***Letter from the President***

 I am thankful to be welcoming this spring/summer season with a new and, what looks to be, a very exciting year for the King’s Daughters Organization. I cannot express how much I appreciate serving as the president of this organization with an INCREDIBLE Executive Board including, **Teresa McElwee, Cindy Denby, Shirley Bruner, Susan Fulks, Judith Barringer, Amy Roderick** and **Sally Cadagin**. Not only were they diligent in their responsibilities, but we had A LOT of fun! We will surely miss, **Susan** and **Sally**, who have completed their terms on the board, but welcome **Donna Jean Gibney**, as Treasurer, and **Brenda Staab**, as Assistant Secretary. Both of these women are past Executive Board members, so I know they will feel right at home.

 Please find my special note of appreciation to **Teresa**, who has also completed her duty as past president. The transition would not have been as smooth, if it wasn’t for her guidance and support! **Teresa** seems to be able to throw many balls in the air at once, and not one will fall. With visits to kids in college half way across the county to another home planning to graduate, **Teresa**, while always on the go, would put KDO and any question or concern I had, at the top of her list. THANK YOU Teresa for your dedication and service!

 The 2014-15 year was one I was just hoping to ‘get through’, keeping our mission at the forefront of my agenda, without too much excitement. It seemed business as usual for the organization and its activities up until early December…… and then came a phone call to the Community Foundation. Someone from the Barber County Kansas Register of Deeds was trying to get a hold of someone from the King’s Daughters Home for Women, as they had a pretty good sized tax bill to settle up on. With reservation, I phoned them back. The gentleman on the other end of the phone was more than excited to let me know that they were happy to find us, and that we owned them some money. I was not sharing in his excitement until he started giving me a little history lesson.

It looks like in 1921, Ira and Mary Blackstock gifted a large parcel of land to the King’s Daughters Home for Woman. While the property had changed ownership, we had retained all mineral rights on approximately 82 acres, and in 2011, oil and gas production was initiated. Revenues from the production had accrued, as no one evidently sought for said owners of these mineral rights. As Barber County employees were ‘cleaning up’ their files, they decided to try to find us. After the diligent efforts of **Patrick Sheehan**, proper paperwork was submitted to prove that the King’s Daughters Home for Woman and the King’s Daughters Organization were one in the same organization. On April 20th, Susan Fulks, in one of her last, and probably most exciting tasks as Treasurer, deposited 48 checks totaling $541,348.89…..and yes, we did pay our tax bill!

I know anything else I may report on now will not be quite as exciting, but please note, not less important. In early fall, Cindy Denby and I were asked to join **John Stemsterfer** and **Stacy Reed** of the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln (CFLL) to discuss how the CFLL could further assist and guide us to expanding our reach, enabling even more service to our senior population. They really just wanted us to know they were there for us in whatever capacity they could be. Well, it looks like we will now be taking them to task.

In early 2015, under the direction of **Donna Jean Gibney**, the Organizational Planning Committee was initiated, with a representative from each circle participating in the review and revision of our By Laws and Standing Rules and Policies. Thank you **Donna Jean** and your committee for your diligence in this painstaking endeavor.

KDO members and friends of KDO. I thank you for your continued service and support of this awesome organization. Please mark your calendars for Annual Progress Circle event to be help October 19th at the Crowne Plaza. **Kim Cochran** and her committees are already hard at work in the planning of this always incredible event!

To wrap up I must say, so much for a ‘business as usual’ first year, but I am truly thankful! I am not a believer is mere coincidences, and would be happy to share my copy of the book When God Winks, by Squire Rushnell. As an organization founded on Christian beliefs, I do not believe this came to us ‘coincidentally’ at this time! Did you know I am a **Mary H. Blackstock** Circle member? This was a HUGE God wink and blessing, in my opinion. The needs of this aging baby boom population are incredible. We have such a vibrant membership willing to volunteer their time, resources and expertise to meeting our mission. We have John, Stacy and the staff of the CFLL, to partner with and best guide us to utilize these resources to impact the most deserving and greatest number of seniors in our community.

