



ASSOCIATION  
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# May 2025 - AOC Foundation Strategic Planning Committee Report

- Myles Murphy, Chair

# 2025 AOC Foundation Strategic Planning Team

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- Myles Murphy
- Larry Rzepka
- Mick Riley
- Mark Schallheim
- Keith Everly
- Ken Dworkin
- Nino Amoroso
- Shelley Frost
- Jim Utt
- Dennis Monahan

# 2025 AOC Foundation Strategic Planning Subcommittees

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<u>Subcommittee</u>	<u>Subcommittee Chairs/Staff Liaison</u>
Scholarships	Mick Riley/Larry Rzepka
EMS/STEM	Mark Schallheim/Larry Rzepka
Community Education	Keith Everly/Larry Rzepka <sup>4</sup>
Development	Nino Amoroso/Larry Rzepka

*Subcommittees Meet Quarterly to Discuss Strategy and Progress*

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# AOC Educational Foundation Overview of 2025 Operating Plan Goals & Progress

# **Our Strategic Goals -- Building the AOC Foundation 2029**



## **Our strategic priorities for the next five years include:**

- Establish a robust fundraising program to ensure the sustainability and growth of our scholarships and educational initiatives.
- Expand and enhance our scholarship programs to provide financial support to aspiring EMSO professionals
- Support and enhance EMS STEM activities on the electromagnetic spectrum for youth engagement across Chapters and with other organizations to expose young students to the exciting possibilities within the EMSO domain.
- Broadening opportunities for learning and talent development to ensure a steady pipeline of skilled professionals entering the EMSO workforce.



## 2025 Q2 Progress: Establish a Robust Fundraising Program

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Launched our first spring annual fund campaign to our individual members of AOC. For the first time, donations can be restricted to 6 different funds: General Fund, Scholarship Fund, Awards & Recognition Fund, EMS/STEM Activities Fund, Community Education Fund or Special Projects Fund.

We anticipate a more targeted approach to our corporate members so as not to compete for the revenue AOC receives through sponsorships, exhibits and their Partners Program. Launch anticipated at the end of June/beginning July time frame.

Developing a Corporate Advisory Council to serve in an advisory and information-exchange capacity to the AOC Foundation's Board of Governors. Membership will consist of a representative designated from a corporation that has donated either an unrestricted or restricted gift of at least \$10,000 on an annual basis to the Foundation.

We have recently purchased an online subscription to the "Foundation Directory Online" which is a major tool nonprofits use to identify potential grant prospects that we could send proposals to.

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, we will be conducting an in-house workshop with the Strategy Committee to start identifying our top funding priorities.

## 2025 Q2 Progress: Expand and Enhance Scholarship Programs

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Applications for the STEM Student of the Year Award currently sit at thirteen.

Applications are currently slow for the Future 5 program. A potential idea we are looking at is to expand the Future 5 program; Keep the name but have regional or geographically-designated areas have their own Future 5. Example: Future 5 Europe; Future 5 Asia, etc. Might increase interest as well as participation in the program. Would also encourage a younger global audience to become members of the AOC.

Launched our first efforts for the new “From Service to Scholars” program targeting individuals (or a qualified member of their family) attending higher education classes under the current GI Bill. Our hopes are to give out five \$2,000 scholarships to help with the expenses not covered by the GI Bill. Rhode & Schwarz have pledged \$50,000 over the next five years to support the program.

We have discussed using this scholarship as a template for other major corporations to create their own scholarship program with us Goal is to add at least three additional scholarships by the end of the year.



## 2025 Q2 Progress: Support/Enhance EMS STEM Activities for Youth Engagement

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A meeting was arranged with the Committee Chair and the Chapter Presidents to start gathering information on exactly which of our chapters are involved in doing this. As a result, the data is starting to be collected and can be used by the Foundation to start promoting their efforts on a national/international level.

The AOC Educational Foundation participated in the Society for Science's International Science & Engineering Fair held in Columbus, Ohio from May 11-16 in Columbus, Ohio. We manned an exhibit booth for the College & Career Fair and came on board as a Special Award Organization providing \$5,000 in prize money for projects that demonstrated an understating of EW and the electromagnetic spectrum.

We have been invited, and are considering, potentially partnering with the National Science Teachers Association to provide lecturers, an exhibit booth and a possible demonstration of how teachers could incorporate the study of the EMS in their science programs at their Fall conference in Minneapolis in November.

We have been approached by the World Robot Olympiad Association to consider holding a demonstration at some of their national/international competitions. Their International Final will be held in Singapore in November with anticipated representation from 85 countries.

## 2025 Q2 Progress: Broaden Opportunities for Learning and Talent Development

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The Princeton Museum of Innovation and Leadership have initiated talks with us to discuss a potential arrangement to showcase some historical EW artifacts and museum pieces at the new museum they are developing. We must first locate where some of our past museum pieces are currently being stored or showcased.

We are also planning on identifying three museums to potentially support; a recruiting strategy to get more members involved on this committee – especially university professors, major industry-related corporate representatives and military personnel will be key to developing a selection process.

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The committee feels it is a necessity to develop an annual research prize of some sort recognizing academic/scientific research in this discipline. First steps would be to form an ad hoc committee of external stakeholders and experts to help organize and establish the parameters of the research prize as well as the administrative process needed for a prize call, award evaluation and presentation & recognition.

Identification of major donors, whether corporate, individual or foundation, will be contingent on the establishment of the funding priorities for the Foundation. As will be the discovery of exactly what historical or museum-ready artifacts the AOC might have in their possession.

# 2025 AOC Foundation Subcommittees

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## Upcoming Meetings



<u>Subcommittee</u>	<u>Scheduled Meeting</u>
Development	August 26, 2025
EMS/STEM	August 11, 2025
Scholarships	August 7, 2025
Community Education	August 20, 2025