

Girl Scouts: Sweeter Than Cookies Debbie (Anderson) Robinson's Story



By: Melanie M. (Fulks) Nelson
WHS Class of 1981

Debbie Anderson's excitement for Girl Scouts began in Warren as a 6-year-old girl. Little did she know, scouting would forever be her passion. Now, in her 50th year as a Girl Scout and leader, she has as much fervor as ever for the Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA). Though she has no official title and has never been employed by Girl Scouts, she has held nearly every volunteer position available. Her life work in scouting has given her a multitude of travel and mentoring opportunities, taking in more than 42 countries with 14 more scheduled in the next two years! Some may believe Girl Scouts is an organization of the past, but read on, you'll soon change your mind.

Debbie's knowledge and passion for improving young girls' lives shines like a beacon when chatting with her. Throughout her volunteerism, she has helped train thousands of young girls and has taught them all about the world around them. She feels it's great watching the girls learn and experience deepened cultural awareness. Scouting creates well rounded, strong-minded girls and it is her opinion that scouting is better than sports - giving girls lifelong leadership skills. As she comments, "The most rewarding part of being involved is seeing the girls develop into strong, confident young women." Scouting gives the girls leadership skills, life skills, teaches teamwork and builds courage, confidence and character in these

young ladies who strive to make the world a better place. Girl Scouting has given Debbie numerous opportunities from taking an Antarctic Polar Plunge to being filmed by the Disney Channel while on a Polar excursion.

Debbie (Anderson) Robinson grew up the second eldest in a family of 7 children; Don, Debbie, Cheryl, Virlynn, Roberta, Ron and Jon. While the boys participated in football and wrestling, Debbie enjoyed cheerleading. With four girls in the household, there was no shortage of drama! Interestingly, there were Anderson children within the Warren school system from 1952 - 1984.

Throughout childhood her father, Dennis, managed Quality Motors, the local Chevrolet dealership while her mom, Gladys, worked at the Warren Clinic. Debbie fondly recalls the games the town kids would play in the neighborhood with Ed Rosendahl, her sisters and others. Games like Tin Can Alley, Hide & Seek and playing on the large electrical spools in the alley were how they spent their summer evenings. Debbie also recalls "Eddie" having a "No Girls Allowed Clubhouse." She giggles as she retells how she and her sisters were most of his actual "club" members! They even took a picture under the sign just for the memory.

At the age of 12, Debbie's father was diagnosed with cancer and as the oldest girl, she began working several steady babysitting jobs. At 15, to help out the family, she worked at the E & R Drive In where Helen Jankowski would drive her home after work because she was underage. During high school, she also worked at the Main Street Cafe and 2nd Street Grocery as well as having two steady babysitting jobs. Unbeknownst to her, this early, strong work ethic laid the groundwork for a deep passion for helping others.

Debbie began scouting as a young girl in the mid 1950s when she joined the local Girl Scout troop in Warren, with Mrs. Vic Rehder most likely being her leader. She participated in Brownies from age 7 - 9, earning her "Fly Up Wings" from a Brownie to a Girl Scout in 1960. Debbie recalls attending Cadette Girl Scouts with her friend, Renee (Rehder) Rosendahl. She remained active up through the 9th

grade, when she had earned the First Class Rank.

Thinking back to her days at Warren Elementary, Debbie recalls her favorite teacher was Mrs. Bennett. Debbie and Mrs. Bennett's daughter, Jane (Bennett) Safar, have remained good friends since graduation. She shared that she has always loved math and science, so those were her focused areas of study as she advanced to high school. It stands to reason that her favorite teacher in high school was O.J. Peyton. Her science project took her beyond the local competition, through regional and on to state. For her project, she tested the effects of different drugs on the heartbeat of turtles and frogs. As Debbie was looking through her senior yearbook, she found this message from Mr. Peyton: "Debbie, it's a shame that you'll be leaving us - but the past few years your presence in class, in school and around have been our good fortune. Best of everything, O. J. Peyton." Debbie feels strongly that the education she received at Warren High School (WHS) prepared her well for college. She shared that her class of '69 had a few memorable notes: there were four sets of twins in her class, it was one of the largest classes to grace the halls of WHS and that decade is remembered for President Kennedy's assassination, Woodstock and the first walk on the moon by Neil Armstrong.

Following graduation, Debbie moved on to Moorhead State College where she enrolled in Medical Technology but before graduating, Debbie chose to leave college to start a life with Darrell, a truck driver from Arkansas. After packing her bags, Debbie and Darrell got on the road and made their home in Darrell's hometown of Fort Smith, Arkansas. The couple was married in 1973, marking this past year as their 50th wedding anniversary, which they celebrated by attending the Super Bowl in Las Vegas. The first three years of their young marriage, they drove his truck together. It was during that time, Debbie earned her Business Degree. As a young mother in 1976, Darrell bought her a kiosk jewelry store in the local mall, and he started a metal fabrication business. This put her business degree right to work for the family. During this time, the couple raised three

Continued on page 6

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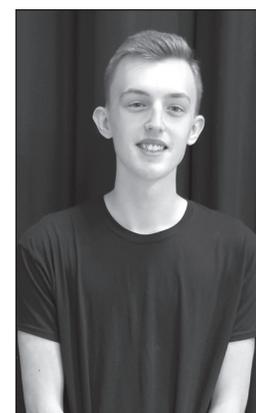
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News & Notes . . .

