

**Nomination of Dr. Robert J. Hoard for the KAA Lifetime Service Award
April 2023**

Dr. Robert L. Hoard, or “Bob” as we all call him, has been a vital member of the Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA) since 2000. Bob has contributed to the success of the KAA in many ways, and I hereby nominate him to receive the KAA Lifetime Service Award, based on his service and dedication to the field of archeology.

Born in Nebraska, Bob’s involvement in archeology has been lifelong. Bob received a B.A. in anthropology in 1982 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He earned a M.A. in anthropology at the University of Oregon, and received a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1992. In addition to memberships in numerous professional archeological organizations, Bob is a long-time member of the Kansas Historical Society and the KAA. A PDF of his curriculum vitae is attached for further review.

Bob was employed as an archeologist and archeology field director for the Missouri Department of Transportation from 1992 until 2000, when he was hired by the Kansas Historical Society as state archeologist, a post that he held until his retirement in September 2022. During his tenure at the KSHS, he twice served as interim director of the Cultural Resources Division. As state archeologist, he was secretary of the Unmarked Burial Sites Board.

Despite the heavy demands of the state archeologist position, Bob has produced an astonishing amount of research and publications. One of his first projects upon coming to Kansas was editing (with William E. Banks) *Kansas Archaeology*, jointly published by the Kansas Historical Society and the University Press of Kansas in 2006. This major reference was a much needed update. Many of Bob’s articles, such as those in *Central Plains Archeology*, *Current Archaeology in Kansas*, *Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Sciences*, *The Kansas Anthropologist: Journal of the Kansas Anthropological Association*, *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*, *Kansas Preservation*, and *Plains Anthropologist*, are accessible to avocational archeologists. In addition, Bob served as editor of the *Plains Anthropologist*, the journal of the Plains Anthropological Society, from 2018 through 2021.

Bob is an excellent teacher. He has taught university-level courses at a number of institutions, as well as many core classes for the KAA Certification Program, particularly “Kansas Archeology.” He was principal investigator for the 2009 and 2015 Kansas Archeology Training Program (KATP) field schools.

So how does Bob fit into the Kansas Anthropological Association? KAA membership includes both professional and amateur archeologists, but primarily the latter. I have known Bob since 2009, when we met at the KATP field school in Scott County. As a new person to the organization that year, I was apprehensive and shy regarding interaction with the professionals and those in charge of the program, but I wanted to learn everything possible after my first field survey sparked my passion for the archeology. Had it not been for the professionals, and especially for Bob, I am not sure that I would have continued. During the survey many sites were discovered around Scott Lake, and Bob coordinated the survey crew. I was impressed when he

took time to sit down beside me, explain the process, and show me how to fill out a site form. Throughout subsequent years I have had the opportunity to work with Bob on special projects, allowing me to complete all categories of the KAA Certification Program, which has provided an education in several aspects of archeology beyond survey and excavation. I am certain that many KAA members have had similar experiences with Bob, who shares his knowledge with individuals, using his superb teaching skills. Bob has helped several avocational archeologists on projects throughout his career and has exhibited a willingness to work side by side with amateurs on surveying, excavating, screening, lab cleaning and cataloging, lithic identification, and the list goes on and on. He plans to continue to be an active KAA member after his retirement from the KSHS.

In summary, the first requirement of this award is to have been a KAA member for at least 10 years. Bob has been a member since 2000 and continues that membership after his retirement. The nominee must have attended at least three KATP field schools; Bob has participated in all since 2001. Bob has offered his professional guidance to the KAA through his role as state archeologist on the KAA Executive Committee. His long-term dedication and service to the KAA and to amateur archeologists in general has exceeded the norm of the profession. Considering all of his contributions to the KAA, I am confident that the KAA Executive Committee members will agree that Bob is deserving of the KAA Lifetime Service Award.

I respectfully submit Dr. Robert J. Hoard's name for the KAA Lifetime Service Award.

Best regards,

Debi L. Aaron, Past President
Kansas Anthropological Association