Citizen Engagement
Helping Cities and Counties Accomplish More in Challenging Financial Times

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

2 p.m.   Welcome
Cathy Boyer Shesol, Project Manager, KC Communities for All Ages, Mid-America Regional Council

2:05 p.m.   Case Study: Shawnee, Kansas
Making the Case for Volunteer Engagement
Rod Houck, Volunteer, Shawnee, Kansas
Furthering the goals through volunteer roles
Elizabeth Griffith, Volunteer Coordinator, Shawnee, Kansas
Value Proposition of Volunteers to Local Jurisdictions
Carol Gonzales, City Manager, Shawnee, Kansas
Questions and discussion

3:15 pm   Case Study: Johnson County Park & Recreation District
Michelle Alexander, 50+ and Fine Arts Manager, Johnson County Parks and Recreation District

3:35 pm   Local Resources
Engaging the Boomers!
Sandra Aust, Director of Coming of Age KC — Shepherd’s Center Central
Volunteer Management Institute
Noreen Bridgham, Director of Programs, Nonprofit Connect

3:55 pm   Closing remarks
Cathy Boyer Shesol

This workshop is made available through funding from the WJ Brace Charitable Trust, Bank of America, Trustee, and the Jewish Heritage Foundation.
**Presenters**

**Michelle Alexander** is the 50 Plus and fine arts manager for Johnson County Park and Recreation District. Michelle has been with the district for 17 years and graduated from Pittsburg State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation Administration. Over her many years with the District, she has worked within the 50 Plus Department at a variety of levels with varying responsibilities.

**Sandra Aust** is the director of Coming of Age Kansas City Metro, a program of Shepherd's Center Central. Sandra is a graduate of the University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing and has worked in acute hospital care, the home health industry with the chronically ill and at the Stowers Institute for Medical Research where she served as a speaker and spokesperson for life sciences and on the statewide campaign for Amendment 2 to the Missouri constitution. In addition to her professional work, Sandra has served on numerous boards and commissions including the Kansas City, Missouri, Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners, The National World War I Museum and Memorial Board of Trustees, The Harvest Ball Society Board of Directors, the United Way of Greater Kansas City Northland Community Advisory Council, and the University of Missouri Jefferson Club Board of Trustees, among many others.

**Carol Gonzales** has served as city manager for the city of Shawnee, Kansas, since 2005. She holds a B.A. from Drake University and a M.P.A. from the University of Kansas. Her career in local government includes work for the cities of Olathe, Kansas; Emporia, Kansas; Seal Beach, California; and Lenexa, Kansas. She is a member of the International City Managers Association, has served as the Chairperson of the Kansas Eastern Regional Insurance Trust, chair of the K.U. MPA alumni organization and as a member of the Creating Sustainable Places steering committee. Carol served on the board of United Community Services of Johnson County from 2007 to 2013, serving as chairman in 2011 and 2012. She currently serves as chairperson of the Johnson County Civil Service Board and is a member of the Shawnee Mission Head Start Board.

**Elizabeth Griffith** is the volunteer coordinator for the city of Shawnee. Elizabeth graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Health Science from Truman State University in 2005. Since then, she has worked in the public health field for eight years as a health educator and then program manager. During that time, her roles involved volunteer recruitment, training and coordination. Seeking part-time work closer to home, Elizabeth took the position of volunteer coordinator with the city of Shawnee in August 2014. Elizabeth is currently a candidate to become a Certified Volunteer Administrator.

**Rod Houck** is a retired business professional. His career began as an optical engineer engaged in the design and production of specialized optical systems for aerospace exploration and night vision applications. He later transitioned into the sales and marketing of technical products and services. He retired in 2008 from a position as the sales and marketing engineer for a local firm that specializes in the design of solutions to automate production in manufacturing plants. During his career, Rod also managed advertising, literature and trade show exhibit activities for several companies. Since retiring, Rod has been active as a mentor to students in the My Volunteer Pal program in the Shawnee Mission School District. He has also coached several teams of elementary school students who build robots using legos and microprocessors. After retiring, Rod also used his skills and experience for the benefit of the city of Shawnee, completing an extensive research process that led to the establishment of an active volunteer program. Today, Rod has multiple roles as a volunteer with the city of Shawnee.