

Tennessee Town NIA General Membership Meeting
6:30 p.m., Monday; January 14, 2019; Buchanan Center Conference Room, 1195 SW Buchanan

TENTATIVE AGENDA:

- I. Welcome
- II. Guest: Robin St. James, Older Kansans Employment Coordinator, Let's Help, Inc.
- III. City Council Report: Karen Hiller
- IV. Election of 2019 NIA Officers
- V. Community Policing Report: Ofc. Derek Parrett
- VI. Property Maintenance Report: Carlos Hernandez
- VII. Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) Report: Donald Fortin
- VIII. Adoption of Agenda (vote)
- IX. Approval of November 12, 2018 General Membership Meeting Minutes (vote; see pgs. 2-3)
- X. Reading and Acceptance of Treasurer's Reports (vote; see pg. 4)
- XI. Accessing Community Resources Council's "Tier-Two" Nonprofit Status for 2019 (vote)
- XII. NIA/National Night Out/Basketball Tournament Fundraising Event, Committee (vote)
- XIII. SORT Housing Rehabilitation, Streets Projects Meeting; Habitat for Humanity Minor Exterior Rehab Programs
- XIV. NIA Meeting Frequency: (vote if change to monthly; bylaws change if monthly per Article V, Section 1)
- XV. Lane Garden Update
- XVI. Mid-Block Lighting Update
- XVII. Former Colored Women's Club Renovations: Sandy Lassiter
- XVIII. Abandoned Tires Update: Pat DeLapp
- XIX. "Food Oasis" Group's Meeting with City Manager Brent Trout and Deputy City Manager Doug Gerber to Establish Another Central Topeka Full-Service Grocery Store Update
- XX. Reports of Officers: (pg. 5)
- XXI. Old Business:
 - A. International Academy Update: Sandy Lassiter
 - B. Topeka JUMP, Heartland Visioning Updates: Joyce Revely
- XXII. New Business:
- XXIII. Kudos:
 - A. Sandy Lassiter and Faith Temple Church for Hosting the 2018 Holiday Party
 - B. Kudos from Attendees
- XXIV. Announcements:
 - A. "Brush Up Topeka" House Painting Program (pg. 6)
 - B. MLK Birthday Living the Dream Activities (see pgs. 7-8)
 - C. Cold Weather Rule, which helps ensure gas, electric and water service during the cold months, starts Nov. 1, 2018 and ends on Mar. 31, 2019. For more information, please contact the KS Corporation Commission at 800-662-0027.
 - D. Kansas Gas Service "Share the Warmth" Program provides one-time assistance with a gas bill. For more information, please call 816-756-5392, ext. 2.
 - E. Neighborhood Relations Programs: (1) *Emergency Program*: Intended to help homeowners make repairs to immediate health or safety hazards, (2) *Accessibility Program*: Provides modifications to residential homes for owners or tenants with disabilities. For more info. or to apply, please call 785-368-3711.
 - F. TOTO first-time homebuyers' assistance program: The program helps low-income families purchase their first home through HUD funding. The program helps Topeka residents become homeowners by providing education, financing, and home rehabilitation by partnering with Housing and Credit Counseling Inc. For more info., please call 785-234-0217, ext. 317.
 - G. Next Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Mon., March 11, 2019, Buchanan Center, 1195 SW Buchanan
- XXV. Adjournment

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Buchanan Center Conference Room, 1195 SW Buchanan

Minutes of November 12, 2018 General Membership Meeting:

Attendees: President Michael Bell, Vice-President Pat DeLapp, Secretary-Treasurer Sandra Lassiter, City Council Member Karen Hiller, TPD Ofcs. Wilson and Nicholas Calderon, Topeka Habitat Director Janice Watkins, GraceMed Development Director Alice Weingartner, Emma Ray, Mike and Maria Wilson, Christine Allen, Charles Bates.

Bell called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

City Council Report: Topeka City Council Member Karen Hiller discussed amendments to the city's budget. She also said the city allows for mid-block lighting which has been possible for a while and which has been done in one neighborhood already, which probably means budget constraints are the reason why the city consistently balks at lighting projects.

