



Grandparents Against Gun Violence Virtual Meeting Minutes June 23, 2020

Our Mission:

We work to reduce gun violence to keep all children safe at home, at school and in our community.

The pandemic slowed us down but hasn't stopped us!

President Judy Sherry convened the meeting via Zoom at 4:05 pm. 71 people in attendance.

The work of GAGV has continued while we've all been sheltering in place. Since we last met, firearm sales have increased at an unprecedented pace with more than 2.6 million background checks completed in March alone making our work for gun safety more important than ever. Our Board has been working on various projects, adapting to new technology and ways to expand our connection with the community.

Members of the GAGV Board introduced themselves and offered a brief explanation of their duties:

- **Lona Harris, Treasurer** – Keeps GAGV financially sound, manages income, pays bills, provides data to Support KC to generate monthly financials, provides information for grant requests, files tax forms, manages database with secretary.
- **Charlotte Davison, Secretary** – The secretary takes minutes at GAGV Board and monthly membership meetings, manages correspondence, replies to requests for information at info@moksgagv.org and at MOKSGAG@gmail.com, works with treasurer to manage the database and provides data to membership chair.
- **Joan Jacobson, Membership Chair** – Sustains membership and works to expand it. GAGV welcomes all levels of involvement. Our numbers add legitimacy to our cause. Manages renewal processes. Looking for people to brainstorm ways to encourage new members because as our membership grows our voices grow.
- **Chris Glenski** – Development Co-Chair and **LIFL Co-Chair** - Covid-19 has had a direct impact on LIFL but has not stopped it. In July 2017, 2793 locks were given away at 117 events. In 2019 1,221 locks were given away at 49 events. In 2020, 13 events were scheduled, but only one has been completed. To work around not being able to be able to give out locks personally at community events, Chris and her co-Chair Barb McNeile have reached out to partners to find new ways to distribute locks, i.e. school supply and food distribution sites and Covid-19 testing sites. Work continues with Health Department, Children's Mercy Hospital and Dr. Shayla Sullivant's virtual presentation of Prepped and Ready.
- **Carla Oppenheimer** – **Heartland Coalition and HC Forum** – Due to concerns with Covid-19, the 7th Annual (virtual) Heartland Coalition Community Forum will be **Monday, October 12, 2020. Gun Violence: Going Beyond Thoughts and Prayers** will feature proactive local leaders from business, government and the faith community discussing what they're doing beyond thoughts and prayers to promote gun safety. Prior to the forum, explicit instructions will be sent on how to register and participate. Today's virtual meeting gives us an idea of how the virtual forum will work.
- **Barb McNeile, Development co-Chair and LIFL Co-Chair** – Develops and implements fundraising plans. Researches and executes grants. GAGV received a grant from the Health Forward Foundation in 2019 for the purchase of 1,400 gun locks. The next grant request will be to help with sustainability and for a part-

time staff person. Other fundraising activities include small fundraisers at Panera and Stuff where retailers donate part of the proceeds to a designated charity, Giving Tuesday, Facebook Birthday fundraisers, and Amazon Smiles. GAGV members will receive a letter in July requesting contributions to the Heartland Virtual Forum at an amount that feels comfortable to the donor in this time of need.

- **Carla Oppenheimer, Advocacy:**

1. Warning signs –A resolution requiring gun warning signs to be posted where guns are purchased or shot in Kansas City, MO has been stalled because of Covid-19. The Advocacy Committee presented to Violence Free KC in February; it was voted to move on to the Kansas City Health department where it was supported. The next move is to the Kansas City, MO City Council which is scheduled for July or August. The resolution is based on a similar one in King County (Seattle), Washington.
2. Suicide yard signs aimed at educating the public about the connection between unsecured guns and suicides are available.
3. 2020 Election – GAGV will participate in Get out the Vote Efforts
 - Mainstream Coalition’s Voter to Voter efforts.
 - Indivisible’s The Big Send to send 10 million letters urging people to vote.
 - Will urge members to research gun violence positions of the candidates they vote for.
4. Ethan’s Law – GAGV members are asked to write MO and KS representatives and senators to sign as sponsors or cosponsors. The bill honors the memory of Ethan Song, a Connecticut teenager who accidentally shot himself with an unsecured firearm in 2018. Ethan’s Law would set federal standards for firearm safe storage as well as give states incentives to create and implement safe storage laws. More information will be in the July newsletter.

GAGV work continues:

- GAGV’s newest project is a partnership with Vision Quilt, a five-year-old nonprofit in Oregon, to create panels in a digital quilt focusing attention on gun violence prevention. Founder Cathy Deforest (a participant at this zoom meeting) hopes to replicate for the gun violence movement the same world-wide reaction the AIDS Memorial Quilt of the 1980s brought to the HIV epidemic. Panels have already been completed by Linda Brown and a team at Saint Andrews Church including one in memory of Overland Park Police Officer Mike Mosher who was killed in May.

GAGV supplies an 18x24 inch piece of fabric, you design and create your panel, and then a photo is sent to Cathy for the Virtual Quilt. You can keep your panel to frame or wear; one GAGV member wore hers at the Mainstream Walk the Vote. Our goal is to create 100 panels in Kansas City. Visit the [Vision Quilt website](#) and become inspired by the wide variety of panels already created by adults and children of all ages from around the country. Sign up at info@moksgagv.com.

Future plans include a panel making workshop for GAGV members; a LIFL display; partnering with the City Council and other organizations.

- GAGV SWAG Day – Monday, July 6, 3-6 pm, Colonial Church Parking Lot – GAGV will be selling many pieces of GAGV branded t-shirts, sweatshirts, and hats and giving away “I Vote to Stop Gun Violence” buttons.

Judy adjourned the meeting at 4:52 pm.

Minutes submitted by
Charlotte Davison, Secretary