



aoshs QUARTERLY



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

LINDA CONNELLY

Happy Holidays to one and all! The start of the school year has come and gone. Hopefully, for our retired members, there were many good memories! For our members still working, the countdown to the December holidays has begun. For our BRAT members, recalling the great things that comprise the start of school...KUDOS to you...and we're glad you're part of AOSHS!

Just like the start of school, September also marks the start of the AOSHS year. Our **September annual meeting in Wichita** went well. We said a fond farewell to several board members: **Joel Hansen, Martha Brown, and Chris Limes**. On the flipside, we welcomed four new board members: **Kathy Einhorn, Buddy Leavitt, Mary VanDeventer, and Amy Zender**. You can find their biographies in this edition of the *AOSHS Quarterly*. Our board remains strong and dedicated to the mission of AOSHS!

Of note this **fall** on **30 August**, the **Pentagon** opened a special display

dedicated to the education of military students around the world. The display is an entire wall of the Pentagon in a common area on the third floor. Many will pass by each day and pause to look, learn, and reflect upon DoDDS education and to marvel at the 800+ current and previous DoDDS schools. **DoDEA** extended an invitation to the **AOSHS Board** to represent the thousands of teachers dedicated to this task over the decades. Those **Board Members** in attendance were **Joel Hansen, Jamey Hansen, Ron Harrison, Rebecca Dunn, and me**. In addition, **Glenna Harrison** attended. Of note, in addition to our teachers, one of the first students educated in a DoDDS Pacific school was in attendance. It was wonderful to be included and to represent all DoDDS teachers for the work that has been done for generations of military students.

AOSHS would like to thank **Mr. Tom Brady**, DoDEA Director; **Mr. Will Griffin**; and **Mr. Frank O'Gara** (retired) for including AOSHS in this important event. The recognition of the hard work of DoDDS teachers for so many decades is very appreciated. For DoDDS teachers and students to be celebrated in such a public way in the Pentagon is beyond description.

It should be noted that AOSHS was asked and provided input and

photographs for inclusion in this display.

Additionally, the Pentagon ceremony attendees visited the **National Museum of the US Army**. We met with both the **Chief Curator** and the **Assistant Curator**. We came away with fresh ideas for our **AOSHS Museum in Wichita**. Importantly, we noted to the Curator and Assistant Curator that there was no mention of DoDDS schools in their exhibits. Our input was accepted, and we were thanked for bringing this to their attention. We hope that DoDEA schools will be added to their display.

As always, the AOSHS Board had a busy quarter and continues to further the work and the mission of AOSHS. It was wonderful to be recognized by DoDEA and by the Pentagon.

Please note: I am certain some of you are wondering how you might see the display recognizing DoDDS schools at the Pentagon. Unfortunately, unless you have an escort from the Pentagon or have access in some authorized way, it is not a display readily available to the public because of Pentagon security. We were not allowed to take our phones or any cameras into the Pentagon for the ceremony.

