018 COMMEMORATION PLANS

Mr. Tarr reported that he has not received any additional information about plans for a November 11, 2018, commemoration.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ACTIVITIES

KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY – STATE ARCHIVES DIVISION

Mr. Veatch reported that in July 2016 State Archives Division staff mounted the first of three planned WWI-themed mini-exhibits – Kansas Trains for War – in the KSHS research room.

PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Daley reported on a WWI discussion group that he is leading. The group is reading Max Hastings', *Catastrophe 1914: Europe Goes to War* (2013). Dr. Daley also will be publishing an article on a WWI officer; he will prepare a blog post summarizing the article.

KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY – KANSAS MUSEUM OF HISTORY (KMH)

Mr. Tarr reported that he had published numerous blog posts (48 to be precise) to kansasww1.org since August 2016. Ms. Madden noted that the KMH continued to present its monthly 2nd Fridays Museum After Hours programs on WWI topics (<http://www.kshs.org/p/museum-after-hours/19702>). Upcoming Museum After Hours presentations include:

- October 14, 2016 – Jim Heiman, Metropolitan Community College, Independence, Missouri, "World War I Memorials and Monuments"
- November 18, 2016 – Jonathan R. Casey, archivist and Edward Jones Research Center manager, The National World War I Museum and Memorial, "J.R.R. Tolkien and the Battle of the Somme"
- December 9, 2016 – Laura S. Taylor, curator of interpretation, National Museum of Toys and Miniatures presents "Toy Soldiers and Baby Dolls: Toys of the War Years."

NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MUSEUM

Mr. Cross reported that the National WWI Museum's 2016 Symposium (<https://www.theworldwar.org/learn/2016-symposium>) will be held November 4-5, 2016. The topic this year is Total War. Mr. Cross and Mr. Tarr both plan to attend the symposium and will look for ways to promote KWWICC activities at the event.

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS – SPENCER RESEARCH LIBRARY

Ms. Schulte reported that she has a student worker preparing a blog entry on wheat harvesting during WWI, particularly the labor shortage related to this activity. She also will be working with colleagues to prepare a WWI-themed exhibit at the Spencer Research Library.

BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Mr. Rosenblum described a multi-panel exhibit on dissent in Kansas during the WWI era that soon will be displayed at the Brown v. Board site. He agreed to prepare a blog post about the exhibit for kansasww1.org.

NEXT MEETING

The committee will meet again on December 7, 2016, at 1:30pm at the Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, KS.

ADJOURNMENT

The committee adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Meeting notes prepared by Matt Veatch