Community Policing Report: Ofcs. Wilson and Calderon said four reported crimes had occurred during the period October 12 - November 12. They discussed crime prevention tips through "situational awareness," including trusting one's instincts and keeping one's head on a swivel. They advised to be sure no one is following, to protect belongings (warned against "porch pirates" stealing packages), to be aware of surroundings and bad vibes, and to go to safer places. They said 1119 SW Clay had been raided and the activities stopped there.

Property Maintenance Report: Carlos Hernandez was not present.

Citizens Advisory Council Report: Donald Fortin was not present.

Adoption of Agenda: *Emma Ray moved adoption of the agenda as presented. Christine Allen seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

Approval of September 10, 2018 General Membership Meeting Minutes: *Pat DeLapp moved approval of the minutes as presented. Ray seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

Acceptance of Treasurer's Reports: *Allen moved acceptance of the Operations/Communications and Envista reports. DeLapp seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

2018 NIA Holiday Party: *Ray moved to hold the 2018 NIA Holiday Party from 3—5 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 15, 2018 in the multipurpose room of Faith Temple Church. Allen seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

SORT Housing Rehabilitation, Habitat for Humanity Minor Exterior Rehabilitation Program Sign Up: Attendees were reminded of the two programs and encouraged to sign up for them. Bell said the Habitat program also includes interior rehab and encouraged attendees to sign up.

Second Habitat House in First 1200 Block of SW Buchanan Update: Bell said that the parcel of land the NIA wanted to acquire to donate to Habitat for a second house, at 1229 SW Buchanan, had been acquired by Robert Ortiz in the tax sales held on July 27. Bell said the NIA would approach Shiloh Baptist Church about donating the vacant lots it owns between its parking lot and the first Habitat house at 1221 SW Buchanan to Habitat but Shiloh had refused to enable the donation. Facebook and other social media sites were suggested as ways to follow up with Mr. Ortiz regarding his plans for the vacant lots he acquired at the tax sale.

Lane Garden Letter and Update: Bell included the letter he drafted and emailed to the Shawnee County Commission asking the county to include Lane Garden under its umbrella in the meeting packet. He said that he had spoken with former Shawnee County Commissioner Vic Miller, who is also an attorney. Miller sent an email to the commissioners supporting our position for the county to take in Lane Garden. Hiller said the Heeney family (in memory of Lane Garden benefactor Marge Heeney) was still interested in being involved at Lane Garden. Hiller discussed “pollinator gardens,” possibly accessing an endowment to help make improvements, the existing pollinator garden at/near the library, and the possible involvement of the Shawnee County Extension Office.

Ideas for Community Resources Council’s “Tier-Two” Nonprofit Status: Gateway Signs: Bell apologized to attendees for not being able to find a grant for gateway signs before the end of 2018. He said the tier-two arrangement had been funded by Neighborhood Relations for 2018 and that if the NIA wanted to pursue the opportunity in 2019 then it would have to become CRC member, costing \$100. He said the NIA could further discuss this at its January 2019 meeting.

“Food Oasis” Ad-Hoc Group Convened to Pursue a Full-Service Central Topeka Grocery Store Report: Mike and Maria Wilson attended the meeting as interested parties in the group’s efforts to establish another full-service grocery store in Central Topeka. The Wilsons own the storefronts on the south side of the 1300 block of SW Huntoon. Regarding research on establishing the grocery store, Jamie Colon was suggested as a source. Also, Katherine Holthaus was cited as someone who could help. Alice Weingartner distributed information on Honor Capital that acquired a former Dillon’s store in Wichita.

Reports of Officers: There was no report.

Alley South of Doorstep, Inc.: Charles Bates said the alley directly south of the Doorstep building was in disrepair. Bell said he would contact Public Works to see what could be done to get it fixed.

Kudos: Bell thanked Emma Ray and Asbury-Mt. Olive Church and Faith Temple Church/Community First, Inc. for their outstanding efforts with National Night Out and the Tennessee Town Basketball Tournament, respectively.

