Fall 2026

aoshs QUARTERLY

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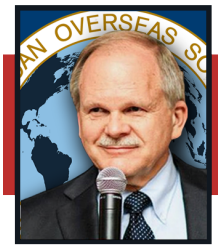
https://aoshs.org



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

FRANK ROEHL

Talking to the Choir!

As we as a Nation move into the voting season, I probably don't need to write this message to remind everyone how important it is to exercise our right and privilege to vote in our national and local state/county/city elections.

As a nation, we haven't shown a high percentage of voter turnout. Looking at the table below showing voter turnout rates in the US as expressed as a percentage of eligible voters, it's shocking that many do not exercise their civic duty.

YEAR	TOTAL BALLOTS CAST
2024	63.9%
2022	46.2%
2020	66.6%
2018	50.0%

Key Takeaways from the Data

Presidential vs. Midterm Divide:

There is a clear ~17 to 20 percentage point drop-off in participation between presidential election years (like 2020 and 2024) and midterm cycles (like 2018 and (2022).

Local Impact:

Midterm and non-presidential elections often directly determine local leadership, municipal policies, and state legislation -- yet fewer than half to barely half of eligible voters participate.

Make Your Voices Heard:

1. Check Your Registration:

Ensure your voter information and address are up to date.

2. Know Your Deadline:

Note key dates for mail-in, early voting, and Election Day.

3. Research Your Ballot:

Look up local ballot measures and candidates ahead of time so you are fully prepared.

Please Stand up and make your wishes known!

REMEMBER,
WE NEED YOU
TO HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN

AOSHS Financial Summary Report

Ron Harrison, Treasurer

	Jul-26
AOSHS Assets (Not including building and furnishings)	$1,057,608
Reserved Operating Funds (Reserved for contractors, 80% of non-personnel costs, scholarship fund and Endowment Fund)	$1,016,200
Non-Reserved Assets (Available for operations & unpaid obligations)	$108,900
Unpaid Obligations	$12,500
Non-Reserved Assets (After obligations are paid)	$96,400

Membership Update

Jamey Hansen, VP of Membership and Marketing

The recent **DoDDS Reunion** in **Milwaukee** gave us a wonderful opportunity to share an exciting new chapter in our work. We presented plans for a new **AOSHS** website, and the response from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. It was especially encouraging to hear how much people value the idea of making the schools themselves the heart of our online presence.

Our goal is to create a website that feels like a journey back to the schools, communities, and experiences that meant so much to all of us. Rather than organizing our story primarily around the many types of materials in the AOSHS collection, we are working with our web designers to reorganize the site around the schools themselves. School histories, yearbooks, photographs, memorabilia, stories, and other treasures will come together to help tell the unique story of each school and the people who were part of it.

We know that most **BRATS** can no longer travel back to the overseas schools they once attended, or most teachers where they taught. Some schools have moved, changed names, or disappeared altogether. We want the new AOSHS website to provide another way to go back - to find your school, explore its history, look through yearbooks, see familiar places and faces, and perhaps discover something you didn't know was part of your school's story.

We are now working closely with our web designers on the homepage and the overall organization of the site. There is still much work to do, but the vision is becoming clearer: **AOSHS can be the place where the stories of all our DoD schools live - and where generations of students, teachers, families, and friends can come home to them.**

We look forward to sharing more as the new website takes shape. And, as always, we welcome your memories, photographs, yearbooks, memorabilia, and stories. They are the pieces that will help us build this digital home for the schools we remember so fondly.

We Are ALL Historians

Dr. Mary Leonhart, Historian

While we've all held a variety of positions in our past and present **DoDDS/DoDEA/DOWEA** careers, we share the common threads of adventure and life enrichment through serving American military families across the globe. Thank you for your efforts to provide military-connected students with a world-class education! Your unique experiences qualify you as an historian, as evidenced at the annual **DoDDS reunions** held at a variety of locations across America.

One of the best rewards gleaned from attending DODDS reunions in the summer is listening to colleagues' tales of adventure. Each of us has a story, and these stories must not be lost. We are, in fact, all primary resource historians in the DODEA story. That's why **AOSHS** is so dear to my heart. If you happen to travel through **Wichita, Kansas**, I urge you to visit the wonderful AOSHS museum the dedicated staff have curated. This museum would not be possible if not for the monetary, intellectual, and artifact donations from extraordinary teachers, administrators, and students just like you. When you are ready to part with some of your career treasures, please contact the museum staff.

As we research the histories of existing and closed **DDESS (Stateside) schools**, we need your corporate knowledge.

Following **Rebecca Dunn's** stellar work on the overseas schools histories, I am currently collecting DDESS histories from current and past schools. If you can contribute information on these school histories, please contact me at mary.l@aoshs.org. Photos of the school buildings are also welcome.

