

Qaoshs QUARTERLY



704 W Douglas Ave
Wichita, KS 67203



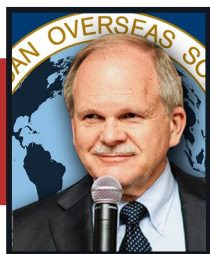
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aoshs.org



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

FRANK ROEHL

"Some things change; others stay the same," the saying goes.

We want to share upcoming updates to our social media footprint. Our pages will reflect references transitioning from **Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA)** to **Department of War Education Activity (DOWEA)** as the agency follows its parent organization. Historical references will not be changed.

Our mission, Preserving the Legacy of DoD Schools Worldwide, and goal to collect and preserve all relevant **American Overseas Schools'** memorabilia and historical documents and establish exhibits to share the unique overseas school experience, does not change.

Whatever the experiences each of us have with this amazing school system, we each will remember the name we associate with those personal experiences.

The history of **DoD** schools has seen many changes to its names from its inception in 1946, emerging from American schools overseas operated by the **Department of War** and the **Department of State**. In the occupied countries of **Germany, Austria** and **Japan**, dependents schools, on and off military installations, were established and operated by the **Department of the Army** and soon school systems were being operated separately by the three U.S. military departments (**Army, Navy, Air Force**) in countries around the world. In 1964, the **Secretary of Defense** combined the three separate school systems into the **Department of Defense Overseas Dependents School System**. Total management of this program was invested in a newly established office in the **Pentagon**, the **Office of Overseas Dependents Education**, responsible to the

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

In 1996, partially because of reduced enrollment, DoDDS was combined with the U.S.-based **Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS)** into the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA).

In 2018, Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) and **American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS)** collaborated to pursue their common goals of preserving the history of the school systems. We are grateful for our continuing partnership with DOWEA to preserve and share our history, memorabilia, and legacy with students and employees, past and present, and to promote the many contributions of DoD schools to military families and to the advancement of peace and democracy around the world. A special thanks goes to former DoDEA leaders across the years for recognizing the value of our work and for their willingness to support the archives and museum project. We look forward to continue this relationship with DOWEA as ours is the best kind of partnership, in which we achieve something together that neither of us could do alone.



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

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

AOSHS Financial Summary Report

Ron Harrison

	Jan. 2026
AOSHS Assets (Not including building and furnishings)	\$1,140,087
Reserved Operating Funds (Reserved for contractors, 80% of non-personnel costs,	\$1,016,200
Non-Reserved Assets (Available for operations & unpaid obligations)	\$123,887
Unpaid Obligations	—
Non-Reserved Assets (After obligations are paid)	\$123,887

Membership Update

Jamey Hansen

The support of our members is essential to our long-term success. And effective communications and organized records are essential to maintaining good relationships with all of our members.

As we previewed in the last Q, we have now moved over to a new management tool for keeping track of our AOSHS community and members. This allows us to maintain better records, improve office efficiency, and improve our ability to communicate. While most of the changes will be behind the scenes, here are a few things you might notice:

- **Minor updates to membership renewal messages.** We will continue to send them out a couple of times before your membership expires.

- **New membership and donation forms.** The new forms now include options for credit cards, EFT giving, and convenience options like Apple Pay.
- **Updated membership options.** We are unable to maintain the discounted 2-year and 5-year options, but we have added a similarly-discounted automatic renewal program that is common with many other services. We encourage you to take advantage of this option for both your convenience and for AOSHS's long term financial stability.
- **Contribution receipts by email only.** To save on postage and staff time, we will no longer send a paper copy for each

donation. However, we would be happy to mail you one upon request.

In the next few months, we intend to launch a "self service portal" so that all members can log in to look up their membership status, see their donation history, and download receipts of past giving. Soon, we will also be launching a project to redesign the AOSHS website. Look for more information about this exciting project and how you can support us in future newsletters.

Thank you for your ongoing support and patience as we adjust our processes to new systems.

The AOSHS Drysdale Memorial Scholarship Award

DeVee Dietz

In honor of **Dr. Tom Drysdale**, a longtime leader of **DoDEA** and the tremendous contribution he made to **AOSHS (American Overseas Schools Historical Society)** and in an effort to continue to encourage further educational pursuits, AOSHS has created the **AOSHS Drysdale Memorial Scholarship Award**. The intent of this scholarship is to further the success of the Military Brat lineage. These scholarships are funded by former military brats, former DoDEA educators, and others, through individual donations, school Brat alumni associations, and regional Brat alumni associations.

