

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

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September 15, 2025

Cathy Tenney, Editor

A Word or Two...from the Board of Directors

Greetings with Gratitude!
Excitement is in the air!

We hope your new school year started with the joy of meeting your students, the fun of engaging learners, and a passion for teaching. All of us are excited to begin a new year of DKG friendships, fellowship, interesting programs, and encouraging excellence in education.

The ADSOEF directors and committee members are also excited to begin working toward our purposes of raising, managing, and distributing funds to satisfy our mission.

Nine committees have been formed for the 2025-2026 fiscal year and have started meeting to accomplish their goals. Three committees were highlighted in the August newsletter. Three more will be highlighted in this issue. Continue reading to learn more about the Donor Relations, Fundraising, and Marketing Committees.

Pay attention to the graphics used in the August and September newsletters. They hint at the fundraising campaign theme which will be officially launched at the September 27, 2025, OHSO Executive Board Meeting. Then in the October edition, we will reveal the details of this colorful campaign!

With thankfulness,
Chris Snoddy and
The ADSOEF Board of Directors



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Holly Buente, Gamma Pi
2025-2026

Hannah Fairbanks, Gamma Theta
2024-2026

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2024-2026
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Dr. Molly Helmlinger, Beta Kappa
2025-2027

OSO President
Ex-officio Ohio State Organization Liaison

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



Donor Relations Committee

The purpose of the Donor Relations Committee is to record all donations received by ADSOEF and graciously acknowledge those gifts by communicating with the donor in multiple ways within a short period of time. This helps to develop relationships with our donors by recognizing the generosity of OHSO chapters and members.

During the fiscal year 2024-2025, monetary gifts were received from 249 donors, both chapters and individuals, some wishing to remain anonymous. Many donations were given *In Honor of* to recognize accomplishments by others and some were sweetly given *In Memory of* a loved one no longer with us.

The first communication is a typed letter thanking the donor and articulating the date of the donation, its amount, the fund if one has been specified, and listing the *In Memory of* or *In Honor of* designations. This letter can be kept and used as documentation of the gift for tax purposes; thus, it is called the Tax Letter.

The second communication, keeping a tradition alive often lost today, is sending a personalized hand-written thank you note, created especially for each donor by one of our committee members. These most sincere notes express gracious appreciation for the donation, are sent on ADSOEF stationery, and highlight the importance of targeting funds for their intended purpose, such as benefiting student teachers or emphasizing the concept of teachers helping teachers.

Notes are also written to the individuals who have been honored by a donor, and families of those remembered by an *In Memory of* donation are notified, sharing the information and the contributor.

The final public communication consists of providing the current donor list to the editor of *Foundation Matters* for publishing each month. It is our privilege to recognize the generous support for ADSOEF.

Barbara J. Smith, Zeta Chapter
Susan Samoviski, Chi Chapter
Joan Avery, Chi Chapter
Linda Reeves, Alpha Delta Chapter, Chairman.

Fundraising Committee

The purpose of the Fundraising Committee is to plan, coordinate and execute activities that raise money to support ADSOEF's mission, *providing funding to serve charitable purposes relating to professional and personal growth of educators and educational excellence.*



The committee determines a financial goal, followed by implementing a plan to achieve that goal. Each year, the committee meets and develops this plan in the form of a theme to attract interest. This year's theme will be rolled out at the OHSO Executive Board Meeting, September 27, 2025, held at OU-Dublin. The committee is excited to share the theme chosen and is ready to begin the 2025-2026 Campaign.

Through ADSOEF's annual events, including National Philanthropy Day, Giving Day and The Birthday Luncheon, donations are collected to reach the goal. The Fundraising Committee attempts to build membership support and awareness through social media, the website, monthly *Updates* and *Foundation Matters*. By using these tools to build support, the committee encourages accountability and transparency.

The Foundation also collects ongoing donations that can be made on the website, www.adsoef.org.

