



A CELEBRATION OF TWENTY YEARS 1993-2013

Kansas Dialogue was first inspired by the national “Renaissance Weekend” experience, which had been attended by both Sam Brownback (then Kansas Secretary of Agriculture) and KU journalism professor John Ginn. A steering committee was set up to develop a statewide version of the concept, and the first Kansas Dialogue was held in Wichita on Labor Day weekend 1993.

The mission statement was *“Renewing Our Strength by Communicating Our Diversity”*. General sessions often lasted until 10 pm and were followed by sing-along songfests, led by a joyous John Ginn.

Since then hundreds more have joined the conversation as Kansas Dialogue has moved around the state. Getting to explore different parts of Kansas has become as much a part of the fun as meeting kindred souls who will set aside a weekend a year to have substantive discussions.

Early on, the Kansas Dialogue event was hosted by a different non-profit organization or educational entity every year. Today we operate independently with a designated project fund at the Hutchinson Community Foundation. We are grateful for the structure that allows us to continue as an all-volunteer group.

Continued...

WHERE WE’VE BEEN THROUGH THE YEARS

1993 - Wichita	I	
1994 - Manhattan	II	
1995 - Salina	III	
1996 - Hays	IV	
1998 - Wichita -	V	(in early January)
1999 - Topeka	VI	<i>“Journeys: Past, Present, Future”</i>
2000 - Hutchinson	VII	<i>“Exploring Our Space”</i>
2001 - Lawrence	VIII	<i>“Building the Kansas Community”</i>
2002 - Manhattan	IX	<i>“Kansas: Our Changing Horizons”</i>
2003 - Lindsborg	X	<i>“The Art of Living in Kansas”</i>
2004 - Overland Park	XI	<i>“Growing... in Kansas”</i>
2005 - Independence	XII	<i>“Exploring our Independence, Dependence and Interdependence”</i>
2006 - Colby	XIII	<i>“If the World is Flat, Where Does That Leave Kansas?”</i>
2007 - Hutchinson	XIV	<i>“A Down-to-Earth Conversation”</i>
2008 - Kansas City	XV	<i>“Exploring Our Neighborhoods”</i>
2009 - Salina	XVI	<i>“Conversation at the Crossroads”</i>
2010 - Garden City	XVII	<i>“Exploring Our Heritage, Celebrating Our Diversity”</i>
2011 - Emporia	XVIII	<i>“Ad Astra Per Aspera: After 150 Years, Are We There Yet?”</i>
2012 - Wichita	XIX	<i>“Rendezvous at the River”</i>
2013 - Manhattan	XX	<i>“Discovery Through Dialogue”</i>

SOME KANSAS DIALOGUE TRADITIONS AND MILESTONES

At the beginning...

There were not as many sessions, and they were longer and larger - often 30-40 people in a concurrent session.

1995 – With the third annual event, we started numbering Kansas Dialogue, using Roman Numerals

1999 – The year the music died. John Ginn passed on early in the year, leaving us with an extraordinary legacy.

1999 – We developed our first “theme”, and have been doing it ever since.

2003 - Sunday morning roundtables were introduced, to allow us to tackle tough topics and get the whole group involved with selecting topics

2004 – Thanks to Jan Peters, we got our first official logo

2004 – The Conveners revisited our mission statement to represent better what the event had become. After reviewing more than a dozen ideas (including “Let’s talk ‘til our ears bleed”) we chose Joan Strickler’s great offering: **“Broadening Our Understanding Through Thoughtful Communication.”**

2004 – We centralized the administration of Kansas Dialogue under the umbrella of the Hutchinson Community Foundation

2006 – “This I Believe” was introduced for the first time, and has become a Sunday morning tradition.

THANKS TO THE CURRENT CONVENERERS OF KANSAS DIALOGUE!

Susan Buchanan

Diana Carlin and Joe Pierron

John and Deborah Divine

Martha Slater Farrell

Lon Frahm

Angie and Tom Fryer

Kathleen Holt

Jeff and Kim King

Lynette Lacy

Shelia and Don Lampe

Marci Penner and WenDee LaPlant

Nick Levendofsky

Sue Maes and Dennis Hemmendinger

Eric Montgomery

Loren Pennington

Ramon and Eva Powers

William Richter

Derek and Jennifer Schmidt

Chris Steineger and Shari Wilson

Susan Stover

John and Joan Strickler

Patsy Terrell

Bill Wagnon

Thanks to all the Kansas Dialogue Conveners:

FOUNDING GROUP

(Original steering committee members underlined)

Reid Ashe	Judy and <u>Joe Harkins</u>
John and Rose Ann Baldwin	Sandy and <u>Chris McKenzie</u>
Mary and <u>Sam Brownback</u>	<u>Sue Maes</u>
Jeff and Ruth Colyer	Linda and <u>Bill Richter</u>
<u>Ed Flentje</u>	Pam and Dolph Simons
<u>John Ginn</u>	John and Ruth Stauffer
	Kathy and <u>Charles Warren</u>

PAST CONVENERERS

Joe and Shelley Aistrup	Jackie McClaskey and Mike Matson
Don and Dorene Anderson	Joe and Criss Palacios
David and Diane Awbrey	Jerri Pennington
Barbara and Albert Ballard	Jan Peters
Ed and Carol Berger	Trish Rose
Mary Birch	Kris Schindler and John Thompson
Rex Buchanan	David and Callie Seaton
Karen Cochran	Eric and Kathy Sexton
Bob Crangle	Joan Wagnon
Peg Dunlap and David Monical	Jack and Vicky Wempe
Marla Flentje	David and Michelle Wessling
Bob and Dottie Harder	Judy Wright
Dave Kendall	Hannes Zacharias and Marcia Higginson