ALPHA DELTA STATE OHIO EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Foundation Matters

A publication of the Alpha Delta State Ohio Educational Foundation

Ohio State Organization
Delta Kappa Gamma Society

ADSOEF - funding the future of excellence in education

Volume 6 | Issue 2 August 15, 2026 Cathy Tenney, Editor

A Word or Two from the Board…



Greetings with Gratitude!

Every August, whether you are retired or not, you most likely think about preparations for a new school year. Either you are already excitedly setting up your classroom and starting the year, or you are remembering those times and saying prayers for current educators to have less stress and more passion and joy in their teaching.

ADSOEF grants, scholarships, and fellowships can ease those stresses and **help fund excellence in education!** Apply for one or sponsor someone who is not a DKG member. Promote these opportunities to recruit new members to your chapters!

Abbey Bolton, Theta, received a Lifelong Learning Fund grant of over $2,000 to attend the National Association of Elementary Principals' National Leaders Conference. Read her glowing report below, full of inspiration, motivation, and new connections in her work.

Holy Toledo! The Biennial Seminar Committee has gone *above and beyond* to plan a jam-packed, interesting, and fun adventure for June 2027! Because of your generous donations, ADSOEF has been able to budget substantial funds to offset many of the costs, reducing registration to only $95 for your meals and admission fees. See below for the itinerary!

How else is your money spent? By giving grants to student teachers interning from primary grades through high school! Continue reading for a lovely letter of gratitude from Amber Roth.

Finally, at the beginning of each fiscal year, we highlight the work of various ADSOEF committees as we reconvene their members. The Biennial Seminar Committee's article about the **Holy Toledo Tour** is first, and then later you will find information about the Finance and Governance Committees. The Foundation would not function without all their vital work!

With thankfulness,
Chris Snoddy
The ADSOEF Board of Directors



ADSOEF Trip Tik for the 2027 Biennial Seminar

Holy Toledo Tour

June 16-18, 2027

Holy Toledo Tour Overview

Toledo is steeped in history, from the Northwest Indian War and the War of 1812 to the Canal Era, its booming industrial growth, and the rise of Libbey in the Glass City, all fueled by the Great Lakes commerce. Whether you've heard of it, passed through, or have previous ties to it, Toledo has much to offer.

The 2027 Biennial Seminar will present a unique opportunity to explore the city. ADSOEF has packed the **Holy Toledo Tour** with engaging activities, inspiring places, and stories that will spark your curiosity. Consider joining us as we uncover Toledo's past, present, and future! Whether Toledo is familiar or unfamiliar, participating in the **Holy Toledo Tour** from June 16-18, 2027, will reveal more than you ever expected. Hope to see you there!

The following Trip Tik presents the itinerary for the **Holy Toledo Tour**. We hope it ignites your interest in NW Ohio and inspires you to join us when the Biennial Seminar "*goes on the road again*!"

Wednesday, June 16, 2027

- 12:30-3:00 p.m. - Pre-seminar adventure in Fremont, Ohio, at the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library and Mansion, which is the first presidential library.
- 4:00 p.m. - Check-in for the hotel: Holiday Inn and Suites, Perrysburg, Ohio.
- 5:00 - 6:15 p.m. – Welcome and orientation with a light dinner served in the conference room at the Holiday Inn and Suites, before departing for a cruise.
- 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. – Sandpiper Cruise, narrated by local historian and host Tedd Long.
- 9:30 p.m. – Return to the hotel.

Thursday, June 17, 2027

- 7:00 - 8:15 a.m. – Breakfast in the hotel conference room.
- 8:15 a.m. – Board bus - Local historian, Tedd Long, will be our tour guide for the entire day!
- 8:30 a.m. – Depart hotel
- 8:45 - 9:30 a.m. – Fort Meigs guided tour of the largest reconstructed wooden fortification in North America.
- 9:40 - 9:55 a.m. – Fallen Timbers Battlefield overview and discussion of the 1794 battle that opened the Northwest Territory to American settlement.
- 10:25 - 12:00 p.m. – Providence Metro Park: Canal Experience boat ride and visit to the Isaac Ludwig Mill.
- 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. – Travel back to Toledo.
- 12:30 - 1:15 p.m. – Lunch at Tony Packo's Café, famous for Hungarian hot dogs.
- 1:25 - 2:00 p.m. – Visit Libbey House, the Edward and Florence Scott Libbey home.
- 2:10 – 3:00 p.m. – Glass Pavilion. (The Toledo Museum of Art is undergoing extensive renovation and will be closed until fall 2027, which is why it is not on the itinerary…in case you were wondering.)
- 3:15 – 3:45 p.m. – Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral.
- 3:55 – 5:00 p.m. – National Museum of the Great Lakes.
- 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. – Plated dinner served in the Ottawa Room at the Maumee Bay Brewing Company.
- 7:15 p.m. – Return to the hotel.