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



Marketing Committee

The Marketing Committee develops strategies to encourage member and recipient involvement. The committee regularly reviews and updates the website, Facebook posts, and *Foundation Matters*. The Marketing Committee manages the Facebook page at *Alpha Delta State Ohio Educational Foundation*, and the members encourage you to **like** and follow the page. The committee will be meeting soon to find ways to publicize and promote the colorful new fundraising campaign, National Philanthropy Day, and Giving Tuesday. We welcome your suggestions and input!

Beth Bronkar, Alpha Psi
Katie Gantz, Gamma Phi, OHSO liaison
Joanne Snow, Alpha Pi
Cathy Tenney, Beta Kappa
Annie Zahradnik, Gamma Theta
Diana Kirkpatrick, Alpha Delta, Chairman



Michaela Notte

Receiving the Strickland Grant has served as a substantial benefit for me. Due to student-teaching full time during the Fall 2024 semester, I was unable to work and didn't have any income. Without the help of this grant, I am sure I would have had many more financial struggles. Because of this generous award, I was able to purchase items used for student teaching, such as books and school supplies, and fund my transportation, as my assignment was in the next county from where I live.

For my final semester at Kent State University, I completed my student teaching assignment at Marlboro Elementary School in Marlboro, Ohio, which is in Stark County. I was fortunate enough to be welcomed back there for the fall semester, as I completed my pre-clinical student teaching at Marlboro Elementary in the spring of 2024.

My student teaching experience was slightly different than most, as I had two mentor teachers. I was with Mrs. Ryan for the first 8 weeks of my experience and taught 3rd grade ELA and social studies. For the second half, I was in Mrs. Dine's classroom and taught 3rd grade math and science. Mrs. Ryan and Mrs. Dine have been team teaching for years, and their shared experience in the classroom has helped me grow as an educator immensely. With their mentorship and guidance, I have built better classroom management skills, gained more confidence in the classroom, and developed a much better ability to plan and modify a lesson. Without their help, I would not feel nearly as confident about running my own classroom.

There were 46 third graders at Marlboro Elementary. I was fortunate to build relationships with each of these students during my time with them. I became familiar with their interests and hobbies, which benefited all of us. Each student brought something special to the classroom, and it was refreshing and incredible to see their growth not just academically, but as young people in this world. I am truly better because of these extraordinary 3rd grade students. Their enthusiasm, creativity, curiosity, and unique perspectives and personalities have inspired me daily.

Because of my time spent at Marlboro Elementary School, I was blessed to receive a position at the school shortly after my student teaching experience was completed. Not only am I able to continue growing my relationship with my students and mentor teachers, but I am continuing to grow my skills as an educator as well, which will greatly benefit me in the future.

In addition to the immediate financial relief, receiving the Strickland Grant gave me peace of mind and allowed me to focus on what truly mattered: my students. It gave me the opportunity to immerse myself fully in my role as a student teacher, without the constant worry of how to make ends meet. I could prioritize my energy on lesson planning, engaging with students, and learning from my mentor teacher, knowing that my basic needs were being supported. This grant has not only helped me financially, but it has also been a significant source of encouragement and motivation. Knowing that others believe in my potential as a future educator has strengthened my passion and drive to continue pursuing this path. I am deeply appreciative of the Strickland Grant, and I will carry the benefits of this support with me throughout my teaching career.



Dr. Norma Kirby

Linda Harrison ~ In honor of Metrisha Hughes

Alpha Psi Chapter ~ In memory of Ann Huntsman

Into the Future. . .Important Dates to Remember!

September 15, 2025

ADSOEF Board of Directors Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

October 6, 2025

ADSOEF Governance Committee Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

October 8, 2025

ADSOEF Nominating Committee Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

October 15, 2025

ADSOEF Fundraising Committee Meeting @ 4:30 p.m.

October 20, 2025

ADSOEF Board of Directors Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

November 17, 2025

ADSOEF Board of Directors Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

No December BOD Meeting



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)

____ Scholarship Fund (Annie Webb Blanton)

____ International Studies Fund (A. Margaret Boyd)

____ Leadership Fund

____ Student Teacher Grant Fund (Esther H. Strickland)

____ Lifelong Learning Fund

____ Jane Brundige Stein Scholarship 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