I look forward to the coming year and know it will be filled with opportunities to further impact our community in serving our seniors. Please join me in this excitement!

Sincerely,

Suzie Sables Fessler

***A Special THANK YOU!***

 (….with pic of Teresa, if possible)

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a public note of gratitude to our Immediate Past President Teresa McElwee for her continued service to the Executive Board and KDO this past year. She has been a valuable asset to not only the organization as a whole, but me personally, as I moved through the first year of this presidency. Teresa is an extremely organized and articulate leader, who I have learned a lot from and strive to emulate.

Teresa was always just a phone call or text away for advisement on anything that I would need; not to mention her reminder calls when something needed to be tended to in the near future. We are lucky to have such a dedicated KDO member, who will continue to lead as the Margaret Garfield Circle Leader.

THANK YOU Teresa!! Your service is greatly appreciated!

Suzie Sables Fessler (Mary H Blackstock

***KDO Social Scene***

After a long cold winter, members of KDO gathered together at Boccardi’s Italian restaurant early in March to “Beat the Winter Blues”. Members and guests enjoyed tasty appetizers and refreshments while socializing. Thanks to Sally Cadagin for planning a fun event!

(photos)

*Getting to know the KDO circles*

Marjorie Merriweather Post Circle

Marjorie Merriweather Post, the only child and daughter of Charles William and Ella Letitia Merriweather Post, was born on March 15, 1887, at the Post Family Home, which later became known as “The Carrie Post King’s Daughters Home for Women.” At age 27, when her father died, she became the owner of the rapidly growing [Postum Cereal Company](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postum_Cereal_Company) (now known as the General Food Corporation), founded in 1895, subsequently making her one of the wealthiest woman in the United States. Marjorie was greatly known for her dedication to philanthropy, and through the years contributed generously to the King’s Daughters Home. Over the years, she donated millions of dollars to charities, including $100,000 to build the Kennedy Center. She also set up soup kitchens in New York during the Depression and contributed to the Soviet War Relief of World War II, the Boy Scouts of America and the National Symphony Orchestra's "Music for Young America" program. After donating funds to construct field hospitals in France during World War I, Post was awarded the Legion of Honor by the French government.

In 1937, Georgiana Post Garder, Majorie’s second cousin, became President of the King’s Daughters Home for Women. On October 27, 1937, a meeting was held for the purpose of organizing a new circle. The circle’s first meeting was November 10, 1937 and Mrs. Gardner suggested the circle be named in honor of the granddaughter of Carrie Post. By unanimous vote, the name Marjorie Merriweather Post Circle was adopted. Marjorie’s last journey to Springfield was in June, 1966 in which she visited the King’s Daughters Home, conversed with residents and was their special guest for Sunday dinner. At her death, at her Hillwood Manor in Washington, DC on September 12, 1973, the King’s Daughters Home was named beneficiary of a $100,000 Trust Fund.

**Nightingale Circle**

The Nightingale Circle of King’s Daughters was formed in September of 1956. The first meeting in September was held at the home of Lois Koenig, the first leader of the circle and our charter member. The circle was formed by the daughters of the women in the Esther Circle, beginning with ten members. The ladies in the new Nightingale circle would meet in the evening since many of them were working and also had young children at home, so they couldn’t meet during the day. The circle’s first duty to the home was to develop an apartment for the custodian. After that duty was fulfilled, they were assigned a resident. At that time, this required the circles to furnish the rooms, if necessary provide linens and whatever else was needed by the lady residing at the home, in addition to regular visits. Nightingale circle was very active and had many large fundraisers throughout the years, but as with many circles, membership tapered off. In 2009, it was decided by the remaining members, that the Nightingale Circle would join with the Majorie Merriweather Post Circle to form the Marjorie Post – Nightingale Circle.