- 8:00 - 9:30 p.m. – Dessert Smorgasbord provided by ADSOEF. Ashley Phlipot will present a PowerPoint on Lydia Bacon's travels as she followed her husband and the 4th Regiment of the U.S. Infantry during the War of 1812.

Friday, June 18, 2027

- 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. – Breakfast in the hotel conference room.
- 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. – Seminar conclusion with speaker Lou Hebert, a reporter and writer in Toledo for four decades, presenting on the *Hidden Mysteries of Toledo*.

Important Facts to Remember

- **Holy Toledo Tour can accommodate up to 55 participants.** If registrations exceed this number, the seminar registrar will begin a waiting list.
- **Holy Toledo Tour** Registration Fee will be **$95.00**

Holiday Inn and Suites Hotel (Perrysburg, Ohio) Information

- Each participant is responsible for making their own reservations under the group name: *Alpha Delta State Ohio Educational Biennial Seminar*. ADSOEF has obtained a block of 30 rooms. Each room has 2 queen-size beds.
- Room rate is $119.00, plus taxes of $15.17, for a total of $134.17 per night.
- Registration for the **Holy Toledo Tour** with complimentary breakfast is included.
- Cancellations must be made at least 48 hours prior to the arrival date.
- Check-in time is 4:00 p.m.
- The cut-off date to make reservations is May 16, 2027.

Holy Toledo Tour Registration Launch

- officially open on **October 2, 2026**. An E-blast will be sent out to announce the launch and provide participants with the necessary information to register for the 2027 event.
- The registration form for the Holy Toledo Tour will be available through JotForm, ensuring a streamlined and accessible process for all interested attendees

Linda Dilts, Beta Rho
Michele Maniskas, Alpha Xi
Diana Kirkpatrick, Alpha Delta, Chairman

ABBEY BOLTON EXTENDS THANKS FOR THE HELP TO ATTEND AND PRESENT A SESSION AT A NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Thanks to the generous support of the ADSOEF Lifelong Learning Fund, I had the privilege of attending the NAESP National Leaders Conference in Orlando, Florida, July 13–15, 2026. This outstanding professional learning experience brought together school leaders from across the nation to collaborate, learn innovative leadership strategies, and celebrate excellence in education.

One of the highlights of the conference was the opportunity to co-present an interactive session, *Principal's Playground*, with my colleague. Our presentation focused on helping school leaders rediscover the joy in their work while exploring practical strategies to build strong relationships, foster positive school culture, and strengthen staff engagement. Participants left with actionable ideas they could immediately implement in their schools to increase connection, collaboration, and motivation.

The conference also featured inspiring keynote presentations from nationally recognized education leaders, including former U.S. Secretary of Education Dr. Miguel Cardona, as well as sessions highlighting innovative leadership practices, artificial intelligence in education, and strategies for supporting today's school communities. Each session reinforced the importance of servant leadership, continuous learning, and creating positive environments where both students and educators thrive.

I am deeply grateful to ADSOEF for investing in my professional growth. This grant made it possible for me to expand my leadership knowledge, share my expertise with colleagues from across the country, and return with fresh ideas that will benefit my school community and the educators I serve. Thank you for supporting lifelong learning and empowering educators to continue growing as leaders.



APPRECIATION FOR THE JANE BRUNDIGE STEIN STUDENT TEACHING GRANT

My name is Amber Roth, and I am a recent graduate from The Ohio State University. I graduated in December of 2025 with my Bachelors of Science in Middle Childhood Education. In my final semester at OSU, I completed my student teaching at River Valley Local Schools, a rural district in Marion County, where everybody knows everybody and family lines have made their way through the buildings. This environment is like my high school growing up and makes you feel like everyone is a part of a community. The classes at River Valley typically contained 20-25 students, totaling about 160 students.

As a middle childhood teacher, I was required to complete a placement in both of my concentration areas. For the first half, I was in an 8th grade science classroom, and for the second half I was in Algebra classes containing students in grades seven through ten. For the first few days, I was nervous and overwhelmed, but these feelings quickly turned into confidence and excitement.

