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 5 | Issue 8 February 15, 2026 Cathy Tenney, Editor

A Word or Two…from The Board of Directors



Greetings with Gratitude!

In February, when the focus is often romantic love, we want to highlight some other forms of love: encouragement, support, nurture, care, kindness, listening, learning, and teaching. All the directors are deeply grateful for the myriads of ways all of you show your love.

You sponsor fellow educators and encourage student teachers to apply for grants. You apply for scholarships to enhance your own teaching and leading which greatly benefits children. You read and learn about ADSOEF and promote the opportunities to your chapter sisters. You serve on committees, write thank-you notes, and donate with amazing generosity. Everything you do is invaluable to fulfill the mission and purposes of the of the Foundation!

The mission of ADSOEF is to provide funding to serve charitable purposes relating to professional and personal growth of educators and educational excellence. ADSOEF exists for the purposes of raising, managing, and distributing funds to satisfy its mission.

Please keep reading to find several requests: save the date and plan to attend the Annual Meeting on May 2, 2026, help us find a new webmaster, and perhaps donate a raffle item. Also, we are excited to share a report from Mary Ann Hopple, Alpha Lambda, about an educational project grant she received, and to publish a lovely letter from a thankful student teacher.

With thankfulness,
Chris Snoddy and
The Board of Directors



Invitation to the ADSOEF Annual Meeting

- Mark your calendars for the ADSOEF **Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 2, 2026,** during the OHSO Spring Executive Board Meeting at the Ohio University-Dublin Integrated Education Center, 6805 Bobcat Way, Dublin, Ohio.
- All Ohio State Organization members are also ADSOEF members and are encouraged to attend!
- The Annual Meeting agenda and the 2026-2027 budget will be published in the March issue of *Foundation Matters*.
- Five directors will be elected at the Annual Meeting, two for two-year (2026-2028) terms and three for three-year (2026-2029) terms. The profiles of the nominees will also be published in the March issue.
- The yearly tradition of giving will continue at the OHSO Spring Executive Board Meeting with a raffle and the Birthday Luncheon Appeal. Read more about these events in the Fundraising Committee article.



Opening for a New Webmaster

Due to the retirement announcement by Eileen McNally, the current webmaster, the ADSOEF Board of Directors (BOD) is searching for someone to provide the services of a webmaster beginning July 1, 2026. Eileen's contract ends on June 30, 2026, and she has indicated that she will not be renewing it. However, she 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 contract is for one fiscal year from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026, with a stipend 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, awards, and grants.

Contact Chris Snoddy at **ckvs@sprynet.com** with any questions.

Heartfelt Thanks and A Request

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank you from the bottom of our **hearts** for your support with the **Colors of Hope** campaign thus far. The Fall Campaign raised $11,920.06 and overall, $35,078.70 has been donated as of January 31, 2026. We **love** all our donors!

As the committee continues its work, we kindly request donations for a raffle to be held in conjunction with the OHSO Executive Board Meeting, ADSOEF Annual Meeting, and the Birthday Luncheon on Saturday, May 2, 2026, in Dublin, OH.

We welcome a variety of contributions, including handcrafted items, lottery-themed donations, wine, chocolate, or other unique and appealing items that would enhance the raffle experience. If you are interested in contributing, please contact Barb Zirke at biolady10@aol.com

The raffle will be held during the meetings on May 2, 2026. Tickets will be available for purchase from registration time through all the morning sessions, and winners will be announced following the luncheon and afternoon sessions. During the luncheon, contribution envelopes will be available on the tables.

We appreciate your consideration and continued support of ADSOEFs fundraising efforts. Your generosity plays an important role in the success of our events. It's a perfect time to assist us as we continue the quest to ***Paint a Brighter Future*****!**

Charlene Greene, Delta Mu
Annie Zahradnik, Gamma Theta
Holly Buente, Gamma Pi, Co-Chairman
Barb Zirke, Alpha Psi, Co-Chairman

Expanding the Reach of the Ohio Valley Museum of Discovery Thanks to an ADSOEF Grant



On January 7, 2026, the Ohio Valley Museum of Discovery in Athens, Ohio, launched its Discovery Club program for children in grades 4-6. This program has been significantly supported by a $500.00 grant from the ADSOEF Individual/Classroom/Community Project Fund. Most of the museum's exhibits and activities appeal to younger children, and this club is part of the work to expand the reach of the

museum to older children. Other programs at the museum have also been started for adults.

The Discovery Club participants were surveyed at the beginning to see what types of projects they would like to explore, and an overwhelming response was, “We want to build things!” So, by safely cutting cardboard using the Chomp Saw, which was purchased through the grant, the children were able to construct paths or mazes to control the movements of Hexbots, which were also purchased with the grant. Designing their own mazes and testing their designs were challenging. Some were successful, some worked bit by bit, and some will keep trying. Through it all, they showed determination and smiles!

