

 **Heisey
Collectors
of America**

2026

ANNUAL REPORT



2025-2026 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Continued Improvements to Our Museum

Several important improvements were also made to strengthen how we preserve, display, and interpret the Heisey legacy. **New custom-made cabinets**, funded entirely through member contributions, were installed in the Multipurpose Room to enhance our display of Heisey reproductions and Heisey “look-alikes” made by other companies. These cabinets provide a more polished, secure, and educational setting for objects that help tell an important part of the Heisey story.

In addition, a cabinet that had been at Park National Bank for many years was returned and installed in the Ludwig Gallery, bringing another useful display piece back into service. **The Board also commissioned a new matching cabinet for Gallery Two** to replace a small metal cabinet, helping create a more cohesive and professional appearance within the gallery.

Behind the scenes, another major improvement was completed in the Archives Room, where the **HVAC system was replaced**. This upgrade helps protect our archival materials while also providing a more comfortable environment for the volunteers and staff who work with the museum’s important records and historical resources.

The courtyard also received renewed attention. Trees and shrubs that had reached the end of their lifespan, or were invasive, were removed, making way for a refreshed landscape plan. Thanks to the work of a Master Gardener volunteer, the space was redesigned, and new planting was completed in the spring, adding fresh life and beauty to an important gathering area within the museum complex.

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

Community Connections



Co-Executive Directors Jennifer Miller and Cheryl Varrasso have continued to place a strong emphasis on building relationships that raise awareness of the museum and broaden public understanding of the significant historical contributions of A.H. Heisey & Company to Ohio’s heritage.

Their work has strengthened the museum’s presence within both local and national organizations, including the **Licking County Historical Alliance, Downtown Newark Association, Licking County Foundation, Women’s Leadership Network, Blue Star Museums, America 250 Licking County Passport**, and the **Association of American Glass Organizations**. These connections help position the museum as an active participant in the cultural, historical, and civic life of the community.

The museum’s partnership with the **Licking County Historical Society** also continues to grow through family-friendly events such as **Halloween in the Park** and the **Holiday Open House**. These programs welcome new visitors, introduce families to the museum in an approachable way, and create opportunities for the public to engage with local history.

The museum is also grateful for its continued partnership with the **Buckeye Heisey Collectors Club** on the annual **Easter Egg Hunt**, another important community tradition that brings families to the museum complex and helps connect the next generation with Heisey history.

2025-2026 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Communication

The museum is working to strengthen its connection to members and others who share a passion for vintage glass through more frequent informative, interesting posts on Facebook that are then shared with appropriate Facebook groups.

Staff Accomplishments

Art Director Kirk Homrighouse was awarded the annual **Licking County United Way Ken Johnson Volunteer of the Year Award** for his exemplary volunteer efforts.

Collections Manager Emily Sanderell earned her **Master of Liberal Arts degree in Museum Studies** through Extension Studies at Harvard University.

HCA Service Recognition

The board adopted a new **Service Recognition Policy** to recognize significant and outstanding non-monetary contributions.

Under this policy, the board recognized **Roy Eggert, Mary Ann Spahr, and Karen Taylo** for extraordinary service in running HCA auctions – a combined 55 years of service. During the Covid pandemic they implemented online auctions to continue HCA's largest fundraisers and provide service to members.

The board also recognized **Tom Bredehoft** and his late wife, **Neila Bredehoft**, for extraordinary service in researching and promoting the study of Heisey glassware. Resources they created are in constant use today by Heisey collectors. The HCA Archives in the museum is now named after them.

2025-2026 COMMITTEE WORK

Advertising Committee – Bari Fauss, Chair

HCA has doubled its efforts to create broader awareness of the museum, Heisey glass and the annual convention glass show.

The committee greatly expanded use of electronic billboards –**19 billboards from Zanesville to Columbus** –to publicize the show. HCA initiated an extensive advertising campaign with **Columbus Underground**, an award-winning, online news publication based in Columbus, but with broad geographic and demographic reach. It also shared glass show information with **17 local publications**.

