



Travel Industry Association of Kansas

THE VOICE OF THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY IN KANSAS

June 2017

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# TIAK TIMES

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## THE YEAR IS FLYING BY

From Bridgette Jobe, TIAK President

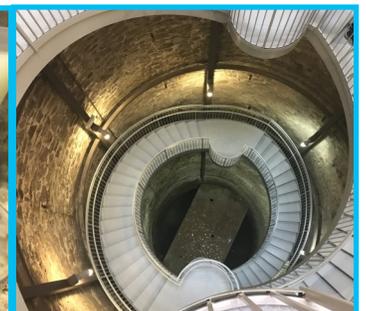


When I sat down to write this month's column, I realized that 2017 is half over. It is true that the older I get, the faster the years fly by. One of my favorite authors states it so well: "How did it get so late so soon?" —Dr. Seuss

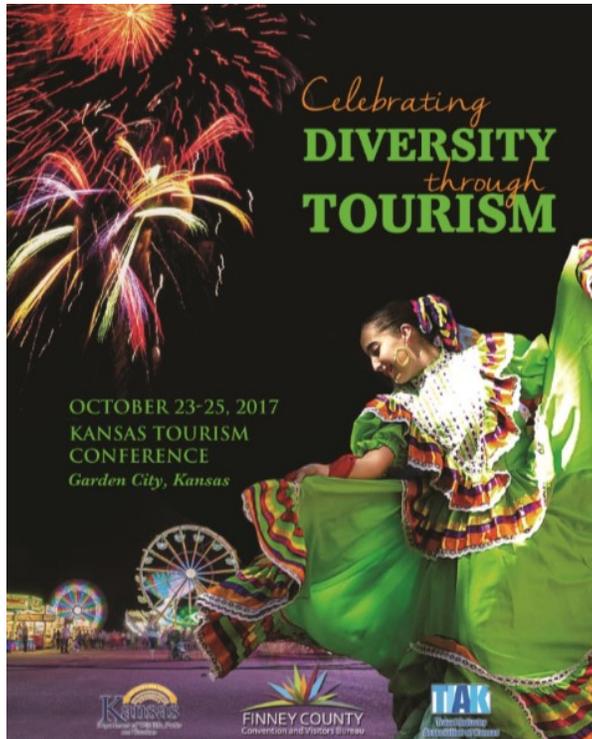
We still have much to accomplish this year. Have you registered for the Kansas Tourism Conference yet? Garden City will be hosting us October 23-25. Conference registration, hotel information and the agenda are all on the [TIAK website](#). I truly hope to see you there. Also, take a look at the conference sponsorship opportunities while registering for the conference. I encourage you to reach out to your partners about becoming a sponsor. We will need everyone to help make this conference a success.

My final reminder for you is to consider hosting the 2019 and/or 2020 Kansas Tourism Conference. The link to the RFP can be found [here](#). Proposals are due by August 1 and you can bid on one or both years. ■

Pictures from the TIAK ED Summer Travel Adventure hosted by Stacy Barnes and Greensburg. THANK YOU!



## 2017 KANSAS TOURISM CONFERENCE



Let the celebration begin! Registration for the 2017 Kansas Tourism Conference is now open at <https://tiak.org/events/kansas-tourism-conference/>.

The Kansas Tourism Conference is a highlight each year with inspiring speakers and networking opportunities. This year's event takes place October 23-25 in Garden City, at the Clarion Inn Hotel & Conference Center.

The Kansas Tourism Conference event page has all of the information you need to plan your tourism celebration, including hotel reservation information, a dynamic agenda, auction item donation form, student scholarship donation information, sponsorship opportunities, a preview of our newest fundraiser, and so much more! And be sure to start thinking about your marketing award submission.

The celebration is less than 4 months away, so dance your way to the TIAK website and register today at <https://tiak.org/events/kansas-tourism-conference/>. ■

**2019 & 2020 KTC RFP APPLICATIONS NOW ACCEPTED** The RFP for the 2018 Kansas Tourism Conference can be found on the TIAK website [here](#). Responses are due Tuesday, August 1, 2017.