Announcements: Announcements regarding the Cold Weather Rule, Kansas Gas Service’s “Share the Warmth” program, Neighborhood Relations’ programs, and the TOTO program were shared on the meeting agenda.

Adjournment: *Allen moved adjournment. Ray seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Next NIA meeting: 6:30 p.m., Monday, January 14, 2019, at the Buchanan Center, 1195 SW Buchanan.

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Treasurer's Report for Jan. 14, 2019 General Membership Meeting:
2018 and 2019 Operations/Communications Budget

Tennessee Town NIA 2018 Operations and Communications Budget:				
Date	Piece Count	Transaction Type	Withdrawal	Balance
1-1-18	▶	▶	▶	\$686.02
5-31-18	1	State of KS Nonprofit Fee	\$40.00	\$646.02
6-25-18	302	Meeting Notice Card Printing	\$8.04	\$637.98
6-25-18	302	Meeting Notice Card Postage	\$42.28	\$595.70
8-28-18	1	Your Hometown Inflatables (Nat'l Night Out)	\$250.00	\$345.70
9-10-18	1	Rita Goodger (Balloons, Face Painting, etc. (Nat'l Night Out)	\$300.00	\$45.70
12-31-18	302	Meeting Notice Card Printing	\$8.04	\$37.66
12-31-18	302	Meeting Notice Card Postage	\$42.28	\$0.00**
12-31-18	302	Holiday Party Notice Card Printing	\$8.04	\$0.00**
12-31-18	302	Holiday Party Notice Card Postage	\$42.28	\$0.00**
TOTALS:	▶	▶	\$686.02	\$0.00

**Neighborhood Relations provided the funds to cover the overage caused by mailing the Holiday Party and January 2019 meeting notices.

Tennessee Town NIA 2019 Operations and Communications Budget:				
Date	Piece Count	Transaction Type	Withdrawal	Balance
1-1-19	▶	▶	▶	\$1,078.94
TOTALS:	▶	▶	\$0.00	\$1,078.94

Treasurer's Report for Jan. 14, 2019 General Membership Meeting: Envista Account

Tennessee Town NIA 2016-2018 Envista Account:			
Date	Transaction Type	Deposit/Withdrawal	Balance
11-12-18	Balance Check	None	\$139.47
11-1-18, 12-1-18, 1-1-19	Dividend of \$0.01 paid each time	Deposit	\$139.50
TOTALS:	▶	▶	\$139.50

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Reports of Officers (Activities From Nov. 13, 2018 - Jan. 13, 2019):

A. NIA Officers' Meeting:

Bell, DeLapp and Lassiter attended the meeting, held on Nov. 20, 2018, in the first-floor conference room of Neighborhood Relations, 620 SE Madison.

Materials were distributed and discussion occurred on the 2019 operations/communications budgets as well as information on newsletter printing and mailing costs/recommended deadlines for submissions, the Neighborhood Empowerment Grant and SORT grants, the Citizens Advisory Council, electronic forms (reimbursements, supply orders, neighborhood clean-up requests), and the submission of meeting minutes and updating bylaws.

B. "Food Oasis" Group Meeting with Deputy City Manager Doug Gerber:

Bell attended the meeting, held at City Hall on December 12, 2018. The parameters of the partnership between the Food Oasis group and the city were defined, with the effort to establish a new full-service grocery store in Central Topeka being led by the group with the city as a partner. The city's Alyssa Vasquez mentioned the Kansas Health Food Initiative as a potential source for information and a partner. The KHFI brings healthy food to insecure areas. The group and Gerber decided to meet again in January 2019.

C. NIA Holiday Party:

Bell, DeLapp and Lassiter attended the NIA's Holiday Party, held on Sat., Dec. 15, 2018, in the multipurpose room of Faith Temple Church, 1162 SW Lincoln. Bell summed up the "State of the NIA" for 2018 and opportunities for 2019 and treated attendees to "'Twas the NIA night before Christmas," a new take on the traditional Christmas story. A great time was had by all. Great thanks to Lassiter and the members of Faith Temple Church.