In the next meeting of the Discovery Club, the children will discuss their successes and their difficulties with the project, and they will build a second path or maze, using what they learned from the first iteration of the project and what they learned from others’ successes. This was made possible by the wonderful $500.00 grant from ADSOEF, and the supplies are durable and can be reused for years to come!

Thank you very much!
Mary Ann Hopple, Alpha Lambda

Sue Samoviski, Chi, Chairman
Lona Bowman, Delta Kappa
Karen Dunn, Alpha Psi
JoAnn Krock, Zeta
Kathy McClendon, Zeta
Sharon Scheidegger, Beta Delta



Using the chomp saw.



Some students used their journals to plan their mazes.



The hexbots from which the children could choose. They are battery operated, but don’t have a specific movement pattern .



The finished project! The hexbot was able to go through the entire maze.

Pictures from the Ohio Valley Museum of Discovery

Thank You from an Esther H. Strickland Student Teaching Grant Recipient
Shelby Haffner

My name is Shelby Haffner, and I am a graduate student in Miami University’s Special Education program, pursuing a master’s in special education with Licensure to become an Intervention Specialist Teacher. I earned my bachelor’s degree in psychology and began substitute teaching in my local school district after graduating. During this time, I accepted a long-term substitute position in a 6th–8th grade Multiple Disabilities self-contained classroom. That experience was transformative—it confirmed my passion for teaching and, more specifically, for supporting students with disabilities.

I will always be grateful that I accepted this position, as it solidified my career path in special education. While completing my coursework at Miami University, I continued working in the same classroom as a 1:1 paraprofessional. Balancing hands-on classroom experience with my academic studies allowed me to deepen my understanding of special education and strengthened my desire to lead my own classroom.

In Fall 2025, I completed my student teaching experience through a modified placement in this setting, and it was an incredibly meaningful and affirming experience. I left student teaching feeling significantly more confident in both myself and my teaching abilities. Throughout my placement, I was fortunate to work with an exceptional mentor teacher who provided consistent encouragement, guidance, and support. I gained hands-on experience in lesson planning, classroom management, and writing and implementing IEPs.

Two lessons I designed stand out. One was a homemade lava lamp experiment that allowed students to explore scientific concepts such as density and changes in matter through a fun, hands-on activity. Another lesson focused on producers and consumers, where students created their own paper-based shops and engaged in simulated buying and selling. Both lessons were highly engaging and helped students better understand abstract concepts through experiential learning.

My student teaching experience equipped me with the skills, confidence, and preparation necessary to succeed as a future Intervention Specialist Teacher. The Esther H. Strickland Student Teaching Grant provided critical financial support during this time, allowing me to fully focus on my professional growth. I am deeply grateful for this support as I continue working toward my goal of becoming a dedicated and effective special education teacher.



Alpha Delta State Ohio Educational Foundation

January 2026 Donors

Beta Rho Chapter
In Memory of Ruth Tootie
In Memory of Amy Miga

Katie Gantz
In Honor of Sue Datish
In Honor of Cathy Tenney

Linda Harrison
In Memory of Rebecca L. Shepard

Dr. Norma Kirby
In Memory of William Bryan Quinn

Katherine D. Kramer Wheeler

Alice Penrose
In Memory of Virginia Koch

Carol Reichelderfer

Anonymous

Gamma Upsilon Chapter
In Memory of Alice Hurd
In Memory of Dr. Goldie Sites
In Memory of Virginia B. Goodell

Into the Future. . .Important Dates to Remember!

February 16, 2026
ADSOEF Board of Directors Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

February 23, 2026
ADSOEF Marketing Committee Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

February 25, 2026
ADSOEF Fundraising Committee Meeting @ 4:30 p.m.

February 26, 2026
OHSO/ADSOEF Scholarship Committee Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

March 2, 2026
ADSOEF Governance Committee Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

March 9, 2026
ADSOEF Personnel Committee Meeting @ 3:30 p.m.

March 12, 2026
OHSO/ADSOEF Scholarship Committee Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

March 16, 2026
ADSOEF Board of Directors Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

Foundation *Directors*

Holly Buente, Gamma Pi
2025-2026

Hannah Fairbanks, Gamma Theta
2024-2026

Dr. Lois Harkins, Alpha Lambda
2024-2026
Treasurer

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2025-2027

Sue Loader, Alpha Psi
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2025-2028

Sue Samoviski, Chi
2024-2026

Tammy Schroeder, Beta Eta
2025-2027
Secretary

Christine (Chris) Snoddy, Alpha Lambda
2024-2026
Chairman

Annie Zahradnick, Gamma Theta
2025-2027

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

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

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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 _____

Telephone_____

Email_____

_____ I wish to remain anonymous.

In MEMORY OF or IN HONOR OF (circle one)

Name _____

Contact Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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