



Fall Conference in El Dorado

The Administrative Assistants of Kansas Cities (AAKC) Fall Conference was hosted by the City of El Dorado, Kansas, on September 10, 2010.

Susan Evenson of El Dorado, was the extraordinary hostess of this conference. We all thank her profusely for the excellent arrangements she made for our accommodations, meals, directional maps, and interesting speakers! She even arranged to have the weather pleasant and amenable for our Thursday evening "walk-about!" In a side note....we were all bummed by her later announcement that she would be leaving our organization due to her recent job change—she will truly be missed.



Main St in El Dorado

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And we're walking, we're walking...

What an innovative and fun way to begin the conference for the members who arrived Thursday evening! The evening activity was a walking tour showcasing the downtown area with stops at several of the lovely and interesting businesses—who fed us! With assistance from the El Dorado Main Street organization, El Dorado Economic Development, and the Chamber of Commerce, Susan organized "nibbling and sampling stops" as we learned about the revitalization and investment projects that have occurred over the past few years to bring life, people, and businesses to the core downtown area.

The tour began at Walters Flowers & Interiors, an amazingly beautiful floral and home décor shop right in the heart of downtown. We sampled many local products, from finger foods marinated in locally made sauces to delicious desserts. Walters Flowers is a family-owned, rather well-known business, with loyal customers who come considerable distances to browse and purchase.

It was difficult, but we finally tore ourselves away from Walter's to continue the "eating" tour with a brief stop at the Art Room 114 (who extended their hours just for our group) and a walk past the impressive Coutts Memorial Museum of Art.

Our walking (eating) tour then led us through the beautifully renovated District 142 building, housing several unique and fun businesses such as Sweet 120 with a tasty collection of chocolates (yum!); Satchel Creek Steaks featuring premium meats, cheeses, and sauces (very tasty); and Beyond Napa with inviting choices of specialty wines and spirits. We eventually all funneled into Scooter's Coffee, also located in the District 142 building, to be served wine or coffee for our discerning tastebuds.

Walter's Flower shop



Are you an Administrative Assistant working for City Government in Kansas? Won't you consider joining AAKC?

See page 4 for contact info.



...and we're walking, we're walking...

Our final (much anticipated and much enjoyed) stop was at Jacob's Well for pie, musical entertainment, and a brief presentation by Economic Development Director Linda Jolly. Ms. Jolly discussed the partnerships formed and resources utilized to revitalize, support, and enhance El Dorado's thriving downtown district.



A "walk-about" with food and entertainment on a beautiful Kansas evening—what a great way to begin our fall conference! Many thanks to Susan, the El Dorado Main Street, El Dorado Economic Development, and the El Dorado Chamber of Commerce!



Jacob's Well Coffee House & Cafe'

...Great coffee house atmosphere



Friday, engage the brains!

Our Friday began with a lovely breakfast provided by Prairie Trails Golf & Restaurant. We were then warmly welcomed to El Dorado by City Manager Herb Llewellyn.

Economic Development Director Linda Jolly gave a presentation on the 360 El Dorado web site, a vibrantly successful partnership of local governmental entities to create a collaborative community marketing program. The City of El Dorado, El Dorado, Inc., El Dorado Chamber of Commerce, El Dorado Main Street, and local businesses formed a partnership to develop the 360ElDorado.com initiative. The marketing program includes conventional marketing such as radio, television, billboards, print ads, social media, and search engine optimization. The monthly increase of web site usage by visitors and local residents helps to achieve the organization's goal to raise visitor and local residents' awareness of all the El Dorado community has to offer.



Following a brief break, Dawn Monroe of Butler Community College spoke to us about Generations in the Workplace. Her warm and energetic teaching style engaged everyone in the room, helping us to learn the key characteristics of the four generations that make up today's workforce. She explained that by identifying issues and situations influenced by generational differences, we can gain insights for working effectively across generations. Here's hoping that we can remember and utilize some of the pearls of wisdom she tried to impart to us!

...then down to business

After the delicious (and very filling!) lunch served by Two Brothers BBQ, AAKC President De Nelson (who we were all so delighted to see!) opened our business meeting.

Those committee chairs who were present dispersed their reports to the members, new memberships were announced and introduced, and membership and birthday lists were handed out.

Amanda Iverson discussed the work she has done for the new LKM Conference booth. She has put a great deal of time, thought, and effort into updating the appearance and appeal of the booth, which we all greatly appreciate. She encouraged members to sign up to "woman" the booth during the conference.

Elections kept De and Janet, who have served us so well, in their respective positions as President and Secretary. Thank you to all our officers for continuing to serve!

Happily, time was reserved for committee break-out sessions, which always prove fruitful and helpful in continuing the plans and projects of each committee.

Many, many thanks to Susan, and her "behind the curtain" helpers, who organized such a great conference for us!! Well, well done!!



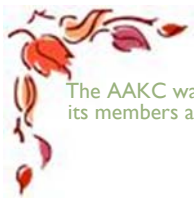
An Invitation:

If this is your first time viewing our newsletter, we hope you find AAKC an interesting organization. We invite you to email our President, De Nelson, at dnelson@wichita.gov, if you have questions or are interested in joining AAKC.

For our AAKC Members:

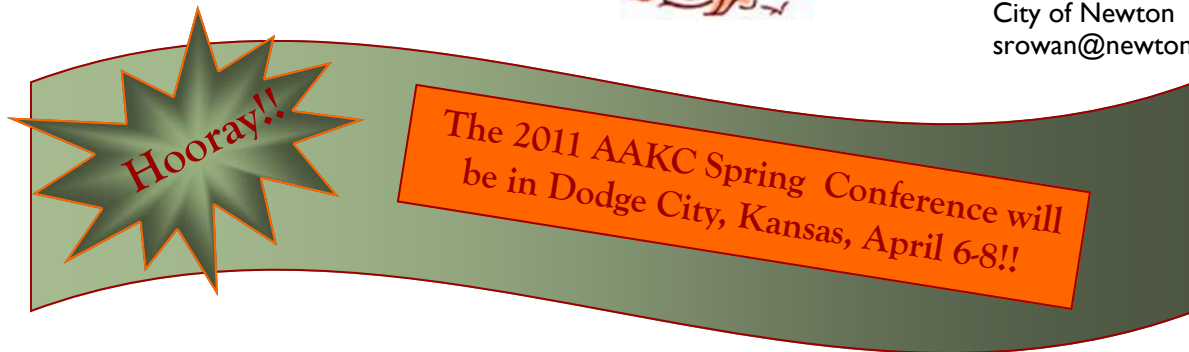
If you have a talent, idea or suggestion, please email De Nelson and let her know your thoughts.

Take a look at the AAKC Committee lists below. If you are not on a committee, please consider joining one or more. Just contact the Chair of the committee you'd like to join. They'd be happy to have you!



Did you know?

The AAKC was formed from a desire to promote and improve proficiency of its members and public administration in Kansas and to provide a network of information, ideas and support to its members.



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LKM Booth Task Force

Chair—Amanda Iverson, Arkansas City



Photos by:
Darlene Provance, City of Abilene

AAKC Fall 2010 El Dorado, Kansas

A BUSY DAY IN EL DORADO



Produced by: Amy Hawkins, City of Gardner
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