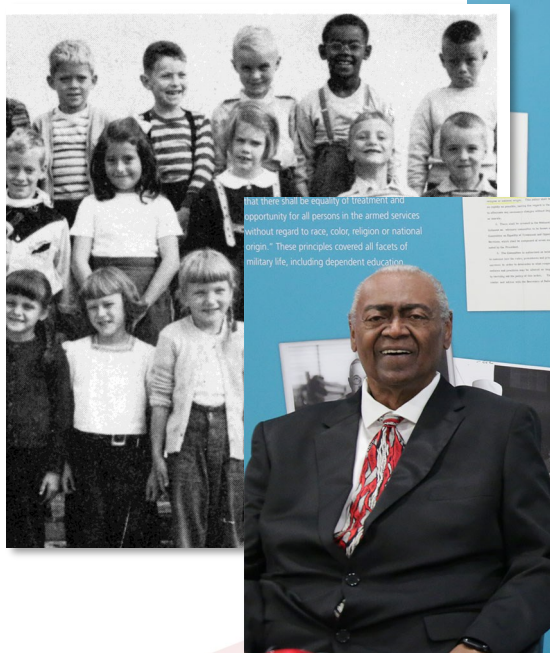
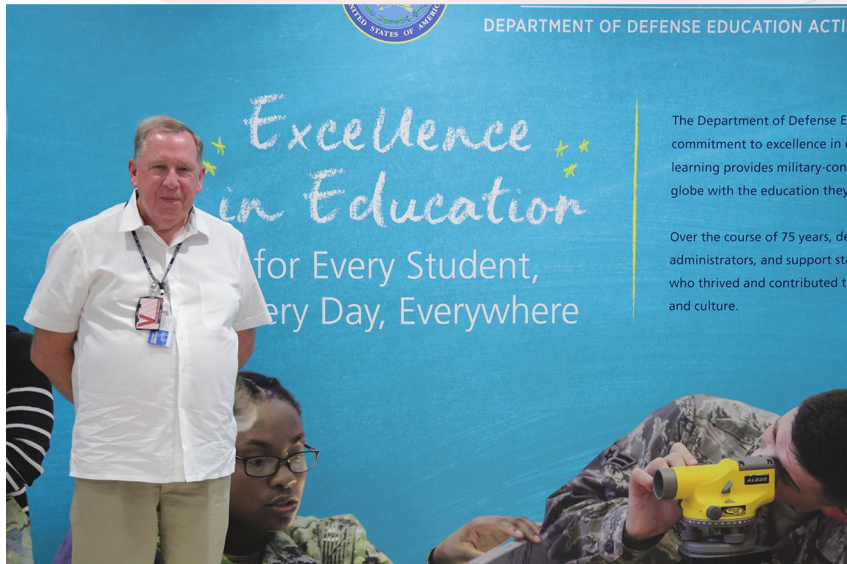
Pentagon Wall Ceremony

(Photos: DoDEA)

You can see many more photos from this event on **DoDEA Communication's** Flickr profile:

www.flickr.com/photos/dodeacommunications

Look for them in the "Pentagon Wall Ceremony" album under **Albums**.





AOSHS Financial Summary Report

Ron Harrison

	October-2023
AOSHS Assets (Not including building and furnishings)	659,281
Reserved Operating Funds (Reserved for contractors, 80% of non-personnel costs, scholarship fund and Endowment Fund)	542,026
Non-Reserved Assets (Available for operations & unpaid obligations)	117,255
Unpaid Obligations	—
Non-Reserved Assets (After obligations are paid)	117,255

School Histories Update

Rebecca Dunn

We have posted histories for **over ninety percent** of the Department of Defense Schools overseas. Some of the histories are in-depth and many are very brief. Sadly, there are several schools that don't have any information other than an opening and closing date. As my term as historian is ending, I am seeking your help once again.

Many of the schools that don't have a history posted were only open for a short time in the early years of our program, and if we are unable to find information from the people who worked at or attended the schools, the school will just be a name on the list of schools. **Please review the histories of the schools where you worked or attended and help me make your school live on.** We are missing information on most of the elementary schools in France and early schools in the Pacific. The histories are located on our website, aoshs.org, under **Collections** and then **School Histories**.

Of the recent schools, we don't have any information on **Narimasu Middle School** in Japan, which was open in the seventies, or **Rainbow Middle School** in Germany, which was open from 1986 until 2015. We also need information on the early years of the **Sullivans School** in Japan and **Sullivans Middle School**.

If you have any information on these schools or any of the school histories, please email me at simplydunn@comcast.net. Also please continue to send us memorabilia from the schools. Your contributions make our collection richer and more inclusive.

REMEMBER,
WE NEED
YOU
TO HELP
**MAKE IT
HAPPEN**



The Year in Review

Rebecca Dunn

Each year the **AOSHS Board of Directors** reviews the work they have accomplished and prepares for the next year by defining their goals and determining who will be responsible for the actions necessary to achieve the year's work. The accomplishments are published in **Historical Book 1**. This year we decided to also publish our accomplishments in the *AOSHS Quarterly*.