When my mentor first reviewed her rules and policies, they seemed harsh to me. She talked about giving zeros, detentions, and calling home, but over time I observed the importance of procedures, expectations, and consistency. When I moved on to Algebra classes, I experienced drastic learning gaps among students. Applied Algebra accommodated students with IEPs and 504 plans, while other classes contained the most advanced middle school students and freshmen. The differences in the grade levels were evident in the ways students behaved and interacted with one another– as well as how they took responsibility. These differences required greater differentiation, which meant I needed to understand our students even more to meet their needs. I feel as though I had very different experiences in each of my placements, teaching me new things and allowing me to work with very different mentors.

One experience that I will carry with me for a long time was when I was working with a student one-on-one. This student struggled across all subjects, socially, and in his behavior. However, he and I built a relationship where he could ask for help, but also share his stories, failures, and hopes for the future. He once shared that the reason he struggled in school was because of his ADHD and that he recently went off his medication. I used this information the next time I worked with him. I suggested that I do the writing while he told me what he knew. In that moment, I realized he not only had a lot to say, but he also had unique thoughts, a great sense of humor, and a desire for connection. I will never forget the time he got suspended. When he returned, he brought over

his computer and opened an apology email he had tried to send me. Knowing his struggles with writing made this even more meaningful. From that day, he stayed out of trouble and did his best to make up for lost time.

After completing student teaching, I took over a classroom of my own. My last day of student teaching was on a Friday, and the following Monday I found myself introducing myself to the seventh-grade math students at River Valley Middle School. I taught those students for the rest of the school year, where I learned so much about my own teaching style, the importance of relationships, collaboration, laughter, and enjoying the profession.

I will forever cherish and miss the mornings spent enjoying breakfast with my students. I looked forward to hearing them in the hallway and greeting me each morning. I feel proud when I think about the hard work of all my students this year. I smile when I think of all the times "it's too hard" turned into "this is too easy, Miss Roth." I laugh when I think about all the goofy times spent with them this year. I am sad to see them go but celebrate that I will be back in their building next year as I start my teaching career at River Valley as a 7th grade math teacher. This year had its mistakes, failures, and disappointments; however, the hearts touched, minds impacted, and lives changed make it all worth it.

Thank you to the members of ADSOEF and the Scholarship Committee for awarding me with the Jane Brundige Stein Student Teaching Grant. Your support in my educational journey opened doors to more opportunities and experiences than I could have anticipated. As a result of this grant, I was able to devote myself to my students and the student teaching experience, as well as accept a position as the Head

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Finance Committee

The Finance Committee works to ensure that ADSOEF operates in a sustainable manner, preserving the trust of our stakeholders (all OHSO Members), while fulfilling its mission and purposes. Our treasurer, Dr. Lois Harkins, keeps the committee informed of all ADSOEF investments and funds, changes in earnings, distribution of funds, and donations. This information is then used to develop a yearly budget.

As a Private Charitable Foundation, we MUST distribute a minimum of 5% of our asset holdings each year to avoid paying money to the IRS. The Finance Committee is also responsible for reviewing the following documents to ensure they are up to date and are current practices: Awards Management Policy and Procedures, Financial Management Policy and Procedures, Investment Policy and Procedures, and Reimbursement Policy and Procedures.

Dr. Lois Harkins, Alpha Lambda, ADSOEF Treasurer
Hannah Fairbanks, Gamma Theta
Molly Tharp-Allen, Alpha Psi
Patty Truex, Beta Rho
Annie Zahradnik, Gamma Theta
Sue Loader, Alpha Psi, Chairman

Governance Committee



The Governance Committee is responsible for the official ADSOEF governing documents, including the *Bylaws*, policies, procedures, and the Handbook. These documents enable the Board of Directors (BOD) to operate with a deliberate system of principles, to guide decisions, and to achieve rational and consistent outcomes. The governing documents are reviewed on an annual basis according to a Board-approved schedule. By the end of each fiscal year, all the documents will have been reviewed and revised as needed.

ADSOEF *Bylaws* and policies address our mission and purposes, reflect our ethics and integrity, assign responsibilities, and guide our current and future BOD, committee members, and ADSOEF members. Any member, committee, or board director may request that these documents be revised. Please review the *Bylaws* and policies at **adsoef.org.** Your input is encouraged and valued!

