

Letter from the KMHA President

The vote by the membership at the annual meeting marked the end of a long process to bring the Kentucky Association of Museums and the Historical Confederation of Kentucky together. In notes from a meeting almost eight years ago, KAM president Sara Elliott described the meeting as an opportunity to “discuss possible alliances” between the organizations. Those partnerships laid the ground work for what has become the Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance. After the diligent work of dedicated members and the leadership of Eric Brooks and Chris Goodlett, we are poised to build upon that previous work. While we are committed to offering the same support and services that you have come to expect, there is a need and desire to expand opportunities for our members.

Change also brings a few challenges. The merger task force gave us the basics for starting our organization, but it will take time and member participation to fill in the details. The KMHA Board of Directors have met on two occasions to identify urgent issues that need to be tackled soon and layout a direction for the future. One of our first steps is to form committees to tackle short-term items related to the transition.

Chris and Ann Johnson have been working on the details of updating membership information, setting up a bank account, and filing paperwork to officially change our name. Planning will continue for the Annual Meeting, the KIMMS workshop series, updating our webpage and the formation of affinity groups. I hope you use this bulletin to track our progress. As we consider future programming and services for our members, we encourage you to contact us or your regional representative with your ideas. One of KMHA's strength is in its diverse membership, but we need your active participation.

So whether you were a longtime member of HCK/KAM or recently joined us at our annual meeting . . .

Welcome to the Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance!

Scott Alvey
KMHA President

**2009 KMHA Annual Meeting
to be Held in Owensboro
May 31-June 2**

Mark Your Calendars!

Planning for the KMHA Annual Meeting is well underway. Block off Sunday, May 31-Tuesday, June 2, 2009, for a stay in Owensboro, Kentucky's Festival City!

The theme for this year's meeting is *Remaining Relevant: Strategies for Sustainability*. Our keynote speaker is KET's Dave Shuffett, host of Kentucky Life (no, we don't know if his dogs will accompany him.) Our host is the International Bluegrass Music Museum.



**Dave Shuffett, host of Kentucky Life
KMHA 2009 Annual Meeting
Keynote Speaker**

KMHA Owensboro 09 (cont.)

Visit the annual meeting section of the website for the call for proposals. The welcome mat is out for bluegrass music and all-you-can-eat barbeque.

Save the date and join KMHA for a chance to network and polish up your professional skills!

The conference hotel is the Hampton Inn Owensboro. A block of rooms is reserved at \$80/night. You can make a reservation now by calling 270-926-2006. Please make sure you mention the Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance to get the special rate.



2009 KMHA Annual Meeting Host

Here is some trivia to whet your appetite for a trip to Owensboro!

- Did you know that Owensboro was originally called Yellow Banks in reference to the color of the soil along the Ohio? It became the county seat in 1815.
- Did you know that Owensboro is the home of the first African American to win the Pulitzer Prize for feature photography?

Moneta J. Sleet, Jr was awarded a Pulitzer in 1969 for a photo of Martin Luther King's widow and daughter at Dr. King's funeral.

- Did you know that Owensboro is known as the Bar-B-Q Capital of the World due to a special cooking method used for barbeque and the uniqueness of mutton? Owensboro became famous for its barbecue in the late 1800's when there were lots of large church picnics and political rallies. During that time, there were many more sheep than cattle being raised in the area, so mutton became the meat of choice and it remains so today.
- Did you know that the first Bar-B-Q Festival was held in 1979 and is still an annual event with over 80,000 in attendance? This event is recognized as one of the top 100 events held in the United States each year.



Join KMHA

The Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance (KMHA) provides services and programs developed to increase public awareness and appreciation of museums throughout the state. KMHA offers professional development opportunities through workshops, seminars and meetings. The KMHA annual meeting, held at sites of interest across the state, provides members unique learning opportunities, access to a diverse network of colleagues and a voice in the future of the organization.

Member Benefits

By becoming a member of KMHA, you will have access to a statewide network of cultural and historical attractions, as well as ideas, information and resources of fellow museum professionals. This access is designed to help meet the challenges and common concerns facing museums today.

KMHA Needs You

Your membership in KMHA entitles you to these and countless other benefits. KMHA receives no governmental support and relies on membership dollars to provide these quality services.

There are several types of memberships available. Visit www.kymuseums.org/joinKAM to learn about the various membership categories.

KMHA Benefits

- Professional Development
- KMHA Annual Meeting
- Unique Learning Opportunities
- Access to a Diverse Network of Colleagues
- A link to your website if available
- Your location, contact information and hours of operation
- A one page summary of your facility and services
- A Membership page on the KMHA Website



Federal Formula Grant Coalition Update

The Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance is a proud member of the Federal Formula Grant Coalition. The Coalition is fostering a national movement for increased funding for museums through the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS).

Currently, the Coalition is working on a national level to draft proposed legislation for Federal Formula Grants through IMLS. If successful, this legislation would not only increase the general funding level for IMLS, it would provide more funds directly to states to address the needs of their museums and heritage organizations.

For more information on this initiative, please visit <http://www.aaslh.org/htopics.htm>. Or contact Chris Goodlett at Chris.Goodlett@ky.gov.

2008-2009 KMHA BOARD MEMBERS

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The Kentucky Intensive Museum Management Seminar Held in Lexington

This past August, the Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance in partnership with the Kentucky Historical Society held the Kentucky Intensive Museum Management Seminar in Lexington. The seminar focused on collections management and care. Popularly known as KIMMS II: Collections Management, the workshop lasted two days and covered such topics as acquisitions and accessioning, cataloging, collections management policies and loans. All sessions were led by experienced Kentucky museum professionals.

The Alliance wishes to thank Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate for hosting the seminar, and the Mary Todd Lincoln House and the University of Kentucky Art Museum for giving tours of their sites.

The Kentucky Intensive Museum Management Seminar is a series of in-depth, multi-day workshops offered to museums and heritage organizations across the state. Currently, there are three KIMMS workshops in rotation: management basics, collections management and exhibits. KIMMS workshops are a great way for volunteers and new professionals to become immersed in methods of proper museum practice. Please continue to watch the Alliance website : www.kymuseums.org as well as future issues of the newsletter for information on future KIMMS seminars.