For the first time in many years, HCA produced a **large outdoor banner advertising** the convention glass show. Placed at a busy intersection throughout May, it moved to the entrance of The Skylight in June.

HCA continues to advertise annually in **Livability Licking County** and year around with downtown Newark's **Noontime News**.

Archives Committee – David Malick, Chair

The Archives Committee **submitted six** "From the Archives" articles to *Heisey News* and **digitized nine** catalogs and price lists as well as **five boxes** of other material covering the Swink Advertising Agency, Heisey dealer newspaper ads, and newspaper clippings. In addition, the **correspondence of Rod Irwin was digitized**. He started as a salesperson for Heisey in 1914, and was sales manager from 1933 until retirement in 1952. The committee also **updated the HCA Archives Policy**.

Auction Committee – Donna Nyght, Chair

Under the direction of a new committee chair, **Donna Nyght**, and a new auction firm manager, **Jennifer Miller**, the Auction Committee conducted successful auctions in October and April, raising nearly **\$21,300 for HCA**.

The 362 lots in the **Fall Heisey Heritage Auction**, online only, attracted 108 online registrants and brought in total revenue of \$11,962; after expenses **net revenue was \$3,880**.

The 316 lots in the **Dave Spahr Fall Select Auction**, in person and online, brought in total revenue of \$40,935; after expenses **net revenue was \$8,835**.

The 321 lots in the **Spring Heisey Heritage Auction**, online only, attracted 93 online registrants and brought in total revenues of \$4,828; after expenses **net revenue was \$1,378**.

The 127 lots in the **Spring Benefit Heisey Reproductions Auction**, online only, attracted 57 bidders and brought in total revenues of \$5,481; after expenses **net revenue was \$2,711**.

The 837 lots in the **Spring Benefit Auction**, in person and online, attracted 43 in-person registrants and 88 online registrants and brought in total revenues of \$25,783; after expenses **net revenue was \$4,462**.

Auction Schedule 2026-2027

Fall Heisey Heritage, Online Only	October 10 2026
Dave Spahr Fall Select Auction, Online and In-Person	October 17 2026
Spring Benefit Auction, Online Only	April 8-11 2027

2025-2026 COMMITTEE WORK

Convention Committee – Mary Olson, Chair

The 2026 Convention Committee put together a grand celebration of the glass that made its mark on Newark and the nation. To coincide with the 250th birthday of the United States, the committee chose to develop **Heisey's Place in History** as the theme for the event, June 17 through 20. The convention's highlight was the **A Touch of Glass Show and Sale**, where attendees sipped champagne and enjoyed hors d'oeuvres while admiring **70 tables** of sparkling Heisey glass to purchase.

The convention included a variety of opportunities for members to deepen their knowledge of Heisey history, Heisey glass, and glassmaking in general with tours of the former Heisey factory, a glassmaking demonstration and hands-on glassmaking classes at The Works - Ohio Center for History, Art & Technology, and **six seminars** on a wide range of Heisey topics. It brought back popular elements such as the **Welcome Picnic with a Glass Swap** and the ever-popular **glass identification session** following the **HCA annual meeting**.

Education Committee – David Malick, Chair

The Education Committee published **A. H. Heisey and Company Factory**, which includes many photos from the archives as well as an 1895 newspaper clipping describing construction of the building and a letter from Emmett Olson, chemist for the Heisey company, describing the workings of a glass factory.

The committee also completed the **first draft of a second edition of Encyclopedia of Heisey Glassware Volume II: Cuttings & Engravings**, by Neila and Tom Bredehoft and Louise Ream, and is making steady progress on a comprehensive Heisey resource book.

Newsletter Committee – Mary Olson, Chair

The committee has continued to refine its proofreading process to ensure consistency throughout and accuracy of information, especially about Heisey glass. While it cannot guarantee speedy postal delivery, it has worked to ensure email delivery of the newsletter on the first of the month except when there have been technical problems.

Policies and Procedures Committee - Martha McGill, Chair

The Privacy Policy and Employee Handbook were updated. The Projects Policy was updated to reflect our adoption of the name "HCA® Glassware" for the reproductions and other glassware items commissioned by HCA.

