

Kansas SIA weekend in Great Bend KS December 3-4, 2021

Hostess Janice Rose provided a weekend of fun and education for 26 Singles in Agriculture members and 3 guests in and around the Great Bend KS area. Friday morning, December 3rd, was spent touring the Santa Fe Tail Center on Highway 156. After lunch at the Pizza Hut, the group made a quick stop to view the famous landmark along the Santa Fe Trail – Pawnee Rock. One of our most interesting tours for the weekend was the Rosewood Winery, near Pawnee Rock. Rosewood Winery is not the typical winery. It is the only one in the nation that is devoted to providing employment opportunities to people with developmental disabilities. Located on the Rosewood Ranch, the winery isn't the only unique opportunity for persons with developmental disabilities. The Ranch also is home to a nationally acclaimed therapeutic horse-riding program. Rosewood Services began in 1998 and now operates various opportunities to help their clients develop skills and self-worth in pursuit of their goals and dreams. Late in the afternoon the group visited the Santa's around the World in downtown Great Bend. SIA members had a chance to sit on the lap of a live Santa Claus while viewing the life-sized Santa's from 23 countries. This display was also sponsored by Rosewood Services. After an evening meal at the Handlebar Restaurant, the group carpooled through the Christmas Trail of Lights at the Zoo and by the Veteran's Park for another display of lights for the season. Tables were available in the motel courtyard for card games, visiting and snacking throughout the rest of the evening.



On Saturday morning, December 4th, our first stop for the day was at the South Bend Industrial Hemp fiber processing facility. South Bend is a licensed hemp grower in the State of Kansas and offers CBD, hemp fiber and grain. Two farming brothers, Aaron and Richard, and Aaron's wife, Melissa, started the company in 2019 when hemp growing opportunities were opened to Kansans. Their three priorities to starting the business was to help farmers establish another way to

grow an economically viable crop, experience all the hemp industry production chain and to bring a product to market that is safe, effective and from Kansas based family farms. (Look for our picture on the southbendhemp Instagram page.) With a quick stop at the B-29 Memorial Plaza nearby, we were then headed to lunch at Perkins before heading to Ellinwood for the afternoon. The tour guide at the Ellinwood Underground Tunnels started our group on the west side of the street at the Antique store. He took us underground and explained about the businesses underground and how the town used to be a two-level town – one town above ground and a second one below ground. Changes took place in the 1930's and 1970's-80's which resulted in destruction of most of the underground town tunnels. Next the group went across the street to the Wolf Hotel to tour the hotel and the tunnels preserved underneath the hotel. After some free time, the SIA group again joined at The Page restaurant to eat an evening meal and then on to spend the rest of the evening at Janice Rose's home. She had Christmas lights and decorations in every room of her house and a lovely selection of Christmas treats waiting for the crowd in her garage where she had seating for all. Larry Berg was surprised for his birthday. Mrs. Santa (Janice Rose) and her Elf (Wilma South) made sure we were all in the mood for Christmas before we left her beautifully decorated house.



