aoshs uarterly

The American Overseas Schools Historical Society 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104 Spring 2015

www.aoshs.org

overseasschools@aoshs.org



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Spring

by Gayle Vaughn-Wiles

Can you believe how the time flies! How many of you can remember the hoopla of Y2K? To me it seems like yesterday! How about you? The years roll past and our priorities change. My priorities as the AOSHS President are very simple: I plan to look at the fundamental requirements of my position.

Let me take quick "bird walk" right here!

Did you wonder why you received your winter Quarterly so late? You were reading articles about the Christmas Holidays and it was almost Valentines Day! What's up with that? Let me explain: It is all about fundamental requirements...

The articles for the Quarterly, many times referred to as the "Q" were written and submitted to the editors. The newsletter was developed, proofed, and I approved it in early December. Well, the fundamental requirement came into play right here! I was supposed to send the Q to the publisher and assumed someone else had that responsibility.

Needless to say "I blew it!" At this point, I realize the error of my ways and believe me I must apologize! This is the first time our current editors, Circe Woessner and Allen Dale Olson have ever had a late Quarterly and it was because of me. I appreciate the work that they have done and hopefully will continue in-spite of my error.

From this experience as president, I learned that I must continually review the standard operating procedures for handling business, revise procedures if I want to do things differently, and move forward with fundamental procedures in all areas. What else can I say? Happy Spring!

MEMBERSHIP

You are receiving this copy of the quarterly because you have active membership. However, there are many DoDDS teachers, both active and retired, who are not members or have not renewed their membership. This is where you can help out the organization to increase our membership. When you have contact with your DoDDS friends, please ask them if they are current members of AOSHS. If not, please encourage them to join, explaining our work to preserve, maintain, and exhibit artifacts received from our various closed schools. Many teachers who attend the annual reunion in July often join initially, but don't renew their membership unless they attend another reunion. Some teachers think that attending the reunion makes them members, but the reunion committee and AOSHS are two different entities. AOSHS does have their annual meeting at the reunion, and we always have a table in the hospitality room. We also work with and support the reunion committee.

This past summer the dues were amended if a member joined for two years. Our dues are \$25.00 per year, or a two year membership for \$45.00. We would like to increase our membership, and personal outreach is one way to accomplish our goal of more members. Please help us by spreading the word of AOSHS, and thank you for your membership.

Jill Abbott, Board Member

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Lottie McCoy By Circe Olson Woessner

Long time DoDDS educator and pioneer Lottie M. McCoy, 96, sister of the late Emma McCoy, died Tuesday, December 2, 2014. Lottie was employed by the Department of Defense Dependents Schools for over 45 years as both a teacher and administrator. She and her late sister Emma were a "duo" who mentored many of their friends and colleagues through professional and personal hurdles over the years. Lottie, along with Emma, was featured in an extensive article by the School of Humanities at Ohio State University and in an article published in the Pacific Stars and Stripes in Okinawa, Japan.

During her DODDS years, Lottie crossed the globe to exciting and exotic places, such as Ethiopia, Pakistan, and Norway. Additionally, she was assigned to bases in Germany, Turkey, Belgium, England and Japan.

A colleague from SHAPE, says this of the sisters,

"Both Lottie and Emma were much respected and admired teachers at SHAPE, Belgium. "

During those years and in every assignment, Lottie touched the lives of hundreds of students that she loved. Lottie once said that she would like to be remembered "as a person who liked challenges."

She was also very compassionate and supportive of her staff. One of her former teachers recalls,

"Ms McCoy was my supervising principal at Lakenheath Elementary School in England in the early 1990's. She would come to my classroom in the late evening and tell me 'to pack it in and pray for my little ones tonight.' We would often walk out of school together well after 7:00 at night! She was an amazing person with a world of energy. She touched the lives of her teachers and her students for a life time..."

Former AOSHS President Tina Calo says this,

"Lottie (and Emma) were special people within our DoDDS family. We often talked of our connection as we were both from Ohio. Lottie had a quiet dignity about her. Her love of life was a special gift. She will be missed by many."

McCoy's teaching longevity was a family thing. Lottie retired from DODDS at 80; her sister, Emma McCoy was 82.



