



Qaoshs QUARTERLY



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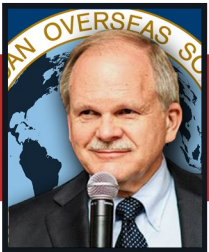
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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

FRANK ROEHL

Who or where are your connections to your experiences with **DoD** schools? In the last month, I've had the privilege to attend two gatherings that brought back many memories but more importantly, afforded me opportunities to reconnect with friends, former students, and colleagues from a shared past.

The first was an informal local gathering organized by a **DoDDS** retired teacher. First, she solicited a range of possible dates over social media. Based upon the responses, she published the details of where and when the gathering would take place and asked everyone to share the info. There were 22 attendees from a 3500-miles radius! The plan is to repeat the activity once a year.

The second was an all-years reunion for a school where I taught and coached. It was organized by the school's alumni association. The organization of the event was massive with lots of notice and preplanning, and it was a resounding success with over 200 attendees!

The point here is that with some planning, activities can bring together people with shared experiences. For me personally, and for other **DoDDS** teachers I have spoken with, people with our unique **DoDDS** experience are hard to find. Non-**DoDDS** folks simply can't relate as they didn't experience what we did.

I urge you to organize or help organize an event small or large, local or wide, to maintain the spirit and connectedness of the **DoDDS** family. They are truly rewarding and I immeasurably enjoyed both.

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



AOSHS Financial Summary Report

Ron Harrison

	Aug. 2025
AOSHS Assets (Not including building and furnishings)	\$988,395
Reserved Operating Funds (Reserved for contractors, 80% of non-personnel costs, scholarship fund and Endowment Fund)	\$875,177
Non-Reserved Assets (Available for operations & unpaid obligations)	\$113,218
Unpaid Obligations	—
Non-Reserved Assets (After obligations are paid)	\$113,218

Raffle Quilt Donated to Veteran's Hospital

Glenna Harrison

Presenting this patriotic quilt to **Denise L. Cunningham, Chief of the Center for Development & Civic Engagement** at the **Colmary-O'Neil Veteran's Administration Hospital** in **Topeka, Kansas** on September 18, 2025 are **Ron and Glenna Harrison of Manhattan, Kansas**.

The quilt was given to **AOSHS** for their raffle at the **DoDDS Reunion in Reno, Nevada** in July, 2025. **Lani Allanson-Donaho**, a retired teacher from **Elgin, Illinois**, won the quilt made by the **Orange Blossom Quilt Guild of Visalla, California**. It was quilted and entered in the raffle by **Darlene Heisey** from California. After Lani won the quilt, she mentioned that she really would like to have it hung in a Veteran's hospital. AOSHS Board member, Ron Harrison, and wife Glenna, took it home to Kansas and presented the quilt in Topeka, thus fulfilling the wishes of the winner of the quilt.

Thank you Lani!





Curator's Corner

by Adam Gossman

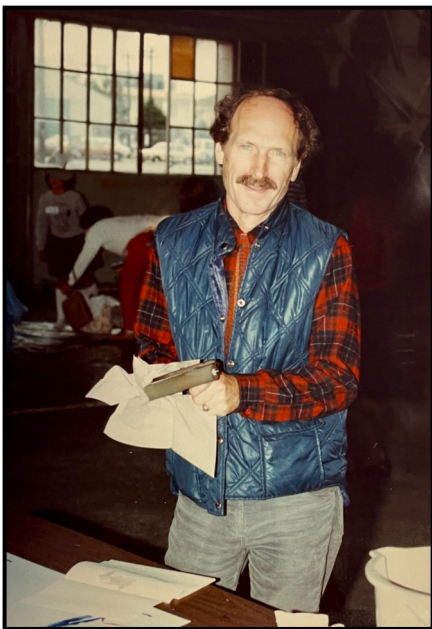


A few weeks back I got two packages in the mail. For a curator the postal carrier is a bit like Santa. When they come around I jump up and run next door to the office and ask **Jaime** if I got anything.