I'm pleased to welcome **Dr. Linda Curtis** to the AOSHS school history team. She will soon join me in exploring and recording the histories of DDESS. Dr. Curtis brings a vast knowledge of our school system.

I urge you to celebrate your career by sharing your historical knowledge!



Curator's Corner

by Adam Gossman

The **American Overseas Schools Historical Society's** mission is to preserve the legacy of dependent schools worldwide.

What does legacy mean to you?

It is one of those old fashioned words. Something that makes you think of gray-haired old people with their grandchildren on their knees by the fireside. Lots of Norman Rockwell images come to my mind.

That's not it, though.

It certainly is part of it. But there is more to it than the musty smelling thoughts of long ago.

This time of year there is always a sense of beginning, of starting another school year or the start of making plans for the holidays as we search out our first pumpkin-spice latte of the year. We think of Meg Ryan writing emails to Tom Hanks about bouquets of newly sharpened pencils and New York in the fall (from the movie, "You've Got Mail").

The fact that the amazing smell of books in old used bookstores is really the smell of books deteriorating is a sobering fact. Something that makes them beautiful and that we remember with great fondness (yes, I smell my books as I read them… even the new ones) is evidence of passing and changing.

Legacy is the things that do not die—it's the things that live on. Legacy is the great smell of dying books. Many of the things I work with are things that belonged to dead people. Things that remind us of the big things in their lives- like their letter jackets and pictures of their mother. In a very real and substantive way, these crusty artifacts are living reminders that it ain't so bad.

In the months and years to come, we at AOSHS hope to continue to reflect and explore the meaning and significance of Legacy. In this issue, **Julie Wittenberg** has some lovely thoughts on it.

As the weather (hopefully) cools down and we start inching toward the holidays, let us not hide from the things that make us remember the people who have passed. May we be able to see that they are still with us, in some sweet and intimate way that only the dearest loved ones can feel.

Truly, their legacy persists within each of us. We just have to dig a little every once in a while.

Building a Legacy that Lasts

Julie Wittenberg, Secretary

I recently completed my first year serving on the **AOSHS** board, and I continue to be amazed by the work being done to preserve the legacy of our military schools around the world. Over this past year, the word legacy has taken on a much more personal meaning for me.

Legacy can mean many things. It can be:

- something passed down through a family,
- a piece of history or culture we work to preserve, or
- a special connection that bridges one generation to the next.

I see AOSHS encompassing all of these. Our goal is to collect and preserve relevant memorabilia and historical documents, creating exhibits that share the unique school experiences shared by military dependents. Our curator **Adam** has a passion for collecting and using our collections to tell our story. **Kevin**, our digital archivist, has organized and scanned thousands of yearbooks to document and preserve memories from schools across the world. These efforts ensure that future generations

Continued on Page 5

Building a Legacy that Lasts - continued

associated with our military family can understand, appreciate, and take pride in our shared history.

As I've reflected on how to best support this mission, I started outlining ways we can each support and promote AOSHS:

- **Making monetary donations** to sustain our operations and preservation efforts
- **Donating artifacts** (both physical items and digital submissions)
- **Sharing stories** of our unique overseas and military school situations
- **Connecting with others** who share our experiences
- **Spreading awareness** to allies and friends who might be interested in our history

If you are reading this newsletter, you already share this passion for preserving our story and building connections with others. How are you currently supporting **AOSHS**? Are there other ways you might contribute or get involved?

I quickly realized there is far too much to share in a single article. This piece is the first in a series that will explore how—together—we can deliberately design, build, and sustain a meaningful legacy. Rather than viewing legacy as an afterthought at the end of life, we will look at it as an ongoing personal practice.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Keep an eye out for future articles as we explore detailed, practical ways you can help support, protect, and share our legacy.

Scholarship Raffle Information

Frank Roehl, President

The next **AOSHS Raffle** will be at the **DoDDS Reunion XXXVIII** in **Baltimore, Maryland** on 19-23 July.

How can you be a part of this event? First, you must attend the DoDDS Reunion. (Check out the information at DoDDS Reunion 2027 https://www.mydoddsreunion.com).

Next you can donate items to the raffle. This last year, we had more than **94 items donated**, and we raised over **$2788**.

If you want to donate an item, just bring it to the **AOSHS** tables in the hospitality room at the Reunion. We are looking for treasures that appeal to a large audience and can be easily transported since many attendees fly to the Reunion.

Anyone can purchase a raffle ticket, whether you donate an item or not. Each item is individually raffled; if duplicates are donated, we have two winners.

Winning ticket numbers are posted outside the banquet room on the last night of the reunion.

In the past, donated items have included Lladros, Hummels, David Winter cottages, English teapots, jewelry, art work, Asian treasures, Maine lobsters, Maryland crab cakes, handmade materials – and we usually have a quilt or two.

