

THE MUSEUM MESSENGER

Independence Historical Museum & Art Center

123 N. 8th / PO Box 294

Independence, KS 67301

620-331-3515

museum123@cablone.net

Letter from the President – Ray Rothgeb

Well! It Happened! The elevator has gone through the roof and it is only year three of the fund drive. If you haven't noticed, you might want to check it out. The elevator shaft just reared its head above the roof on the south side of the museum. The extension is necessary to make way for the mechanical unit atop the cage. The concrete block shaft extends from about four feet below the basement floor to about the same distance above the lowest slope of the roof. Phil Groth, SEK Construction, tells me he used roofing material removed from the cutout to cover the exterior extension. In this way he was able to match the roof material and color. So what does this mean? It means that the shaft is ready for the cage, the people part of the unit. Only year three and the project is nearing completion.

How can this be with almost \$45,000 of pledge money still to be paid and a \$35,000 shortage? I promised members that the project would be paid with cash in-hand and no money borrowed. Here's the answer: The Museum Board created an investment committee to manage British Petroleum (BP) stock, elevator contributions and other funds that are outside the general fund, resulting in a mix of non-designated and designated funds, elevator funds being designated. To be able to complete the elevator ahead of the five-year fundraiser period and to be ready for Kansas Museum Association Conference in November, non-designated funds will be used from the investment account and repaid out of remaining designated pledge money.

Bottom line! The museum is taking an advance on remaining pledges from non-designated invested funds to complete the project. Pledges still need to be paid to be able to reimburse the non-designated funds. Failure to complete pledge payments could create a shortage having a negative long-term effect on the general fund. On the other hand, pledges paid off in advance will reduce the amount of cash we have to use from non-designated investment funds. For the remaining \$35,000 (to complete the attic HVAC & insulation), we're still working on it! Maybe fundraising will go through the roof, too!

**BE WATCHING THE NEWSPAPERS AND YOUR EMAILS
FOR INFO ON THE GRAND OPENING OF THE ELEVATOR!**

COMING SOON!

April Picnic Luncheon – April 13

Tea Party – April 15

Verdigris Valley Young Artist Exhibit –
April 21 to May 5

Verdigris Valley Art Exhibit
June 23 to July 13

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Ray Rothgeb

Vice President – Liz Moore

Secretary – Donna Dittmer

Treasurer – Randy Hoffman

Norman Chambers Drew Demo

Tim Emert Mike Flood

John Koschin

Isaias McCaffery Mark Metcalf

APRIL 13TH LUNCHEON

HOST: THE DEMO FAMILY

MENU: Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Potato Salad,
Cole Slaw, Baked Beans and Cookies

Please make your reservations by
Noon on April 11th.

MAY 11TH LUNCHEON

HOST: ART CLUB

MENU: Salad Bar & Desserts

Please make your reservations by
Noon on May 9th.

LUNCHEONS

It is never too early to start planning for the next year's luncheon. If you, a group of friends or members of an organization you belong to would like to help with a luncheon just contact the office to see which months are still available. It is not hard to do. The menus are planned out ahead of time. There is a printed guide to help with the process. Just ask for any help or food. You do not have to do it by yourself. There are lots of good cooks in this organization that are always willing to help out.

GALLERY USAGE

If you or your group plans to use the Gallery for any events, please check in the Office to make sure there are no conflicts.

THANK YOU!!

Thank you to Donna Dittmer, Joy Barta, Wilma Andrews, Drew Demo, Liz Moore and Ray Rothgeb for coming in to help with the cleaning on March 24th. THANK YOU!!

ART CLUB – DONNA ROTHGEB

Be a part of the IHMAC artists' world! Become an IHMAC artist by joining us in one of the excellent workshops. No previous experience is required. Or become a contributing volunteer in the art world of the museum.

Becoming an artist at any of the workshops is simple. To participating, send contact information to Donna Rothgeb at rdrothgeb@cableone.net. You will be added to the email list and will receive information on all art events. Becoming an art volunteer at the museum is easy, too. Simply select one of the tasks below and contract the chairman of the project.