That day Jaime said, “Yeah, you have two packages from **James McGrath**.”

When I first started at AOSHS I saw some dusty, faded art portfolios shoved up on an even dustier shelf. That dust was everywhere and I could not bring myself to open up these portfolios for 7 years. I could only imagine what kind of damage had happened. To borrow from **Augustine**, “Lord, give me [patience], but do not give it to me yet.”

In 2002, former **Art Coordinator**, teacher, etc. James McGrath started giving our founder, **Dr. Drysdale** many things: photographs, booklets, programs, student artwork. We have been working through the massive collection and it was finally time that I faced the music of student art work.



James McGrath has always impress me. Others might find him eccentric, but I have found him to have great foresight and intelligence. There was nothing damaged.

When Jaime said I had two more packages from James McGrath I turned white. I had thought he passed away a couple years ago. But I was wrong. It made

sense as he was one of the young men in **Dr. Steele's** most awesome early photographic slides of the early teachers from the 1950s.

One box was filled with **SUN Student Creative Anthologies**—duplicates of some we already have in our museum. A letter was included saying that we probably have them already. Indeed, he had donated them to us long ago.

The second box was filled with packing peanuts. Though I have the most respect for this wonderful man, I loathe packing peanuts. They are the hiccups of packing materials. There are still loose peanuts on the floor.

After fighting with those miserable things I dug out a rusty, dusty green tackle box. Just like my grandpa had. Great quality and super awesome.



I opened it up and it was filled with art supplies. Everything had its place. The crayons were at least 50 years old.

Enclosed was another letter...with a phone number!

I immediately called him.

He answered!

My insides immediately turned to goo. His voice was as kind as his memory in my heart. We spoke for a little while. He said that he was 97 and that it was time to let that go. I guess it was one of his most favorite things (and now one of my favorite things).

I looked and saw some of those student pieces gently tucked into those dusty portfolios. “Some of those

Continued on Page 4



pieces of art work were very good. How did you get the kids to do such things?"

He said, "All you need is patience...and love. Just pour it on them and it comes out on the paper."

Sometimes you just have to tell someone they are awesome. It is good for our souls. It was amazing to be able to tell him what his collection means for us, how his memory will remain, and help the future. It was so easy.

I have tried to call other people of a similar age. Life goes by pretty fast, the least we can do is to speak truth into the beautiful things and people who come to your path, whether they are living or have passed. May we all remember those people who have made our lives beautiful, and not wait until they have passed to tell them so.



Getting to Know Our Newest Board Members

AOSHS welcomes our newest board members: **DeVee Dietz (Scholarships/BRAT Representative)**, **Mary Leonhart (Historian)** and **Julie Wittenberg (Secretary)**.

DEVEE DIETZ



DeVee (York) Dietz is a lifelong learner, educator, and artist who believes her roots as a military child have profoundly

shaped her perspective and purpose. Growing up an "Army brat" with three siblings, they moved every 1–3 years, living across the U.S. and abroad before graduating from **Karlsruhe American High School in Germany**. These frequent transitions instilled in her a deep appreciation for cultural diversity, adaptability, creativity, and the

power of connection and values that continue to influence her today.

Following in the footsteps of her parents and grandmother, she earned her B.S. in Art and Art Education from **South Dakota State University** and her Master of Science in Educational Leadership at **Southwest Minnesota State University**.

Over 30 years in education, DeVee has taught in alternative, middle, high school, and college settings across **South Dakota, Minnesota, and Montana**. Her roles have included visual arts teacher, reading interventionist, instructional coach, language arts, and social studies educator. As Director of Civic Education Programs at the **Chiesman Center for Democracy** through the **Center of Civic Education**, she coordinated statewide initiatives such as **Kids Voting South Dakota** and **Project Citizen**, promoting student voice and civic engagement.

As an advocate for arts and civic education, DeVee has presented and held workshops at local, state, and national professional development conferences on visual arts, civic, and character education. Alongside a colleague, she co-created, **ARTsome Astronomy I & II**, innovative **STREAM** curricula integrating visual arts with space science, and provided workshops and resources across the state. She has also served as **President of the South Dakota Art Education Association** and contributed to numerous advisory boards supporting the arts, community, and civic education.

