



# NEWS

WINTER 2025

from The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City

*Dedicated to the recognition, preservation and restoration of Greater Kansas City's unique heritage.*

## Outstanding Kansas Citian Gala Held November 13



Approximately 100 attendees at 2024 GALA

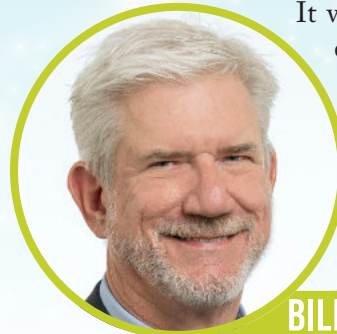


L-R Bill Dietrich, Angie Long and Joel Goldberg speaking to the audience

**A**s usual, our Outstanding Kansas Citian GALA was a very enjoyable and successful event attended by our NSDKC members and guests!

It was held again at the extremely attractive Carriage Club at 5301 State Line Road in Kansas City, MO.

The three 2024 honorees were Bill Dietrich, Angie Long and Chris Long.



**BILL DIETRICH**

### 2024 Outstanding Kansas Citian

**Bill Dietrich** has served as President and CEO of the Downtown Council of Kansas City, Missouri (DTC) since June, 2002. **Bill** has played a leading role in implementing Downtown's revitalization strategies. Initiatives under the DTC's umbrella include the development and management of multiple Community Improvement Districts delivering \$5 million annually of public space maintenance, landscaping, safety, development and marketing services.

**Bill** serves as the Chief Administrative Officer of the Downtown Community Improvement District, the River Market Community Improvement District as well as the innovative start-up business grant competition, Launch KC and promotes cultural investment through the Art in the Loop Foundation. Completed at the end of 2021, the DTC facilitated the development of the next 10-year strategic plan for greater downtown, "Imagine Downtown KC 2030". He serves on numerous Boards and other community organizations and task forces.

**Bill** hails from Seattle, Washington and has worked in economic and community development for more than 25 years.

*Continued on page 3*



**Dear Members:**

I can't believe that it's already December. This has been the fastest 12 months!

**Linn Mills** and her committee did a great job this year on planning events for us to attend.

**Mike Gerken** has done a wonderful job of looking at all of our different rules, bylaws and committees and how to combine them. One of our biggest problems is trying to find people to be committee chairs. It really isn't that hard to be one.

I also would like to thank **Joanne Collins** and **Bob Denzel** for a great job on the OKC GALA. We honored **Chris** and **Angie Long** of The Kansas City Current and **Bill Dietrich** of the Downtown Council.

They are three people that are leading Kansas City into the future and will someday be our history about how they helped Kansas City to grow.

I would also like to thank my wonderful Board and also **Nancy Elder** for all that she does for our organization.

We closed out the year with our annual Christmas Brunch on December 18 where we honored **Joe Vaughan** and **Steve Noll**.



**Christy Chester**  
**2024 President**

Our main goal is to keep and record the history of Kansas City for future generations.

I hope that everyone has a Happy Holiday Season and hope to see you all in the New Year!

 **Christy Chester**  
**2024 President**

**C O N T E N T S**

2024 OKC Gala.....	1
President's Message .....	2
2024 OKC Gala.....	3
Annual Membership Meeting.....	4
Annual Past Presidents Luncheon.....	5
NSDKC Holiday Brunch .....	6
NSDKC Board Meeting .....	7



**OFFICERS & STAFF**

Christy Chester  
*President*

Michael Gerken  
*Vice President*

Nancy Elder  
*Treasurer*

Paul Christiansen II  
*Secretary*

Linn Mills  
*Event/Programs Chair*

*A list of all committees and committee chairs is available at NSDKC.org*

**Newsletter Production**

Ross Marshall  
*Editor*

**Administrative Staff**

Nancy Elder  
*Administrator*

**Contact Information**

Phone: 816-278-8929

Email: [admin@NSDKC.org](mailto:admin@NSDKC.org)

**NSDKC.org**

**Mailing address:**

PO Box 25513  
Kansas City MO 64119-0813

**MISSION**

The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City, Inc. is dedicated to the historic preservation of the unique and rich heritage of the greater Kansas City metropolitan area, both in Missouri and Kansas, through advocacy, education and restoration. It also seeks to preserve and maintain archives of historical interest relating to the development of the Kansas City region and to recognize individuals who have resided therein and contributed to such development.



⇒ Continued from page 1



ANGIE LONG



CHRIS LONG

### 2024 Outstanding Kansas Citian

**Angie Long** is co-founder and owner of the Kansas City Current, an American professional women's soccer team playing in Kansas City, Missouri, which was founded as an expansion team in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) in 2021. **Angie** spent more than a decade working on Wall Street and was named Managing Director of JPMorgan Chase & Co. at age 29. She held many senior roles at JPMorgan.

