



Travel Industry Association of Kansas

THE VOICE OF THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY IN KANSAS

February 2016

Volume 11, Issue 2

TIAK TIMES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

TIAK's Day on the Hill Recap	2-3
Tourism Caucus	2
Taste of TIAK	4
Legislative Update	5-7
Summer Internship	7
DC Fly-In	8
Best Small Towns in Kansas	8
White Papers	8
2016 Webinars and Seminars	9
Calendar of Events	9

TIAK'S DAY ON THE HILL RECAP



Thank you to all of the attendees and sponsors who participated in the TIAK Day on the Hill on February 10th! The weather was cooperative and the Statehouse was "popping" with all of the excitement in Kansas travel and tourism. The purpose of the Day on the Hill is two-fold: it's an educational forum for our members as well as an opportunity for members to inform their legisla-

tors on tourism's impact on our state. Based on member and legislator feedback, the day seemed to be a great success!

One of the highlights of this year's Day on the Hill was the change of venue for the morning meeting. The day began at the Ramada Hotel with registration, legislative updates by Natalie Bright and Marlee Carpenter, and a welcome by KDWP Assistant Secretary Linda Craghead as attendees enjoyed a buffet-style breakfast. Keynote addresses were presented by Martin Hawver, owner and publisher of Hawver News Company and editor and publisher of Hawver's Capitol Report, and KDWP Secretary Robin Jenison. Although Governor Brownback was slated to welcome all of the tourism professionals, he was prevented from attending the event by a last-minute emergency.

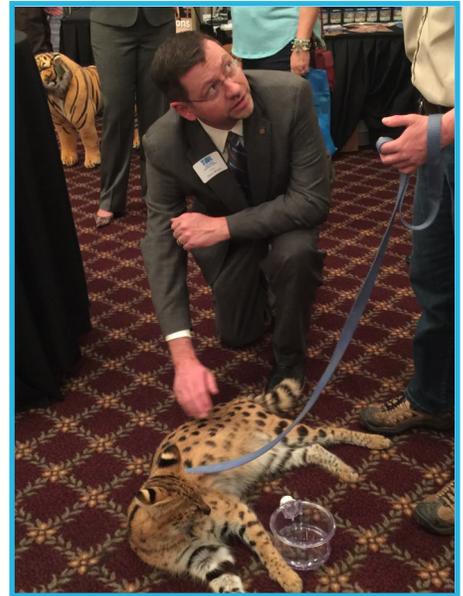


(Continued on page 2)

TIAK'S DAY ON THE HILL RECAP (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

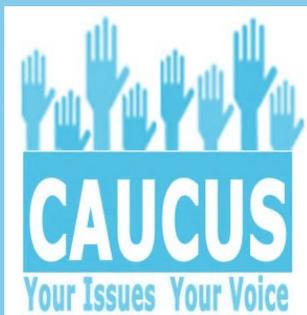
As the morning meeting ended, attendees grabbed box after box of popped popcorn to deliver to their legislators. Each box had a "What's Popping in Tourism" sticker placed on it with some information on our industry's state impact. Everyone headed to lunch and then over to the third floor of the Statehouse where everyone received a real taste of what's popping in tourism! While KDWP displayed visual presentations of all the tourism industry has to offer, freshly-popped popcorn was shared with all who visited the display. The Statehouse smelled great, especially when members personally delivered their boxes of popcorn to their legislators. It was a big hit with legislators and their secretaries, alike, making TIAK's message memorable to say the least.



KDWP map showing all of the cities that were represented by the Legislature at the Day on the Hill event.

With business concluded for the day, the evening reception back at the Ramada Hotel offered a chance for travel and tourism to really pop! More nearly 60 legislators attended the showcase with several commenting that ours was always their favorite reception. How could it fail to be with such amazing animals, delicious baked goods, a shooting range, and a fun and informative introduction to the incredible places our State has to offer?

