



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tracy Quillin, Director of Communications

Kansas Humanities Council

785/357-0359 tracy@kansashumanities.org

Kansas Humanities Council Board Elects New Chair, Vice-Chair

TOPEKA – The Kansas Humanities Council (KHC) Board of Directors recently elected Gene Merry of Burlington and Myrna Barnes of Elkhart as chair and vice-chair of the 22-member organization representing leaders from across the state. Both Merry and Barnes have been KHC board members since 2008.

Chair Gene Merry is the Mayor of Burlington and managing partner of Merry Investments. A former Coffey County commissioner, Merry has also served as the president of the Kansas Association of Counties and the Kansas Sampler Foundation.

Vice-Chair Myrna Barnes is director of the Morton County Historical Museum and has served on the boards of the Elkhart Chamber of Commerce, the Cimarron Cut-Off Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association, the Grassland Heritage Festival, and the Wild West Country tourism group.

"I am honored to serve as chair of the Kansas Humanities Council and to work with state partners and the National Endowment for the Humanities," shared Merry. "KHC programs result in citizen discussions and individual reflection on relevant historical and contemporary topics. KHC is fortunate to have a wide range of very active board members from across Kansas who make KHC the best at understanding the history, traditions, and ideas that shape our lives and strengthen our communities."

"My work with Kansas Humanities Council for the past three years has been a rewarding and eye-opening experience," shared Barnes. "I've always known how important KHC and its programming are for a rural community like Morton County. Now I've also seen the importance of the programming all across the state and how it brings urban and rural communities together in understanding each other better. I feel it is a privilege to serve as vice-chair of the Kansas Humanities Council Board of Directors."

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“The KHC board of directors is fortunate to have Gene and Myrna’s expertise and leadership,” said Julie Mulvihill, executive director of the Kansas Humanities Council.

The Kansas Humanities Council conducts and supports community-based programs, serves as a financial resource through an active grant-making program, and encourages Kansans to participate in their communities. For more information contact the Kansas Humanities Council at 785/357-0359 or visit online at www.kansashumanities.org.

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