Laurie Sieben, a former Warren-Alvarado-Oslo special education instructor from 1997-1999, has made quite a name for herself while coaching high school girls' basketball and now, college women's basketball. After leaving WAO, Laurie became head girls basketball coach at Grafton, N.D. high school. She had a very successful career at Grafton winning the Class B State Tournament Championship in 2012 and 2021 and also the Class B State Runnerup in 2019 and 2022. In 2019-2022 she had the pleasure of coaching her twin daughters. As you might expect, Coach Sieben has received numerous post-season awards including the North Dakota High School Athletic Association Coach of the Year award in 2012. She is presently the assistant coach for the Concordia College Womens' basketball team in Moorhead where one of her daughters is on the team.

Ron Pearson, (WHS 1968), is celebrating his 50th year as the organist and later choir master at the First Presbyterian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. His wife, Joanne, recently retired after 44 years of teaching music. As you would expect, the Pearsons, along with their children and grandchildren are a very gifted musical family. During Ron's days at Warren High School, Ron was very active in chorus and was a fantastic trumpet player. His mother taught him to play hymns on the piano and his father drove him 30 miles for organ lessons. The people of the First Presbyterian Church and throughout Tulsa would say he is a great gift to all who hear him play. The people of Warren who knew him back in the 1960's would say, "you're welcome."

Christian Erickson, (WAO 2011), was honored as 2023-24 Section 8A Boys Basketball Coach of the Year. He has been the Ponies' head boys basketball coach for the past 5 years taking the reins from his own high school coach, Todd Mortimer. Christian is the first Warren High School/Warren-Alvarado-Oslo alumnus to be the Ponies head boys basketball coach. Away from basketball, Christian is busy at his main job which is farming. He is married to **Danae (Vansickle), (WAO 2012)**, who owns a hair salon called Meraki in Warren. They have two sons.

Tyler John, better known as **T.J. Bowman, (WAO 2017)**, is a third year student at the University of St. Thomas School of Law. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Management in December 2020 from Concordia College in Moorhead. T.J. is a proud contributor and senior editor of the St. Thomas Law Journal. He has written on a variety of topics ranging from federal tax law to federal jurisdiction. After passing the bar exam, T.J. will be joining Maslon LLP as litigation associate. After one year, he will take a one year leave of absence to clerk for Judge John Tunheim of the U.S District Court, District of Minnesota. He is married to Katie who is a kindergarten teacher in Minnetonka where they live.

Scott Albaugh, (WHS 1985), and his wife, Amy live in Apple Valley, Minnesota. They have four children and five grandchildren. Scott attended the Covenant Bible College in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada. He moved to the Twin Cities after his wedding. They had tough going after a job he had for 12 years was eliminated and shortly after that he had a heart attack in 2010. After surviving he went back to school at Northwestern University in Ro-

seville, MN. He graduated in 2013 with a degree in Psychology and a year later earned his Masters Degree in Human Services. Scott currently works for a company that assists people in nursing homes to be able to move back into their community. He very much enjoys helping people begin again with hope. His wife, Amy, has worked at Memorial Hospital in Robbinsdale as a surgical technician for 30 years.

Kim Swanson, (WAO 2002), has been a resident of Los Angeles for 10 years. She is the office manager of the Sales Department at KTLA Channel 5 in Hollywood, the #1 morning news station in Los Angeles. KTLA has been supportive of Kim's music endeavors, featuring her on-air on several occasions. In one instance, a fellow Minnesota native in LA saw her story on KTLA and reached out to invite her to a songwriting masterclass. The master of the class ended up being songwriting legend, Desmond Child, which cultivated a songwriting partnership between the two and led to Kim's (artist name Kison) award and performance at the Lincoln Center in New York City for the ASCAP Foundation Awards. Recently, while in Paris, France, Kison released her latest single called "We Gon See", which you can hear on KisonMusic.com and all listening platforms. Additionally, Kim has found yet another new way to use her musical talents. "Forever Lullaby is a unique personalized lullaby business founded by the duo of singer songwriter Kim Swanson and producer Andre Dennis. Their passion for music, combined with their years of music experience, led them to embark on this wonderful journey in March of 2021, during the challenging times of the pandemic. They officially launched their business in April of 2023. With thoughtfully designed packages that work with every budget, their lullabies feature a child's name, along with universal themes of bedtime, love and safety. Parents, grandparents, family, friends and caregivers can visit foreverlullaby.com, the online home of Forever Lullaby to explore the different packages, listen to sample lullabies and get a glimpse of the magical moments Forever Lullaby has brought to countless families already.

