

**20<sup>th</sup>**  
Anniversary

**2016 Commission 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Meeting Minutes**

**900 SW Jackson (Landon Building) Rm 560**

**Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**I. Call to Order and Welcome**

KAAAC Vice-Chairman Maxwell called the meeting to order at **10:30**

**II. Roll Call**

Present-Commissioners Maxwell, Breathett, Coggs, Elmore

Absent- Commissioner New, Houston

Delayed- Commissioner Love

**III. Minutes**

Aug 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Planning Retreat , 2016, presented by E.D. Cox

**approved unanimously with no corrections**

**IV. Chairman's Opening Comments**

Commissioner Bobby Love, Sr. (3<sup>rd</sup> District) apologized for his delayed arrival.

Affirmed his approval and support for the 2017 KAAAC legislative priorities determined during the Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> retreat.

**V. Commissioner District Reports/Updates**

**2<sup>nd</sup> District. Love**

**Love:**

- Co-chaired a meeting with Gov. Brownback to discuss ways to increase the diversity of the Kansas Judicial Courts.
- Sent a letter of support to Gov. Brownback for Kansas 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Candidate Rhonda Mason.
- Help organize KAAAC partnering event: A community health fair to encourage African Americans and other underserved populations to seek preventive care services regularly to avoid or manage chronic disease. *"Connecting you to Care 2016 Health and wellness Expo"*
- Extended greetings on behalf of KAAAC at the 125th Anniversary of the Missionary Baptist State Convention of Kansas.

**VI. 4<sup>th</sup> District. Elmore/ Houston/Breathett**

**Elmore:**

- **Bridging the Law enforcement Community Divide**- Attended the KAAAC collaborative event with Wichita Pachyderm Club & WSU held at the Pachyderm Club.
- **Read & Rise Breakfast Gala**. Attended/KAAAC partnering event with StoryTime Village. The Read and Rise Breakfast Gala honors individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions in improving the lives of Kansas children through literacy. This kick-

off event celebrates the accomplishments of literacy advocates with the presentation of the Literacy Champion and Literacy Legacy Awards.

- **2016 Kansas Children's Literacy Conference & Festival**- Staffed the KAAAC informational table/KAAAC partnering event with StoryTime Village. Festivities include: greetings by city officials and event sponsors, big book giveaway, Kansas authors tent, family literacy workshops, face painting, caricatures, food trucks, balloon twisting, creation stations, children's choir, Wichita Children's Theatre & Dance Center, Wichita Griots and family zumba

**Breathett:**

- **2016 Kansas Children's Literacy Conference & Festival**- Participated in the Hoops for Literacy a charity basketball game featuring community leaders as the players at the Boys & Girls Club of South Central Kansas. Admission was free with a children's book. The books donated at the event will be distributed to underserved children in the Wichita community. This was a KAAAC partnering event with StoryTime Village. Commissioner Breathett expressed his desire to see KAAAC and other organizations making more of an effort to help our children learn to read and support awareness campaigns.

**Houston:**

- Commissioner Houston starting a new job as the Reading Road Map Program Coordinator at Muller Elementary. E.D. Cox will be meeting with Com. Houston to see how KAAAC can work in tandem with the organization to help the initiative to be a success. The mission of the Reading Roadmap is for every child to enter fourth grade reading proficiently so that they can graduate on-time and achieve their full potential.

\*Note: Regular scheduled meetings held on Fridays would better accommodate Commissioner Houston's work schedule. Request that fellow Commissioners consider moving meetings day.

**2<sup>rd</sup> District Coggs/New**

**Coggs:**

Commissioner Coggs states that she has had to take a brief intermission from community involvement due to being inundated with work and relocations demands. Commissioner Coggs is moving back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> district and would like to change her representation to district 3 for the duration of her term. Co. Coggs states that we need to begin to actively look for another engaged community member to replace her.

**New:** absent

**1<sup>st</sup> District Maxwell**

**Maxwell:**

Geary County Head Start Program

Geary County had been awarded a \$1.5 million grant to re-establish head-start/preschool services. The grant was spear-headed by former County Commissioner Larry Hicks. The Executive Director named is LaFarris Risby, owner and director of the Loving Arms Learning Center and will re-establish as Loving Arms Learning Center Head Start.

QUILTS OF VALOR (QOV)

The Morris Hill Chapel Gospel Service, Ft Riley awarded 4 deserving (Senior) Veteran's quilts in recognition for their sacrifice and service to the military. The 4 recipients are African American Veterans (70+) years old. The Quilts of Valor are presented to Veterans and meant to serve as a source of comfort to those that were touched by war.

#### Public Transit Received:

The ATA Bus services have been increased in Geary County-Junction connecting regional transportation to inter-city. This expansion allows On-demand access across 3-counties. The service particularly is an asset for the African-American population and a good number of students who need transportation to area schools. Not many have access to reliable transportation without the ATA Bus service.

