

**KANSAS WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE (KWWICC) MEETING
MARCH 8, 2017
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
- Tom Jorsch, Bethany College
- Don Gifford, Educational Program Consultant for History, Government, and Social Studies, Kansas State Department of Education

MINUTES

Mr. Daley moved to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2016, meeting as submitted. Ms. Schulte seconded and the committee approved the motion.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Landry Dunavin reported on a recent incident that caused a kansasww1.org website outage. She said the University of Kansas IT staff hopes to have the site back up in about a week. Ms. Landry Dunavin also reported that the KSHS agreed to provide funding for the purchase of an SSL security certificate for the website to ensure that all content creators and users interact with the site in a secure manner.

Ms. Landry Dunavin noted that the kansasww1.org continues to receive significant use and has now exceeded 125,000 visits and 26,000 unique visitors since its launch in May 2016 (see Website Metrics table below). She believes active tweeting (see Twitter Metrics table below) has helped drive users to the website. Ms. Madden suggested that the committee inform the National World War I Commission about the success of kansasww1.org. Mr. Patton said he would attempt to get the Kansas WWI website's usage metrics added to the National World War I Commission's monthly conference call agenda. Mr. Rosenblum asked Ms. Landry Dunavin if she could provide more detailed data on which kansasww1.org pages are most popular. She said she would attempt to generate a report of the ten most popular pages.

KansasWW1 Website Metrics				
	5/28/16	9/20/16	12/5/16	3/7/17
# of posts	3	66	176	267
# of authors	2	7	19	20
# of unique visitors	385	5,323	12,898	26,948
# of visits	2,769	38,658	73,258	125,022

@KansasWW1 Twitter Metrics		
	2016	2017 Q1
Tweets	235	46
Tweet Impressions	13,821	4,015
Profile Visits	4,093	920
Mentions	36	13
New Followers	158	15

NEW BUSINESS

POPPY SALE

Mr. Patton reported on the National WWI Commissions plans to sell poppy seed packets for \$1.00 per packet to raise money for Pershing Park in Washington, D.C. The Pritzker Military Museum and Library will match the sales dollar-for-dollar. Local groups are encouraged to purchase and resell the seed packets at them at a minimum of \$2.00 per packet. Ms. Madden noted that the KSHS Museum Store plans to sell the poppy seeds. Information about how other organizations can participate in the poppy seed project will be added to kansasww1.org.

ANNIVERSARY OF U.S. ENTRY INTO WWI

Mr. Cross reported that the National WWI Museum in Kansas City will host events commemorating U.S. entry into WWI on April 5-6, 2017, with the official ceremony held on April 6th. The museum will be closed to the public those two days. Mr. Cross noted that the National WWI Commission is coordinating the event. Ms. Madden suggested committee members who had not received an invitation to the commemoration events to let her know if they would like to attend, and she will do what she can to get them an invitation.

Ms. Madden also noted that the KSHS planned to host a wreath laying ceremony on April 6th, at 11am.

SOCIAL MEDIA EVENT – APRIL 11, 2017

Ms. Madden reported that the KSHS plans to participate in the inter-museum WWI-related social media event on April 11, 2017. KSHS staff will be on Facebook and Twitter that day discussing the current Kansas Museum of History special exhibit, *Captured: The Extraordinary Adventures of Colonel Hughes*.

KANSAS HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY (KHRI)

Mr. Zollner reported that KSHS staff soon would be adding a specific “WWI monument” tag to known WWI monuments included in the KHRI database. He then plans to feature one or two examples of WWI monuments in a blog and Facebook post to promote KHRI and request users tag existing buildings or upload new surveys.

OUTREACH TO KANSAS SCHOOLS

Mary noted that the committee had not made much progress in delivering WWI-related information to Kansas schools. Dr. Daley and Mr. Cross suggested that committee members could make presentations in classrooms. Mr. Gifford suggested that WWI topics fit best in the high school curriculum and indicated he would be willing to publicize to social studies teachers the availability of speakers from the committee. Ms. Madden agreed to compile information on committee members who are willing to make presentations and to send the speakers list to Ms. Landry Dunevin for the website and to Mr. Gifford for distribution to Kansas social studies teachers.

DISSENT DURING WWI ERA

Mr. Rosenblum proposed delivering via kansasww1.org information from an exhibit he developed on dissent in Kansas during the WWI era. He will work with Ms. Landry Dunevin to determine the best way to deliver the exhibit content on the website.

COMMEMORATION OF THE COMMITTEE’S WORK

Ms. Landry Dunevin suggested planning an event for late 2018 to commemorate the activities of the KWWICC. Mary suggested doing something in collaboration with the University of Kansas WWI Centennial Committee. The committee will consider this topic at its next meeting.

FUTURE OF THE COMMITTEE’S WORK

Members should review our current mission statement and goals and evaluate whether we need to add goals for the KSWWICC and, if so, what those might be. The committee will consider this topic at its next meeting.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

Mr. Tarr reported that Matt Naylor, Director of the National WWI Museum, will replace the late Jim Whitfield on the KSWWICC, representing the National WWI Commission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Landry Dunevin reported that the Kinsley Library had received a Gilda Lehrman WWI in America grant to support WWI-related programming.

She also announced that on April 12th at Spooner Hall in Lawrence, the University of Kansas WWI Committee and the Watkins Museum will be hosting a viewing of one episode of the PBS American Experience series on WWI along with a panel discussion on minorities in WWI at Spooner Hall. Watkins Museum will be opening a WWI exhibit in conjunction with this event.

Mr. Rosenblum reported that the National Park Service recently had launched a WWI website.

NEXT MEETING

The committee will meet again on June 14, 2017, at 1:30pm at the University of Kansas, location TBD. Ms. Schulte will make arrangements for a conference room at KU.

ADJOURNMENT

The committee adjourned at 2:48 pm.

Meeting notes prepared by Matt Veatch