

KANSAS WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE (KWWICC) MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 2016
KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY (KSHS)
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM, 1:30 P.M.
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 Director, Kansas Historical Society
- Adrienne Landry Dunavin, Volunteer, Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies, University of Kansas, and Website Administrator
- James Patton, Volunteer, United States World War I Centennial Commission

Welcome

Ms. Madden welcomed the members present to the meeting.

Old Business

The minutes of the September 21, 2016 meeting were reviewed, but not approved due to the lack of members present.

Website and Social Media

Ms. Landry Dunavin reported that the KansasWW1.org website continues to grow. As of December 5, 2016, there were 176 posts; 19 authors; 12,898 unique visitors, and 73,258 visits.

The Twitter metrics for the fourth quarter of 2016 showed 180 tweets; 9790 tweet impressions; 3331 profile visits, 24 followers, and 140 new followers.

The Facebook page had been active for only a week, so the metrics were small—42 Likes, 33 views, 34 Reach, and 101 Post Engagement. Ms. Landry Dunavin took out a \$14 promotional ad on Facebook to promote it to Kansas residents.

The website now had the capacity to accept subscribers—those who sign up will receive a monthly e-mail of blog highlights. People can subscribe by visiting the website and signing up (right side bar.) Committee members can help by forwarding e-mails to friends, encourage people to visit the website and subscribe, and send Ms. Landry Dunavin the names and e-mails of people you think would be interested.

There was nothing new to report regarding WW1CC.ORG.

Commemorative Coin

Mr. Patton reported on costs for a WWI commemorative coin for Kansas. One side of the coin when show the national committee logo. There would be a one-time die charge of \$150. Cost of the coin depends on the number ordered.

- 100 coins, \$9.45 per coin.
- 250 coins, \$7.95.
- 500 coins, \$6.90.
- 1000 coins, \$5.75.

Discussion included partnering with others to produce coins. The Kansas National Guard was mentioned as a possibility. Ms. Madden will contact Jeremy Byers regarding this.

Kansas Museums Association Annual Meeting

Ms. Madden and Mr. Tarr reported on the presentation given by them and Tom Jorsch at the KMA Annual Meeting at Fort Leavenworth, November 3, 2016. Ms. Madden discussed the “Captured” exhibit at the Kansas Museum of History, Mr. Tarr the website, and Mr. Jorsch the WWI project at Bethany College.

Request for Support from US WWICC

Ms. Madden reported that this support was granted automatically due to our organization being under the auspices of a state agency. The benefits are: automatic permission to use the WWICC logo; status as a commemorative partner of the WEWICC; endorsement letter upon request; listing on the WWICC webpage with link access to organization’s website; events sponsored by committee on WWICC webpage upon request; shared logo branding when appropriate and approved; Certificate of Commemorative Partnership; and optional feature events—sync call.

Saving Hallowed Ground

Regarding the memorial tree-planting program, Ms. Madden reported that Kansas Wildlife and Parks had not gotten back to her.

Poppies on Kansas Highways

Ms. Madden reported that Scott Shields from the Kansas Department of Transportation does not support this program, and suggests that the counties can be involved if they wish.

New Business

Central Region Committee

Mr. Patton and Mr. Tarr reported on the Central Region Committee of state centennial organizations. The host will be the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, and will include the states of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. There are some questions as to what we may expect of this. The WWI Museum does not have the same resources as the Pritzker Military Museum in Chicago, which sponsors the Upper Midwest Region.

Perry Walters, Tonganoxie Community Historical Society

Ms. Landry Dunavin reported that Mr. Walters is interested in collaborating on a Kansas WWI documentary or book. He has the pictures and images, but wants a partner to do the script or voiceover. The decision was made to respectfully decline his invitation.

2017 Signature Events

Ms. Madden reported that the USWWICC and the French Mission du Centenaire was compiling signature events for 2017 on national, state and local levels for publication. A minimum of two events was requested with two weeks' notice to report them. Reported were the committee's website, the Kansas Museum of History's "Captured" exhibit, and the Bethany college Digital Archives project.

April 6, 2017 Commemorations

There will be a national commemoration at the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City on April 6, 2017, with details to follow.

On the local and state levels, the National Commission is encouraging programs that take people back to 1917—perhaps readings of letters, editorials, etc. in reaction to the declaration of war.

The committee discussed the possibility of a wreath laying ceremony at the Capitol. In Topeka perhaps an interview with Ralph Hipp, WIBW-TV, could be arranged.

Mr. Tarr pointed out that the day's (December 7, 2016) *Kansas City Star* reprinted the editorial from December 1941 in reaction to the attack on Pearl Harbor. It was suggested that an effort could be made to encourage newspapers around the state to reprint editorials from 1917 showing the reaction to the declaration of war.

November 11, 2018 Commemorations

Nothing to report

Update of Work at Committee Member's Institutions

Ms. Landry Dunavin reported that the University of Kansas WWI Committee had met to plan events for 2017, and would soon be announced.

Mr. Tarr reported that following the request from the National Commission that letters be sent to newspapers encouraging participation in the “Countdown to Veterans’ Day,” he had sent letters to several newspapers in the state with modest success in having them printed. The letters also promoted this committee.

Ms. Landry Dunavin requested more blog entries for the website that promoted diversity—women, African Americans, Native Americans, and others.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for March 8th at 1:30 p.m. at the Kansas Historical Society.

Respectfully submitted,
Blair D. Tarr