#### Food Resources:

A FEAST (Food-Education- Agriculture-Solutions-Together) task force has been established for Geary County by the Food Policy Council to address the needs and outline steps to feed the hungry of Geary County. A recent study released by the Kansas Health Foundation ranked Geary County as the most food insecure , meaning hungry county in the state. A great number of those in need are African American. Continued efforts are stressed to supply the local Food Pantry with much needed resources.

### Executive Director Update

#### A. Financial Report:

Current copy of KS African American Affairs Commission Expenditure Report prepared by Dawn Johnson, Accountant, State Agency Service Center | Office of Financial Management distributed to Commissioners for documentation, review and discussion.

#### B. Reviewed Kansas State Boards and Commissions that have vacancies encouraged Commissioners to submit names of potential nominees.

#### C. Activities highlights

- Help coordinate an advocacy visit with concerned community members, Presidents of the Johnson Co., Olathe & KCK NAACP, Faith Community and KAAAC to visit with Gov. Brownback to discuss the need to diversify the Kansas Judicial arena.

According to the Kansas Office of Judicial Administration, racial minorities constitute only 3 percent of the 287 judges at the district, appellate, and Supreme Court level – representation far below the 23 percent of the non-white population. After listening intently, the Governor advised the group that fair and impartial consideration would be given to all of the nominees. While he is still in the process of reviewing the resumes and recommendations of all of the final candidates and could not guarantee nor discuss the selection of any one individual, he assured the group that he was confident that the 10th Judicial District Nominating Commission had recommended 3 highly competent, experienced individuals and would be confirming the next District Judge in the coming weeks.

OLATHE—The 10th Judicial District Nominating Commission sent the names of three candidates for district court judge to Gov. Sam Brownback, who has 60 days to decide who will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Gerald T. Elliott. The three candidates are:

Krishnan Jayaram of Overland Park

Rhonda Mason of Olathe

Vanessa Riebli of Olathe

Ten applicants for the vacancy were interviewed Friday, October 14, at the Johnson County Administration Building in Olathe. Interviews were open to the public. Kansas law requires that a judge be a resident of the district, be at least 30

years old, have actively practiced law for at least five years, and be admitted to practice law in Kansas. The 10th judicial district is composed of Johnson County. The 10th Judicial District Nominating Commission consists of Justice Lee A. Johnson as the nonvoting chair; Vivien Jennings of Fairway; Thomas J. Bath, J. Brett Milbourn, Samuel H. Turner Sr., and John M. Parisi of Leawood; Joe W. Beveridge and Annabeth Surbaugh of Lenexa; Doug D. Brownlee and James Griffith of Olathe; Rick G. Guinn, Judge Kevin P. Moriarty, and Greg L. Musil of Overland Park; Gregory M. Doring of Prairie Village; and Stephen M. Howe of Shawnee.

- Attended Broadening the Bench: Diversity and Our Courts Panel Discussion at Washburn University
- Topeka Police chief James Brown will be resigning from his position effective January 1, 2017 ED Cox wanted to know if the District 2 Commissioners would like to schedule a meeting with interim City Manager Doug Gerber to find out search criteria. ED Cox also encouraged other KAAAC Commissioners to contact qualified law-enforcement officers in their districts that might be interested in applying. Helping minority recruitment is one of our action steps from the fair and impartial police training.

- **MyVA Initiative**- Attending board meetings in the 4<sup>th</sup> district. Met with Jeffrey W. Brlecic, Kansas Midwest District-Field Consultant to help with board recruitment and development efforts in Leavenworth & Topeka.

Note: District VA's are increasing their communications with local communities nationwide, by encouraging the development of Veteran-focused community networks, utilizing a model called MyVA Communities. MyVA Communities are community-driven Veterans Engagement Boards designed to bring together VA benefits and local resources to address the full range of Veteran needs, which may include medical, psychological, financial, housing, education and others. The goal of this heightened collaboration is to improve outcomes for Veterans, Service members and their communities. Forty sites selected to continue the expansion of this initiative across the United States.

Health, mental health concerns and other problems are plaguing black veterans. Black vets suffer disproportionately from chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, and social ills such as substance abuse and incarceration. It is extremely important that black veterans take full advantage of the educational opportunities available under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill of Rights. A unique aspect of the bill allows a veteran to transfer his or her educational benefits to a spouse or child if he or she doesn't want or need them. The basic requirement is that the transfer must be done prior to leaving active duty. Many vets also do not know what resources are available to them.

**ACTION ITEM:** Commissioner Maxwell will forward the names of potential boards members for her area.

- **VISTA discussion**- ED Cox states she could really use some office help. Met with WSU VISTA Project Specialist:  
VISTA-Deadline Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>  
KAAAC portions would be approximately \$6000 / 4-quarter payments.  
The goals and objectives to securing a volunteer are to have a clearly defined and

directed “program” toward alleviating the problems of low-income communities, and meet the regulations of the AmeriCorps VISTA program.