With more than 100 participants joining the Day on the Hill events this year and such a positive reputation with our legislators, it's clear that travel and tourism has made an impression on Topeka (and the rest of the state, too)! Be sure to check out the additional pictures on the next page. ■



The next Tourism Caucus event will take place

Monday, March 14, 2016

12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.

At the Historic Topeka Harley-Davidson

2047 SW Topeka Blvd.

Topeka, Kansas

TIAK'S DAY ON THE HILL RECAP (CONT.)



taste OF



Travel Industry
Association of Kansas

Travel Industry Association of Kansas (TIAK)

**Not sure if you should bite off more than you can chew?
Well, how about a little “taste” then?**

Any new member can join TIAK in 2016 for just **\$50!**
This special “**Taste of TIAK**” is good for new members only,
and is being offered through the end of the year.



Become a member today at
<https://tiak.org/tiak-membership/join-tiak/>
and start enjoying the benefits of
membership that only TIAK can offer!

“This membership program got me in the door. Once I was involved and attending the tourism conference, I saw the value of the networking opportunities and educational components. Our TIAK membership became a priority to my organization.”

—Board Member Roger Hrabe, Rooks County Economic Development Director

“TIAK has been a valuable partner with Kansas Travel & Tourism in gaining exposure for our industry. Through increased membership, our unified voice grows even stronger in leading the charge for the 3rd largest industry in the state: a relationship benefiting every Kansas community, large and small.”

—Linda Craghead,
Kansas Department of Wildlife,
Parks and Tourism Assistant Secretary



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Although the session schedule has been shortened, both the House and Senate chambers have debated and passed dozens of bills on Monday and Tuesday before their Turnaround deadline. We are officially halfway through the legislative session; and all non-exempt bills that were not passed out of their respective House of origin by close of business yesterday, are now considered dead for this year. The Legislature is now enjoying a week's break and will return to work on March 2. Below are some of the highlights from the last several days, including a few issues we're continuing to watch very closely.

Budget Bill waiting for Governor

The House and Senate budget bill is awaiting the Governor's signature. It leaves an ending balance of \$6.5 million for fiscal year 2016 and \$89 million for fiscal year 2017. However, it may need amending during the Veto session when the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group comes out with their revenue numbers in April. The Governor has until March 4th to sign the bill.

The most contentious items during negotiations and amongst some legislators included the provision to allow the Governor to delay the \$100 million fourth quarter payment to the Kansas Public Employee Retirement System (KPERS) to balance the budget for this fiscal year if necessary. Other hot button topics included the STAR bond prohibition that halts the moving of the American Royal to Kansas from Missouri, and whether or not the funding source for Parents as Teachers will restrict the program to lower income families only.

Governor's Power Plant Plan Halted

Senate Bill 250 was originally introduced to remove the requirement that the Secretary of Administration provide monthly progress reports to the Joint Committee on State Building Construction regarding existing projects. Yesterday, the House amended the bill to also address the Governor's plan to demolish the Docking State Office Building and construct a new power plant for the Capitol Complex with financing from a lease-purchase agreement without the Legislature's knowledge or approval. The bill as amended now requires the Department of Administration to terminate the lease agreement and construction contract, and requires legislation before the Docking building—across the street from the Statehouse—can be reconstructed or relocated and before the adjacent land can be leased. The bill also withdraws appropriated funds from the budget approved in 2015 for the project. Both Chambers passed the amended bill yesterday with overwhelming support.

Major Juvenile Justice Reform Approved by Senate

Senate Bill 367 is a full reform and modernization of the juvenile justice system in Kansas. The bill is a package of consensus proposals produced by the Kansas Juvenile Justice Workgroup, which began meeting last June with the goal of reducing juvenile offending and protecting public safety. A few of the

(Continued on page 6)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (CONT.)

(Continued from page 5)

key changes in the bill are: focusing residential beds on higher-level offenders and reinvesting those savings in out-of-home placement into community-based programs, enhanced training for juvenile justice professionals, and creating statewide standards in responding to delinquent behavior. After five hearings in the Senate Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee, the full Senate approved the bill yesterday by a vote of 38-2.