AOSHS ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2022–2023

(September 2022—September 2023)

- Assisted DoDEA in a major project at the **Pentagon** by providing historical information and input into the development of a map depicting ALL DoD schools since 1907. The project included a large mural covering 143 linear feet, describing past and present aspects of the Department of Defense Education Activity.
- Increased funds in the **AOSHS Endowment Fund** to \$350,000.
- Increased **membership** to 1,249 members, representing a 22% increase.
- Increased the number of **yearbooks digitized** and placed online to over 4,300.
- Increased the number of **yearbook titles available** in the archive as either physical copies or PDFs to over 5,100 (Physical copies increased to over 3,700).
- Photographed and posted approximately 70,000 **archive items on the website**.
- Through continued outreach for memorabilia and memories about DoD schools, increased the number of **items in the archives** to over 200,000.
- Researched, wrote, and posted **school histories** for over 90% of the overseas schools on the website.
- Launched a successful initiative on **Facebook** in which the archivist posts artifacts each Friday highlighting five schools. In three months, 1,100 people were added to our Facebook membership, representing an increase of 14%. By the end of July 2023, AOSHS have over 8,500 Facebook members.
- Expanded the number of **Virtual Remembrances** posted on the website and continued to receive donations to those previously posted. AOSHS continues to promote the program by posting to several Facebook Groups.
- Developed a relationship with the **National Museum of the United States Army** to display information about teachers/administrators and students and their connections to the military. Establishing this connection to military-museums is a giant step toward expanding AOSHS's reach.
- Awarded six **Thomas Drysdale Memorial Scholarships** totaling \$9,000, which were funded by BRATS, educators, and alumni. The scholarships were awarded to two students from Kadena and one student each from Kinnick, Sigonella, Kaiserslautern, and Stuttgart. The scholarships for Kaiserslautern and Stuttgart were completely funded by alumni from those schools but managed via AOSHS.
- Produced and presented an **updated video of the AOSHS headquarters and museum** which was shown at the DoDDS Reunion and made available on the AOSHS website.
- Created **awareness and support of AOSHS** beyond our membership.

As you can see, we had a very busy year and hope 2023-2024 will be a year of growth and new endeavors.



If you are not already a member of the **AOSHS FB group**, you can request to join here:

www.facebook.com/groups/169980156354700/about/

Getting to Know Our Newest Board Members

AOSHS welcomes our newest board members: **Kathy Einhorn, Buddy Leavitt, Mary VanDeventer, and Amy Zender.**

KATHY EINHORN



Kathy Einhorn grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah after moving there in 1963 with her family. She earned a Bachelor of Science in

Special Education and Psychology with a minor in English from the University of Utah and started her teaching career as a teacher for 7th through 9th graders with Learning Disabilities and Behavior Disorders at Valley Junior High in West Valley, Utah.

Kathy moved to **Bamberg, West Germany** in 1986 with her military husband, Jeff, and two children, Jeff Jr. and Jenny, where she became a Special Education and English teacher at **Bamberg American Middle/High School**. She also coached girls' basketball and cheerleaders, helped develop the Honors English Program, and created the S.T.A.R.S. student recognition program.

The Einhorns left Germany in 1990 for **Ft. Benning, Georgia**, where Kathy taught elementary Special Education at **Wilson Elementary** and was assistant Special Education Director and Curriculum Director before accepting a position as an Instructional Systems Specialist in 2002 at the new **DDESS Service Center** in Peachtree City, Georgia. Kathy and Jeff moved to **Guantanamo Bay, Cuba** in 2007, where Kathy served as Principal for

W.T. Sampson Unit School while Jeff oversaw the Columbia College campus. Kathy retired from GTMO after 24 years of service in DoDEA in 2010 and became Principal at Trailside Elementary in Park City, Utah for four years, followed by serving as Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning for four years in Park City. She retired in 2018 and has been working for Learning Sciences/Instructional Empowerment in a variety of projects. She currently works in a project on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona at Red Mesa and Kayenta Unified School Districts.

Kathy earned an MS in Learning Disabilities, an Ed Specialist in Administration and Supervision, and an Ed. D in Instructional Leadership over her career. Kathy and Jeff enjoyed being close to their children and grandchildren for eight years prior to Jeff's sudden passing in 2018. Kathy still enjoys time with family, pickleball, kayaking, hiking, and travel and is looking forward to contributing to AOSHS in her new board role.

BUDDY LEAVITT



Buddy was born in Fort Lee, Virginia and grew up in Hopewell right outside the Army Base. Buddy's father was in the Army for 24 years, and his mother was a schoolteacher. While his parents were stationed in Germany, his mother taught for the Health Education Welfare Schools, now named DoDEA, from 1949–1953.