**Angie** was recently recognized for her work by being named to the Women's International Champions Cup Best XI, AdWeek International Champion of Change, 2024 Nike Sports Business Executive of the year and The Business Journal's Bizwoman 100. She is also a member of the National Advisory Council for Women Leaders in Sports.

**Angie** is a Kansas City native who grew up playing many sports at a high level, including soccer where she excelled as a goalie. At Princeton University, **Angie** played rugby and was a member of two National Championship Teams, earning recognition as Co-Captain and Co-Coach her senior year. She obtained an Economics degree from Princeton and she was selected as an All-American in 1997.

### 2024 Outstanding Kansas Citian

**Chris Long** founded Palmer Square Capital Management in June 2009, an approximately \$33 billion asset management firm focused on corporate and structured credit with offices in Kansas City and London. Currently, he serves as Chairman and CEO.

In December 2020, **Chris** added the title of Professional Sports Team Owner as he joined Co-Founder and Owner **Angie Long** and Co-Owner **Brittany Mahomes** in bringing a National Women's Soccer League franchise to Kansas City. As owners, **Chris, Angie, Brittany** and recent addition to ownership **Patrick Mahomes**, have had a clear vision of not only establishing the best women's soccer club in the world but also having the Kansas City Current serve as a model for all of women's sports.

**Chris** serves on the National Women's Soccer League's (NWSL) Board of Governors and Expansion Committee. **Chris** was recently recognized for winning the UMKC Bloch School of Business Entrepreneur of the Year, the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame, the prestigious Kansas City Sports Commission's 2022 Sports Executive of the Year and Sports Business Journal's 2022 Power Players in Women's Sports.



# NSDKC Annual Membership Meeting

The Carriage Club – 5301 State Line Road, Kansas City, Missouri – October 16, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President **Christy Chester**, standing at near right. She welcomed the 28 members in attendance. Following are some of the items discussed.

Program Committee Chair **Linn Mills** reported on recent events such as a tour of the Midwest Automobile Museum and partnership with The Urban Core for a tour of the new Rock Island Bridge. She also announced some plans for 2025 which will include a wine tasting event and a tour of Floors two and three of the Kansas City Museum.

Memorial Committee Chair **John Hess, Jr.** asked for a moment of silence for departed members during 2024: **Ms. Jeanette Nichols**, March 38, 2024; **Mr. John Mura** (past president) May 2024; **Mr. John Dunnewind** (past president) on September 1, 2024; **Mr. Chester Owens** (past James Anderson Award winner) on September 28, 2024, and **Don Hall, Sr.** on October 6, 2024.

Outstanding Kansas Citian Committee Co-Chair **Joanne Collins** reported the OKC event is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at the Carriage Club.

Nominating Committee Chair Vice-President **Michael Gerken** recommended that **Nancy Elder, Jim Flanagan, Paul Christiansen, Bryan Flanagan, and Bob Denzel** be elected to the Board for a three-year term. Recommendation approved. Committee also indicated that **Gary Hicks** and **Steve Platt** will become Board members, filling out the remaining terms of past members.

The Nominating Committee recommended the following for officers for 2025: **President Christy Chester, Vice President Michael Gerken, Secretary Paul Christiansen, and Treasurer Nancy Elder.** Nomination approved.

XIII. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

## Speaker at NSDKC Annual Meeting October 16

After the meeting, a power-point presentation was made by **Mr. Nick Vedros**, standing above, on The Lumi Neon Museum. This museum is retrieving old neon signs from around Kansas City, restoring them to their original signage and will be showing them in a Museum soon to



Above is many of the attendees at the October 16 meeting with Vice-President Michael Gerkin speaking.



be open to the Public.

One of the signs the Museum has acquired is that of Italian Gardens Restaurant. NSDKC Past President **Carl DiCapo** was the owner of this historic restaurant and NSDKC is making a donation for the restoration of this sign in the amount of \$4,200 with the reservation that the budget work for NSDKC 2025 budget include an additional \$4,200 toward the restoration costs.



**Standing (l-r)**  
 Gary Hicks (2010)  
 Ray Elder (2023)  
 Nancy Elder (2019)  
 Diane Boos Pickman (2017)  
 Christy Chester (2024 and  
 incoming 2025 President)  
 Linn Mills (2021)  
 Joe H. Vaughan Jr. (1998)  
 A. J. Cameron (1990)  
 Whitney Kerr  
 (Luncheon Host)  
**Seated (l-r)**  
 John Hess Sr. (2002)  
 John Hess Jr. (2016)  
 John Dillingham (2003)  
 Ross Marshall (2014)  
 Dan Sturdevant (2009)  
 Dan Creasy (2005)

## Annual Past Presidents Luncheon welcomes Returning President Christy Chester for 2025



**A**s has been our custom for many years, NSDKC Past Presidents gathered to extend a warm support and encouragement to our **2025 NSDKC President Christy Chester**, who was our 2024 President. This is the first time that we have ever had a return President!