2025-2026 COMMITTEE WORK

Projects Committee – James Warren and Michael Maher, Co-Chairs

HCA Special Projects for 2026 were developed to create new Heisey items that would inspire enthusiasm among both seasoned collectors and those newly discovering Heisey glass. In collaboration with talented artists and respected glassmakers from Central Ohio — including St. Louisville Glass, Mosser Glass, and Gay Fad Studios — this year's projects celebrated both innovation and tradition.

Crystal Easter eggs made using a Heisey diamond optic mould were introduced for the first time and quickly sold out two production runs. Plans are already underway to continue the tradition next year.

In celebration of America's 250th anniversary, Mosser Glass created a stunning reproduction of the No. 1306 Comet Leaf Soda in rich Ruby red; Gay Fad Studios reimagined the classic Heisey Victory etch with modern flair in platinum silver on elegant soda glasses; and St. Louisville Glass produced striking red, white, and blue pumpkins from the No. 1404 Old Sandwich mould. These pumpkins recall the early American influence of historic Sandwich Glass patterns. These items all debuted at the convention in June.

Additional offerings included the ever-popular ornaments made in Crystal, Cobalt, and Ruby using the No. 1519 Waverly salt and pepper mould, as well as the return of the highly sought-after Heisey icicles, which sold out quickly last year, and Heisey candy cane ornaments.

Warehouse Committee – Jay Goletz, Chair

The Warehouse Committee focused on safety and maintaining the exterior of the building to ensure security of our enormous collection of Heisey moulds. The electric panel was replaced, and the fire extinguisher was recertified. The committee sought bids for tuckpointing and patching large sections of the building where mortar has deteriorated, and the board is expected to hire a contractor to make repairs this summer.

Website Committee – Caleb-Michael Files, Chair

Following a long process that included virtual listening sessions with HCA members and an email survey about the features, content, and functionality they wanted in a new website, the committee selected the development firm WeAreRally to redesign and build the new site. The committee presented members' vision for the new site to the developers and worked with them throughout the design process.

The new site includes expanded information about visiting the museum, Heisey glass, the history of A.H. Heisey and Company and of HCA, as well as access to many items in the Heisey archives that have been digitized, and member-only access to meeting minutes, financial documents, and more.

The site launched unofficially in April, but work continues on fine-tuning aspects of the website, especially those related to member services and members-only access. We are working hard to get it right!

Nominations Committee – Martha McGill, Chair

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.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Trademark Renewed – Martha McGill

We successfully renewed our trademark for the use of "HCA" in connection with glassware. The renewal is for a 10-year period. The Diamond H trademark and the "Heisey" word mark for glassware were renewed previously.

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

The Financials

\$7,615,058

ENDOWMENT BALANCE AS OF 5/31/26

Revenues (\$570,000) exceeded budget, driven primarily by an unexpected estate gift and net proceeds from auctions. Membership declined from 900 in December 2024 to 755 in December 2025, reducing revenue. Admission revenue also fell below budget after admission fees were eliminated in May, and Museum Shop sales were approximately \$14,000 below target.

Expenditures (\$394,700) were below budget overall, largely because of lower salary and special project costs. Payroll expenses declined due to two unfilled positions, and fewer HCA® Glassware items were approved for production. Spending exceeded budget in two areas: removal of dead or declining trees in the courtyard and website development.

Reproduction Cabinet Campaign

In 2025, a successful campaign raised \$40,000 to produce and install 16 cabinets, allowing reproductions to be relocated to a more accessible area of the museum, the all-purpose room.

Endowment

The Heisey Glass Museum Endowment Fund remains an important source of support for Heisey Collectors of America, Inc. and the museum. During 2025, \$349,000 was transferred from the fund to support museum operations and redevelopment of the museum website. Despite this transfer, the fund increased by more than \$587,000 during the year and reached \$7.3 million at the end of December, primarily due to investment gains, interest, and dividends.

Contributions to the Endowment Fund remain welcome and are added to its investment base. In 2025, the fund received \$27,900 in cash contributions. Only investment gains, interest, and dividends are used to support museum operations.

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