Amy Hott-Roderick, Margorie Post-Nightingale Circle

***KDO Gifts***

KDO Gifts from February 16, 2015 - May 27, 2015

**Gifts to the KDO Fund from**

Progress Circle

**Gifts in memory of**

**Gershom Greening** from the Margaret Garfield Circle

**Gershom Greening** from Susan and Jim Madison

**Mary Ellen Larson** from Sharon Zook
**Mary Ellen Larson** from Teresa McElwee

**Mary Ellen Larson** from Sheryl Stern
**Mary Ellen Larson** from Judith Barringer

**Sybil Noll Gray** from Mary D. Smith
**Nancy Walker Watson** from Mary D. Smith

 ***MARY LARSON 1923-2015***

Mary Larson joined KDO in 1995. She served as Leader of the KDO Willing Circle for several years. Most recently being 2011-2014. She held many positions during her membership in KDO and continued to serve as a vital member on the Board of Directors until her passing.  She was a ray of sunshine and always brought joy to the monthly meetings.

Teresa McElwee, Past President & Co-Leader Margaret Garfield Circle

*A Special Remembrance ~ Mary Larson, Willing Circle*

Mary supported KDO because of her desire to improve the quality of life for senior citizens in Sangamon County.  This effort also extended to her personal friends throughout her life. Over thirty five years ago when I was gravely ill at Mayo Clinic for two months, she sent me get well cards and notes at least five times a week for the whole 2 months I was there. I was so touched, I kept all those cards until two years ago. After my father passed away, she spent at least one day a week helping my mother who was legally blind with hair appointments, research, transportation, and grocery shopping.  She helped her put together 8 huge, beautiful photograph albums with detailed descriptions of our family ancestors and their homes. My mother was also able to continue extensive correspondence with old friends with Mary's assistance. After my mother past away, Mary got me involved in KDO and would pick me up for meetings and activities just as she had done for my mother. When I shared with my family her passing, my niece wrote me that we should all put flags on our cars to honor her. (Mary's car could always be seen blocks away because of her flying flags.)

We all need a Mary in our lives, but I know it will be some time before anyone can come close to filling those shoes in my life.  Fortunately for many, KDO fills those shoes through its mission and grants program.

Judith Barringer, Willing Circle

***FAIRHILLS RESIDENCE ACTIVITIES***

The residents of Fairhills Presbyterian Home kept busy this spring with monthly entertainment planned by KDO circles. The Grateful Daughters Circle provided a magical experience with a magician performance. Residents enjoyed an afternoon down memory lane with old piano favorites and hymns provided by the Margaret Garfield Circle and The Marjorie Post-Nightingale circle invited Glenna Holland, a pianist, to perform. She entertained the residents with a sing-a-long.  Music always brings a smile to their faces!

***CURRENT EVENTS FROM OUR CIRCLES***

**The Friendship Circle** sends condolences to Cressie Torgerson of The Friendship Circle at the loss of her mother, Rose Ann Kelly, on May 26;

Condolences to Mary Riggs at the loss of her father, Maynard Bruns, on May 27.

Congrats to Mary Harney on her marriage to Bill Bernard May 8th;

Congrats to Maryann Walker on her new employment as Administrator of Fair Havens Christian Homes in Decatur.

**The Margaret Garfield Circle** enjoyed an evening of fellowship at their annual “Summer Party” held at the home of Richard and Nancy Blunk June 13th. Despite a few rain showers a great time was had by all!

Get well wishes to Margaret Garfield member Naomi Fowler who is recovering from a bad fall.

**The Progress Circle** annual Luncheon & Style Show will be held on October 19, 2015, we will “Embrace The Season” with our annual Style Show and Luncheon. Casual chic, travel clothes and accessories will be highlighted during this years style show. **Please make note that this years event is a week earlier than usual.** We look forward to “Embracing The Season“ with everyone.