*Donate an auction item at the Kansas Tourism Conference and you could win a prize while helping to support TIAK! Bidders will vote for the best themed item (must have a value of at least \$50) to determine the 2017 Theme winner. Enter your auction donation through the form on the TIAK conference page.*



The 2017 TIAK Marketing Awards are now open for submissions. The goal is to recognize the outstanding marketing efforts of tourism throughout Kansas. Submit your presentation on the [Marketing Awards](#) webpage and a big thanks to Hasty Awards for once again sponsoring the TIAK Marketing Awards!



Share the conference adventure with a worthy student in a Kansas hospitality/tourism program of study. It takes \$600 to send a student to the conference each year. Support a student by making a contribution through the Student Scholarship Fund available on the TIAK website at <https://tiak.org/payments/>.

# taste

# OF



## Travel Industry Association of Kansas (TIAK)

Not sure if you should bite off  
more than you can chew?

Any new member can join TIAK in 2017 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



## UPCOMING ONLINE COURSES

Check out all of our upcoming webinars [HERE](#).

Note: It is not necessary to enroll in all courses. You may choose only the courses that would best benefit you.



## RECENTLY RECORDED COURSES

Kansas Tourism partners, sign up and with username and password [HERE](#).

View the Recorded Webinars [HERE](#).

## KANSAS DESTINATION SPECIALIST (KDS)



The Education Committee recently made a change to the Kansas Destination Specialist program to assist those who are working towards their designation. Renewals (required on even years) have always included visiting a Kansas attraction more than 50 miles away from home and submitting the required attraction narrative form as one of the options, but that has never been an option to gain points for the original designation. That has changed.

Those working towards the 25 points for the designation can now visit an attraction (50+ miles from home) and turn in the narrative form for one (1) point toward the 25 required. There is no limit on how many attractions can be visited in a year but the visit must have been since the Sept. 19, 2016 deadline. Therefore, those working on receiving their designations can submit forms for attractions they have visited since last September 19th. The new information and the required form are on the [TIAK website](#).

The deadline for receiving your KDS at the 2017 conference is Sept. 22, 2017. Those working towards renewal have until the 2018 deadline to complete those requirements. Questions can be addressed to Sally Fuller, KDS Chair, at [tourism@cityofliberal.org](mailto:tourism@cityofliberal.org) or 620-626-0170. ■

### WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK

Please take a few minutes to complete [this survey](#) to help the TIAK Education Committee gauge your interest in educational opportunities provided by TIAK. We also encourage you to share the survey with your staff that will most likely attend the Kansas Tourism Conference to help us better determine the most valuable round table discussions.

## 2017 KANSAS TOURISM ROADSHOW

The Kansas Tourism staff is hitting the road to meet with you! Make plans now to attend one of the upcoming tourism workshops August 1–4, 2017. You will have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with staff to assist you with your marketing plan or to answer your questions on the programs that our office administers (visit our [industry website](#) for a listing). There is no cost to attend the workshop, but we would appreciate if you could let us know if you are attending by registering [here](#) by Thursday, July 27, 2017. All times are from 9am–12pm. [Click here to register today!](#) ■

August 1—Oakley

August 2—Hays

August 3—Salina

August 4—Kansas City

## KANSAS HUMANITIES COUNCIL

From Jan Stevens, Dodge City CVB



The Kansas Humanities Council connects communities with history, traditions, and ideas to strengthen civic life.

As a Kansas Humanities Council (KHC) member, I strongly support the programs that are offered by this non-profit organization. From Speaker Bureaus that examine our shared human experience—our innovations, culture, heritage, and conflicts, to Grants that will support research and development of new museum exhibitions, oral history projects, short and full-length documentary films, preservation of important artifacts, photographs and documents, and much more. These programs are exceptional in telling our ‘KANSAS’ heritage, lifestyles and history stories, and can be used to enhance activities at any festival or event. I think this is an overlooked resource that is right at our fingertips! The staff at KHC is easy to work with and very helpful.