Buddy entered DoDDS/DoDEA in 1988 from Hattiesburg, Mississippi. His first duty station was **Clark Air**

Base, The Republic of the Philippines. Buddy spent his 33 years teaching in **ten locations** throughout the system. He had the opportunity to teach children with learning disabilities, multiage/multigrade combinations, as well as teaching 2nd through 8th grades while teaching for the DoDDS/DoDEA schools.

Buddy retired in 2021 to his home in the mountains of North Carolina with his two dogs – Simon Chadwick and Henry Turnbull. His son, Conrad and Conrad's fiancé, Nicole, live close, and they get to see each other often. Buddy has adopted two boxers since retiring – Allie Drake and Trina Gayle. Since retiring, Buddy has stayed busy with substitute work and is currently a Supervisor for the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP) for Westat.

MARY VANDEVENTER



Mary began her DoDEA career as a substitute teacher at **Kaiserslautern American High School** in 1979. The next two school years

found her at **Baumholder American High School** and **Sembach Elementary / Junior High School**. She made her way back to Kaiserslautern High School, then transferred to **Naples High School** when her active-duty husband retired. She was fortunate enough to also spend time in the Pacific region, teaching at **Lester Middle School** and **Nile C. Kinnick High School**. She eventually made her way back to

Continued on Page 7

Board Members -continued

Germany, spending the last thirteen of her thirty-eight years in DoDEA at **Vilseck High School**. She has taught English, music, drama, yearbook, journalism, and social studies.

Mary attended Ball State University, earned her Bachelor of Art in English at Trenton State College, and her Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction at National Louis University.

Since her retirement in 2021, Mary and her husband (also a retired DoDEA teacher) have spent time travelling to visit family and friends, returning to Europe several times. Their daughter, son, and daughter in law are all Kinnick High School graduates. One granddaughter is currently a DoDEA “Brat” enrolled at Vicenza Elementary.

Mary and her husband Steve currently reside in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

AMY ZENDER

Look for Amy’s biography in a subsequent issue.

Spotlighting Teachers Who Made a Difference

Rebecca Dunn

Many of us have had a teacher who made a difference in our lives. **AOSHS** would like to provide a platform for students to recognize **DoDDS teachers** who made a profound impact on their lives. Several students have written about teachers on our Facebook group and on school alumni pages. We would like to collect these memories and additional memories so we can publish them.

To recognize a teacher who made a difference in your life or career choice, please write a paragraph or two detailing how this teacher influenced you. Be sure to include the name of the teacher, the school, and your grade level. Submit this information to **simplydunn@comcast.net**. Let’s remember those who impacted our lives.



Did You Know?

The photograph of Melvin Gilmer’s class on the new DoDEA mural in the Pentagon (see page 2) is from this 1949 Okinawa University High School *Torii* yearbook sitting happily on the shelves at the AOSHS Museum and Archives, available for researchers and guests to enjoy. Donate today to help us preserve and promote our history!

aoshs.org/support/archive-donations/

AOSHS
704 W Douglas Ave
Wichita, KS 67203

- Please include a completed Property Donation Form when donating items, which you can find at the link above or at aoshs.org/forms/
- If you’re planning to donate yearbooks, please contact us before sending them to confirm they’re yearbooks we need.

RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO

DONATE

TO AOSHS

AOSHS wishes to recognize this quarter's donors who support the Museum and Archives and our operating fund. While membership fees are definitely the backbone of our funding, member donations are vital to carrying out and expanding the work of the Society.

The annual recognition program runs from the current DoDDS Reunion (Reunion XXXV in Omaha, July 12, 2023) to the beginning of the DoDDS Reunion the following year (Reunion XXXVI).