Emma McCoy, right, and sister Lottie McCoy, left, in a 2003 photo

Website - www.aoshs.org

Please take some time to look at our website! It is possibly newer than the last time you looked. There's information about the organization as well as our Mission Statement and overall Goals. The revised By-Laws that we approved last July are listed. We also have a section on Historical Collections such as Database, Memories and what we call the 3 'Black Books' that document the AOSHS History, Chronicles plus Charter & Life Members. Coming soon will be Black Book Number 4...Our site gives valuable information regarding Donations, Membership and an entire area devoted to our "Memorials".

Upcoming we will post additional information regarding the DoDDS Reunion Weekend XXVII, Oak Brook, IL on July 16-19, 2015. If you need immediate information about this, please write to harry.stine@yahoo.com.

We are working on revamping the entire site to make it more interactive and valuable to our membership. Please contact us if you have anything you would like to see on it. Label your message in the subject line "Website Comments" and send them to aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net.

See you in Illinois!

Kelley Germaine

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The AOSHS Memorial Program

Memorial Program

You may purchase a brick or paver in your own name, as a gift in memory of a friend or loved one, or a school. Write to the Memorial Program address or the e-mail address below for the correct order card(s). You may include a 300-word biography and a photo along with the check when you submit your order. The selection of bricks/pavers appears below.

Memorial Fund

You may organize a fund for a deceased friend or loved one. The fund will be announced in two issues of the Quarterly so that others may contribute. When the fund closes in six months, you will receive an accounting and determine which item the fund will purchase. Write to the Memorial Program address or the e-mail address below to request a Memorial Fund Form, or print the form at www.aoshs.org/kiosk; just click on Memorial Program.

Donate

You may also donate to an already established fund by sending a check payable to the AOSHS Memorial Fund at the address below. Please note the honoree's name on the check's memoline:

AOSHS Memorial Program, Attn: Dee Edwards, P.O. Box 370962, Las Vegas, NV 89137

[Don't forget to indicate the honoree's name]

Memorial Program for Alumnae/Alumni

We have had many names added to our <u>Those No Longer with Us</u> paver, where friends or loved ones have sent a donation to remember a special person in their lives, but did not wish to purchase a brick or start a memorial fund.

Though this began as an educator remembrance, several of those recognized are alumni. Because of the increase in donations for this fund, we feel it appropriate to create a second paver specifically to recognize alumni. If friends wish to remember a deceased former student, send the honoree's name, school, and year of graduation (if appropriate), and it will be included in alphabetical order on the kiosk page, which can be viewed by going to www.aoshs.org/kiosk, then clicking on the Interactive Kiosk link, and following directions.

To remember an alumna/alumnus in this way, send a check payable to the AOSHS Memorial Fund at the address below.

Please note the honoree's name on the check's memo line and include a note requesting that this person be honored on the Alumni Memorial Page

e-mail: memorialprog@aoshs.org

Note: e-mails must include AOSHS in the subject area

Size (in inches)	Characters/Line (includes spaces)	Maximum Lines	Total Characters (includes spaces)	Cost
4×8	15	2	30	\$100
8 x 8	15	5	75	\$250
8 x 8	15	5	75	\$500
16 x 16	25	11	275	\$1000
24 x 24	35	17	595	\$2500
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MEMORIAL FUNDS

Not available for this edition

Meet AOSHS Office Manager Robert L. Webster

Robert L. Webster retired from the United States Army on February 1, 1996, after more than 20 years of service. Robert served as an Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Leadership Development II Instructor at Balboa High School, DoDDS Panama Region, from January 1986 to February 1989. During Robert's military service, he served at Fort Bragg, NC; and overseas in Panama, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Korea.

Upon retirement from the Army, Robert and his family moved to Wichita, Kansas where he was employed at CCH, a Wolters Kluwer business, first as a Technical Support Representative, and then as a Software Quality Assurance Analyst. Robert's introduction to AOSHS was in 1997, when he was invited to the reception for Dr. Drysdale and the Site Selection Committee at the Wichita Boat House. Robert became actively involved with AOSHS as a volunteer in April 2014.

Robert is married to the former Luz D. Gutierrez of Alanje, Panama; she previously worked for the Cumberland County Schools in Fayetteville, NC and is currently working for USD 259 Wichita Public Schools in Wichita, KS.

Robert and Luz have three adult children who have attended DoDDS schools and multiple public schools in the United States and overseas.