The AOSHS Drysdale Memorial Scholarship Award is available to a military Brat, **DoD** civilian Brat, or Educator Brat in their senior year at selected current overseas **DoWEA** schools. The applicant would be a Military/Civil Service Brat who is pursuing a postsecondary educational degree and has been

accepted to a fully accredited college, university or technical/vocational educational institution.

Every year four American Overseas schools, two in the **Pacific Region** and two in the **European Region** are selected. Information and the application packet are sent to the individual schools principals and counselors in mid-October. The deadline for the application with supporting documents is April 1st. This year **AF North (The Netherlands), Rota (Spain), E.J. King (Japan), and Zama (Japan)** Middle High Schools were selected.

The announcement of the **2026 AOSHS Drysdale Memorial Scholarship Award** of **\$1,500** to each selected student will be **May 1, 2026**.

For additional information about the scholarship or how you can make a tax-deductible donation to help support these scholarships, please contact the **AOSHS office** or board member **DeVee Dietz** at dev@aoshs.org.

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/



Curator's Corner

by Adam Gossman



If you spend enough time with a collection of materials they become a part of you.

It is one of the most pointed and surprising parts of the archiving process for me. It is essentially how a pretty extroverted person can find edification and energy in one of the most introverted jobs. When someone donates materials to you for preservation and care it is a sacred opportunity to embrace what is beyond the immediate.

Time goes by, life goes on – people live and people die. Our sacred opportunity is to remember. It is a timeless profession.

Many jobs have timelines and due dates, an intense structure that demands attention to the clock. Sometimes there are things that require swiftness in archiving. However, accuracy and attention to detail outweigh most deadlines. I like to say there are rarely fires in archiving, but when there is a fire – there is a fire!



“Haste makes waste,” is one of our favorite quotes.

Our concern with time is more broad- it’s blending the eternal with the passing breath. There is an element of time that stays with materials left by a person, or group of people. Sometimes, if I sit with something long enough, I feel a bit of their energy coming from their papers and their pictures, their different things.

It is as though I am visiting with the people who put them all together. Sometimes it is a walk in a lovely park and other times there are unresolved feelings of urgency. I certainly feel like I know some of these people quite well, and for this I am exceedingly grateful.

There was one time one of my beloved donors mentioned that he knew another of our donors who passed away before I started here. He said, “Wow, I bet Walter’s stuff is really vast and pretty unorganized.”

He was totally right!

I am quite lucky and very appreciative for my ability to spend time with some of what remains from some people who have passed away a long time ago. These sacred opportunities are not wasted on me.



One of the lessons I think that Life tries to teach us is to slow down. That is, slow down enough to really see things. It’s not like things are passing away as much as we are. We will not be around forever, but parts of us will.

RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO 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

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

Dorothy Johnson
Dennis Rozzi
Kathleen Sweeney
Dorothy Van Norman

FRIENDS

Judy Corbett
Connie McGee
Chad Wyatt

SPONSORS

Albert Schertzing
C. Chris Weth

PATRONS

John Hedges

BENEFACTORS

Theresa Barba
Prudence Bickel*
Dottie McCarthy

We Thank You!

* These donors were inadvertently left out of last quarter’s issue, so they are being recognized in this issue.



IN MEMORIAM

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

STANLEY HAYS

_____ – June 08, 2025

PATRICIA LAWTON PICKENS

January 12, 1941 – January 12, 2026

JOANNE HEWITT

August 14, 1935 – February 10, 2025

JACK PLOTT

August 3, 1947 – August 21, 2025

THOMAS PEARSON

June 21, 1927 – May 22, 2024

LOUISA POLLACK PRUITT

October 15, 1946 – January 2, 2025

KAREN PETTERSON

May 20, 1941 – March 9, 2025

PHYLLIS TAYLOR

November 20, 1946 – September 26, 2025

aoshs **DIRECTORY**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AS OF SEPTEMBER 2025

Frank Roehl	President	frank@aoshs.org
Jamey Hansen	Vice President	jamey.h@aoshs.org
Ron Harrison	Treasurer	ron@aoshs.org
Julie Wittenberg	Secretary	julie@aoshs.org
Mary VanDeventer	<i>AOSHS Quarterly Publication</i>	mary@aoshs.org
DeVee Dietz	Scholarships/BRAT Rep.	devee@aoshs.org
Mary Leonhart	Historian	mary.l@aoshs.org

STAFF, CONTRACTORS and ASSISTANCE

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

VOLUNTEERS

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
Christie 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
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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
office@aoshs.org Phone (316) 265-6837