DeVee lives in the **Black Hills** of South Dakota with her husband, **Kevin**. They have two grown children, **Kyle (Harrisburg, SD)** and **Kendra (Boerne, TX)**, and 7 grandchildren. As with many military brats, she feels a strong connection with other "military brats" and believes the **DoDEA** schools, teachers, and her peers helped support and shape who she is today.

Getting to Know Our Newest Board Members *-continued*

MARY LEONHART



After graduating with both Bachelor's and Master's degrees from **Southwestern Oklahoma State University** and teaching

two years in rural **Oklahoma**, **Mary Leonhart** began here **DoDDS** career in 1983 as a Home Economics and Reading teacher at **Cristobal Jr./Sr. High School** in **Panama**. Her next duty station of three years was **Bahrain School**. Following an amazing adventure in **Bahrain**, Mary moved on to **Frankfurt HS** for eight years, teaching Foods and nutrition, Child Development, Clothing and Textiles, Family Living, U.S. History, and World Regions. At Frankfurt HS, Mary Sponsored the **Keyettes** and served as chair of the Vocational Education Department, School Improvement Committee, and the **Social** Committee. As the U.S. military moved out of Frankfurt, Mary transferred to **Camp Zama, Japan**, where she taught Home Economics, Reading, and Health for three years, as well as chairing the School-Home Partnership Committee. In Japan, Mary served as **PDK-Japan** secretary and later Vice President.

Longing to return to **Europe**, Mary accepted a transfer to **Darmstadt Middle School**, where she taught Home Economics and English for eight years. At Darmstadt, she led the School Improvement Team, the social committee, and sponsored a Crafts Club. She also served as President of the community thrift

shop. With Darmstadt's impending closure, Mary applied for and was selected to serve as the School Improvement and Assessment Specialist for the **Heidelberg District**. She served two years as the **PDK-Germany** President. While in Heidelberg, she completed her PhD in Organizational Leadership with the **University of Oklahoma**.

As Heidelberg closed, Mary moved on to the same role in the **Bavaria District**. Three years later, the Bavaria District was redistricted and Dr. Leonhart moved to the **DoDEA-Europe Regional Office** in **Sembach, Germany** to serve as Activities Coordinator for Europe. Retiring in 2021, Mary currently enjoys retirement in **Lawton, Oklahoma** where she manages her church's clothes closet for the needy, volunteers at the senior center, leads singing at church, serves as church lay leader, serves as a board member for the **Wesley Foundation** at **Cameron University**, and prepares meals for **Family Promise Homeless Shelter**. Mary also enjoys participating in **OHCE**, providing a creative outlet for her Home Economist Skills. She looks forward to the annual DoDDS reunions as opportunities to renew old friendships and build new ones.

JULIE WITTENBERG



Julie Wittenberg graduated with her bachelor's degree from **Capital University, Columbus, Ohio** in 1986

and began her teaching career at an

inner-city elementary school in the **Columbus City School District**. She received her master's degree from The **Ohio State University** and for five years worked as a district Title I Primary Program Coordinator for the Columbus City School district.

In 1996, Julie moved to **Germany** as a Reading Recovery Teacher Leader for **DoDDS Europe**. Housed at **Vogelweh Elementary School** in the **Kaiserslautern** district, this position gave her the opportunity to travel and work with teachers and administrators at many of the elementary schools across Europe. She supported Schools in Germany as well as teachers and schools in **Belgium, the Netherlands, Iceland, the Azores, Italy, and Spain**.

After 11 years of working with adult educators, she decided to return to the classroom where she taught first grade at **Landstuhl EMS (ES)** from 2007-2024. During this time, she had the honor of being the 2018-2019 Teacher of the Year for the **VFW** at the Post, as the **European PTA**. She spent five years on the European PTA board serving as secretary and membership chair. During this time, she met teachers and parents from all over Europe.

