

2015 Annual Report of KORA Committees and Subcommittees, Service, Special Interest and Support Groups

Name of Group: A/V Committee (KORA Account #830)

2015 Chair(s): Chair since what year: John Pesuit(since 2013), Dennis Cook (since 2015)

2016 Chair(s): John Pesuit, Dennis Cook, Scheduler: Grace Tompos

1. Current mission statement: The purpose of the A/V Team is to provide assistance and support for scheduled events in the auditorium by setting up and operating the A/V equipment. Normally, an operator from the group is present at each approved event in the auditorium. The Group also maintains the A/V equipment and suggests the purchase and upgrading of the A/V equipment as necessary.

2. Changes to mission statement? Yes or No. Please indicate changes as necessary.

3. Summary of activities and accomplishments:

Special thanks is due Irv Lewis, former co-chair for continuing to check batteries in assisted listening devices and microphones and otherwise help us keep the A/V system in good working order.

In 2014 we will be approaching nearly 300 requests for A/V support annually. Several of these involved outside professional groups requiring that their own specialized equipment interface with our equipment. Our scheduler, Grace Tompos has done an excellent job in meeting the challenging task of providing an appropriately trained operator for each program. This has at times been made more difficult by trying to meet last minute requests.

It is now possible on special request, to utilize a Laptop Computer from the cabinet at the rear of the auditorium or to project a televised event. However, our standard procedure remains to have each speaker provide and operate their own Laptop. With the 2014 upgrades to the microphone system, we now have better audio for laptops

Play Readers programs now utilized our stage PZM microphones or wireless microphones without the use of the Snake (large cable from stage to the rear cabinet). This is the new standard operation and makes use of the six additional wireless microphone transmitters added in 2014. In addition, the two oldest PZM microphones failed and were replaced. Also through special arrangement, live streaming events from the Internet, such as the Oberlin College commencement were shown in the auditorium. The Snake formerly used in Play Reading events is no longer used but has been retained for emergencies.

Through the hard work of Dennis Cook, we now have 4 LED floodlights and 6 LED spotlights. In addition to low energy consumption, they offer multi-color capability. These lights are controllable through a DMX console, enabling diming and color control of individual groups of lamps from the DMX console.

Kendal is fortunately to have many very capable new residents. In fact so capable are they, that they have been quickly rising to positions of leadership both in and outside our KORA

committees. Some of these new leaders are unfamiliar with the planning process to reserve the auditorium and schedule the required A/V services. It is essential that scheduled events be coordinated with the appropriate KORA committees, where an existing committee has jurisdiction. In a number of instances over the past several years, individual residents on their own, organized programs which may or may not have fit into one of our current committees. As might be expected, we had some problems with last minute scheduling and operator availability. We would benefit greatly if KORA could remind the committee chairs of the timing for submitting program requests. We want to minimize frustration for our Scheduler, as has happened before, by having requests come in at the last minute forcing our Scheduler to try to find appropriate operators for events.

We are fortunate to have the technical expertise needed to incorporate the latest technology into our A/V operation. However as our resident volunteers age, many are unable or unwilling to tackle more difficult assignments. With health problems and extended vacations, reducing our available numbers, we need more volunteers so that the time demands on our team members are not excessive. We particularly need newer residents who could handle more challenging tasks. Finally we have definite needs for improving the A/V capabilities in the auditorium. Many of these require the participation of the Kendal Administration. These are described in the remaining portion of this report.

4. Problems? Needs?

There is a need for new members from our more recent residents. As our current members age and become less able or unwilling to accept assignments, we need people who are willing to serve for an extended term and to accept the technical challenges.

We have encountered many people who thought they could talk "loud enough" to not need a microphone. First, for the benefit of the hearing impaired, a microphone enables our hearing impaired residents to make use the assisted listening devices and thereby be able to understand what is going on. Second, a microphone allows effective recording of any presentation, when desired.

The requests for A/V supported events need to be controlled. Individual residents should not be requesting A/V help without KORA sanction.

