



Grandparents Against Gun Violence Meeting Minutes September 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 called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

Judy recognized the program committee for planning excellent meeting programs and thanked GAGV members for their constant support. She is cautiously optimistic that the tide is turning as the public seems to be paying attention to the issue of gun violence. More than 90% of the public supports background checks; the youth are leading the way; and businesses are beginning to figure out that there is no point waiting for legislators to address the gun violence problem. They must do the right thing.

Judy recommended reading a guest commentary in the Kansas City Star written by Dena K. Hubbard, a pediatrician and neonatologist in Kansas City, Dr. Hubbard urges U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt, who chairs the relevant appropriations subcommittee, to support the request of medical and public health experts to provide \$50 million for public health research on gun violence prevention in the appropriations bill to fund the government. The House of Representatives has already voted for this funding. <https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/readers-opinion/guest-commentary/article235150042.html>

Upcoming events:

- **October 14 – Heartland Coalition Against Gun Violence** – KU Edwards Campus - Register online at <https://moksgagv.org/community-forum-public/>
- **Thursday, September 26, 5:30 pm, Uptown Theater – Screening of “Emanuel,”** documentary film about the Charleston church shooting that killed nine Emanuel AME church members and the hope that somehow emerges in the aftermath. GAGV member Barb McNeil will be on the panel.
- **Sunday, September 29, 1 pm, Mill Creek Park – Zero Reasons Why** - rally and march to prevent teen suicide and drive productive conversations to affirm there are zero reasons why suicide is an option. <https://bridge909.org/events/zero-reasons-why-march-rally>
- **Saturday, October 5, 10 am - Out of the Darkness** – Swope Park – Suicide prevention walk. <https://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm/fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=6327>

Nancy Oglesby, our advisor on social media, requested that we not respond to Facebook trolls who leave inappropriate posts. They will then go away. She encouraged us to like and share GAGV posts to increase readership. Please send pictures and news for Facebook posts to nancy@nancyoglesby.com.

Barb McNeile reported that the 99th and 100th Lock It For Love events were held last Saturday at COR and Life Fest Signature Psychiatric. There is a shortage of gun locks nationwide; however, Gail Robeson found more locks and a backordered shipment is coming.

Barb also reported that GAGV has expanded its fashion line to include hooded sweatshirts (\$25) and ball caps (10). Polo shirts are \$25.

Judy Becker introduced today's speaker, Megan Ahsens, Johnson County Assistant District Attorney, who works exclusively on domestic violence cases. Megan introduced the Lethality Assessment that law enforcement agencies throughout the county use to evaluate the risk of a domestic violence disturbance escalating into a homicide. This assessment is used to diffuse domestic violence and steer its victims to healthier lives. Megan reminded us that a domestic violence victim is 5 times more likely to be killed if her partner owns a gun.

Advocacy: Postcards were sent to the Johnson County Commissioners asking them to continue to support victims of domestic violence. Personal notes of encouragements were written to women living at Safehome.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Minutes submitted by Charlotte Davison, Secretary