As we move forward in our theme this year for our conference, “Diversity in Tourism,” keep the Kansas Humanities Council in mind as a resource to help you tell the stories of your community and Kansas. ■

Click [here](#) to view the *Kansas Stories* catalog KHC’s showcases, lectures and discussions are available free to Kansas nonprofits, as funding allows.

Apply [here](#) for a Heritage Grant  
Funding available for oral history and research projects, collections care, and photograph digitization.

Apply [here](#) for a Humanities Grant  
Funding available for the creation of short documentary films, lecture series, museum exhibitions and other humanities events.

Apply [here](#) for a Kansas Town Hall Grant  
Community projects that engage citizens with the humanities and public policy. In partnership with the Eisenhower Presidential Library & Museum

Click [here](#) for more information on the Kansas Humanities Council.

### WATER/WAYS coming to Kansas

The Kansas Humanities Council is pleased to announce an exclusive Kansas tour of [\*\*Water/Ways\*\*](#), a traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution. [\*\*Seven Kansas communities\*\*](#) are hosting the Smithsonian exhibition for six weeks starting June 2017.

*Water/Ways* focuses on the numerous relationships between people and water. How has water shaped our history and traditions? How does it impact our daily life?

What does the future hold for water?

KHC sponsors *Water/Ways* in Kansas in partnership with Smithsonian Institution’s [\*\*Museum on Main Street\*\*](#) program, a one-of-a-kind cultural project that serves residents of rural America. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the U.S. Congress.

For more information about the *Water/Ways* Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition tour, contact Tracy Quillin, associate director, at [\*\*tracy@kansashumanities.org\*\*](mailto:tracy@kansashumanities.org).

## SINE DIE WRAP-UP



The 2017 Legislature officially adjourned with the ceremonial “sine die” session on Monday, June 26, just one day following Governor Brownback’s approval of the

biennial budget for fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

Included with his budget signature were two line-item vetoes. The first was to strike a provision requiring legislative approval before the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) form consolidating Medicaid waivers. The second was to eliminate a transfer from the Kansas Lottery

Commission to KDADS toward mental health initiatives, due to an earlier veto of a lottery bill directing such action. Neither the budget or lottery bill vetoes were challenged during Sine Die.

Two interim committees have met this week, the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations on Monday and Legislative Coordinating Council on Friday. While we wait for the full schedule for interim committees to be set and announced, we anticipate most to begin meeting in late summer/early fall.

### New Kansas Income Tax Withholdings

Effective July 1, 2017, Kansans will begin seeing higher income taxes withheld from their paychecks that reflect the tax increase passed by the Legislature earlier this month. The Kansas Department of Revenue this week posted its new withholding tables on their website and can be found here: <https://www.ksrevenue.org/forms-btwh.html>. ■

### AUGUST TIAK BOARD MEETING

The August Board Meeting will take place in Salina, Kan. on Thursday, August 10th from 10AM–2PM at the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, 120 W. Ash.

## SOAVE RESIGNS AS SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

Secretary of Commerce Antonio Soave resigned his post on Tuesday in order to move back into the private sector where he intends to pursue business opportunities. “It has been an honor to serve you and the state of Kansas in this capacity since November 2015,” Soave noted in an email this week to Kansas Commerce members. “Together we have been able to move Kansas forward. I am most grateful for the time you have dedicated to the advancement of the Kansas economy.”

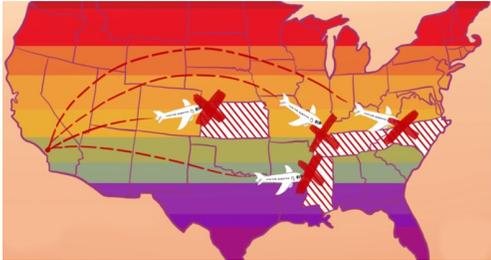
Nick Jordan has been named the Interim Secretary of Commerce. Jordan serves as the head of the Governor’s Council of Economic Advisors and formerly served as Kansas Secretary of Revenue. Before being appointed to the Governor’s Cabinet, Jordan served in the Kansas State Senate as co-chairman of the Commerce Committee and chairman of the Joint Economic Development Committee. Throughout his Senate tenure, he played a significant role in implementing economic growth policies designed to improve entrepreneurship in Kansas. He has been successful in the private sector, and is known for his passion in promoting economic growth in urban, suburban, and rural Kansas. ■



