

FY 2026 Year in Review

There is something quietly remarkable about an organization that gets better not by reinventing itself, but by listening more carefully. This past year, that is exactly what CEONet did — and the results speak for themselves.

In the fall of 2025, our Board convened for its bi-annual strategic review — and what emerged was something more meaningful than a revised document. After three years of growing into this organization, of learning what our members truly need, we arrived at a plan that feels less like a roadmap and more like a reflection of who we are.

Our revised Mission and Vision now center on three guiding principles — what we call our three screens: focusing on the needs of the CEO, cultivating thoughtful mutualistic relationships, and leveraging our collective efforts. Every program, event, and decision we make is measured against these priorities; and, because your needs continue to evolve, our strategy will evolve too. We see our strategic plan as a living document—one that grows alongside our members.

Our Annual Retreat in Fort Lauderdale was one of the highlights of the year. The conversations were honest, practical, and energizing—the kind of discussions that remind us why this network matters. CEOs shared ideas, tackled challenges together, and left with new relationships and fresh perspectives. We also recognized that not every CEO can make it to every event, and not every important conversation fits neatly into a two-day agenda. So, when the topic of “Purchasing Your Foundation Building” resonated deeply, we extended it — bringing it into a Roundtable webinar format so more of you could engage. This is the model we are intentionally building: peer-led, peer-driven programming delivered in the formats that meet you where you are.

At the heart of everything we do is a simple but powerful truth: community foundation CEOs are a rare group. The challenges you navigate are complex, the stakes are high, and the peers who truly understand your experience are few. CEONet exists to bring those peers together.

As we look ahead, I'm excited about where we're headed. We've built a stronger strategic foundation, our programming continues to become more relevant and responsive, and our community grows deeper with every connection that's made. Thank you for being part of CEONet and for helping shape what this organization becomes. I look forward to everything we'll accomplish together in the coming year.

With gratitude and optimism,
Aubrey Abbot Patterson
Chairperson, CEONet Board of Directors
FY2026

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Act/Lead

Sustain a CEO-centric network that advances leader education, practical support, and wellness — using collective intelligence to help CEOs bridge and strengthen their communities.



Connect/Share/Learn

Give CF leaders meaningful ways to connect, share promising practices, thought leadership, and learn from experts — while building data- and story-driven partnerships with PSOs, vendors, and legal networks.



Sustainability

Sustain CEONet through efficient operations, diversified revenue, right-sized staffing, and an active representative board.

LEADERSHIP

**Aubrey Abbott
Patterson**
Board President

**Jennifer O’Flannery
Anderson**
Secretary & Treasurer

Eva Friesen
Board Member

Kristi Knous
Board Member

Marisa Magallanez
Board Member

Dan Templin
Board Member

Steve Joul
CEONet Advisor

Melissa DeLaet
Board Vice Chair

Stephen Adams
Board Member

Michelle Foster
Board Member

Matt Lewis
Board Member

Chris Huber
Board Member

Carrie Sanders
Board Member

Diane Miller
Executive Director

My first CEONet retreat was one of the most valuable experiences of my inaugural year as CEO. The peer network, generous idea-sharing, and diversity of perspectives from foundations of similar size and culture have proven invaluable — both to me personally and to Arkansas Community Foundation. I'm deeply grateful for this trusted community of support.

– Jessica Ford Hughes, Arkansas Community Foundation

Year Highlights



122 Members



**Members Represent 37
U.S. States + Canada**



**Annual Retreat in Fort
Lauderdale**

Peer-facilitated, focused on real-world challenges and immediately applicable to your work



**Educational Webinars &
Roundtables**

>250 attendees on topics ranging from Donor Misbehavior to Buying Your Foundation Building



Peer Cohort Program

Formation of one peer cohort program with plans for future cohorts



CEO Connects Calls

Quarterly virtual meetings for CEOs to connect, share and learn from one another



Communications

Communications channels across 1,161 contacts with average open rates of 39% for all and 43.2% for members