Mark Nordli was the Warren High School chorus/choir director during 1973 and 1974. After leaving Warren, he moved to Maine and taught high school music for 38 years which included teaching choir, music theory, music history and guitar. His claim to fame was that he had Anna Kendrick, actress from "Pitch Perfect" in his choir. In 1975, he got a lobster license and "lobstered" part-time during the summer months while teaching, before going full-time in 2012. He and his son put out about 400 traps year round and are kept quite happily busy doing "The Maine Thing". He loved his time in Warren and still corresponds with a few old friends. He has been married to his wife, Susan, for 43 years and they have two sons.

Kasey Magedanz, (WAO 2007), is currently living in the Twin Cities area and working at the University of Minnesota Foundation. To get where she is at now, she has had a very interesting journey. After high school, she attended the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. She graduated with a B.A (Adv.) degree in Psychology and moved back to the U.S. settling in the Twin Cities. Kasey did several internships starting with the Minnesotans United for

All Families campaign. However, it was her past experience working at Bremer Bank in Warren that helped lead her to the financial services sector where she worked for TCF Bank (now Huntington) for several years receiving a company-wide customer service award. She was still looking for ways to make more of a difference which sparked an interest in the political process. She left her bank position to take a Legislative Assistant position at the Minnesota House of Representatives for the 2016 session. After that position ended, she moved to Duluth taking a position at Lutheran Social Services with their financial counseling services. Eventually she moved back to the Twin Cities to work at her current position at the University of Minnesota Foundation. Kasey is a proud aunt of a niece and three nephews and is also proud they are currently attending WAO.

LaDonna (Fillipi) Bannach, (WHS 1989), lives in Fargo, North Dakota, is married to Michael Bannach and they have two daughters. LaDonna is the CEO/President of a business she began working at in 2004 called, "Beyond Boundaries Therapy and Wellness." Recently, the YWCA of

Cass and Clay counties announced that 37 women would be honored at a Women of the Year awards banquet on April 22. Of those 37 women, 12 would be chosen for awards in one of 12 categories. LaDonna was selected as the winner of the Women of the Year Award for the Business and Entrepreneurship category. The mission of Beyond Boundaries tailors their services to fit the unique needs of each individual which is crucial in helping clients meet their goals. Those services include Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech-Language.

WARREN-WAO FLORIDA PICNIC

FEBRUARY 8, 2025

**THE VISUAL EXTRAVAGANZA OF
SARASOTA AWAITS YOU**

**IT'S A SIGHT TO SEE AND A PERFECT
DAY WILL BE IN STORE FOR YOU.**

Come one and all to Florida for the 2025 WAO & Friends gathering at the Pavilion at Maxine Barret Park.

More details will be in the fall "Connections" and on various Warren sites on Facebook.

Donations

November 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024

Amy Jo (Huderle) Olson AZ-Warren Picnic Barbara (Anderson) Jorgenson Ben & Kari (Stinar) Miska Bergee Rentals Brian Black Calvin & Amber Schoepp Carl & LaVerne Anderson Carl J Johnson Carol J. Anderson Cathie Kallstrom Charles & Margaret Cheney Cleo (Sedlacek) Fogal Comstock Township Cynthia Ann Braun Dave & Mona (Heggestuen) Schroeder David J Engstrom David Sholy Dean & Mary Jo Chandler Delores (Anderson) Sedlacek DelRoy Lieberg Dick & Karen Knutson Don & Ellen (Fillipi) Strickler Donald & Sharon (Ulrich) Hedquist Doug & Jane (Bennett) Safar Doug & Julie (Christensen) Anderson Duan M Bjerke Duane & Jerrilyn (Olson) Potucek Duane Erickson Ed & Renee (Rehder) Rosendahl Eloise (Austinson) Wheeler Eric & Mary Stanislawski Evangeline (Torgerson) Guenther Gayle Short Gerald & Sandra (Potucek) Maruska Gerald & Suzie (Omdahl) Jevning	Gerry & Patti (Olson) Evin Gilmen & Bonnie Tinnes Grace (Sherry) Griffin Harley & Darlene Marek Harvey & Leslie Sedlacek Heather (Simonson) Clark James & Marlene Aas James Bustrack James Olsen Jan Aafedt JaNean Miller Janet (Srnsky) Broesch Jason & Stacy Hanson Jeanne Johnson Jeff Jacobson Jeremy & Jaime Woinarowicz Jerry & Mary (Sorenson) Sedlacek John & LaVerne (Storbakken) Messelt John & Rachel Peterson John Short Jordan & Brooke (Bork) Johnson Junieve (Hammerlund) Woods Kelsey (Sorenson) Deschene Kenneth & Ruth Jorgenson Kirk & Heidi Thorstenson Laura Efta Leslie & Patty (Pickett) Howard Linda Short Lou Ann (Steffen) Beck Margaret (Streich) Dufault Mark & Claudia (Roley) Thompson Mark & Judy (Evin) Flaten Mark & Mary (Duckstad) Carlson Mark & Merilee Potucek Mary (Carlson) Myhrer Matt & Ashley (Holien) Vongroven Michael & Donna (Laymon) Miller MiChelle (Miller) Nybo	Mintie Ferguson Molly Brusseau Myrna (Godel) Super Neil & Kison (Schuler) Miller Orlan & Jacquelyn Ranstrom Pat (Gilbert) Carlson Patrick & Ann (Berget) Zavoral Richard & Barbara Olson Richard & Mary Beth (Maruska) Edman Richard Stanghelle Rick Roley Robb & Kay (Hendrickson) Root Ron Helm Ronald & Mary Nowacki Russell & Susan Miller Russell Hickman Sara Larson Scott & Tamara (Johnson) Oberger Sharon (Botko) Kays Sharon (Edgar) Abrahamson Sharon (Nordin) Hegland Sigvart & Marlene (Wittman) Silnes Stanley & Marilyn (Strickler) Sirek Stephen & Elizabeth Murray Steve & Desilee Brekke Steve & Marie Goodwin Sylvester & Carol Vanyo Tim & Linda (Haugen) Conely Todd & Jan (Narlock) Mortimer Todd & Kathy (Clausen) Johnston Tony & Michelle Gullikson US Bank - Jeanne E Kotrba Trust Wayne & Rhonda Jordheim Wayne Wood Zachery Stene
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Girl Scouts: Sweeter Than Cookies