Robert's hobbies and interests include reading, history, genealogy, computers and electronic communications.

AOSHS Office Manager's Recommended Reading List by Robert Webster

Soon to be in the AOSHS collections:

- Home Bases: Memories & Stories of US Military Bases Around London by Sean C. Kelly
- From The Faculty Lounge by Sean C. Kelly
- A Cold War Teacher's Tale: The Challenges, Fun and Historic Moments With Our American Schools Overseas by Carol O'Donnell-Knych

Books of interest that I have read that are in the AOSHS collections:

- The Originals by Doris C. Baker
- I'll Let You Know When We Get There by Doris C. Baker
- Military Brats: Legacies of Childhood Inside the Fortress by Mary Edwards Wertsch

25 YEARS! by: Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72

Can you believe it's been 25 Years since the Berlin Wall came down? Yes, November 9, 2014 marked the "25th Anniversary of the Fall of the Wall"; so what do the Berlin Brats do?

They decided since the Wall was an integral part of their history...the whole reason most of us were in Berlin in the first place...that we should return, hold our Reunion there and be part of the festivities!

So off we went. Nov 8-11, 2014.

252 of us including 16 teachers from both our high school and our elementary school (Berlin American High School (BAHS) and Thomas A. Roberts Elementary (TAR) participated. We did a 3-hour Segway Tour of Berlin, experienced the little known about –but very educational Underground Tour, visited the new Tempelhof history display at the Allied Museum and toured our former school(s).





Arriving at our former school, now a German high school

Berlin American High School operated from 1946 to 1994. Berlin was one of the first five American schools opened in Germany.

On Sunday, Nov 9th – the official anniversary day, the city of Berlin planned a "citizen's party" down at Brandenburg Gate.

The culmination of the weekend events was the release of some 8,000 white helium balloons perched on poles to match the height of the former Wall. They were released one at a time to symbolize the "breaching" of the Wall by the crowds of protesters on Nov 9th, 1989.

Balloons along the former Wall.





At our final event, our banquet, we had a surprise guest speaker. The Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) from the U.S. Embassy: Mr. James Melville. Mr. Melville surprised us with his personal relationship with DoDDS:

"I have a great fondness and appreciation for the DoDDS system. My late uncle was a DoDDS continued on page 6

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administrator in Germany for over 30 years. My sister taught in a DoDDS school in Karlsruhe and I have a cousin who teaches in one in Bahrain. Most particularly, though, my son Daniel graduated from DoDDS London Central High School, Class of 2006."

He went on to say, "In many respects, my wife Joanna and I have a lot in common with you and your families. Our first Foreign Service post was here in Berlin, and our children were born here during that tour. In fact, right here in Steglitz, at the U.S. Army Hospital. They each still proudly have their plaques as Honorary Members of the Berlin Brigade. So we too are a family of Berliners!"

After our Reunion in Berlin, some attendees embarked on our 4-day post trip to Krakow, Poland.

Photo: BAHS & TAR teachers in attendance



Cold War Memories: A Retrospective on Living in Berlin, A City Divided-- Memoirs of U.S. Dependents in Berlin

"These are our stories...the stories of six 'generations' of Berlin Brats over a span of almost fifty years. This book is written, as are most histories, in an effort to hold onto a piece of history long past. And, it is a warning, lest we forget, how precious freedom is-- freedom is not free. Additionally, we are aware that few people realize that Americans lived in West Berlin, and that fewer still realize that the whole city was over 100 miles inside of Soviet occupied territory. Thus, we lived in an enclave of Capitalism surrounded by Communist East Germany." (excerpted from the Introduction to *Cold War Memories*)

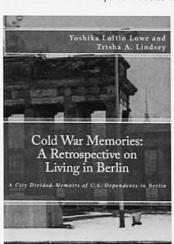
Trisha and I spent four years collecting stories via mail, email, websites and social media. We interviewed former students and teachers at reunions and brat gatherings. At times it was like pulling teeth, but we finally collected enough stories to go forward with publishing the book in time for our goal deadline-- the 25th Anniversary of the Fall of the Wall celebration in Berlin! Our alumni association- the Berlin Brats Alumni Association, had planned their reunion to coincide with the Fall of the Wall celebration in early November 2014. Our book was published on October 20th, just in time to order a

batch to bring to the reunion in Berlin. It was the perfect place to launch our book-- against the backdrop of our beloved city, formerly captive, now free.

