



2025

ANNUAL REPORT



2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Improvements in our Museum

Over the past several years, a number of improvements have been made across the museum complex. **Six bathrooms received much-needed updates:** the walls were freshly painted, the floors were stripped, cleaned, and resurfaced, and new paper towel holders were installed to help reduce waste. Step-on trash cans were also added to promote better hygiene.

Beyond the restrooms, **several other areas received a fresh coat of paint**, including the hallway leading into the King House, Gallery 1, and the Gift Shop—each space is now brighter and more welcoming to guests. In an effort to enhance the visual consistency of our displays, **all study club charters were reframed and rehung to present a more cohesive and professional look.**

All buildings in the museum complex were **power washed**, restoring their exterior appearance and removing months of built-up dirt and grime. In the courtyard, landscaping efforts included the **removal of dead bushes and the planting of perennial flowers** to add color and vibrancy to the space.

To improve both security and usability, the **exterior double-doors** into the shipping area were **replaced** with newer, **more functional doors**. And finally, with the retirement of our longtime accountants from the firm of Wells and Priest, we welcomed a **new accountant, Dan Ream**, who has already begun supporting our financial operations.

Important note! Many of the museum improvements were completed thanks to donations designated for them.

Community Connections



Co-Executive Directors Jennifer Miller and Cheryl Varrasso are placing a renewed emphasis on community engagement as part of their vision to raise the museum's profile, welcome more visitors, and deepen public understanding of Heisey glass and the historic contributions of A.H. Heisey & Company to Ohio's heritage.

One of their most impactful efforts has been strengthening the museum's **partnership with the Licking County Historical Society**. This collaboration has already yielded promising results. Last fall, they co-hosted **Halloween in the Park**, a first-time event that drew a large crowd of families for an evening of festive, family-friendly activities. The event successfully opened the doors of the museum to new community members through fun, approachable programming.

Looking ahead, the partnership is continuing to grow. The two organizations are collaborating on a celebration marking the **bicentennial of the Ohio and Erie Canal**. The event, scheduled for June 28 in the Historic Canal Market District, will offer another opportunity to connect history, education, and community engagement in a meaningful and celebratory setting.

2024-2025 COMMITTEE WORK

Bylaws Committee – Martha McGill, Chair

In the **50 years** since their original adoption, HCA's constitution and bylaws have **undergone 18 amendments**, resulting in a document that had become increasingly difficult to navigate. **Recognizing the need for a comprehensive update, the committee agreed that a full revision was both necessary and timely.**

Board member **Martha McGill, a retired attorney, led the review process.** Drawing on her legal background, she conducted an in-depth study of Ohio's Nonprofit Corporation Law and consulted a range of online legal resources to guide the drafting of revised documents. While the proposed changes did not substantially alter the core provisions of the existing constitution and bylaws, they aimed to bring greater clarity, resolve internal inconsistencies, reflect current organizational practices, and ensure full compliance with state laws governing nonprofit entities.

Following extensive committee discussions, the draft documents were forwarded to the HCA Board of Directors for additional review and revision. **They were also evaluated by HCA's legal counsel and accountant to confirm alignment with all applicable regulations.**

Once these internal reviews were complete, the documents were shared with the HCA membership for feedback. Members were invited to participate in a **30-day public comment period** and **three virtual meetings**. The response from the membership was thoughtful and constructive, with many suggestions incorporated into the final draft. **The revised constitution and bylaws were subsequently approved by the board and placed on the ballot for consideration during HCA's election.**

Website Committee – Caleb Files, Chair

The redesign and **development of the Heisey Glass Museum and HCA website is well underway**, marking an exciting step forward in modernizing the organization's digital presence. The process began with the committee drafting and posting a **detailed request for proposal (RFP)** to attract qualified website developers. The response was robust—**18 proposals were received from a diverse range of firms**, both large and small, based in the United States and internationally.

