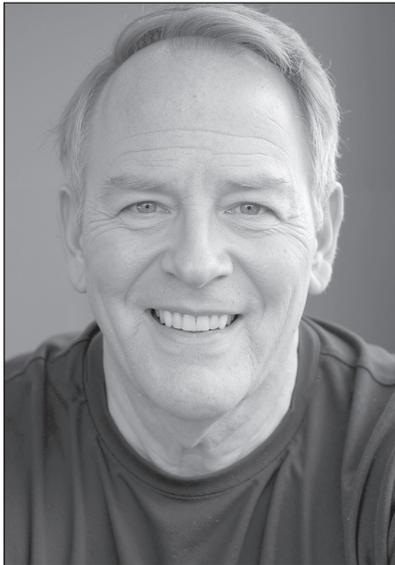


## Tom Eklund: An Extraordinary Entrepreneur



Tom Eklund

Written by Melanie M. Nelson,  
WHS, Class of 1981

Entrepreneurship is often described as the art of turning vision into reality, and few people are able to embody that spirit better than Warren's Tom Eklund (WHS Class of 1978). From humble, rural beginnings in Watford City, North Dakota, to building a thriving enterprise, Tom has navigated challenges, seized opportunities, and redefined what success looks like through a virtual impact nonprofit program: Outreach 360. With innovation, determination, and a relentless drive to make an impact, Tom's journey offers focused insights into what it truly means to build something from the ground up. Tom has built a reputation for innovation, strategic thinking, and an unwavering commitment to growth. What began as a small idea has evolved into a thriving venture that has reshaped his Virtual English Academy. Through persistence and a clear vision, Tom has become a notable example of how entrepreneurship continues to thrive right here in America and across the globe.

Let's take a walk through the successful, selfless journey of Tom Eklund. Tom spent his early years growing up in Watford City, North Dakota, with his parents, Carolyn and Mylo and two sisters, Sally and Julie. His dad owned the Chevrolet/Buick dealership. Tragically in 1969, when Tom was just nine years old, his father was

killed in a motor vehicle accident, leaving his mother to care for their small children. Following his death, Carolyn returned to college at Minot State University for two years. Upon earning her English degree, the family relocated to Arizona for the next year while she pursued a Master's Degree in Special Education, then returned to Watford City for Tom's 8th grade year. In the spring of 1974, family friends John and Marge Hildenbrand, introduced Bob Nelson to Carolyn. The two of them married in 1974 and Carolyn relocated her family to Warren where she kept busy as a special education teacher and serving on the hospital board.

The newly merged family-Bob and his three sons, Bob (WHS '74), Dick (deceased, WHS Class of '76), and Bruce (WHS Class of '82)-along with Carolyn and her three children, quickly adapted to life in northwestern Minnesota. Their blended household, reminiscent of The Brady Bunch, soon became close-knit and connected. Though Tom's sister Sally had already graduated, Julie spent her senior year in Warren, graduating in the spring of 1975.

Tom's stepfather, Bob, owned and managed the Nelson Motor Company in Warren. His eldest son, Bobby, had recently graduated and would later return to Warren to teach briefly before concluding his teaching career in Arizona. Dick went on to serve as mayor of Warren, where he led the Richard P. Nelson Floodway project, before passing away in 2006 after a battle with cancer. Tom recalls Dick as being full of passion and energy, always ready for an adventure. Bruce now lives in Erskine, Minnesota, but often returns to Warren to support his nieces, nephews, and their families. Tom cherishes his memories of Bob as a wonderful stepfather who treated their blended family with genuine love, kindness, and unwavering support. Bob's steadfast support continued when he stood beside Tom as his best man at his wedding in 2000.

Now a freshman, Tom quickly made friends and hung out with a large group of friends including: Chris Myhre, Mark Swanson, Mark Potucek, Justin Myhre, Todd

Larson, Brian Fanfulik, Shirley Torgerson, Jodi Olson, Janice Beck, Lee Ann Omdahl and Kathy Kozojed. As the "new kid," he quickly felt embraced by both the school and the community, making his transition into high school remarkably smooth. He and Chris remain close friends and have shared many adventures together. While in Warren, Tom recalls keeping busy with two jobs; he was a car washer at the Nelson Motor Company with his step-brother, Bobby and was a waiter at Toupin's Chalet.

Tom credits the Warren schools for providing an exceptional education and shaping his future success. He fondly reflects on the many educators who shaped his high school years, especially Rick Schmiedeberg, whose classes eased his transition to college and provided a solid foundation for his career in industrial engineering. He also speaks warmly of wrestling coach and shop teacher Erv Kallstrom, and recalls band director Charlie Roux for treating him with respect—even as the self-proclaimed "last chair" French horn player who rarely practiced. Other teachers who left a lasting impression include Dennis "DA" Anderson, Bob Mattson, Gladwin Lynne, O.J. Peyton, Bill Porter, Gary Schuler, and Phil Beving. Tom also holds deep admiration for his principal, Gerald Dalzell, who ran what he describes as a "very tight ship," always dedicated to student success.