**ACTION ITEM:** Board members agree that there is a need for office assistance but reflecting on the current budgetary constraints of the State, advises the ED to choose a more prudent course of action by seeking non paid interns from local colleges, universities or programs like RSVP Volunteer Program.

- **Update on website-** still working with OTIS to update & consolidate website information. A running checklist of needs was sent to the OTIS manger. Overall website goal is to make it an interactive one stop shop for minority resources and information- redirect links.

Branding & Building creditability/ who are we.

Access & Availability/Where are AA’s in Kansas, What are we doing in our communities. What does our state have to offer?

Business resources links & listings

Professional business organizations links & listings

Note: Commissioner’s information page and links are completed.

- **KAAAC Reporting template update.** OTIS is helping ED Cox to develop a web based electronic district reporting repository for the KAAAC. Commissioners and ED. Cox previewed draft and made recommendations. Commissioner will be able to upload information directly to website. It will be used to compile annual report information and communicate directly with constituents in real time.

- **Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (MWDDBE) Program**  
Attended a meeting with the KCMO Human Relations Department director and Community members from the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4th districts. A fact finding field trip to discuss best practice measures KCMO is utilizing to increase minority businesses.  
**District 1** --KAAAC’s ED, Chair, Love & Vice Chair, Maxwell served on the 2016 steering committee of the Kansas Black Leadership Council. Kansas Citizens from across the state participated in the process of developing a platform of issues of importance to Kansas’ African-American community to present to Kansas Leaders -- governor, legislature and other elected officials. KAAAC Commissioner Daphne Maxwell joined, Geary County Commissioner Hicks, Jim Sands, hosted the 2nd Annual KBLC meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Over 80 African American from all 4 Congressional districts gathered for a bi-partisan meeting to outline a collective 2017 legislative agenda. Attendees did not agree on every issue but were willing to work together to improve the quality of life in our respective communities. An electronic survey was sent out to make sure the platform was reflective of as many Kansans as possible. Approximately 300 people completed the survey. Board reviewed pictures from the event.

**Adopted 2017 Legislative Focus Items:**

- Review and propose changes to payday loan regulations
- Ban the Box on State Jobs Applications
- Implement a Small Business Development Program
- Expand Medicaid

➤ **District 2-The Topeka YWCA; *Race, Ethnicity and Religion in Contemporary Kansas***

**Cosponsored by the Center for Peace & Justice**

October 4 @ Washburn Law School

Moderator: Dr. Jim McCollough, Executive Director of the Center for Peace and Justice, and a minister in the Christian Church.

Panelists: Kenya Cox, an African American woman and Executive Director of the African Affairs Commission, State of Kansas

Elias Garcia, a Hispanic man, bilingual, former director of both the Office of Hispanic Affairs State of Kansas and the City of Topeka Human Relations Commission.

Bassima Schbley, a Muslim woman, social work professor from Lebanon

**Project Goals:**

- ◆ A substantive, community-wide conversation about attitudes toward race, discrimination and prejudice in our state and country;
- ◆ Stronger collaborations among community groups on issues of race, gender in order to combat racism and discrimination.
- ◆ A plan of action may (or may not) arise from the forum discussions with follow-up by sponsoring groups.

➤ **District 3--Discussed The Kansas African American Affairs Commission 3<sup>rd</sup> District partnering event. "Connecting You to Health Care: Health and Wellness Expo".** The event focused on prevention, both through lifestyle changes and health-seeking behaviors, designed to encourage African Americans and other underserved populations to:

Seek preventive care services regularly to avoid or manage chronic disease, Obtain a medical home for their primary care needs, and adopt healthier eating and physical activity habits.

Highlight: A Healthy Soulful Thanksgiving": To jumpstart a desire for a healthier lifestyle we provided a free lunch featuring recipes from the *American Heart Association's "47 Healthy Soul Food Recipes"* cook book. Copies of the cookbook was given to the participants and a cooking demonstration by Chef T. Jamaal Goree of Geaux catering taught participants how to satisfy their love for soul food without sacrificing their health.

*Note: American Heart Association's would like to work with KAAAC again.*

➤ **District 4- Literacy festival,**

Congressional District-4

Bridging Law enforcement divide -Civil discourse is engagement in discourse (conversation) intended to enhance understanding...Are we really willing to persevere until we get where it is we say we want to go? KAAAC Commissioner Joseph Elmore and former KAAAC Commissioner James Barfield were two of the nearly 160 individuals who as Director, of WSU's Diversity and Inclusion, Daniel Johnson said were willing to "lean into discomfort" in an effort to understand some of the complex issues facing us. Members of the Wichita Pachyderm Club, community members, WSU students, & the NAACP engaged in courageous

conversations. We had young people, not so young people, multi-racial, liberals & conservative, law enforcement & community people in a room together having a seriously sensitive issue discussion. Special Thank You to Sheriff Jeff Easter, Wichita Police Chief Gordon Ramsey, DA Marc Bennett and Vice Mayor Lavonta Williams for being willing to keep building on what's good to make our community better!