To ensure a thorough evaluation, the committee held preliminary meetings with interested vendors and used a comprehensive rubric to assess each submission. After careful consideration, four standout finalists were selected for interviews. Following those conversations, the committee recommended the firm **WeAreRally** to the HCA Board of Directors. **The board gave its full approval in May.**

Community input is an essential part of the process. **Two virtual listening sessions** were held with HCA members to gather feedback on what features, content, and functionality they hoped to see in the new site. **This outreach was reinforced by a follow-up survey, distributed by email, to collect broader input from the membership.** The new website is on track for **completion in January.**

2024-2025 COMMITTEE WORK

Advertising Committee – Bari Fauss, Chair

HCA has taken significant steps to expand its outreach and raise awareness about the museum and the annual convention glass show through new marketing efforts. This year, the organization began **advertising on digital billboards** placed in several high-traffic locations throughout the area. These eye-catching displays are designed to capture the attention of both locals and visitors, encouraging them to explore the museum and attend the convention.

In addition to billboard advertising, the museum is participating in the **250 Passport Challenge, a project led by the Licking County Historical Alliance**. As part of this initiative, the museum is featured in a special passport booklet that highlights historical sites across each of the county's townships. This inclusion not only promotes the museum to a broader audience but also aligns it with a county-wide effort to celebrate and preserve local history.

Auction Committee – Roy Eggert, Chair

The Auction Committee played a vital role in supporting HCA's mission this past year, overseeing four successful auctions that collectively generated significant interest and revenue.

The Fall Heisey Heritage Auction, held online only, featured **511 lots of glass** and drew **78 registrants**, 66 of whom placed bids. **The auction brought in a total of \$12,234**. The Dave Spahr Fall Select Auction, offered both online and in person, included **339 lots** and attracted **88 online bidders** and 38 in-house bidders, **resulting in a total revenue of \$52,872**. After covering all associated expenses, the two fall auctions raised a **net total of \$13,208 for HCA**.

In the spring, the Spring Heisey Heritage Auction, also held online only, presented **439 lots**, with **106 registrants** and **66 active bidders**, generating **\$10,065 in revenue**. The Spring Benefit Auction, which was conducted in a hybrid format, featured **339 lots**, welcomed **107 online bidders** and 48 in-person participants, and **raised \$37,004**. Together, the spring auctions brought in **\$10,333 for HCA** after expenses and consigner payments.

Following the successful completion of the spring auctions, long-time Auction Committee leaders **Roy Eggert, Mary Ann Spahr, and Karen Taylo** stepped down from their roles. Their many years of service and dedication have made a lasting impact, and HCA extends sincere gratitude for their tireless efforts on behalf of the organization.

Looking ahead, leadership of the Auction Committee transitions to new hands. **Co-Executive Director Jennifer Miller**, having passed the qualifying state exam, will now serve as the museum's auction firm manager. **Donna Nyght**, a dedicated HCA member and President of the Great Plains Heisey Club, will assume the role of Auction Committee Chair, continuing the tradition of excellence in this critical area of HCA's operations.

2024-2025 COMMITTEE WORK

Education Committee – Mike Morgan, Chair

This year marked meaningful progress in improving educational resources at the Heisey Glass Museum. Updated and revised editions of **Heisey's Orchid** and **Heisey Rose etch booklets**, originally authored by Neila Bredehoft, were created and published. These refreshed publications offer clearer, more comprehensive information for collectors and visitors alike, and help preserve the legacy of Heisey's intricate glass designs.

In addition, work has begun on **developing a series of docent cards**. These cards are being designed to equip museum docents with consistent, accurate information to share during guided tours, ensuring guests enjoy a more cohesive and informative experience throughout their visit.

Policies and Procedures Committee – Martha McGill, Chair

The Policies and Procedures Committee continued its important work this year, ensuring that HCA's internal operations remain clear, consistent, and aligned with best practices. Tasked with developing new policies and updating existing ones, the committee made significant progress in strengthening the organization's administrative foundation.

Several new policies were drafted and approved by the HCA Board of Directors, including **Visitor Guidelines**, **a Paid Holiday Policy**, **a Drug-Free Workplace Policy**, **a Smoking Policy**, and **a Firearms Policy**. Each of these reflects HCA's commitment to providing a safe, welcoming, and professional environment for staff, volunteers, and visitors alike.

