

2018 KORA Annual Meeting – November 8, 2018
President's Report to the Association
Riding the Waves of Change, Connecting from the Heart
Ann Francis

We come to this meeting with a great deal of sadness and still mourning the loss of Jim Helm who was nominated to be our next KORA president. In so many ways Jim is with us today and will continue to guide us with his dedication and example. Let us share with one another the wisdom he shared with us and do our best to follow in his footsteps.

I was out of town when I learned of Jim's death and also when we learned of the killings at the synagogue in Pittsburgh. I know both of these events touched members of our community deeply and you reached out to one another to grieve and to heal. I wish I could have been here as you gathered and processed these losses. Others were away from Kendal too, so it is important that we continue to hold each other and our community tenderly as we make our way.

There are many layers to loss and change. Losses of community members affect us deeply and these losses are compounded by what is happening in the world outside of Kendal. Our grief for our planet and those impacted by systemic and individual violence and injustice challenge us daily. We are fortunate that we live in a community that cares about each other and also about what happens in the world. We are not alone. With our losses and all that our community and country is facing we gather strength and hope from one another and do what we can to lessen suffering, heal and build a better world.

Preparing the 2018 President's Report has been an opportunity for me to review what amazing things have taken place in our community over the past year. The activities we do together, the ways we work with one another and the care and concern shown by staff and residents, and how we apply the Kendal Values and Practices make me hopeful. I hope each of you have experienced the vitality and caring of residents and staff at KaO and I hope you recognize that our Association is thriving. We are currently a community of 333 residents. And we continue as a resident run, values driven Association fulfilling our purpose that was visualized by our founders.

Here of some of the highlights of KORA in 2018.

In 2018 KORA has been good a steward of our money. We have stayed within budget. The KORA fund appeal for 2019 was successful and so the Association will begin the new year flush and with the ability to carry out the plans you have made. In June of this year, on behalf of all residents, Council approved a donation of \$25,000 to the 25th Resident

Assistance Fund Initiative. We are all invited to celebrate the culmination of this 25th Initiative on November 13 with staff and members of the Board of Directors after dinner in Heiser Lounge.

At last year's Annual Meeting, the Association approved the expansion of responsibilities of the Nominations Committee. The newly tasked Leadership and Development and Nominations Committee (LDNC) has done outstanding work to bring forth nominations. LDNC has also worked closely with the KORA Executive Committee and Council Coordination Committee to address current leadership needs as well as plan for the future. The hope is that all residents will keep on their radar opportunities that draw them to serve and lead and that all of us will support and encourage other residents to take part.

In 2018 KORA 4 Newcomers was established and will continue. Gluten Free, Advocacy and Support Group, Day Trips/Big Bus Subcommittee and LGBT and Allies Support and Advocacy Group became official groups of KORA. We now have 108 Committees and Special Purpose Groups.

KORA Council has had a busy year and councilors were presented with challenges and complicated issues brought to Council through Suggestions and Concerns and by individuals and committees. Many meetings and lots of thoughtfulness were required to reach resolution. Some of the successes include -- The designation of Quiet Room in the SCC which will be opened by the end of the year. And extensive progress by administration and residents to ensure Safe Seating Arrangements in Heiser Auditorium. Accessible and acceptable solutions are in place with more education and guidelines to come.

The Conversation/Gathering Pilot Space in Langston consideration took up much time of Council members. We sought unity and understanding about what would be best for our community. We tried to listen to all who weighed in. With the assistance of an *ad-hoc* committee appointed by Council the issues involved were studied further. Through *ad-hoc's* work and recommendations, Council was able to understand better how important spaces and places can be to residents and the needs and wishes of our community in regard to gathering spaces and coffee shops. In October, Council agreed that a pilot space at this time was not the best way forward. Council hopes the community felt heard in regard to this decision and also that we have all learned better, kinder ways to work with and welcome change to the benefit our community.

There were two major projects undertaken involving resident initiative and effort in 2018 1) the improvements in Heiser Auditorium and 2) the planning and organizing of the 25th

Anniversary events. It rather takes your breath away when you think how the year started and now how it is ending with our new beautiful auditorium improvements and all the activities that have taken place for the 25th Anniversary.

And then there are the efforts too extensive to mention of our Standing Committees, Subcommittees and Special Purpose Groups. I would like to ask you to close your eyes for one moment and think of some of the things you have done or been involved with or attended in the past year that you value and appreciate. Now take a moment to share what you were thinking with your neighbor.

SHARE

Resident involvement, creativity, persistence, care and concern and also the support and work of Kendal staff make us vital

I want to try a little experiment that I have envisioned for some time, so please bear with me in hopes that you will have the sense of our community with this exercise.

If you are able,

Would anyone who has served as President of Council over the last 25 years please stand

Would anyone who has served on Council in the past 25 years please stand

Would anyone who has served as a chair or co-chair of a KORA Standing Committee please stand

Would anyone who has served as a liaison to KORA please stand

Would anyone who has served as a board member or on a board committee please stand

Would anyone who has served as a chair or co-chair of a Special Purpose Group, Service Group, Interest Group ad hoc committee please stand

Would anyone who served on nominations committee over the 25 years please stand

Would anyone who has worked as a member of a committee or special purpose group please stand

Would anyone who has visited and cared for neighbors and residents stand

Would anyone who intends to serve on a committee or special purpose group please stand.

Aren't we amazing. We all make choices and have choice here at Kendal and contribute in the ways we can and are able and it is wonderful. THANK YOU.

Last year at this time we kicked off the 25th Anniversary of Kendal at Oberlin by honoring the members of Kendal at Oberlin Organizing Committee and founders both staff and residents. It was a thrill to have founders and organizers with us and to recognize their vision and dedication in making Kendal the home and community we benefit from today. We have had amazing celebrations during 25th year and more are yet to come. Before ending this report, I would like Kathy Caldwell and Carol Harvey, coordinators of the 25th Anniversary celebrations to come forward.

APPRECIATION OF CAROL AND KATHY

On behalf of KORA and Kendal we want to thank you both for coordinating the 25th Anniversary events. You raised your hands for this unknown task. You have been steadfast working out front and behind the scenes making things happen. We cannot thank you enough for all you have done. We know we have more to come but at this Annual Meeting we want you to know that you have done a great job and you are very much appreciated.

And now I will close this report with a quote from Wendell Berry and his description of what it means to be a community. He says:

“A community is the mental and spiritual condition of knowing that the place is shared, and that the people who share the place define and limit the possibilities of each other's lives. It is the knowledge that people have of each other, their concern for each other, their trust in each other, the freedom with which they come and go among themselves.”

Please take care of yourselves and take care of our community. Thank you for the work you do. You are important people in the life and sustainability of our community and Association.