## 2017 KAAAC Initiatives

- A. Scheduled 2017 quarterly meetings- Pass out Calendars.  
\*Note Com. Houston needs Friday's  
1<sup>st</sup> quarter meeting- February 17<sup>th</sup>; 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter meeting- May 19<sup>th</sup>; 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter meeting - August 18<sup>th</sup>; 4<sup>th</sup> quarter meeting- November 17<sup>th</sup>.  
Locations: 900 SW Jackson (Landon Building) Rm 560  
Discussed ways to establish consistency -- month, location, day of week.  
**Schedule unanimously approved by the board.**  
**ACTION ITEM:** add meeting dates to the website
- B. The Kansas African American Legislators and Legislative Caucus update. Pass out new update sheet listing the delegation. Rep. Barton and Rep. Scott were not reelected. New Representative for the 89<sup>th</sup> - KC Ohaebosim.  
New Chairman for The Kansas African American Legislative Caucus: Rep. Valdenia Winn.  
ED would like to send out a "We are looking forward to working with you in 2017 letter".  
**Approved Unanimously**  
**ACTION ITEM:** Compose letter and include a listing of 2017 meeting dates.
- C. Brown-V- Broad of Education Mural in the Capitol  
Discussion: Capitol Preservation Committee- KAAAC recommended Dr. Eric Sexton to serve on the board- waiting on his acceptance or denial next meeting Nov 29 in room 152-S at 9:00 a.m. Capitol Preservation Committee primary issue will be Brown v. Board of Education Mural Finalist Presentations. Commissioners reviewed the final submissions. ED explained that the Capitol Preservation Committee would make the final selection at the next meeting.  
**ACTION ITEM:** Board would like ED to let CP committee members know that KAAAC is in support of the mural rendering recommended by Ms. Cheryl Brown Henderson.
- D. Update Payday Lending's impact on the African American Communities in Kansas- Petition the Governor to commission a study of the industry to determine the social and economic impact on Kansas citizens; Pro/Con and make recommendation.  
\*KBLC aligned effort
- E. Update Cultivating and Growing Minority- Owned Businesses – reviewed Delbert Selectman's recommendation sheet & information from visit to Missouri Human Rights Commission.
- F. Ban The Box - discussed scheduling follow up meeting with Gov. Brownback.

## VII. 2017 Calendar of Events

### Kansas Governor Annual MLK March & Celebration

January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Theme- "The Fierce Urgency of Now"

"We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there "is" such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action."

**Lead Commissioners:** New/Love

**Lead legislators-**Rep. Winn (?) Sen. Haley (?)

Speaker update- No response from Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner

2017 will be KAAAC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary the event might be a good time to invite all past ED & Commissioners and present them with a certificate of appreciation.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

Commissioner Love will inquire with Dr. Anthony Moore on availability.

Commissioners will invite Sheriffs & Ministers from their districts

ED will:

verify logistics with Bob Murray

Draft an invitation to be sent to the entire Kansas Legislative body.

Check with Commissioner New about Securing School Band & ROTC Color Guard

MLK committee to determine if time will permit for an appreciation/recognition segment during event.

#### **Black History Month:**

The history of the African-American experience in Kansas

**Discussion:** Board encourages ED to look for collaborative partners. Last year Rep. Winn sponsored a panel KAAAC could check with her.

Also check with TKAAM.

### **Literacy Day at the Capitol- March 29, 2017\* note date change**

**Literacy Day at the Capitol** a KAAAC Collaborative event with StoryTime Village INC.

The mission for Literacy Day at the Capitol is to bring awareness to the efforts being made to inspire a lifelong love of reading for underserved Kansas children from birth to age 8. Our goal is to afford an opportunity for children's literacy stakeholders and legislators to convene around the issue of children's literacy and its positive impact on the sustainability of our state's economic future.

*\*Governor reading roadmap*

Theme- "Why Reading Matters"

Lead Commissioners: New, Maxwell, Houston

Lead legislators- Sen. Faust-Goudeau

### **Financial Literacy Month (Money Smart Kansas) March 31<sup>st</sup>. 2017**

*April Financial Literacy Month and Money Smart week is a collaborative initiative sponsored by several organizations that understand the importance of and actively support financial education.*

Theme- TBD

Lead Commissioners- Breathett, Coggs

Lead legislators- Rep. Finney



VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

X. Announcements

XI. Adjournment : 2:35 pm