Donors within the Support Levels have their names published in the *AOSHS Quarterly* the quarter that their donation was received, or if missed, the following newsletter. Please let us know if we missed including your donation so we can correct that error. **All donors for the year will be recognized for the final time in each Fall issue**, and to all of you who found it in your hearts and pocketbooks to support the AOSHS mission, ***WE THANK YOU!***

DONOR SUPPORT LEVELS

Supporters

Those who donate from \$25 to \$99

Friends

Those who donate from \$100 to \$249

Pacesetters

Those who donate from \$250 to \$499

Sponsors

Those who donate from \$500 to \$999

Patrons

Those who donate from \$1,000 to \$1,999

Benefactors

Those who donate \$2,000 or more

SUPPORTERS

Jessica Allen
Nancy Bresell
Ruth Dengrove
Maryellen Pienta
Lynna "Lynn" Price
Fort Smith HS
(Class of 1959)
Dan Friedman
Melissa Klopfer
Kytja Weir

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Luz Aviles
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Marilyn & Michael Fitzgerald
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SPONSORS

Kimball Medders

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Robert "Lucky" Moore
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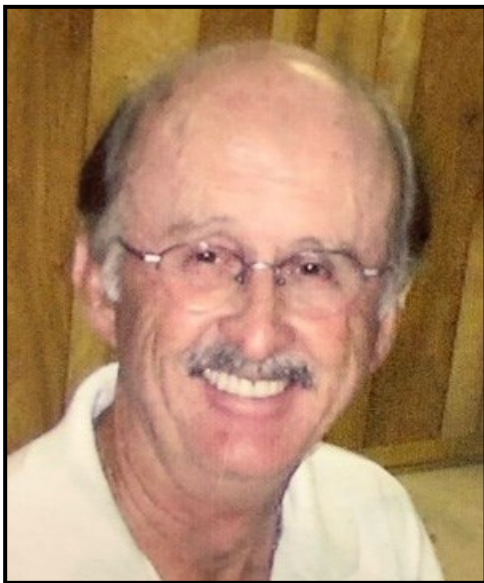
We Thank You!



IN MEMORIAM

FRANKLIN “FRANK” DANIEL HILL

January 10, 1934 – October 19, 2023



Franklin Daniel Hill passed away on Thursday, October 19th, 2023, at his home in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Frank was born on January 10th, 1934, the eighth child of Charles Daniel and Ollie Willow (Nichols). Frank attended numerous small rural schools throughout Seminole County, including Carr City, Hazel, and Pleasant Grove. He graduated from Pleasant Grove High School in 1952 and began attending Seminole Junior college (SJC).

He left SJC to join the US Army from 1953–1955 and served in the northeastern part of the US. Following his Army service, Frank earned a Bachelor of Science in 1957 from the then East Central State College, in Ada, Oklahoma. As a newly minted Math teacher, he moved west and taught in Compton, California for two years before returning and teaching at US Grant High School in Oklahoma City.

The year 1961 was a pivotal time in Frank’s life because he decided to take an opportunity to become a teacher with DoDDS. His first assignment was in Ankara, Turkey; followed by Hahn and Wiesbaden, Germany; Rota, Spain; Karamürsel, Turkey; Peshawar, Pakistan; Weathersfield, England; Kadena and Kubasaki, Okinawa, Japan; Frankfurt, Germany; and finally, Wiesbaden, Germany. The positions he held included Math teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, Secondary Coordinator, Chief of Executive Services, and District Superintendent (Hessen) before retiring in 1991 as Special Assistant to the Deputy Director of DoDDS. Along the way he earned a master’s degree from the University of Oklahoma and completed the course work for a doctorate at the University of Southern California.

Following his retirement, Frank moved to a golf course in the Pacific Northwest for two years before moving to Shawnee in 1993 to be closer to his brothers and sister. Frank continued to travel in his retirement. He enjoyed spending time with friends from all over the world, skiing, playing tennis, renovating his home, and golfing with his brother Bryce and his local golf buddies at courses all over the state and beyond.



IN MEMORIAM

-continued

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ellen Goode Minette's fund was opened by Frank Roehl in June 2023. The fund currently totals \$225.

If you would like to contribute to these funds or start a new Memorial Virtual Remembrance to honor someone, please visit aoshs.org/virtual-remembrances/.

Below are the latest notices we have received of those recently deceased. While we are pleased to provide this service to our membership, we realize that we may not know of other colleagues who have passed. You can help us by informing the AOSHS office when you learn of the passing of others. If you would like to purchase a Memorial Virtual Remembrance in honor of one of these or other colleagues, go to aoshs.org/virtual-remembrances/.

