A Year of Partnership with the Kansas Masons

As you may know, March of 2017 marked one year of our new partnership with the Kansas Masons. Since then I have met with representatives of over eleven Masonic Lodges throughout Kansas. Over that year, I learned a great many things about Masons. Here are a few:

1. Masons, or Freemasons, are members of the oldest and largest fraternity in the world. The exact date of establishment is uncertain BUT in 1717 a formal organization was established in England when the first Masonic Grand Lodge was formed. The Grand Lodge of Kansas was formed on March 17, 1856. Famous members include Benjamin Franklin, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Theodore Roosevelt, Nat King Cole, Buzz Aldrin, Wyatt Earp and John Wayne!

2. Their work as Masons is to join together to improve the world and themselves. Their values are fellowship, personal growth, integrity, community, philanthropy and leadership.

3. Just like PRIDE communities, their focus is local, but they work together as a whole to larger initiatives such as cancer screenings, honor flights, student scholarships, and much more.

4. The Kansas PRIDE program was not the only initiative that the Kansas Masons have partnered with at Kansas State University. The two other programs are the K-State College of Business Center for the Advancement of Entrepreneurship (specifically the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge) and the K-State Office of Military Affairs.

My most recent visit with members of the Masons was Thursday, April 20, 2017 at the LaFayette Lodge #16 in Manhattan. I delivered an overview of the Kansas PRIDE Program at their request and they expressed their interest in Week of PRIDE and how they could assist the local PRIDE groups in Riley County, which is extremely exciting!

Just a reminder, The Kansas Masons have been invited again this year to collaborate with you locally for Week of PRIDE. If you would like to reach out to your local Masonic Lodge and need a contact, do not hesitate to contact me at 785.532.5840 or at jmenon@ksu.edu –Jaime Menon, K-State Research and Extension PRIDE Program Manager jmenon@ksu.edu
Terrific Travels

As you know, I do quite a bit of traveling across the state. When I have the opportunity, I reach out to communities in the area in which I will be visiting, and I am never disappointed when I do. In April I met with the PRIDE organizations of Basehor, Savonburg (on the way home I made a stop at the wonderful Railroad Park in Melvern) and Ozawkie.

My first trip was to Basehor for a meeting with the PRIDE group, who wanted an update on the PRIDE program. Monica Brede, Regional Project Manager with the Kansas Department of Commerce joined me there and after a presentation we talked to the members of Basehor PRIDE about possible resources and partners for their projects. I made a stop before the meeting at the Community Garden (right beside a very large park where you can stretch your legs and is ideal for children).

Later in the month I was off to Savonburg, a new PRIDE community in Allen County (that makes 5 communities now in the county!), to discuss the program, process and possible resources and partners. We stayed for a community supper and enjoyed a nice few rounds of BINGO with our delicious dinner. Savonburg’s Community Center is a beautiful facility that hosts many of their local groups, holds senior and youth activities, and has a lovely library.

On the way home we stopped in the Railroad Park in Melvern. The PRIDE group has worked there hard to place railroad crossing signals to the side of the Railroad car that they acquired for the park and it looks amazing! If you ever stop in and have not seen a train go by yet just wait a few minutes on the platform that the PRIDE groups has set up for you to take the most ideal picture of trains coming around the bend under a nearby bridge.

The following week I met with Ozawkie PRIDE, another new PRIDE community, to present the program to the Ozawkie City Council and Ozawkie PRIDE members. A Mason representative that attended, who is originally from Perry, stopped me after the meeting to express his appreciation for what PRIDE volunteers do for their communities, and how wonderful it is to see all of the examples of hard work and great projects! A picture really is worth a thousand words so THANK YOU all who send pictures of your work, because it really inspires other communities!
If you are ever in the area of Ozawkie be sure to take in their wonderful view of the lake!

It really is great to get out and meet the people who make this state great! As always, thank you all for all that you do for Kansas!

–Jaime Menon, K-State Research and Extension PRIDE Program Manager jmenon@ksu.edu

Girard, Kansas Bound

This past year has been an outstanding experience full of new knowledge, skills and friendships that I am so blessed to have gotten through working with Kansas PRIDE. While I still hope to continue with Kansas PRIDE in my last semester of college in the fall, I am excited to announce that this summer I will be working as an intern for the Wildcat Extension District in Girard, Kansas.