(Continued from page 1)



Debbie and Queen Azizah and they are entering the Palace for the OB-PS Gala Event in Malaysia.

daughters, Dusty, Dixie and Delli and a son, Daniel.

Debbie shared that each of her daughters chose to participate in Girl Scouts from the time they were in kindergarten through their senior years of high school. Her daughter, Dixie earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest Girl Scout award. Their son, Daniel was a Boy Scout, earning the highest Boy Scout award, The Eagle Scout. When her eldest, Dusty, showed interest in becoming a Girl Scout in 1992, Debbie's passion for scouting was solidified. She became more and more active in volunteering with her girls' scouting outings.

A most memorable, life-changing trip was in 2013 when she joined a group from Colorado and traveled to one of the five worldwide Girl Scout Centers in Pune, India. Following that trip she became more interested in the Global areas of Girl Scouts and Girl Guiding and became a member of the Friends of Sangam USA Committee. This committee helps to support the World Center in India. Debbie has participated in programs at all five of the world Centers: PAX Lodge in London, England, Our Cabana in Cuernavaca, Mexico, Our Chalet in Adelboden, Switzerland, Sangam in Pune, India and Kusafiri in Africa.

Debbie traveled to a Kusafiri event in Madagascar, "Arts for Change," which deepened her interest in supporting the programs for girls around the world. She then joined the Olave Baden-Powell Society (OB-PS), a philanthropic society supporting girls worldwide. OB-PS raises money to help the World Association of Girl Guides & Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). Based in London, England, they provide programs and support to the 15 member organizations (countries) around the world and support the five World Centers. The OB-PS Society is headed by Princess Benedikte of Denmark, with another patron, the Queen of Malaysia. The society has an annual event held somewhere around the world with this past year's event in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and was hosted by HRH Queen Izidah herself. The night was made interesting with the Queen showing off her talented dancing and

karaoke skills. This year, 2024, is the 40th anniversary of OB-PS. The event will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, which is the home of Princess Benedikte and promises to be another memorable event.

Her next Girl Scout adult adventure took her along with 17 adult Girl Scouts to Easter Island and Antarctica in 2020. Unbeknownst to the group, the Discovery Channel of Canada was filming their voyage. Debbie can be seen on the YouTube documentary with her walking sticks. The captain was the captain of the 22-ship Hurtigruten Fleet out of Norway and their ship, the Roald Amundson, was a brand new hybrid ship. The tour group was fortunate to participate in many excursions, including traveling farther south in Antarctica than any other passenger ship has ever gone before. This voyage made the Maritime news while they were on the ship. The group went into the ice fields. She recalls feeling as though they were characters in "The Titanic." She and 14 members bravely participated in the Polar Plunge into water that was 37.4 degrees! A memory she'll not soon forget. Debbie remains proud of that plunge. This group also visited a Ukrainian research station, which has the southernmost post office and bar in the world.