In Memory

MARK BENHAM

June 20, 1950 – October 19, 2023

CAROL CARLTON

February 5, 1932 – June 18, 2023

FRANK D. HILL

January 10, 1934 – October 19, 2023

MARIANNA MOUNSEY

September 15, 1932 – July 1, 2023

JAMES H. MULDER

_____ – August 20, 2023

MARY ANN RUSH

March 23, 1941 – October 8, 2023



AOSHS

American Overseas Schools Historical Society

Preserving the Legacy of DoD Schools Worldwide

Dear current and former DoDDS/DoDEA employees and Military and Civilian Brats,

My name is Buddy Leavitt and I have undertaken the role of Membership Chairman for the American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS). The purpose of this letter is to let you know that this organization is for you. The goal and vision of this society was established many years ago by former DoDDS employees with a mission to establish a museum to honor and remember the schools and the people that belonged to our DoDDS/DoDEA organization.

Our museum and archives are located in Wichita, Kansas. Under the guidance of Dr. Thomas Drysdale in the 1990s the ground was dedicated to the legacy of the Overseas Schools in the summer of 2001. Years later the museum was built in Wichita in a different location. We welcome visitors from around the world to our 1400 sq. ft. reception and gallery space.

Membership is what keeps this dream and vision alive. We currently have 1248 members. The board invites you to join AOSHS. Currently the membership fee is \$25.00 a year, \$45.00 for two years, or 5 years for \$100.00. Our goal for this year is to reach 1500 members. You can find a membership form on our website at aoshs.org/membership/.

If you are a Facebook user, we have a Facebook page and an active Facebook group. Just type "AOSHS" in the Facebook search box and you will see them. Please do not hesitate to ask questions. My AOSHS email address is: buddy@aoshs.org

Sincerely,

Buddy Leavitt
American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS)
Membership Chair



704 West Douglas Avenue
Wichita, KS 67203



316-265-6837



office@aoshs.org



<https://aoshs.org>

aoshs **DIRECTORY**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AS OF DECEMBER 2023

Linda Connelly	President	llcmkc@yahoo.com
Jamey Hansen	Secretary	jamey.h@aoshs.org
Ron Harrison	Treasurer	Ron@aoshs.org
Rebecca Dunn	Historian/Collections	simplydunn@comcast.net
Kathy Einhorn	Remembrances	
Chris Kyrios	BRAT Representative	kyriosc@yahoo.com
Buddy Leavitt	Membership	buddy@aoshs.org
Frank Roehl	Social Media Liaison	frankroehl@yahoo.com
Mary VanDeventer	AOSHS Quarterly Publication	
Amy Zender	BRAT Membership	

STAFF, CONTRACTORS and ASSISTANCE

Jaime Zajac	Office Manager
Adam Gossman	Contracted Curator
Kevin Frutiger	Contracted Digitization / Webmaster
Monica Lange	CISR
Lesley McLeary	CPA/
(with Walter Pikul)	Personnel Accountant

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Gayle Vaughn-Wiles	Past President
Tina Calo	Incoming Obituaries
Richard Nell	Overdue Memberships
Winanne Murray	
& Susan Nordell	Donor Recognitions \$100-\$499
Myrna L. Margraf	Wichita Archive Volunteer
Chrystie Limes	Wichita Volunteer
Monique Margraf	Wichita Digitization Volunteer

FOUNDER EMERITUS

Thomas T. Drysdale, May 4, 1921 – February 28, 2013

The AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY (AOSHS)

AOSHS 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, two years for \$45.00, or five years for \$100.00. To join, visit our website at www.aoshs.org/membership/ where you can submit a membership form and payment online or download a membership form to send by mail.

DONATIONS to help preserve the AOSHS Museum and Archives for posterity and historical research are appreciated and are tax deductible as allowed by the IRS. Donations may be sent to **AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203.**

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 office@aoshs.org, or by postal mail to: **AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203.**

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

Website
Memorabilia
Contact the President
Membership
Remembrance Program
Email & Change of Address

AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104
office@aoshs.org Phone (316) 265-6837
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AOSHS Archives, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104
President, office@aoshs.org Phone (316) 265-6837
AOSHS Membership, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104
AOSHS Virtual Remembrance Program, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104
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