Speed Limit Raised on Rural Highways

House Bill 2643 authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to increase the speed limit on certain rural highways from 65 mph to 70 mph. Those highways cannot be separated multilane highways (current speed limit of 75 mph) or any county or township highway (current speed limit of 55 mph). A 10 mph buffer still exists, that prevents those infractions from being reported to one's insurance. During the hearing last week in the House Transportation Committee, the Kansas Motor Carrier's Association and Kansas Highway Patrol testified in opposition, requesting the repeal of the 10 mph buffer. Proponent testimony cited good road conditions in Kansas and compared speed limits with nearby states. An amendment that was offered yesterday on the House floor that ultimately failed, proposed to raise the interstate speed limit from 75 mph to 80 mph. HB 2643 passed by a vote of 106-19.

A Few Issues We're Watching Closely...

STAR Bonds

House Bill 2625 amends various STAR bond provisions and is a result of several items of concern raised in 2015 by the Legislative Post Audit and from hearing that the Administration was working with the American Royal to move their events from Missouri to Kansas and fund it through STAR bonds. As previously reported, this year's budget bill awaiting the Governor's signature included language that halted the Wyandotte County project until STAR bond reform can be addressed. HB 2625 is currently in the House Tax Committee and awaiting a hearing. The use of STAR Bonds has come under legislative scrutiny this year, and we expect to see several hearings regarding STAR bonds during the second half of the legislative session.

Government Bonding Limitation

An informational hearing was held on House Bill 2703 in the House Appropriations Committee last week. The bill limits the authority of state agencies to enter into indebtedness on behalf of the state, relating to the issuance of bonds by the Kansas Development Finance Authority. It does exclude projects approved by the state finance council under \$25 million as well as those under the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). As previously reported, the budget bill that already passed this year sets the KDOT bonding cap at 19% for fiscal year 2016 and 18% for fiscal year 2017. Lawmakers are looking at this bill as a vehicle to ensure legislative oversight for projects like the Docking Power Plant and University of

(Continued on page 7)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (CONT.)

(Continued from page 6)

Kansas' Central Development District. A hearing on HB 2703 is scheduled for March 3.

School District Bond Project Review Board

House Bill 2486 and Senate Bill 356, essentially the same bill, create the School District Bond Project Review Board, which would have authority to approve or deny applications by the school districts for capital improvement bonds approved by a local election after January 1, 2016. The review board would only approve the issuance of bonds on projects utilized for direct instruction of students. Board members would include the House Appropriations Committee chair and ranking minority member, Senate Ways and Means Committee chair and ranking minority member, and two members of the Kansas State Board of Education. Both bills have had hearings in their respective education committees and were referred to their respective budget committees yesterday. The House Appropriations and Senate Ways and Means Committees are exempt, which means these bills are "blessed" for the rest of the legislative session and not restrained by yesterday's Turnaround deadline.

Efficiency Study Recommendations

Several committees will turn their attention to looking at the A&M Efficiency Study recommendations. Motivated to find additional money to sure up their budget, legislators want to implement as many of the recommendations as possible. One recommendation of interest to TIAK members is a suggestion to institute or increase sponsorship for rest stops, traveler assist hotline, roadside logo sign program, and motorist assist program.

Looking Ahead

The Legislature will be in recess until Wednesday, March 2, when they will be back working bills in committees and spending much time vetting the efficiency study recommendations. Also still on the table is the Legislature's response to the Kansas Supreme Court's ruling on equitable funding for schools. The next deadline is March 21, when all bills must be considered and passed by the second Chamber. First adjournment is scheduled for March 25. It is going to be a quick March! ■

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SUMMER INTERNSHIP

The Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce is offering a summer internship for a college or highly qualified high school student. The Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce Internship is designed to give the participant a window into why the Chamber of Commerce is an integral part of the Dodge City community. The participant will assist Chamber Staff with Chamber programs, initiatives, events and community communications. The Chamber of Commerce Intern will play an important part in office operations and member services making lasting contacts in Dodge City and learning the important skill of networking first hand.