As with numerous agencies and activities, COVID-19 put the damper on many scouting activities. It became difficult to find leaders in the rural communities and sadly, many nearby troops have not been revived yet. It is challenging to not have enough volunteer leaders; so many more girls could be served with more leaders. In 2008, GSUSA lessened the number of councils forcing the rural areas to cover so much more territory. This added to the challenge of providing service to all areas of the council. Debbie, along with so many other wonderful volunteers, has worked tirelessly to improve and build back GSUSA. The local council headquarters for our area in Minnesota is located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Currently, in addition to the global involvement, Debbie recently opened up a Girl Scout Museum in Fort Smith to share her vast collection of Girl Scout, along with the history of Girl Scouts. Her museum includes a research memorabilia room, library, marketing area, uniform displays and of course an international room showcasing items brought back from the five world centers and many other Girl Scout and Girl Guide countries. The marketing area highlights some of the products that have been sold through the years with the Girl Scout brand: candles, cookies, Thin Mint Cereal ice cream, tea bags, coffee and even a Coke bottle. Debbie hopes through sharing the Girl Scout story via the museum, many more adults and girls will continue to have the Girl Scout experience.

Locally, Debbie serves on the Girl Scout Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas Council Board

Heritage Committee, a council trainer, and is the treasurer for the Fort Smith Service Unit, which involves monthly meetings and reports, opening new troop bank accounts and auditing all the Fort Smith Troops' yearly financial reports.

As our interview came to a close, Debbie shared some final words:

"As a long term volunteer, I have directly seen how Girl Scouting has made a lasting impression on the lives of our young ladies and volunteers. Life-long friendships have been made, leadership and life skills have been learned and countless doors have been opened for Girl Scout members who otherwise would not have had the opportunity."

As Debbie continues her service, we here in her "Ponies" alma mater remain proud of the service she's given to the GSUSA.

HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

2024 Class Reunions

WAO 2004

July 27, 2024

ASHLEY (GUBRUD) REINIER
218-289-0454

WAO 2014

July 27, 2024

KATIE KLEVEN
218-686-3218

WHS 1984

July 27th

MIKE DUBORE
218-201-0533

WHS 1974

July 24-27, 2024

SHEILA BODELL HORNER
218-201-1290
SCOTT JOHNSON
Scottjohnson598@gmail.com
218-688-3773

JOAN (GREGA) PETERSON
218-201-0869

WHS 1964

July 24-27, 2024

DALE LJUNGGREN
duck_fuzz56762@yahoo.com
218-201-0315

AHS 1964

JULY 18-2024

ILENE (NELSON) SHERLOCK
218-230-9300
MARVIN HEDLUND
701-739-3305

WHS 1969

July 27, 2024

JANE (BENNETT) SAFAR
218-201-2462
RENEE (REHDER) ROSENDAHL
218-686-8687

WHS 1959

July 26, 2024

JUDY (JOHNSON) DALLMANN
701-282-4309
WARREN STRANDELL
218-773-0051 or 701-741-4925

WHS 1954

MARLYS (HORGEN) HAPKE
320-252-6681

Chat with the Chairman

Dear Alumni and Friends of the Foundation,

Greetings from the Warren/Alvarado/Oslo Public School Education Foundation!

Spring is in the air and summer isn't far behind. It's a treat to hear the birds singing through the open windows, and the sounds of lawn mowers and farm equipment!

This past week 49 scholarships were presented to 91 recipients (12 of which are funded by us) that are facilitated by the Foundation to 24 graduating seniors that submitted applications. The total amount for 2024 is \$117,700 that includes 7 scholarships that are renewable for 4 years of college. Wow! What a boost for the students that are continuing their education along with the college in the classroom classes that many have taken while at WAO.

Thus far in 2024, we funded \$21,685.30 for both the elementary and high school. Undesignated memorials, donations, and membership money is used for classroom needs/requests and for the scholarships that we fund.

Thank you for all for your continued support. Remember that you may designate your donations to a specific class, subject area, department by writing it on the memo line of your check or by attaching a note with your donation.

We are hoping to see many alumni at class reunions and many of you at our 19th annual golf scramble on July 26th. Come join us for a day of fun, food, and prizes at the Riverside Golf Course beginning with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. The registration fee remains at \$50.00 and can be mailed to PO Box 125 at Warren. All golfers that are registered and paid by July 19th will be entered into a drawing to receive their \$50.00 registration fee back. We strongly suggest that you pre-register prior to July 26th.

You are most likely aware that the buildings are in the beginning stages of the renovation and building project. Because of this, the school buildings will not be open to the public during the time of the Marshall County Fair this year.

The Florida and Arizona gatherings were held in February. It's a fun time for alumni and friends to stay connected. Special thanks to the organizers of these events and for all that attended. Mark your calendars for February 15, 2025 for the next Arizona Gathering and February 8th for the Florida Gathering. There will be more details in the December Connections.

Our database is constantly being updated. If you relocate, PLEASE send us an e-mail at edfoundation@wao.k12.mn.us or call us at 218-745-4646 ext. 1317 to give us your new address, e-mail, and phone numbers. We certainly appreciated all of the updates that we've already received.

National Volunteer Week was in April. Our Foundation couldn't function without our wonderful volunteers. Thank for giving so freely of your time and work!

May 7th was National Teacher Day. To show our appreciation to the teaching staff we gave them each a gift certificate for a dilly bar at the Warren Dairy Queen.