We met on Tuesday, December 3 for our Presidents Luncheon at the River Club in downtown Kansas City which overlooks the Missouri River. We have met there for many years for this Luncheon. Our longtime member **Whitney Kerr**, who is also a member of the River Club, hosted the event as he has for many years.

We always gather, as pictured above, in front of the wonderful Thomas Hart Benton painting entitled "Trading At Westport Landing".

Westport Landing is very close to the River Club, just down the hill on Main Street at the edge of the Missouri River. The Landing is where Kansas City started in 1838 with the name of "Kansas," which was the name of the Tribal Territory just to our west.



# NSDKC Holiday Brunch Held on December 14 at Carriage Club



On Saturday, December 14 NSDKC held the usual Annual Brunch. Members arrived at about 11:00 a.m. for about 45 minutes of fellowship. About 25 people were in attendance.

Administrator **Nancy Elder** greeted and welcomed everyone. Drinks were available and all enjoyed the fellowship time.

At 11:45, the Brunch food was provided and Vice President **Mike Gerkin** (above) greeted everyone and talked about NSDKC history and it's current activities and objective.

At about 12:15, **Mike** took the stand again with some remarks. He then introduced **Joe Vaughan** (at rear right left) who presented two NSDKC awards.

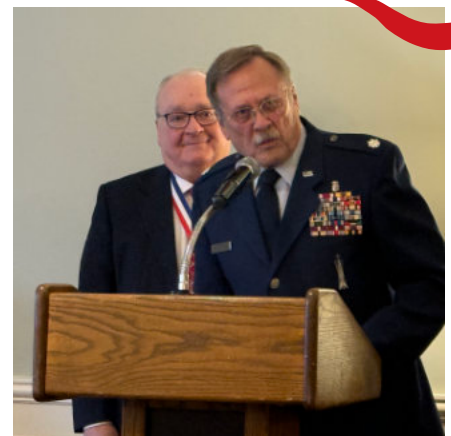
The first presentation was the James Anderson Historic Preservation Award presented to **Dewayne Knott** (speaking at right), from Smithville, Missouri, who has focused on preserving history in his life. He has been active in many places nationally, including New York City.

He served in the Air Force for 37 years, retiring as Lt. Colonel. Upon his return from military deployment in Iraq, he championed environmental cleanup efforts several years ago to remove metal drums, old cars and toxic waste from our Kaw Point site. He received \$10,000 from a grant which enabled the cleanup plus construction of a boat ramp to access the Missouri River.

He holds the rank of Eagle Scout and re-enacted Lewis and Clark bicentennial celebrations in 2008 and 2024.



**Mike Gerkin**



*Continued on page 7* ⇨



## Holiday Brunch ⇒ *Continued from page 6*

Right (at right) is **Steve Noll** at the podium who received from **Joe the Lee I. Pickering** Award For Excellence. **Steve's** years of work saved the Boone-Hays Park on East 63<sup>rd</sup> Street and is a fine example in this era as a NSDKC leader whose perseverance to get things done for the organization is endless.

**Steve** goes above and beyond consistently in his willingness to serve NSDKC. Following his year as President in 2018, **Steve** has continued to serve the organization with several years on the Outstanding Kansas Citian Committee. **Steve** epitomizes the continuous assistance, advice and counsel to The Native Sons & Daughters of Greater Kansas City.



# NSDKC Board Meeting

December 18, 2024



**T**he December Board of Directors meeting took place on Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at the Carriage club. Attendance was good with 15 members present.

Treasurer **Nancy Elder** gave a report on the current bank balances (the main checking account and the OKC account) and a report on the investment account at Midwest Trust Company.

Reports were given on Membership. Dues notices have been emailed 12/15/2024 to both active members and members who were unpaid for 2024.

A report was given by **Bob Denzel** on the Outstanding Kansas Citian event held November 13, 2024 here at the Carriage Club. Income received and expenses paid showed a net gain on the fund-raising event.

Program Committee chair **Linn Mills** reported that her committee has been meeting for 2025 events. Possible weather constraints for January and February were

considered and the next event will be March 2025. Watch your email for details.

Under Community Service Committees: **Nancy Elder** reported on the Elmwood Cemetery fund-raising challenge for \$25,000 to be raised by December 31, 2024.

Chair for the OKC Committee for 2025 will be **Bob Denzel**. The Board agreed to continue our board meetings at the Carriage Club for 2025.

The Governance Committee proposal was explained and briefly discussed by Vice President **Mike Gerken**. Contents of this proposal outlined the responsibilities and opportunities for members, the suggested changes in the names of some of the corporate committees and a realignment of some committees. All NSDKC members will be contacted and encouraged to become more involved in the organization. Further discussion will take place at the next board meeting on January 15, 2025.