D. Habitat Strategic Planning Meeting:

Bell, DeLapp and Lassiter attended the meeting, held on December 19, 2018, at the Habitat offices at 120 NE Gordon. Discussions centered on more bottom-to-top planning, doing housing rehabilitation and other programming in addition to in-fill housing and what other services to offer the community.

E. Momentum 2022 Community Engagement Work Group Meeting:

Bell attended the meeting, held on December 19, 2018, at the Shawnee County Health Department. Committee assignments were made, with Bell volunteering for the "Building 'Wealth' in Low-Income Communities" committee. Discussions included the benefits of forming public-private partnerships, the Food Oasis Group's efforts and keeping minutes/notes from all group meeting. An orientation session to be scheduled. Next meeting: Feb. 20, 2019.

F. Mid-Block Lighting Meeting:

Bell, DeLapp and Lassiter attended the meeting, held at the Public Works department on January 7, 2019. Neighborhood Relations Director Sasha Haehn, Public Works Director Jason Peek and public works staff also were in attendance. After initially dismissing the NIA's request for mid-block lighting out of hand, citing a lack of city funds, the meeting ended with Haehn and Peek understanding that the NIA wants to partner with them to identify any funding sources to make mid-block lighting, identified as a goal in the NIA's neighborhood plan, a reality.

Brush Up Topeka

The City of Topeka is partnering with Group Work Camps Home Repair Program. Work camps are intensive one-week trips that help people grow in Christian faith through service. Individuals and youth from around the country will spend July 7-13, 2019, in our community performing home painting projects for elderly, low-income, and disabled families.

The work at each home will be done by five young people and at least one adult leader representing many Christian denominations. This program will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Eligibility

To be eligible, your home must meet the following guidelines:

- Applicant must be the registered home owner
 - The home is single story and does not exceed 28 feet
 - An adult 18 years of age or older must be present during time of work
 - Must not exceed the income guidelines:
 - 1 occupant: \$38,450
 - 2 occupants: \$43,950
 - 3 occupants: \$49,450
 - 4 occupants: \$54,900
 - 5 occupants: \$59,300
 - 6 occupants: \$63,700
 - 7 occupants: \$68,100
 - 8 occupants: \$72,500
 - No occupants can be listed on the Kansas offender registry
- Project must be able to be completed in 1 week**

Apply

If you or someone you know is interested in applying, please call Shane Wilson at 785-368-4492 for more information, or [fill out a PDF application](#). You may also apply in-person at:
620 SE Madison St.
Topeka, KS

Music, dance and volunteer opportunities mark MLK week of activities in Topeka

By Phil Anderson

Posted Jan. 12, 2019 at 8:50 p.m.

For Topekan John Nave, January is a time for a fresh start and an opportunity to embrace the teachings of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., whose birthday is celebrated this month.

Leading up to the national holiday commemorating King's birthday on Jan. 21 will be a week of activities in Topeka coordinated by Living the Dream Inc., an organization that started in 1985 under the leadership of Robert and Jacqueline Bugg.

Programs this week will share the theme "The Time is Always Right to Do What is Right."

"I always look forward to the beginning of the year," said Nave, a board member for Living the Dream Inc. "We go into the year reflecting on what the year before brought and what can make this year even better."

Nave said King, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, set an example of how to bring various groups together. That example remains strong to this day, he said.

"As we seek solutions to the problems we're facing today," Nave said, "we have to have dialogue. We have to have communication to bring people together."

Misunderstandings can "slowly melt away" as a result of people listening to each other, Nave added.

"We have a lot more that we agree on than anything," Nave said. "We just need to work through the little things — the sticking points."

Better communication in 2019, Nave said, can help bring about "better understanding of one another and change the mindset of our city, our state and our country."

For more than three decades, Living the Dream Inc. has united businesses, nonprofits, the faith community and law enforcement agencies in Topeka and Shawnee County under the ideals of King's message of equality.

"We're recognized as one of the top cities nationally in celebrating Dr. King," Nave said, "and we ought to give our community a pat on the back."

King, a Baptist minister and leader of the civil rights movement, was killed at age 39 on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn. Had he lived, King would have been 90 years old on Jan. 15.

The following programs will mark King's birthday.