If our board can be of any assistance to you with more information, please feel free to contact one of us. "We can't succeed without you!"

WAO ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

While the WAO Education Foundation does not manage, control or is actively involved with the WAO Alumni Hall of Fame, we do support the mission of the Hall of Fame committee and do share their information and news articles.

The 2024 WAO Alumni Hall of Fame Induction ceremony will be held at the Vonasek Free Stage at the Marshall County Fairgrounds on Friday, July 26 at 4 p.m. A reception will follow the ceremony where you will have an opportunity to greet and visit the new inductees.

This year's inductees are:

William (Bill) Grange, Warren, Class of 1957; Maridel (Potucek) Sandberg, Warren, Class of 1977; and Earl Mallinger, Oslo, Honorary Degree, Class of 2015.

Help A Kid Dream!

In 1954, November 20th was chosen to celebrate *World Children's Day*. In 1968, November 1st marked National Authors Day. In 2008, the United Nations established November 11th as National Education Day. As we combine children, authors and books, and education, I want you to think **NOVEMBER, NOVEMBER, NOVEMBER.**

Back in 1963 when he was only a second grader, a young boy told a story to his girlfriend as they sat on the kindergarten steps. He wrote it out in cursive a few months later and she hung on to that story for nearly 60 years. Suddenly in her retirement, she thought of creating a children's book, based upon his story. The time has come! *Flears the Mystery Dog* is becoming a reality.

Flears the Mystery Dog is currently in production as Megan Brown continues to do her magic with colorful and creative illustrations. The cost of the illustrations, about \$2,800 is covered. What we need now is your contribution to make this book a reality. The goal is to present a copy to every Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grader who is currently in the WAO school at no charge. Your donation to the WAO Education Foundation will make this children's book a reality to several children who may be unable to purchase their own copy of a book they might keep.

The goal date for gathering \$5,000 for printing costs will be November 15, 2024 so please consider this project and contribute by **November. November. November.** \$100 will provide 5 books. \$20 will provide one book, and so forth.

You may donate in two ways. Contribute any amount and mark it for FLEARS, book project. Or, you may give a donation in memory of your loved one but mark it for FLEARS,

which will memorialize your loved one in the next Connections, but the monies donated will be earmarked for FLEARS instead of going into the general coffers and the full amount is tax deductible. You can also order your own copy but it will cost you \$28 of which you can write off just \$5. \$15 goes to minimal cost of the book and \$8 is for postage when we mail it out to you or your family member. Perhaps someone can pick it up for you in Warren or Moorhead when it is distributed/delivered.

Flears the Mystery Dog will be in memory of its author, Mark Olson, class of '74, because he is the author and represents any one of us who wrote a story as a kid, who graduated from our alma mater, had a dream of doing something with his or her life, and wants to be remembered. This book will be a tribute to education, children, and dreams of becoming what we want to be. It will also be a keepsake for all the kids who receive a copy of their own book. Let me introduce Flears:



Please send your check today! Honor our alma mater. Memorialize a loved one. Give a kid a book that is positive and appropriate for his or her age at no cost. Help a kid to dream.

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS 2024

BEVERLY & DAVID DUCKSTAD SCHOLARSHIP

— This scholarship was established by the Duckstad Family in memory of their parents. Beverly was a paraprofessional at the elementary school for 39 years. David was a survey technician with the soil conservation service. Both were very involved with their church and community activities. Beverly was well known for making many cakes for people in the community. Their 4 children Robert (74), Kathy (76), James (82), and Mary (83) were all graduates of Warren High School.

DANIEL & HENRIETTA MYSZKOWSKI SCHOLARSHIP

— Daniel (Danny), WHS 1947, worked at Boardson's Fairway for many years, and Henrietta, who did not graduate from high school due to family obligations but completed her GED later in life to receive her high school diploma equivalency (of which she was very proud), worked at the State Bank and Ken Nelson's Agency in Warren for several years. Together, they purchased the Elm Crest Motel in the summer of 1972, and later owned and operated Danny's Tavern. Danny and Henrietta were involved in the community through the Warren Fire Department and Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church where they served on numerous committees and also taught confirmation class for many years. Their six children were all graduates of WHS. This scholarship was established by the Myszkowski family in memory of their parents.

ORLAN & JACQUELYN RANSTROM SCHOLARSHIP

— Orlan, AHS 1959, served in the US Air Force and then attended the Dunwoody Industrial Institute in Minneapolis. Throughout his life he worked at various electronic companies as a test engineer and production supervisor bringing new products from development engineering to production. Two of the items that he worked on was the assembly and testing of the first color TV camera and the first studio video recorder for ABC TV. Jacquelyn, an Iowa native, worked in business and later for a public school district. They were both very active with Veteran's and community organizations. This scholarship was established by them.