I will be assisting with a wide variety of activities and duties such as Discovery Days, District Camps, Area Wide Contests, County Fairs, On-farm Research Plots, 4-State Farm Show Extension Booths and much more. I am excited that I will have the opportunity to learn more about the Five Grand Challenges of K-State Research and Extension, which will be part of my work at Girard’s office.

My first day of orientation will be held on May 22nd and I look forward to gaining more knowledge and experience from professionals in the field of Extension. I hope that I get the opportunity to see some of you at the County Fairs, so please don’t hesitate to come say hello!

–Madison Blevins, K-State Research and Extension PRIDE Student Office Professional madisonmb@ksu.edu

Perry PRIDE Receives Recognitions from House of Representatives and PRIDE

(PERRY, KANSAS) - Perry Pride was recognized by the State of Kansas House of Representatives for its excellence in community service. Representative Ronald B. Ellis presented the Excellence in Community Service certificate to members of the Perry Pride committee on Thursday, April 6, 2017. Notable efforts in 2016 included annual Pancake Feed benefit for Boy Scout Troop 88, 8th annual Fall Festival, Soup with Santa benefit for Kentucky Township Fire Department, decorative garden planters at local business, Day of Pride clean-up, patriotic Mural at Post Office, purchased...
Internet Safety

In today’s world, our inboxes continually get flooded with spam emails that come from random organizations or from individuals who may be trying to hack your information. I wanted to write this article to give you a couple of helpful hints on ways you can protect yourself, while also knowing that any email you get from Kansas PRIDE is truly from our organization and not a scammer.

First off, any email coming from the Kansas PRIDE Program will come from any of these four addresses:

- kansaspride.cmdv@gmail.com
- jmenon@ksu.edu
- madisonmb@ksu.edu
- pride@ksu.edu

Kansas PRIDE will never ask you for any personal information, if you get an email that seems suspicious from us, you can contact our office at 785-532-5840. A few cyber security tips that might keep you and your information safe are:

- Use a strong and unique password for every website. You want it to be a variety of letters and numbers that way it is not easy for a hacker to guess and get a hold of your information. Try not to use birthdates or anniversaries.
- For privacy, set a 4-digit lock for your phone and make sure the screen will go off and lock when you press the power button to wake it back up. You can do this by going to your settings on your...
phone and setting the amount of time until your phone screen goes off after being inactive.

- Never click links in emails that come from an unfamiliar name. Sometimes hackers tend to take your name and can take your personal name and tie it to and email address. Example: Jaime Menon seems to have sent you and email but the reply address says adry@yahoo.com instead of jmenon@ksu.edu.

- Be careful what you download and ask questions about the site you are downloading from. Jaime uses the Web of Trust application, which can be found at www.mywot.com. More information can be found at the website. Web of Trust can help you identify suspicious websites.

- As for downloading, ask yourself many times if this website seems suspicious. Examples: Flashing Advertisements

-Madison Blevins, K-State Research and Extension PRIDE Student Office Professional madisonmb@ksu.edu

Don’t forget, the Kansas PRIDE office has reached out to 4-H and the Kansas Masons for assistance for week of PRIDE, so don’t be surprised if they reach out to you! If you need a contact with either 4-H visit this LINK for your local Extension Office. For contacting your local Masons feel free to send us an email at PRIDE@ksu.edu or call us at 785.532.5840 and we can get you the information you need! -Madison Blevins, K-State Research and Extension PRIDE Student Office Professional madisonmb@ksu.edu

Events Calendar

Week of PRIDE – May 21-27

Quarterly Report Dates:

July 15th

October 15th

January 15

Award Dates:

August 15 (for Growth and Action and PIP)

Week of PRIDE is almost here! The Governor’s Office will designate Week of PRIDE as May 21-27, 2017 in mid-May. Although the week has been designated, do not forget that we take any project that you wish to count as your own community Week of PRIDE through June.

CLICK HERE to start reporting your impact.