A heartfelt thank you goes to **Joyce Jones Weinkam**, Gamma Xi, who has been a vital member of the Governance Committee and will be greatly missed for her parliamentarian insight. The Governance Committee welcomes **Lona Bowman**, Delta Kappa, and looks forward to her involvement as the work of the committee continues.

Lona Bowman, Delta Kappa
Sue Loader, Alpha Psi
Sandy Royer, Delta Kappa
Tammy Schroeder, Beta Eta
Dr. Norma Kirby, Alpha Delta, Chairman



Opening for a New Webmaster

Due to the retirement of the current webmaster, Eilleen McNally, ADSOEF is searching for someone to provide the services of a webmaster. Eileen will be available to mentor and train the new webmaster for the remainder of 2026.

The main responsibility of the webmaster is to maintain and update the ADSOEF website. Currently, this includes but is not limited to Weebly for the website and JotForm for the applications. Experience with Weebly and JotForm is preferred, but anyone willing to learn and work with these platforms is welcome to apply. **The agreement is for one fiscal year from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026, with an honorarium of $500.00 for the year.**

Please consider helping ADSOEF keep the website updated, accurate, and user friendly! It greatly impacts the Foundation's ability to raise funds, attract donors, advertise opportunities, and allow people to apply for scholarships, fellowships, and grants.
Contact Chris Snoddy at **ckvs@sprynet.com** with any questions.

New Campaign Coming Soon



What *Masterpiece* will the Fundraising Committee create for this fiscal year's campaign???? Stay tuned to find out!



Alpha Delta State Ohio Educational Foundation

July 2026 Donors

Alpha Mu Chapter

Barbara J. Smith
In Honor of America's 250th Birthday

Delta Chi Chapter

Delta Mu Chapter

Delta Theta Chapter

Delta Theta Chapter
In Honor of Ellen Anglim

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In Honor of Carmel Jenkins

Donna Myers
In Honor of Barbara J. Smith

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Mary Kathryn McClendon
In Honor of Barbara J. Smith

Tamara Schroeder
In Honor of Barbara J. Smith

Gamma Pi
In Memory of Leilani Drake, Judith Ortsery, Raffaella Pazak and Judith Cebriak

Mark Legats
In Memory of Caribeth Legats

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2026-2028

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2026-2029

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2025-2027

Dr. Molly Helmlinger,
OHSO President 2025-2027
Ex-officio Ohio State Organization Liaison

Dr. Norma K. Kirby, Alpha Delta
ADSOEF Registered Statutory Agent

Into the Future. . .Important Dates to Remember!

August 17, 2026
ADSOEF Board of Directors Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

August 20, 2026
ADSOEF Scholarship Committee Meeting @ 10:30 a.m.

August 24, 2026
ADSOEF Personnel Committee Meeting @ 1:00 p.m.

August 25, 2026
ADSOEF Finance Committee Meeting @ 1:00 p.m.

August 31, 2026
ADSOEF Governance Committee Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

September 2, 2026
ADSOEF Fundraising Committee Meeting @ 4:30 p.m.

September 9, 2026
ADSOEF Nominating Committee Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

ALPHA DELTA STATE OHIO EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

funding the future of excellence in education

Contribution Form

- Please use a separate contribution form if you are making more than one donation.
- A contribution acknowledgement will be sent in honor or in memory of the person designated below.
- Contributions or bequests are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.
- Checks should be made payable to Alpha Delta State Ohio Educational Foundation (ADSOEF) and should be mailed with this form to:

Dr. Lois Harkins
12 N. Shafer Street
Athens, OH 45701-2303

Date: _____ Amount: _____

Cash (In-person only) Check #_____ (Please Circle)

This contribution is designated for:

____The programs of Alpha Delta State Educational Foundation (without restriction)

____Educational Projects Fund (Classroom/School/Community)

____ International Studies Fund (A. Margaret Boyd)

____ Student Teacher Grant Fund (Esther H. Strickland)

____Jane Brundige Stein Scholarship Fund

____ Scholarship Fund (Annie Webb Blanton)

____ Leadership Fund

____ Lifelong Learning Fund

_____Florence L. Woodward Scholarship Fund

Donor Information (name of individual, chapter, or group)

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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Email_____

_____ I wish to remain anonymous.

In MEMORY OF or IN HONOR OF (circle one)

Name _____

Contact Name _____

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Donations can also be made by visiting adsoef.org and donating online using PayPal or a credit card.

Alpha Delta State Ohio Educational Foundation 10/23