Working with military affiliated students and parents was the highlight of her career. After 28 years with the Department of Defense schools, Julie retired in 2024. She moved back to the Columbus, Ohio area to be with family and now resides in **Grove City, Ohio**.

Annual Armed Forces Community Foundation Match Day

Mary VanDeventer

Again this year, AOSHS will participate in the annual Armed Forces Community Foundation (AFCF) Stand-to-Match Day, which will again take place on **November 11th**. AOSHS is one of the organizations that has partnered with the AFCF for funds matching. In fact, one half of our Endowment Fund is invested in the Greater Manhattan Community Fund, Armed Forces Community Foundation, a local fund in Northeast Kansas that supports the Military Community of nonprofit organizations in the Fort Riley area. If you are planning on making a donation to AOSHS in the near future, please do it by November 11, 2025 for us to gain full benefit of this Match Day.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Patterson Family Foundation, there will be **up to \$50,000 in Match Money** available this year. The Patterson Family Foundation will award up to \$100,000 to AFCF for dollar per dollar raised during the event, with up to \$50,000 earmarked for an endowments for operating costs and/or grants and up to \$50,000 for participating organizations, such as AOSHS.

Individual gifts between \$25 and \$3,500 will receive a 50% match per organization.

Each organization, including AOSHS, is eligible for a total match of \$1,750.

- For example: If you make a \$500 donation to AOSHS, \$500 will go to the AOSHS fund, and AOSHS will receive a \$250 match from AFCF.

If you are in the Manhattan, KS area, you can drop off your gift at the donation tent that will be set up outside City Hall from 8:00AM to 1:00PM on November 11, the



STAND-TO-MATCH DAY

day of the Veterans Day Parade. In case of inclement weather, donations will be taken inside the City of Manhattan building lobby.

Should you choose to mail your gift, it must be postmarked on or before November 11, 2025 and received by November 14th. You can download the donation form at:

www.standtomatchday.com.

You can also find the donation form on page 12 of this newsletter.

You would mail the form and your donation (made out to AFCF) to:

GMCF
P.O. Box 1127
Manhattan, KS 66505

Online gifts can be made between 12:00 a.m. November 11th - 11:59 p.m November 11, 2025 at:

www.standtomatchday.com

On that day the homepage will become the actual donation form where you can indicate how much you'd like to give.

Stand To Match Day is an opportunity to more quickly grow our AOSHS funding for charitable and philanthropic causes, so that we can enrich our programs for even greater impact in our community for years to come.

Members, be on the lookout for an email with additional information!



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

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

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 XXXVI in Lexington, KY, July 12, 2024) to the beginning of the DoDDS Reunion the following year (Reunion XXXVII).

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

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Those who donate from \$25 to \$99

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Those who donate from \$100 to \$249

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Those who donate from \$500 to \$999

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We Thank You!



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We Thank You!

WANTED



AOSHS wants your **CLASSROOM PHOTOGRAPHS** from elementary and middle schools for the Archives. They may be donated or loaned, and they will be scanned and made available for viewing through the AOSHS website. If donated, they will be placed in the Archives. If loaned, they will be returned to you.

AOSHS WANTS YOUR PHOTOS TO PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF
DOD SCHOOLS AROUND THE WORLD!

Please send your photographs to:

AOSHS
704 W Douglas Ave
Wichita, KS 67203

For donations, please include a
Property Donation Form, found at:

aoshs.org/forms/



IN MEMORIAM

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Linda Greer's fund was opened by Ryan Cressman in April 2025. The fund currently totals \$250.