Donations for the Progress Circle Luncheon & Style Show event will be accepted at the “Collection Coffee” August 25th. Tickets will also be available for purchase for $30.00 a seat.

***KDO Grants at Work***

June 8, 2015

I wanted to take a moment to express our deep and sincere gratitude for your generous support of our fifty-five plus program. Because of your kindness and compassion, we are able to make a difference in the lives of those in need right here in our community. You have helped us tremendously in easing the burden of elderly in need and helping them feel God’s presence through us.

God Bless, Kathy Bacon-Deacon/Food Pantry First Presbyterian Church

The Springfield Muni Opera Senior Bus program will be transporting seniors to the following performances this summer:

Thursday, June 18...*Spamalot*

Thursday, July 16...*Seussical*

Thursday, August 13...*West Side Story*

Thursday, September 10...*Cabaret*

Anyone interested in going along as a sponsor, please contact Cathy Schwartz.

***Mark Your Calendars***

“Collection Coffee”

The Collection Coffee will be August 25, 2015 8:00 – 12:00 pm

5917 Hedley Rd. Centennial Park Subdivision

Progress Circle Luncheon & Style Show

Monday, October 19th ~ Crown Plaza

***Dining with the Daughters***

During the month of May, KDO partnered with Let’s Make Dinner for “Cooking with the Daughters” each Tuesday evening. Recipes from the cookbook were featured on the Let’s Make Dinner’s menu and tastings of different recipes from the cookbook were offered to attendees. The cookbook committee would like to thank all those who attended and brought friends to support our organization. A special thank you to Tami Frye, owner of Let’s Make Dinner for welcoming KDO to the kitchen and promoting our cookbook and cause!

(photos)

*KDOAawards $125,000 to Seniors!*

The King’s Daughters Organization is proud to announce the recipients of its 2015 grant awards. A total of $125,000 was awarded to 12 nonprofit agencies to support programs and services for seniors in Sangamon County at the 122nd Annual Corporation Meeting held on May 11th. The organization has awarded a total of $800,000 in grants over the last eight years.

Awards were given to the following organizations:

**Contact Ministries-$18,000:** To provide prescription assistance

**Greater All Nations Tabernacle Church of God in Christ- $5,940:** Purchase of food for the enhancement of senior lunchbox presentations.

**Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County-$15,000:** Wheelchair ramp program.

**Land of Lincoln Honor Flight-$7,500:** Veterans honor flights to Washington D.C.

**Loami Area Community Pantry-$6,500:** Purchase of basic needs items fro seniors in rural Sangamon County.

**One Hope United-$11,000:** Foster Grandparent Program.

**Senior Services of Central Illinois-$20,000:** Springfield Specialty Meals on Wheels.

**Senior Services of Central Illinois-$14,400:** Emergency rent/utility funds and fitness/wellness program.

**The Food Pantry of First Presbyterian Church, Springfield, IL -$5,200:** Fifty-Five Plus Program providing non-perishable food items.

**The Salvation Army-$15,000:** Assistance with perscriptions.

**The Springfield Municipal Opera Association (The Muni)-$3,460:** Senior Bus Program.

**Williamsville Public Library and Museum-$3,000:** Expansion of large-print and audio books collection; iPads for home use.

In addition to awarding grants, the King’s Daughters Organization is actively involved in service to the community. The King’s Daughters Organization Fund was established at the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln in 2007 with assets from an existing endowment fund and proceeds from the sale of the Carrie Post King’s Daughters Home for Women in Springfield, IL. The purpose of the KDO Fund is to provide financial support to programs and services that enhance the quality of life for older residents in Sangamon County.

Local nonprofits can apply for the competitive grant awards from the KDO Fund at the beginning of each year. Charities should watch the Community Foundation website, www.CFLL.org, for the next round of applications in January 2016. Charities can also sign up on the website to receive grant opportunity alerts via e-mail.

Through philanthropic services, strategic grant making and community leadership, the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln “connects people who care with causes that matter.”

(photos)