For more information about the internship and instructions on how to apply, please visit the Jobs & Internships section of the TIAK website at: <https://tiak.org/resources/jobs-and-internships/>. ■

REGISTER FOR THE DC FLY-IN



Destination Capitol Hill is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for you to learn about upcoming legislation that impacts travel, network with industry colleagues and meet with Mem-

bers of Congress to stress the importance of travel as an economic driver. And registration is now open!

Join us—and hundreds of your colleagues from around the country—at The Mayflower Hotel, from March 16-17, 2016. U.S. Travel will provide you with everything needed to go into your meetings with confidence. We'll host educational webinars prior to the event, coordinate your meetings and provide a personalized schedule. ■

BEST SMALL TOWNS IN KANSAS



Proudly published by the KDWPT Tourism Team, *KANSAS!* Magazine touts an ever-growing number of subscribers from around the world. Their newest initiative, Best Small Towns in Kansas, is a great way to engage Kansas' tourism professionals and their communities.

Every Kansas town has its authentic qualities and experiences, each with their own homegrown charm—and who knows better than the locals. With ninety percent of the towns in Kansas having a population less than 5,000, the Tourism Team needs your help in identifying the best small towns in the Sunflower State. Submit your favorite small town between now and March 14, 2016, and be sure to explain why it's your favorite. Communities with the most submissions will move on to the voting round. Voting will be open from March 15 through May 31. Winning small towns will be announced in the winter 2016 magazine issue. For more information on nomination instructions, visit the *Kansas!* Magazine website at <http://www.travelks.com/ks-mag/small-towns/>. ■



WHITE PAPERS



There's a new addition to the Resources Section of the TIAK website: White Papers.

Our Education Committee has researched and collected white papers on various topics. Current White Paper listings include:

- The State of the American Traveler
- EppersonDest Product Development: A Review and Analysis of the Role of CVBs in Destination Product Development
- Destination Brand Building
- Five Destination Branding Principles to Boost Economic Recovery
- Toll Advocacy: It's Not Just For a Crisis
- Amadeus: Shaping the Future of Travel—Macro trends driving industry growth over the next decade

All of these white papers can be found on the TIAK website at: www.tiak.org/resources/white-papers-reports. Be sure to check them out!

2016 WEBINARS/SEMINARS

Mark your calendars for all upcoming 2016 educational opportunities. All webinars will take place on the first Friday of the month at 10am, and the cost is \$35 for TIAK Members/\$45 for non-members. Be sure to watch the TIAK website for more information.

- **March 4:** Sports Webinar
- **May 6:** Social Media Webinar
- **June 5:** Economic Development Seminar, *Pittsburg, Kan.*
- **August 5:** Facility Marketing Seminar, *Garden City, Kan.*
- **September 2:** Agritourism Webinar
- **November 4:** Engaging Your Community Webinar



Plan to join us for our first webinar of the year **next Friday, March 4, 2016**. **BJ Harris**, President of SportsKS, will discuss how various sized cities are working with sports of all types to bring events to their communities and how SportsKS is working in cooperation to encourage sports to come to Kansas. To register, click on the link in the calendar box to the right. ■

With TIAK's support, Kansas City Area International students were able to spend the day with Sen. Julia Lynn on February 17, 2016.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS
(CLICK ON EACH LINK FOR
MORE INFORMATION):

March 4, 2016
[Sports Webinar](#)

March 10, 2016
TIAK Executive Cmte Mtng

March 16-17, 2016
[Destination: Capitol Hill](#)
Washington, D.C.

March 25, 2016
Last Day of 2016 Session

April 14, 2016
TIAK Board Meeting

April 27, 2016
Veto Session begins

May 12, 2016
TIAK Executive Cmte Mtng

Travel Industry Association
of Kansas
825 S. Kansas, Suite 502
Topeka, KS 66612
PH: 785.233.9465
www.tiak.org



**Travel Industry
Association of Kansas**