Sunday, Jan. 13: Unity in the Community Day

- A kickoff musical will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday at New Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 2801 S.E. Indiana Ave. Special guests include gospel rapper LeVar "Boy Big" Fletcher, Ballet Folklorico de Topeka, Annette Billings, Clear Gold Dance Ministry and Obi Nwakpuda.

Monday, Jan. 14, to Friday, Jan. 18: Respect for Elders and Preschoolers Week

- Members of Living the Dream Inc. and community volunteers will take part in storytelling activities about King's life. Presentations will be held for Topeka-area preschoolers.
- Throughout the week, Living the Dream Inc. members will deliver personal care items and books to Topeka-area senior centers.
- Area high school drumlines will perform at 7 p.m. Monday in the Highland Park High School gymnasium, 2424 S.E. California Ave. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is a \$2 donation or two canned or nonperishable food items.

Tuesday, Jan. 15: Educational Outreach Day

- The 13th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Poetry Competition for students in grades five through 12 will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Antioch Family Life Center, 1921 S.E. Indiana Ave. A reception will follow the program.
- In partnership with Harvesters — The Community Food Network, community volunteers will sort and repack boxes of food for Topeka-area residents in need. To register for the two shifts, visit www.harvesters.org/give-time or call the Topeka Community Engagement Team at (785) 861-7750. Volunteers are encouraged to bring food donations or donate at <http://dreamscan.harvestersvfd.org>.

Thursday, Jan. 17: Governor’s March and Celebration Program

- The Governor’s Martin Luther King Jr. March will convene at 11:45 a.m. on the south steps of the Statehouse. The symbolic march will start at noon, followed by a program in the first-floor rotunda.

Friday, Jan. 18: Community Leadership Day

- Cecilia Jenkins, a multimedia journalist with WIBW-TV, will speak to students at 1 p.m. at Capital City School, 2731 S.W. East Circle Drive South.
- Civil rights activist Joanne Bland, co-founder and former director of the National Voting Rights Museum in Selma, Ala., will speak at 1 p.m. to female inmates and at 2 p.m. Friday to male inmates at the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex, 1430 N.W. 25th.

Saturday, Jan. 19: Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship and Awards Banquet

- The Scholarship and Awards Banquet will be held at 6 p.m. in the Regency Ballroom at the Ramada Hotel and Convention Center, 420 S.E. 6th Ave. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Joanne Bland is the keynote speaker. Graduating high school senior scholarship and community awards recipients will be recognized.

Sunday, Jan. 20: Baptist Ministers Union service

- The Topeka Baptist Ministers Union will have a service marking the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. at 6 p.m. at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, 1100 S.E. Washington. The speaker will be Alvin Brooks, a former police officer and city council member in Kansas City, Mo. Brooks serves as a board member of the Hickman Mills School District in Kansas City, Mo.

Monday, Jan. 21: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday and Day of Community Service

- The Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site, in partnership with Living the Dream Inc., will sponsor a Student Recognition Awards program at 10 a.m. at the site, 1515 S.E. Monroe. First-, second-, and third-place winners of the MLK Art, Essay and Poetry Competition will be recognized. The winning artwork from the 2019 art competition also will be displayed through Jan. 31.
- The Whose Dream Is It? coalition and the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice, in partnership with Living the Dream Inc., will sponsor the 26th annual community celebration service and soup supper at First United Methodist Church, 600 S.W. Topeka Blvd. The soup supper starts at 6:30 p.m., followed by the service at 7:30 p.m. The keynote speaker is Kevin Wilmott, professor of film and media studies at the University of Kansas and co-author of the film “BlacKkKlansman.” A reception will follow.
- In partnership with Harvesters — The Community Food Network’s “Dreams CAN Make a Difference: Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service,” community volunteers will sort and repack boxes of food items for Topeka-area residents in need. To register for a two-hour shift, go to www.harvesters.org/give-time or call the Community Engagement Team at (785) 861-7750.

For more information about the week of activities, visit the Living the Dream Inc. website at www.ltdtopeka.com. For information on banquet tickets, call (785) 207-7837.