Interim Secretary of Commerce  
Nick Jordan

## CALIFORNIA TRAVEL BAN

Information obtained from article by Carma Hassan, CNN



sponsored travel ban after passage of measure AB 1887 became law. The law says California is "a leader in protecting civil rights and preventing discrimination" and should not support or finance "discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people." The travel ban also includes states that California believes don't protect religious freedoms and states that it says use religious freedom as a basis of discrimination.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said in a statement "Our country has made great strides in dismantling prejudicial laws that have deprived too many of our fellow Americans of their precious rights. Sadly, that is not the case in all parts of our nation, even in the 21st century."

Kansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Tennessee were the original states banned by AB 1887, but recently added Alabama, Kentucky, South Dakota and Texas citing new discriminatory legislation enacted against the LGBTQ community in those states.

Alabama, South Dakota, and Texas all recently passed legislation that could prevent LGBT parents from adopting or fostering children and Kentucky passed a religious freedom bill that would allow students to ex-

clude LGBTQ classmates from campus groups.

"While the California DOJ works to protect the rights of all our people, discriminatory laws in any part of our country send all of us several steps back," Becerra said. "That's why when California said we would not tolerate discrimination against LGBTQ members of our community, we meant it."

The law bans state-funded or state-sponsored travel by employees of state agencies and departments as well as members of boards, authorities, and commissions.

The ACLU of Northern California and Rick Zbur with Equality California applauded the state's decision to widen the ban.

"These discriminatory laws in Texas, North Carolina, South Dakota, and other states are completely out of step with the values that make California the vibrant economic powerhouse that it is," Zbur said. "[I]t is imperative that California continue to denounce those actions publicly and financially."

There are exceptions to the ban, however. For example, if travel is required to maintain grant funding or licensure, or for auditing and revenue collection purposes it will be allowed. And

of course, anyone can travel to any of the states on the list in a personal capacity.

TIAK executive committee members and staff met with Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt and asked for his assistance in trying to get Kansas removed from the travel ban list, but no progress has been made. In addition, the TIAK advocacy committee continues to monitor the ban and discuss if there is a need to seek legislative action during the 2018 session. ■

### Amusement Park Ride Regulations, House Substitute for Senate Bill 86

The Legislature approved a clean-up bill on Thursday that delays implementation of a new law regarding amusement park ride inspections until July 1, 2018, giving the Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) and amusement parks time to comply with the new rules and regulations. The bill passed the House with 107 votes and the Senate with 33 votes.

KDOL has drafted temporary regulations set for hearing this week. In addition, their website is up and running, however no permits can be issued until July 1st.

Click [here](#) for information on the permit program and [here](#) for information on the regulations.

## TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

From Tara Mays, [Economic Lifelines](#)

The legislative session wrapped up after completing their 113th day of work, making it the second longest session in history. (The record was set in 2015 with a 114-day session!)



But they didn't adjourn without tackling some major public policy issues, including passing a comprehensive tax reform measure upon overriding the governor's veto. This reform puts the state back onto more stable financial ground. So much so that just hours after passing the reform package Moody's returned the State of Kansas to a stable outlook from negative watch. ([Read about Moody's upgrade](#)).

This measure is a great step forward. This gives Kansas an opportunity to begin the long walk away from a reliance on the State Highway Fund money to fill budget shortfalls. We want to thank those that supported meaningful tax reform, although we understand that there is still more hard work to do in the years to come.

