



## Grandparents Against Gun Violence Meeting Minutes April 23, 2019

### Our Mission:

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

Judy Sherry convened the meeting at 4:05 pm at Colonial Church in Prairie Village.

### Announcements:

- Zero Reasons Why March + Rally – Saturday, April 27, 4-7:00 pm, Blue Valley District Athletic Complex. The March + Rally is bringing together the teens, parents, educators, counselors, and community members from Johnson County and across the Kansas City metro, who are mobilized to take action toward change in the movement to prevent teen suicide and recognize mental health is equal to physical health. All 20 high schools from the six school districts in Johnson County are bringing large banners and sharing the voices of their student bodies.
- Troost Festival, May 18 at 11 am – Walk with Mother's United
- No Meeting in May
- June 2, Gun Violence Awareness Day – Sunday, June 2, 1-3 pm, Plaza Fountain. Signs will be made at the Advocacy portion of today's meeting.

### Membership:

- Membership Chair Joan Jacobson encouraged joining GAGV. Increasing our membership increases our validity in the community and shows sustainability to funders and partners.
- New opportunity to support GAGV – give the gift of membership to a grandparent at the birth of a grandchild.
- Join GAGV or renew membership at [www.moksgagv.org](http://www.moksgagv.org) or mail check to GAGV, P.O. Box 11193, Overland Park, KS 66207

LIFL: Barb McNeil reported 16 events are scheduled to December. Sign-up to volunteer for LIFL at monthly meetings or by contacting Barb at [bmcneile@gmail.com](mailto:bmcneile@gmail.com).

Heartland Community Forum Development Committee led by Barb and Chris Glenski is looking for a database management volunteer to register sponsors and guests. Please contact Barb at [bmcneile@gmail.com](mailto:bmcneile@gmail.com) or Chris at [christinenglenski@gmail.com](mailto:christinenglenski@gmail.com). The next meeting of the development committee is Wednesday, May 8 at Pioneer Library.

The Pat Russell Volunteer of the Quarter Awards was awarded to Julie Young.

Rep. Jerry Stogsdill of Kansas 21<sup>st</sup> District reported he had introduced an amendment this legislative session making extended magazines illegal in handguns. The amendment was rejected. He encouraged us to show up in Topeka wearing our orange t-shirts as it makes a difference.

GAGV t-shirts are available for purchase at the monthly meetings or by contacting Barb McNeile.

Today's speakers were John Ham, Senior Investigator and Public Information Officer for the U.S. Justice Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and GAGV member John Ussery and his grandson, Cayden.

- Because it makes sense that to be effective advocates for gun safety we need to know more about firearms to be credible. John Ham informed us of the types of guns available to the public. He provided a handout illustrating how guns have evolved from the 1921 Winchester to today. The materials are different, making them smaller, lighter, easier to conceal, and with more capabilities. The size of the magazines has increased, increasing the number of rounds (bullets) along with the speed of firing. He also pointed out that the actual size (caliber) of the bullet affects whether a shooting victim lives or dies. The larger the caliber, the deadlier it is.
- From a public safety standpoint, John said we should be concerned about the size of the magazine (the number of rounds a gun can hold), gun safety, and reforming how mental health records are accessed in the National Background Check database.
- John Ussery introduced his grandson, Cayden, who described the four-hour training and testing he undertook when obtaining a hunting permit through the Missouri Department of Conservation.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.; June 2 posters were made following adjournment.

Charlotte Davison, Secretary