In collaboration with HCA Secretary David Malick, the committee also developed a new **Service Recognition Policy**, which the board approved in January 2025. This policy provides a framework for acknowledging and celebrating the contributions of those who have dedicated their time and talents to the organization.

In addition to creating new policies, the committee reviewed and updated several key existing documents. The updated **Employee Handbook**, **Records Retention and Storage Policy**, **Nondiscrimination Policy**, and **General Financial Procedures and Policies** were all approved by the board, ensuring these foundational resources are current and comprehensive.

Committee Chair Martha McGill continues to serve as a valuable advisor to the co-Executive Directors, offering guidance on the interpretation and application of the employee handbook and other HCA policies as questions arise.

2024-2025 COMMITTEE WORK

Newsletter Committee – Chair Mary Olson

Art Director Kirk Homrighouse significantly enhanced the **design, production, and delivery of *Heisey News***. The newsletter was fully redesigned to align with **new graphic standards** shaped by **member feedback**, resulting in a more modern and engaging publication. Production was upgraded from **in-house copying** to **professional full-color printing on high-quality paper**, greatly improving the visual presentation—especially the reproduction of photographs. Distribution has also become more **reliable: digital issues are now emailed to members on the first of each month**, and print editions are consistently sent to the printer in time to ensure timely mailing. These improvements have strengthened ***Heisey News* as a polished and dependable communication tool for HCA**.

Nominations Committee – Chair Suzanne Parker

This year, the Nominating Committee fulfilled its important responsibility by presenting a **slate of three dedicated HCA members** who expressed their willingness to run for the Board of Directors. Each candidate brings a strong commitment to the organization and a readiness to **serve a four-year term**, contributing their time, skills, and passion to support HCA's mission and future.

Research and Archives Committee – David Malick, Chair

This year, key resources previously housed in the Members Only section of the Heisey Museum website were **restored** and made **accessible** via SharePoint during the website redesign. These include **board and committee minutes, financial reports, Endowment Fund updates, HCA policies, and current-year issues of *Heisey News***.

A new **Service Recognition Policy** was created to formally acknowledge exceptional volunteer contributions. Members may now be honored through nameplates, event or facility dedications, and features in *Heisey News*—a meaningful way to celebrate those who help sustain the museum.

The committee submitted **nine articles** to *Heisey News* and led a digitization effort that made **38 catalogs, price lists, brochures**, and over **1,400 photographs** available on the Archives SharePoint site.

To support outreach, an article titled **“Heisey Glass Museum: Preserving and sharing the history of American hand-made glassware”** was published in the **Spring 2025 issue** of **The News Journal**, the magazine of the **Early American Pattern Glass Society**.

2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

The Financials

\$6,954,745.306

ENDOWMENT BALANCE AS OF 6/11/25

As of June 11, 2025, the endowment had a **balance of \$6,954,745.306**.

During Q1 2025, the **fund generated \$189,475.94** in estimated annual income from interest and dividends, with a portfolio distribution of approximately **56% equities, 42% fixed income**, and **2% cash equivalents**. Notably, the investment mix continues to prioritize both stability and long-term growth.

The endowment continues to play a critical role in funding the museum's **programming, staffing, maintenance**, and **strategic initiatives**—including the website redesign, community engagement events, and updated member resources. Overall, the fund remains well-managed and aligned with the museum's long-term sustainability goals.

The **total number of visitors** to the Heisey Glass Museum from June 2024 through June 2025 was **3,573**. The **gross revenue** from the gift shop was nearly **\$100,000**.

Now is a great time to **make a contribution** to one of our ongoing special projects that rely on donor support. Whether it's the **HVAC Fund** to improve climate control and protect the collection, the **Website Redesign Project** to enhance access and engagement, or the **Cabinet Campaign** to upgrade our display infrastructure, **your gift will help advance the mission of the museum and preserve Heisey's legacy for future generations**.