JOHN & LAVERNE (STORBAKKEN) MESSELT EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

— John and LaVerne are both OHS graduates. John in 1963 and LaVerne in 1967. LaVerne worked in business and John in education as a superintendent of the Kimball Area School District and worked with strategic planning services to school districts throughout the US and Canada. This scholarship was established by them for a student who will be seeking a career in education.

NOBLE & DOROTHY STORBAKKEN MEMORIAL EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

— Noble was an AHS graduate in 1930 and later was employed as a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse in Neilsville, MN. Upon the death of his father, his mother asked him to return home and operate the family farm with his two brothers. He felt sad about leaving teaching, but chose to honor the wishes of his mother. Following retirement from farming he worked as a custodian and bus driver for the East Grand Forks School District. This scholarship is offered by his daughter and son-in-law John and LaVerne Messelt.

RACHEL PETERSON HONORARY SCHOLARSHIP

— Rachel came to Warren to begin her teaching career in the old elementary school after her marriage to John. During the time of raising her family she helped on the family farm operating trucks, tractors, and combines. She later did subbing and headed the after school program called Kid's Spot at the elementary. She also gave private piano lessons to many students for 15 years. Teaching children and music were both very dear to her heart. This scholarship was established by her husband John and sons Craig and Kurt.

WAYNE WROLSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

— Wayne, WHS 1971, was an honor student, a 3-sport athlete along with his love for music and art. He was an electrical engineer and worked with computers and programming. In addition, he was a collector of many items. Wayne passed in 2023. Because of his generosity and pride for Warren/WAO this scholarship was established.

Recently Deceased Alumni, Staff & Friends

These are death notices of alumni and staff that we have received. If you have additions or corrections, please contact the Education Foundation.

- 1938 Oslo Alice (Oas) Anderson
- 1945 WHS Joan (Sillerud) Engelstad
- 1948 WHS Maxine (Paulson) Thoreson
- 1949 WHS Warren Jadeke
- 1950 Oslo Harold Zola
- 1952 WHS Ruth (Jones) Omdahl
- 1952 Oslo Duane Eftefield
- 1952 ALV Dorothy (Edman) Manz
- 1953 Oslo Cecilia Stoltman
- 1956 ALV Deloris (Johnson) Coulter
- 1956 Oslo Patty (Michalski) Solem
- 1957 WHS Donald Omdahl
- 1958 ALV Paul Erickson
- 1961 WHS Howard Johnson
- 1963 ALV Deanna (Johnson) Storbakken
- 1964 ALV Michael Dudinsky
- 1966 WHS LaVonne (Engstrom) Seaverson
- 1970 WHS Elizabeth "Betti" (Hickman) Dowling
- 1972 WHS Ross Hill
- 1980 WHS Eric Johnson
- 1983 Oslo Tony Norling
- 2017 WAO Amanda Hoff
- Staff WHS Donald Matz
- Teacher WHS David Bymoan
- Teacher ALV & WAO Thomas Aafedt
- Teacher WHS Daniel Wallace
- Friend Carol Borchert
- Friend Brandon Deschene
- Friend Jean Ranstrom
- Friend Wayne N Nelson
- Friend Loren Abrahamson
- Friend Henrietta Myszkowski
- Friend Elizabeth Porter
- Friend Dwight A Anderson
- Friend Betty Ueland
- Friend Victor Rolle
- Friend Diane Loeslie
- Friend Walter Hillman
- Friend Joyce Boardson

Recently deceased family and friends list is updated weekly on the Education Foundation link at www.wao.k12.mn.us

Sale on Cookbooks

Funds from the sale of this book will help benefit the learning experience of young people in the Warren-Alvarado-Oslo School District.

We hope you enjoy this large variety of recipes. It has been exciting to hear from past alumni, current students, staff and faculty.



Thank you for your continued support!



**\$10
\$15
Mailed Out**

Some Of Those Who Attended The Warren Area Spring Arizona And Florida Reunions



Greeters: From the left, Marilyn Sirek and Mary (Ovsak) Gazda.



WAO Education Cookbook Winners: From the left, Kathy (Mattson) Lam, Becky Loeslie, Jan Hickman, Jane (Miska) Sirek.



Larry Kresl



WHS 1972 CLASSMATES — from the left, John Nelson, Jean (Mattson) Larson, Hank Hendrickson, Brad Anderson.



Organizer David Sholy and Barry Newland (OHS 1982).

This was the 5th Florida Gathering that David Sholy organized and had the largest attendance. David prepared a trivia contest that included facts about the school, Warren and the surrounding area, politics, economy, entertainment, music and TV.



Door prize Winners: From the left; front row, Jean (Mattson) Larson, Hank Hendrickson, Stan and Marilyn Sirek, Cam Fanfulik, Jerry Hickman.



WHS Class of 1969 — From the left, Jane (Miska) Sirek, Kay (Hendrickson) Root, Nancy (Kliner) Wagner.



Committee: From the left, Dean and Joanne Dahlman, Marion (Miska) Pace, Mary (Ovsak) Gazda, Jane (Miska) Sirek, Kay (Hendrickson) Root. Missing is Jackie (Arnold) Lee.