1. Verdigris Valley Art Exhibit (VVAE)* Contacts: Eenie Fitzpatrick (eenief@live.com), Kym Kays (kym.kays@gmail.com) and Jim Hayward (jimhaywardart23@gmail.com). Event: June through July
 - Organize a reception for the judge and visitors (museum members will provide food)
 - Help tag paintings and other art works (1-2 needed)
 - Help hang pictures that are registered (1-2 needed; need to be strong)
 - Be a greeter (40 – 2 ½ hour slots are needed to cover the June-July exhibit)
 - Be a donor
2. Help prepare the museum for Kansas Museum Association Conference in November.
Contacts: Eenie Fitzpatrick (eenief@live.com) and Kym Kays (kym.kays@gmail.com)
 - Assist Cleaning committee who needs to carefully clean/dust all artifacts in the museum
 - Research proper ways to clean various items
 - Dust paintings/frames
 - Rearrange art in the museum to create renewed interest
 - Work with committee members to recommend certain artifacts that might need to be repaired properly, discarded, traded or sold
3. ASTRA Pastel Demonstration by Steven Greenwall – contact Donna Rothgeb (rdrothgeb@cableone.net)
Event: July 6, 2018 (4-6 PM)
 - Be a donor
 - Be a greeter
 - Organize a reception for the visitors and Greenwall

*VVAE Dates:

Exhibit dates: June 23 – July 13

Artist registration: June 14 - 16 (10 AM – 3:30 PM)

Exhibit Setup: June 18 – 21

Reception/Critique: Friday, June 22 (7:00 PM)

Entry pick up: Saturday, July 14 (10 AM – 3 PM) and Monday, July 16 (9 AM – Noon)

Those who have been in the museum during the elevator installation know a task force to clean the museum's artifacts and building is especially important. Now is the time to participate and/or volunteer. You are needed.

INVENTORY/PROJECT COMMITTEE – JOY BARTA

BE A PART OF THE RENOVATION OF YOUR MUSEUM

Work is progressing on the installation of the elevator. Through the process a lot of dust has been deposited. Several events are scheduled in the next few weeks and assistance is needed to give your Museum a sparkling presentation. The glass cases containing glassware need to be emptied, cleaned and rearranged. Other cabinets and cases need to be cleaned. The paintings need to be carefully cleaned and rehung. If you have an hour or two to spare and can help with this project it would be greatly appreciated. Come in whenever it is convenient; Sylvia has a list of 'to do' jobs. Thank you for your assistance and support of your Museum.

Historical Research Center – Kirsten Webster

This newsletter I decided to share with you the different queries we have received in recent months. I don't feel I should disclose names but it expands our country from east, middle & west in the United States.

One gentleman works in a museum for the North Country Underground Railroad Historical Association in Ausable Chasm, NY. In his mother's artifacts he found an article from Independence, KS dated Dec. 21, 1847 regarding notice of the First Anti-Slavery Meeting in the state. He was looking for verification & accuracy.

Another gentleman from St. Louis, MO requested obituaries from four members of his family plus information on descendants still living in the area.

Barbara Lasater, volunteer, told you last time all the information she gathered on Prairie School for a gentleman living in Madera, CA. He was writing a book.

When we receive these requests by out-of-area, we charge for our time and copies. If you are local and come into our building on the corner of N. 8th & Myrtle, Independence, Tuesday thru Saturday 10:00-3:30, you will be charged for copies you make of our materials. We will help you find what you need about your families but you will not be charged for our volunteer time. Donations are accepted.

Each of us enjoys helping you find family history. I found information I didn't know & I'm sure you will too!

SAVE YOUR BEST CHOICE LABELS FOR ELLIE CULP

WISH LIST

Rags for cleaning
Window Cleaner
Old English – light & dark
8-9" Chinet Plates
6" Plates
Gallon Tea Bags

Lot of helpers to Clean and
Rebuild Exhibits

Cleaning Days

To prepare for the
upcoming events we
will be cleaning every
day beginning April 3rd
at 9 AM.

If you have any time
you can spare to help
clean just come on in.