If you are thinking about downsizing or just know it's time to part with a few treasures, consider bringing them to the reunion and donating them.

Of course, we need the donated treasures to be in excellent condition. We also accept new items (famously popular items include bottles of wine and "Dinner and a Show" gift cards). We look forward to seeing you at the Reunion and hope to have at least one hundred items this year.

Annual Armed Forces Community Foundation Match Day

Mary VanDeventer, Quarterly Production

Again this year, **AOSHS** will participate in the annual **Armed Forces Community Foundation 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, 2026** 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 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, 2026 and received by November 13th. You can find the donation form on page 11 of this newsletter or download the form at:

www.standtomatchday.com

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 13, 2026 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.



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 **XXXVII** in **Milwaukee, WI**, **July 12, 2026**) to the beginning of the DoDDS Reunion the following year (Reunion **XXXIX**).

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!***

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Those who donate from $25 to $99

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Those who donate from $250 to $499

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Those who donate from $500 to $999

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

Benefactors

Those who donate $2,000 or more

We Thank You!

RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO DONATE TO AOSHS

-continued

JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2026 DONORS

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RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO DONATE TO AOSHS

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We Thank You!





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



aoshs DIRECTORY

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AS OF OCTOBER 2026

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Jamey Hansen	Vice President	jamey.h@aoshs.org
Ron Harrison	Treasurer	ron@aoshs.org
Julie Wittenberg	Secretary	julie@aoshs.org
Mary VanDeventer	*AOSHS Quarterly* Publication	mary@aoshs.org
DeVee Dietz	Scholarships/BRAT Rep.	devee@aoshs.org
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

Office Manager	AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104 office@aoshs.org Phone (316) 265-6837
Website	www.aoshs.org
Memorabilia	AOSHS Archives, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104
Contact the President	President, office@aoshs.org Phone (316) 265-6837
Membership	AOSHS Membership, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104
Remembrance Program	AOSHS Virtual Remembrance Program, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104
Email & Change of Address	office@aoshs.org Phone (316) 265-6837

2026 Armed Forces Community Foundation Match Day

DONOR NAMES(S) _____

PHONE _____ ***EMAIL** _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ **CITY/ST/ZIP** _____

For Office Use Only:
Check #: _____
Cash Receipt: _____
Credit Card: _____

Please check here if you wish to remain anonymous: ☐

**You must indicate e-mail address to receive an electronic gift acknowledgement for tax purposes. We do not share e-mail addresses.*

Write donation amount online next to each fund. All eligible gifts will be matched at 50% (up to $1750 until the match Is depleted.

_____ 70th Armor Charitable
_____ AFCF Grants
_____ AOSHS Endowment
_____ Armed Forces Community Foundation
_____ Association of the United States Army (AUSA)
-Fort Riley-Central Kansas Chapter
_____ Central Kansas Military Community Foundation
_____ Chaplain Family Care Fund
_____ CSF of Greater Fort Riley
_____ Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation
-Military Fund
_____ Flint Hills Veterans Coalition
_____ Friends of the Fort Riley Museums
_____ Gold Star Family Support - Kansas
_____ Habitat for Humanity Veterans Build
_____ Homefront Heroes Ministries
_____ Kansas Honor Flight – Wamego High School
_____ Lee-Pierson VFW Post 1786
_____ Military Police Association Charitable Fund
_____ Officers of the First Division
_____ Operation Santa Claus
_____ Packages for Warriors – Youngstown, Ohio
_____ Packages for Warriors – Gainesville, GA
_____ Packages for Warriors
_____ Pawnee Mental Health
-Active and Veteran Services
_____ Post 17 Jim Sharp Legacy (American Legion)
_____ SAVE Farm
_____ The Society of the First Infantry Division
_____ USO Kansas
_____ Valor Honey
_____ War Horses for Veterans

Left Column Subtotal _____ **+ Right Column Subtotal** _____ **= TOTAL** _____

Write ONE CHECK made out to Armed Forces Community Foundation (AFCF) for the TOTAL amount of your donation.

GIVE ONLINE: November 11, 12, 13 at StandToMatchDay.com

GIVE BY MAIL:	GIVE IN PERSON: Manhattan, KS	GIVE IN PERSON: Junction City, KS
Donation form & total payment must be sent to AFCF, P.O. Box 1127, Manhattan, KS 66505 * Donations must be received by Nov. 13, 2026	November 11 @ City Hall, 1101 Poyntz Ave 8:00 am to 12:00 pm November 12 and 13 @ GMCF Office 8am-5pm	November 12 and 13 @ JC Chamber,222 W 6th 8am – 5pm

STAND-TO ★★★ MATCH DAY

The Armed Forces Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation.
The Greater Manhattan Community Foundation is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization – EIN #48-1215574, incorporated in the State of Kansas.