



President's Message Archive 2012

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December, 2012

Dear Friends Along This Way,

Opportunities continue to beckon as we look ahead, making plans to promote the heritage of the Solomon Valley and to celebrate current developments in our communities. You are encouraged to renew your membership and to invite others to join us, adding strength to our efforts.

Please plan to attend the 13th Annual Membership Meeting, Saturday, January 26, at Osborne. Highlights will be recognizing the winners of our 8th Call for Voices, Denise Low telling about the Indian history found in ledger art, and the posters on the Diversity of the Solomon Valley created with the National Park Service for display in Nicodemus last May. I'll need to have your reservation by January 21, 2013.

I would also like to direct your attention to the video workshop survey described in this issue of the Solomon Valley Anthology. Your response is important, as we determine what we can do together to make a difference for you and for the Solomon Valley.

The year 2013 offers special challenges. The Midland Trail, one of the original transcontinental highways, is approaching its 100th anniversary. Can we help make this a national event? American Indian stories precede the post-Civil War settlement of the Solomon Valley, and they promise insight into the planet's future. Can we find a way to weave these stories into a program to study together? There are wonderful cultural resources and community histories located in the museums in the Solomon Valley. Can we help tailor tours that will take visitors to these fine resources?

There are other paths, other options. You will help make the choices which to follow as we work together in 2013. Let's begin in Osborne in January!

–Joan Nothern

September, 2012

Dear Friends Along This Way,

It is a privilege to bring you more of the 2011 Call for Voices. They reveal so much about this place and living here. You'll find awe and delight, courage, fantasy, humor, and moving insights. We look forward to the Eighth Call for Voices submissions, due November 1.

In addition to publication in this newsletter, all the winning entries from the first Call for Voices in 2005 through 2011 are available on our website, <hwy24.org>. Enjoy!

The county theme this time turns to unique or nontraditional agriculture-based enterprises. Surely this is a topic we will revisit. We invite member contributions or leads as we share valley explorations.

Working together to enrich and promote the heritage of the Solomon Valley is a cooperative adventure. You can read about the Peace Pole now in place in Glen Elder—a project that reflects our ability to honor the past and invest in the future.

As this long, hot summer ends and we move into autumn, we hope you will encourage others to join us. Your advocacy is the best way for us to grow.

–Joan Nothern

June, 2012

Dear Friends Along This Way,

The Solomon Valley was honored during the month of May at the Visitors' Center at Nicodemus, with a display representing the diversity in our settlement stories. Mark Weaver, Superintendent of Nicodemus National Historic Site, did a fantastic job putting our stories and pictures together, creating an excellent series of posters for this feature display. Leo Oliva provided an interpretive pictorial overview of the valley, accompanied by the "Solomon Valley Anthology," a band suite composed by Greg Sanders, to complement the posters.

As a heritage alliance, we recognize efforts to promote awareness of our heritage. Colby assumed responsibility for signage for the World War II Veterans Memorial Highway at the junction of highways 24 and 83, the western end of this 200-plus-mile designated memorial highway. The signage was unveiled May 17, with a program at Frahm Theatre on the Colby Community College Campus. Secretary of Transportation Mike King participated in the event.

Mitchell County Tourism presented Talking Tombstones over Memorial weekend, researching and introducing new historical characters to entertain people returning home for the weekend. The pleasure of discovery, of historical recovery, motivated these gifted tombstone talkers. They are heritage caretakers.

Now to look ahead! On July 21 the Peace Pole the SV24 Alliance proposed as a Kansas Sesquicentennial project, will be dedicated in Glen Elder. This is our gift that reflects both the diversity of settlers who sought peace here and the veterans who sacrificed for peace. Please read more about the Peace Pole in this newsletter. I encourage you to contribute to this project, to make a gesture with us to "Let Peace Prevail on Earth." And I invite you to the Glen Elder Peace Pole dedication on July 21, 7:15 p.m.!

–Joan Nothern

March, 2012

Dear Friends Along This Way,

At the annual membership meeting, January 28, 2012, in Osborne, we recognized the 2011 authors who placed in the Seventh Call for Voices. It was our privilege to have several first-place winners with us as guests and to hear them read their winning entries. We listened to voices of honesty and beauty, fantasy and reality, as Madelaine Colarossi, Rachel Johnson, Keith Schlaegel, and Nila Rea Denton presented their work. In this issue of the Solomon Valley Anthology you may read some of the Voices of 2011; more will follow in each issue during this year.

Eileen Wilson has represented Osborne County on our Board of Directors for many years. Her knowledge and love of history added much to our efforts. Eileen has retired from the board. We are grateful for her years of unflagging support! We also thank Jennifer Spresser for her years of service on the board, representing Sheridan County and the town of Hoxie..

Looking ahead, we have been invited to present an overview of Solomon Valley communities at the Visitors' Center at Nicodemus. This will be featured during May 2012. We will draw on the settlement histories prepared for the SVA for this display. The changing exhibits at Nicodemus will add extra reason to include visits there. Please make it a habit to do so.

Would you like to share in placing a Peace Pole in the Solomon Valley? A Peace Pole is a hand-crafted monument that displays the message May Peace Prevail on Earth on each of its four sides, in four or eight languages. Exploration is underway to find an appropriate host site. We are mindful of the role of Clarence Pickett in securing the 1947 Nobel Peace Prize for the Friends Service Committee. If you would like to make a special monetary contribution toward this project, please contact me or a board member.

I hope the county-theme articles on Trails suggest to you that there are trips to be taken in the Solomon Valley. Spring is almost here. It is time to take to the road

–Joan Nothern