

KORA Annual Meeting 2020 Report of the President

I am pleased for this opportunity to make my second and final report to the Kendal at Oberlin Residents Association and give an accounting of the health and strength of our association.

2020 has called the best from us as we have continued to be a lively, engaged community amid a global pandemic. K@O Administration and Kendal residents have worked together in many helpful and creative ways to navigate difficult waters. The staff of K@O, led by Barbara Thomas, has gone far beyond ordinary expectations to meet the needs of our community. The New Normal Advisory Committee, along with its work groups, incorporated many of our residents in meeting the challenge and opportunities.

KORA Standing Committees, sub-committees and special purpose groups have, when possible, forged new ways of carrying out long-standing programs and have also provided us with new ones. New communication advancements have enriched our common life. Zoom technology has become a new friend to most of us. The addition of two new television channels has provided more opportunities for connection and shared programming. Together these advancements made possible accessible programs, i.e. plays, lectures, panels, and movies, meetings of all sorts, friendly visits, and neighborly get-togethers; all the while seeing one another full faced. I imagine that each of us has a story as to how these new communication tools have made our lives better. I have every confidence that these new technologies will continue to enhance our common life long after the COVID-19 pandemic is only a memory.

This year, KORA has added a new interest group to our offerings: The Study of Biblical Literature. We have removed two other interest groups, Pet Concerns and Pet Projects and have placed their work under the Pet Matters Joint Committee. The Cardinal Shop Committee began planning for the shop's future purpose and location. A final decision must wait until after the pandemic.

The administrative work of KORA in 2020 has been significant. Your Council has met regularly both in business sessions and in “lunch” zooms. These latter get-togethers have been a time for the Council to share concerns and report on the pulse of our community life. Your Executive Committee has met most weeks in order to stay current regarding the problems and concerns of our association and needs of residents.

Today you are being asked to approve several amendments to our constitution.. The present *ad hoc* role of resident liaisons to Kendal Construction, which we have had for many years, would become a regular part of our structure known as Facilities Liaisons. Our Budget Committee would be renamed Finance Committee, as its role expands to work with our treasurer throughout the year to oversee KORA financial matters. Finally, the reference to specific due date for the annual reports of KORA related groups would be dropped from the constitution, leaving that matter to the Coordination Committee.

The most significant addition to our organization is to add to our constitution a new category of committees named “Joint Committees.” This amendment provides that from time to time committees may be formed that operate in collaboration with K@O Administration. The members of these Joint Committees will have representation from both K@O staff and KORA. The new Joint Committee on Technology is one such joint committee. Two committees that were formed last year, Dining Matters and Pet Matters are other examples of Joint Committees.

I am pleased to report that in 2020 we have begun to see the transition in the leadership of some of our KORA-related groups. In the past several years a number of our resident leaders have expressed the need to hand off their responsibilities to new resident leaders. We celebrate the enlistment of Shirley Taylor as chairperson of the Program Committee following the faithful service of Anne Elder in that position, and Ted Wolner as chairperson of the Environmental Concerns Committee, following John Elder and Dina Schoonmaker. Soon a new chairperson will be named for the Arboretum Committee.

This year has presented one concern that continues to trouble us: How do we maintain a cohesive community when we must exercise multiple

protocols requiring masks, distancing, and limited personal connection? Previously we have been a community noted for engagement and friendly relationship with one another. This problem has been particularly concerning for those who have joined our community since the beginning of the pandemic. We keep telling them how this place operated before. Of course, such comments do little to help the problem. The Newcomers/Friendship Service Group has been working in several ways to introduce newcomers to our community. Mentors have helped to offered welcome. Our KORA Executive Committee has held monthly Zoom get-togethers for new residents and their mentors to provide connection and information for our new friends. That said, the challenge remains and we must continue finding opportunities to strengthen new relationships among our community.

Finally, I deeply appreciate the good work of the KORA Councilors this year. They have been faithful in their committee and liaison responsibilities. They have represented and responded to the needs of our whole community. I am particularly thankful for the care with which the members of our Executive Committee, Bruce Richards, Sandy Siebenschuh, and Randy Wagner have worked together with me to oversee the life of our association. I look forward to properly recognizing them and the whole Council at our December 10th meeting, the last scheduled meeting of the year.

Our Leadership Development and Nominations Committee has been true to their purpose, working year-around to provide our association committed and competent leaders.

I close this report where I began, with words of deep appreciation for Barbara Thomas and K@O's entire staff. They worked tirelessly this year to keep us safe and healthy. We are especially thankful to Barbara for her willingness to trust us, as Kendal residents, to be partners in making and keeping K@O a loving, amazing place to live.

I thank you for allowing me to lead our association these past two years. It has been a rewarding opportunity.

Gary Olin. KORA President 2020