Cold War Memories is an informative and entertaining history of what life was like in Berlin for US dependents, their teachers and their families from 1946 until 1994. There are first-hand accounts covering the Berlin Air Lift (Col. Gail Halvorsen himself wrote the epilogue), the rise and fall of the Berlin Wall, JFK's visit to Berlin, Ronald Reagan's visits to the Walled City, the 1986 bombing of the La Belle discotheque, close encounters in Communist East Berlin and much more! These are our stories-some will make you laugh, some will make you cry. Many will intrigue and surprise you. Ten of our stories were written by former faculty, providing a unique insight into life in Cold War Berlin from a teacher's perspective. Some of our favorite stories are the heart-warming tales of the positive impact that DoDDS educators had on so many of us Berlin Brats.

"Teachers have an important role in our society as they help shape our children, who in turn, shape our future. When famous actors accept their Oscars, some have often thanked their teachers...or, showed the teacher who doubted them, that they really could be successful. In my case, whether it was Leonard, Sullivan, or Moreno, I learned skills that I still use today. That's a sign of great teaching. Although Mr. Leonard and Mr. Sullivan are now gone, their legacy still lives in their students." (excerpt from pg. 253)

If you would like to purchase a copy of our book (510 pages), it is available at Amazon.com or at our e-store (https://www.createspace.com/4863523). One dollar of every book purchased through our e-store will be donated to the Berlin Brats Alumni Association Scholarship Fund (please be aware that the Createspace website will require you to fill out a



couple of pages in order to place your order). We know you will enjoy this wonderful compilation of the stories of brats and their teachers!

Article by:

Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83

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Recognizing Our Donors - Annual Giving

Once a year AOSHS take the opportunity to thank members and friends who have contributed to the Archive Fund and the Operating Fund. While membership fees are the backbone of our funding, your donations are vital to carrying out and expanding the work of the society. These are the Donors and Support Levels:

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Ann Tracy	1

Continued on page 8

PUBLISHING SCHEDULE FOR THE QUARTERLY:

As the name indicates, the QUARTERLY is published four times a year. Material submitted for publication should reach the editors by: January 15; April 15; August 15; and October 15

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Recognizing Our Donors - Cumulative Giving

Many members have consistently given to AOSHS over many years. We take this opportunity to recognize and thank these members for their generous support between January 1, 2000 and December 31, 2014.

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LEAVING A LEGACY...The Mary Meuhring Circle was established in 2002 to recognize philanthropists large and small who have included AOSHS in their estate planning. Honored are friends who have made bequest through a will, trust, life insurance policy, or retirement plan. AOSHS is grateful for these thoughtful contributors, who truly provide for the Society's future. Those who wish to include AOSHS in their estate planning; please contact: President, AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104.









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The Museum of the American Military Family & Learning Center presents:

Schooling With Uncle Sam

A special exhibit about military children attending school on bases and posts around the world and the teachers who taught them



July 11-August 22, 2015

on display at



Special Collections Library

423 Central NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102

TUES-SAT 10 AM-6PM

505 848-1376

Some quotes from the Museum of the American Military Family's exhibit...AOSHS has pledged to provide some artifacts for this exhibit. It is already slated to go onto the Wheels Museum in a long-term exhibit...

"In 1960 I was sent to organize a school in Korea, alone and no place to live nor any type of school on the premises... Supplies? A desk and an American flag! The superintendent suggested I go to Pusan and take what was needed. He would send more as soon as we knew how many students we'd have."

Gladys McPheron, Teacher

"Berlin was just a shell in 1948 when I arrived to teach social studies and coach athletics... We may have been the only high school team in history to fly to every one of our away games all season."

Al Kyrios, Teacher and Coach

"In the beginning I was the only student from Bad Nauheim (Germany) so I had a jeep and driver take me to and from Frankfurt High School... I passed my entrance exams to West Point with good scores and felt on equal footing with my contemporaries at the Academy." Drake Wilson (1947 Frankfurt HS graduate)

Nonprofit Membership Program: AOSHS welcomes new members to join using this form. Please feel free to pass it along to friends and colleagues

NOTE: Effective August 1, 2009, the Individual Life Membership Program was discontinued. With the cost of operations continually on the rise, this seemed to be one of the economic moves to help us stay operational. Once we become life members, many of us forget that donations are still needed to help keep us afloat. {Those of us who are life members are, of course, grandfathered in – ALL existing life memberships are still in place. The program simply has been closed to future, new life memberships.}

So please do not forget to send in a donation — use your birthday as a reminder, for example. For those of you who have an annual membership, please renew on time. Your renewal date is listed on the address label of the *Quarterly*. You also may pay ahead. Just be sure to indicate that on the form. Dues may be paid by check, money order, or credit card. Use the form as well to update your information. It's important to keep us informed about address changes, as the newsletter is not usually forwarded.]