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

JOHN AVERA

October 18, 1952 – July 6, 2025

BARBARA BRADFORD

September 1, 1924 – November 29, 2023

Continued on Page 8



IN MEMORIAM

-continued



ROSS CALVERT

March 27, 1947 – September 7, 2025

RUSSELL CAPLENER

_____ – December 27, 2024

JOAN CROCE

September 27, 1929 – July 18, 2025

SHERRI EDDOWES-PLUMMER

_____ – May 28, 2025

MARCIA EDWARDS

October 26, 1946 – July 9, 2025

WILLIAM “BILLY” EDWARDS

November 2, 1945 – July 22, 2025

MARY ANN EMMENDORFER

September 4, 1930 – June 2, 2025

JACK GARDNER

_____ – June 13, 2025

LINDA MCCLEMENS

February 3, 1950 – May 27, 2025

DON MILLER

September 6, 1944 – June 21, 2025

RUTH MORGAN

_____ – June 4, 2025

LESLIE JEANNE NETTLETON

February 1, 1969 – February 14, 2025

JOHN ‘JACK’ O’REILLY

_____ – January 2024

RON RIOUX

July 9, 1946 – May 19, 2025

CHARLES ROSE

February 16, 1948 – June 18, 2025

LYMAN SCHEEL

May 9, 1927 – July 25, 2021

CAROL M. TULLY

August 23, 1937 – May 26, 2025

JAMES ‘JIM’ VAIL

_____ – April 25, 2025

TONDRE J. WERNETTE

April 7, 2025 – June 20, 2025

CHLOE YAMAMOTO

1936 – February 17, 2024

2025 Armed Forces "Stand To" Match Day Donation Form

DONOR NAME(S) _____

Check here to remain anonymous, no information shared with participating funds: ☐

STREET ADDRESS _____ CITY/ST/ZIP _____

PHONE # _____ *EMAIL _____

*Indicate e-mail address above to receive an electronic gift acknowledgment for tax purposes. We do not share e-mail addresses.

For Office Use Only:

Check #: _____

Cash Receipt: _____

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Please write donation amount on line next to each organization. Gifts between \$25 & \$3,500 per agency will receive a 50% match from the available matching funds. Each organization is eligible for up to \$1,750 in matching funds.

_____ 70th Armor Charitable Fund	_____ Lee-Pierson VFW Post 1786 Fund
_____ AFCF Grants Fund	_____ Military Police Association Charitable Fund
_____ AOSHS Endowment Fund	_____ Officers of the First Division Fund
_____ Armed Forces Community Foundation Fund	_____ Operation Santa Claus Fund
_____ Association of the United States Army (AUSA	_____ Packages for Warriors - Youngstown, Ohio Fund
Fort Riley-Central Kansas Chapter Fund	_____ Packages for Warriors - Gainesville, GA Fund
_____ Central Kansas Military Community	_____ Packages for Warriors Fund
Foundation	_____ Pawnee Mental Health Active and Veterans
_____ Chaplain Family Care Fund	Services Fund
_____ CSF of Greater Fort Riley Fund	_____ SAVE Farm Fund
_____ Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation	_____ Semper Invictus Fund
Military Fund	_____ The Green Dress Project Fund
_____ Flint Hills Veterans Coalition Fund	_____ The Society of the First Infantry Division Fund
_____ Friends of the Fort Riley Museums Fund	_____ USO Kansas Fund
_____ Gold Star Family Support Fund	_____ Valor Honey Fund
_____ Habitat for Humanity Veterans Build Fund	_____ War Horses for Veterans
_____ Homefront Heroes Ministries	_____ Wounded Warriors United Fund
_____ Kansas Honor Flight - Wamego High School	
_____ SUB-TOTAL (Row 1)	_____ SUB-TOTAL (Row 2)

If paying by check, please write ONE CHECK made out to AFCF for the TOTAL amount of your donation.

TOTAL DONATION (Row 1 + Row 2): \$ _____

- Drop off between 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. on November 11, 2025 at the tent located outside City Hall at 1101 Poyntz Ave.
- Mail form with payment to: GMCF, P.O. Box 1127, Manhattan, KS 66505, received by November 14, 2025
- Visit StandToMatchDay.com to make an online donation with a credit card
(Online gifts can be made on November 11th between 12:00 a.m. and 11:59 pm)



aoshs **DIRECTORY**

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Mary Leonhart	Historian	mary.l@aoshs.org

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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

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Contact the President
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