



## June Meeting

The June meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on June 11, 2025 starting at 7:00 pm in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 12 members present for this meeting. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: John Chambers, Paul Morgan, Jack Evans, Larry & Kathy Spahn, Darrell Cave, Jim McKeel, Michael Sheward, Ed Brinkmeyer, Brian Carlson, and Mike & Connie Payton,.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 7:00 pm, July 9, 2025 at the Webb Center in Carona.

## Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMIkqWyCxfDlf\\_ezgw3UyQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMIkqWyCxfDlf_ezgw3UyQ)

## Museum Director Report for May

### Report by John Chambers

- We had 255 visitors during the month from the four state area plus Colorado, Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, New Jersey, Texas, California, Wisconsin, Washington and Oregon.
- Lots of rain kept the grounds saturated with standing water in many places. This kept Watco from working on the containers project.
- On May 7th the Columbus Head Start program visited with children ages three to five with a total of nineteen kids and adults. After the tour they used the picnic shelter to have a snack and water before heading back. They all had a good time and were well behaved.
- Larry and Kathy worked the museum on May 10th while I attended the Boston Mountains Chapter NRHS meeting in Decatur, Arkansas.
- On May 24th Mike and Charlie Wray from the Historic Graffiti Society visited and took pictures of several writings on the walls of the Boston Depot freight room and on the Mopac boxcar. They had emailed us earlier and were traveling through our area from the Pacific Northwest.
- On May 31st the Big Brutus Festival was held and we had 26 people visit, many of whom were directed to us from Rob McKnight who had setup a table at Brutus distributing information to the public.
- I did touch up painting on our entry gate and repainted the KCS mile post marker located near the MP 3001 locomotive.
- We are having issues with bugs in the museum building and I have contacted Kevin Anselmi with Watco and they will be sending out the company that sprays their buildings to treat ours.
- Had a call from Dave Calwell who will be visiting the museum on Saturday June 14th with his wife, son and a couple of friends. This is the youngest son who has not been here yet.
- Had a call from Phil Gray who had gone and picked up various railroad items from the late Bill
- Bailey family. Bill was a Heartland's member. The St Joe, Arkansas railroad museum was the beneficiary of these items but they do not have much room and focus on the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad as they are located in the former depot. They have offered us any of the items they will not be needing. Jim McKeel graciously volunteered to travel to Harrison, Arkansas and meet with Phil and bring back these items.
- Member Mark Springer from Wichita has been repairing a cast iron Midland Valley railroad sign that had bullet holes in it. He is almost finished doing the repairs and painting it. The sign says "One Mile to Station" and was donated many years ago to the Heartlands from Bob King.
- I've been in conversation with Tyler Phillips, OHRA President and he and Dominic Korzelious, VP, will visit the museum on Saturday June 21st to look over and discuss the projects they have agreed on accomplishing for us.

## June 11, 2025 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The June 11, 2025 meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was brought to order by President Larry Spahn at 7:00 p.m.

**Minutes of previous meeting:** Jack Evans moved to accept the minutes as mailed. Jim McKeel seconded the motion, the motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Brian Carlson presented the treasurer's report for the month of March. After the presentation of the treasurer's report, Darrell Cave moved and Jim McKeel seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

### Old Business:

#### **Signage for Museum:**

Darrell Cave reported that Wright signs should have the vinyl signs ready by the end of the week. These signs will be placed on current signs on K-102 east and west of 20th Road. An additional sign will be added at the museum that will also include our hours of operation.

#### **Green County Jeep:**

John Chambers reported that Green County Jeep stopped by the museum on June 7. They arrived around noon and had a picnic lunch on the grounds. They stayed for a couple of hours.

#### **Signal Collection:**

Jim McKeel spoke with Larry Toerber and informed him that the Heartlands would not be able to accept his signal collection. He expressed our thanks in being considered for the collection, but we currently are not able to handle the donation. Jim also relayed our suggestions on some other potential places for his collection.

### New Business:

#### **Heartland Information Display at Big Brutus:**

Rob McKnight manned a booth at Big Brutus during their Big Brutus fest at the end of May. Although Rob was not at the meeting to make report on the day, those that were in attendance commented on the professional and wonderful job Rob did at the event. Everyone commented on the great work he has been doing at the train shows and were very appreciative of his contributions to the Heartlands.

#### **New Depot Clock Display:**

John Chambers discussed with the group the recent depot clock that is now displayed in the museum. The clock was used in the Midland Valley Passenger Railroad station in

Wichita. John's grandfather acquired the clock when the station closed. It has been worked on a bit to get it running and is a great addition to the museum. Our thanks to John for bringing this piece of history to us.

**Other Items:**

- There were no other items.

Jack Evans moved to adjourn the meeting. Paul Morgan seconded the motion and it passed by the membership present.