American Overseas Schools Historical Society, Inc. Nonprofit Membership Program 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104

PLEASE NOTE: This address is for tax-exempt MEMBERSHIP DUES, ILMP, AND DONATIONS ONLY.

Printed full name:			Ne	w Member] -or- Re	enewal \square
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Telephone:	E-mail:					
I am a Former -or- Cu	rrent : Educator	☐-or- Stu	ident 🗆 -or- 0	ther:		
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Credit Card)						
\$25 for annual dues and	4 issues of the new	sletter or	\$45 for two ye	ars/ 8 newsle	etters	
\$	Donation f	or the AO	SHS Endowme	nt/Building F	und.	
\$	Donation f	or the Dry	sdale Archives	Endowment F	und.	
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Signature		D	ate			
I have included AOSHS in n	ny estate planning 🗆]				
Referred for membership	by (if applicable):					
Total: \$						

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AOSHS Quarterly

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Board of Directors

AOSHS Board of Directors August 2014

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Tina Calo, Past President (Advisor) Email doddsdolly@yahoo.com

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Coordinator Charles Kelker

Regional Representatives Korea Irby Miller Guam Helen Bailey

Japan George Man Okinawa Mark Honnold Hawaii Linda Connelly

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The American Overseas Schools Historical Society

...is a Kansas non-profit organization that collects, records, preserves, exhibits and provides research opportunity about historical memorabilia of the American overseas schools. Members promote global knowledge and understanding of this unique endeavor, thus adding a critical chapter to the history of American education.

This AOSHS Quarterly is published four times a year by the Society to enhance public understanding of the human effort, service, reward, and sacrifice in educating our American children and youth abroad.

AOSHS MEMBERSHIP is \$25.00 annually and includes four issues of the newsletter. Two years for \$45.00. To join, send dues to AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104. A membership application form is provided elsewhere in this newsletter for your convenience.

DONATIONS to help preserve the American Overseas Schools Archives (AOSA) for posterity and historical research are appreciated and are tax deductible as allowed by the IRS. Donations may be sent to the above address.

READERS are ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT short, factual ARTICLES of human interest regarding their experiences overseas. Articles printed may or may not reflect the opinions of AOSHS. Please submit articles preferably by e-mail to overseasschools@aoshs.org, or by snail mail to: AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104.

The AOSHS Policy

The Directors realize that to obtain all AOSHS objectives:

- 1) the strong support of the membership is absolutely essential and must be recognized;
- 2) that although the Society greatly appreciates and recognizes all donations and gifts, it will neither recommend nor encourage its members to obtain the services or products of any company; and,
- 3) the Society will not discriminate on the basis of lifestyle, race, sex, religion, or political affiliation.

American Overseas Schools Historical Society Addresses

Office Manager/Archives Director Archives: Alumni Database Info Educator Database Info

Memorabilia Contact the President

Membership Memorial Program Office/Archives Assistant/Wichita Office

Web Site & Internet e-mail & Change of Address

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AOSHS Alumni Database, aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net phone (316) 265-6837 AOSHS Educator Database, aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net_phone (316) 265-6837

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AOSHS Membership, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104

AOSHS Memorial Program ,Attn: Dee Edwards, P.O. Box 370962, Las Vegas, NV 89137 AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104

www.aoshs.org

aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net phone (316) 265-6837

Mary Muehring Circle Honors AOSHS Members' Philanthropy

The Mary Muehring Circle was established in 2002 to recognize philanthropists large and small who have included AOSHS in their estate planning. It is important to provide for the Society's future in a variety of ways. AOSHS honors all those who have made bequests through a will, trust, life insurance policy, or retirement plan. If you wish to include AOSHS in your estate planning, please contact:

President, AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104



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