From the left, Bruce Ranstrom (WHS 1967) and wife Bev Ranstrom, Karen Ranstrom Kuzel (WHS 1971) and husband Randy.



Wayne Edgar (WHS 1961) and wife Carole (Stroble) Edgar (WHS 1963).

Thirty people attended this year's Arizona/WAO gathering and, although it was a smaller group, no one wanted to leave. There is a magical connection among our hometown folks.

Cam Fanfulik shared some awesome things that are happening in Warren — "Leave a Legacy to your Hometown!" He encouraged people to not only visit the Veterans Memorial but to contribute to their expansion efforts. Another opportunity for hometown people is to share stories and photos for the Warren Sesquicentennial celebration that is happening in 2030. A big thank you to those keeping our hometown a special place to live and visit.

As always, the group was presented with the historic opening to the lunch time radio broadcast where moms would hush the kids so they could hear the local news. "This is Kay Hendrickson Root, daughter of the Voice of Warren, bringing you the news from Marshall and Northern Polk County. Today's broadcast is brought to you by (at this point many people filled in store and business names that were dear to their hearts) and the H&H Store."

After eating way too much food, door prizes were awarded compliments of the Dahlmans and the WAO Education Foundation Cookbooks.

Make sure you mark your calendars for February 22, 2025 for the next Warren area gathering in warm and sunny Arizona.

Committee members are: Marion Miska Pace, Jane Miska Sirek, Jackie Arnold Lee, Mary Ovsak Gazda, Joanne and Dean Dahlman, Kay Hendrickson Root (kayroot@gmail.com) and many fabulous volunteers. See you in Arizona.



From the left, Dan Filipi, (WHS 1980); Cam Fanfulik, (WHS 1973); Mark Plencner, (WHS 1976); Rob Knutson, (WHS 1970); and Scott Loeslie (WHS 1971).



From the left, Lowell Sedlacek (WHS 1965) Wayne Edgar (WHS 1961).



Randy Kuzel, Bruce Ranstrom (WHS 1967), Jim Johnston (WHS 1968).

The WAO Education Foundation appreciates any information sent in to be shared by past graduates from the Warren, Alvarado, and Oslo area. Keep them coming!



From the left, Lowell Sedlacek (WHS 1965), Dean K. Peterson (WHS 1968), Larry Daby (WHS 1962).

Warren/Alvarado/Oslo Public School Education Foundation

Office: 745-4646, Ext. 1317
P.O. Box 125, Warren, MN 56762
e-mail: edfoundation@wao.k12.mn.us
Visit us on Facebook!

Does your business/company have a matching gift program? This often enables your gift/donation to double in size. If so, contact us for our tax ID number when you fill out the forms for the match.

Board Members:

Carol Anderson, Chairman
Melanie Nelson, Vice Chairman
Darren Carlson, Secretary
Carol Bowman, Treasurer
Sally Roller, School Board Liaison
Ed Rosendahl, Director
Carol Sedgeman, Director
Duane Swanson, Director
Rodger Haugtvædt, Director
Jessica Syverson, Director
Jordan Johnson, School Board Liaison

Life for our children, our grandchildren, and the neighborhood children will be better because of your efforts and contributions. Be a part of this campaign to ensure that our children are equipped to succeed.

Arizona Warren And Surrounding Area Potluck February 22, 2025 At the Viewpoint Golf Resort, Mesa, AZ Come Connect with Classmates and Yet Make New Friends!



Become a Member - Just \$25 So we can keep this newsletter coming to you!

Warren-Alvarado-Oslo Public School Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization to benefit education.

Gifts of \$100 or more to the Foundation are recognized on an attractive donor board located in the east entrance of the high school.

Please Contribute The Ed Foundation would appreciate your financial support, so we can continue to send you this newsletter.

Give Us Your Ideas Let us know what is interesting to you or what other information you'd like to see in this newsletter.

Enclosed is my contribution to support the work of the WAO Education Foundation

- \$ _____ Membership Tutor (\$1-99) Educator (\$100-499)
 Mentor (\$500-999) Scholar (\$1,000-4,999) Benefactor (\$5,000 or more)
Class of: WHS _____ OHS _____ AHS _____ WAO _____
Other: (specific) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I would like information on the benefits of planning a gift to the WAO Education Foundation through my will an insurance policy

Make checks payable to: WAO Education Foundation
(All gifts to WAO Public Education Foundation are tax deductible.)
Send to: PO Box 125, Warren, MN 56762

This gift is in memory of in tribute to

Name _____

Please specify here whom should receive notification of this gift Notice to: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

GIFT RECOGNITION

For accumulated gift totals of \$100 or more, an engraved recognition plate bearing your name will be added to the Recognition Wall in the Warren/Alvarado/Oslo School.

www.wao.k12.mn.us email: edfoundation@wao.k12.mn.us (218) 745-4646