The legislature also proceeded with a bi-partisan effort aimed at allowing KDOT the ability to ensure proper maintenance and preservation on Kansas roadways. At the urging of Economic Lifelines and other transportation advocacy organizations, both the house and senate passed language allowing KDOT to bond up to an additional \$400m to address critical maintenance needs. While debt isn't an ideal solution, it's a decision that ensures KDOT roads can stay in good condition as we move through the next two fiscal years. This choice, while not an easy one, is necessary to ensure the agency can let projects that will meet the minimum preservation needs of the state.

As any bill does, the budget measure next goes before the Governor for review before becoming law. He has the ability, through the line-item veto, to strike spending items contained in the measure. Legislators returned for *sine die*, the official end to the legislative session, on June 26th.

Overall, this legislative session was a great success for transportation in Kansas. While advocates of transportation didn't get everything that was proposed, there was considerable movement in the right direction, with a more stable revenue picture for Kansas and additional resources for transportation. Economic Lifelines members played a crucial part in building momentum and enthusiasm on important infrastructure issues in Kansas.

Thanks to the legislators who helped lead the efforts of ensuring our state's preservation needs can be met: Rep. JR Claeyes (R-Salina), Rep. Henry Helgerson (D-Wichita), Rep. Troy Waymaster (R-Russell), Rep. Kathy Wolfe Moore (D-Kansas City), Sen. John Skubal (R-Overland Park), Sen. Vicki Schmidt (R-Topeka), Sen. Carolyn McGinn (R-Sedgwick), and Sen. Laura Kelly (D-Topeka). ■

## 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](http://www.tiak.org/resources/white-papers-reports). Be sure to check them out!

## LEGISLATIVE CHANGE FOR KS HOUSE-102

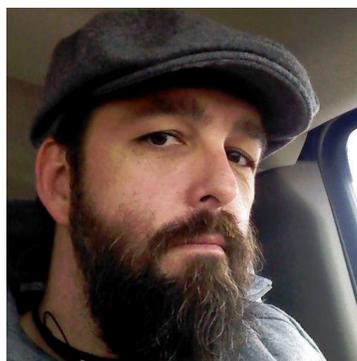
Jason Probst, a Hutchinson News editor, was elected to serve out the remaining year of the House term of Rep. Patsy Terrell (D-Hutchinson), who died of natural causes in her Topeka hotel room on June 7.

Probst was elected by House District 102 precinct committeemen and committeewomen and was sworn into office in time for the largely ceremonial sine die June 26 adjournment of the 2017 Kansas Legislature.

The district is in Reno County. Terrell, unopposed in the 2016 Democratic primary, won the seat from Democrat-turned-Republican 11-term Rep. Jan Pauls (R-Hutchinson), 55% to 45%. ■



*Rep. Patsy Terrell*



*Rep. Jason Probst*

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

**July 13, 2017**

Executive Cmte Meeting  
*Manhattan, KS*

**August 10, 2017**

TIAK Board Meeting  
*Salina, KS*

**September 14, 2017**

Executive Cmte Meeting  
*Hutchinson, KS*

**October 23, 2017**

TIAK Board Meeting  
*Garden City, KS*

**October 23-25, 2017**

Kansas Tourism Conference  
*Garden City, KS*

**November 9, 2017**

Executive Cmte Meeting  
*Cottonwood Falls, KS*

**December 14, 2017**

TIAK Board Meeting  
*Same city as KSAE*

## KANSAS OFFICIAL TRAVEL GUIDE LISTINGS & DISPLAY ADS

EARLY BIRD 4 • 19 • 2017 - 5 • 31 • 2017  
GENERAL 6 • 01 • 2017 - 8 • 01 • 2017



The 2018 *Kansas Official Travel Guide* is officially open for business! *Midwest Living*, a Meredith Corporation magazine brand and strong partner of Kansas Tourism, will once again be publishing the guide.

Visit the [Kansas Official Travel Guide](#) webpage or contact Andrea Etzel with Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism at 785-296-7091 or [andrea.etzel@ks.gov](mailto:andrea.etzel@ks.gov) for more information. Online listing payments may be paid by credit card this year through online payment processor Extranet. ■



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Association of Kansas**