Everyone should be made aware of the time requirements for submitting Blue Sheet requests so that operator assignments can be made for the following month. Assignments are typically made in the last week of the prior month. All Blue forms need to reach our scheduler by the start of the week before the new month.

There is increasing interest in providing a T-Loop system. This is an inductively coupled system that would provide the auditorium amplified sound directly to the hearing aids of residents whose hearing aids are equipped with a T-Loop coil and are enabled. In the meantime, the present assisted listening system will continue to provide sound through headphones to those without T-Loop capability or even hearing aids. Barbara Thomas has queried other Kendals and has found that quite a few already have a T-Loop system in place. The remaining amount of the anonymous donation should cover the system installation costs for the auditorium, but not for the Heiser Lounge unless we can find a way to benefit from the economies of scale.

The lamp in the Ceiling Mounted Projector (CMP) as of 10/22/15 has 2754 hrs. of use. It is now showing signs of nearing the end of its life. This is demonstrated by occasional flickering or light flashes. The lamp replacement would run on the order of \$500. Given that the resolution of the CMP is only 1024 by 768 pixels, it is time that we consider replacing it with one of 1920 by 1080 pixels known as full HD. Although full 4K projectors are available, their price point is still considered too high. A full HD projector would offer greater clarity and much larger screen size

for the many DVDs that are now shown at Heiser Auditorium. It would also improve legibility of any text documents. With the new projector, we should go from a 4x3 aspect screen to a 16x9 aspect screen, allowing the full size of the screen to be utilized for Movies and many other offerings

Lighting in the auditorium is original except for the replacement of the incandescent house lamps with CFLs. The perimeter lamps in front of the stage have been replaced with LEDs, but an insufficient number were purchased to complete the job. In a few instances, LED lights have been tried without any planning or forethought and have provided less than desirable results.

The overhead stage lighting is incandescent. The stage lights provide hot spots of light and cast a shadow at the top of the projection screen. Low profile, dimmable LED lighting would be an appropriate replacement. DMX control is essential.

The CFL house lights are slow to come on after they have been off for a while. Nearly identical appearing LED lamps are available through Home Depot and others and are available at a very modest price. They are dimmable and also offer immediate response to changes in command.

The high intensity discharge lamps in the 2' x 2' high ceiling fixtures have many disadvantages and should be replaced with identical size LED fixtures. One of their biggest disadvantages is that they cannot be restarted until they cool down after they have been turned off. Even from a cold start they take 5 minutes to warm up. This could be a safety issue at the end of an event, when residents are trying to exit. The replacement fixtures and lamps should be DMX compatible.

We now have a DMX controller with the stage spot lighting. All we need is to make the remaining lights responsive to DMX Control.

5. Plans for 2015 and future:

Prepare invitations for prospective suppliers of a T-Loop system to come to Kendal and mock-up a proposed system. This will be necessary for ascertaining potential vendors' adherence to IEC requirements as well as overall system performance for their proposed systems. Invite at least two prospective vendors to come and demonstrate their proposed offerings, recognizing the loop itself will not be in the final configuration. Prepare a bid specification that will incorporate performance standards to be met as well as any other Kendal requirements.

Have facilities replace all of the CFLs in the auditorium with the LEDs John Pesuit recommended to Jan McCracken several months ago. The LEDs are now less than \$17 each (1 unit was installed for test, 26 more units are needed). About 7 units have been replaced as of this report.

6. Committee members: List with special assignment as needed

George Andrews, Russ Bimber, Terry Carlton, Al Carroll, Dennis Cook(2015 co-chair)Harvey Culbert*, Martin Davidoff, Anne Elder, George Hannauer, Ardith Hayes*, Irv Lewis(2014 co-chair), Joe Luciano*, Jim Marshall, Don Norenberg, John Pesuit(2014,2015 co-chair), Bob Randel, Dan Reiber, Vicki Shafarman, Ira Steinberg, Frank Walworth.

Jean Heller –Life Long Learning. Grace Tompos – Scheduler.

*limited availability