Throughout high school, Tom remained committed to wrestling. Although a knee injury sidelined him during his junior year, he returned to the mat once he recovered. One of his fondest memories is the 1978 Pony Wrestling Team's trip to the state tournament, where they earned a fourth-place trophy. The homecoming celebration that followed—complete with school spirit and community fanfare—remains a thrilling highlight of his high school years.

Outside of athletics, Tom enjoyed a vibrant social life, including Saturday morning bowling at Cactus Lanes, cruising through town, nights at the Sky-Vu

(Continued on page 3)

Join the WAO Education  
Foundation for our  
21st Annual

### Golf Scramble Fundraiser

Friday, July 24, 2026

at Riverside Golf Course  
Warren, MN

18-hole, 4-person scramble

Come for lunch and  
play 9 holes for fun.

Registration is NOW Open

Starts at 7:00 a.m.

Shotgun start: 8:30 a.m.

\$50.00/person

Pre-registration strongly suggested.

Contact us at

(218) 745-4646 ext. 1317 or

email: edfoundation@wao.k12.mn.us

To reserve a golf cart, call 218-745-4028  
and leave a message. Your call will be  
returned.

**FUN, FOOD, GAMES, PRIZES!**

### Class Reunions

Please contact the Education Foundation with  
your class reunion details for our next edition  
of "Connections." We would be glad to give  
you our most current addresses for your  
classmates.

In return, we ask that you please share any  
address updates that you become aware of.

### Warren-Mesa Picnic

February 21, 2026 in Mesa, AZ

See back page for more information.

### Warren-WHS-WAO Florida Picnic

February 7, 2026 - Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Small Pavilion at Maxine Barritt Park

1800 Harbor Dr. S., Venice, FL

See back page for more information

### Marshall County Fair July 22-26, 2026

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Nonprofit Organization  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
Permit No. 104  
Warren, MN 56762  
ECRWSS

# News and Notes . . .

**Ric Stanghelle (WHS 1973)**, a resident of Lindstrom, Minnesota who has served as president of Free Church Ministers and Missionaries (FCMM) since 2018, recently retired on March 3, 2025. He not only served FCMM as president these past seven years, he previously served as trustee for 22 years with 16 of those years as board chairman. From 1985 through 2017, Ric was the church planting pastor of Lakes Free Church in Lindstrom. When asked what his plans were for retirement, he said, on the ministry side, he would love to mentor future pastors and continue teaching and preaching. On the personal side, he has been working on his family history going back to the 1500's and he hopes to compile stories and information that he has discovered over the years. He and his wife also want to travel and spend time with their grandchildren.

**Ashley (Pagnac) Anderson, (WAO 2001)**, has become a well-known women's clothing entrepreneur in this area. The Silo Boutique, has locations in Warren, Grand Forks and Grafton as well as a growing online shop. Her business was founded in 2018. Ashley began with hand made earrings and quickly expanded into a full-service boutique carrying clothing, shoes, jewelry and gifts. Ashley's mission has always been to create a welcoming space where every woman can feel confident and beautiful. At it's heart, the Silo Boutique isn't just about clothes says Ashley, "it's about connection, confidence and style that fits real life. Many people walk in as strangers and leave as friends." Ashley is married to **Jake Anderson (WAO**

**2000)**, who is a local farmer and they have two daughters and two sons who are or will be WAO graduates.

**Kayla (Kalt) Kroll, (WAO 2000)**, became the owner/editor/publisher of the Warren Sheaf purchasing the local newspaper in October 2024. Her purchase would mark the first time the Sheaf would not be owned by the Mattson family dating back to 1890. Since Kayla's graduation from WAO to business owner, her path has been anything but ordinary. As a senior in high school, she enrolled at Northland College as a post-secondary student graduating from Northland's cosmetology program in August of 2000. Kayla continued her love of volleyball playing the sport for the Pioneers. After graduation, she spent several years as a cosmetologist in Thief River Falls and Warren and also had a brief stint at the Warren Tire shop. Kayla stepped back into the workforce as an office administrator at the Warren Sheaf. She left the Sheaf deciding to earn a degree in Massage Therapy and was soon renting a room at both Mane Studio and Family Chiropractic as well as being the office administrator at North Valley Public Health. Kayla's professional journal came full circle when she returned to the Sheaf in 2018 as an office manager. Outside of work, Kayla is the Head Volleyball Coach at Stephen-Argyle-Central, loves her farm animals and spending time with family. Kayla and her husband Mike have five children, one grandchild and live on their family farm outside of Argyle.

## WAO Alumni Hall Of Fame

The opportunity is here again for you to recognize an alumni to be entered into the WAO Alumni Hall of Fame. The Alumni Hall of Fame has been established to recognize Warren, Alvarado and Oslo alumni that have distinguished themselves, their school, and their community.

A committee was formed in 2019 to promote the principles of the Hall of Fame, to establish the eligibility standards, the criteria used in considering a person for this honor and to facilitate the award process. The committee is not responsible for completing the required forms or providing the supporting evidence to be used in consideration for the award. The nomination is then sent to a separate selection committee for making the final selections. In preparing the form for the nomination, it may be useful to recruit the help of other people in researching the alumni's contributions by checking such sources as, school yearbooks,

local news articles, any information that may be available on the internet and talking to other classmates and friends.

On the nomination form, complete as much of the nominee's personal information as possible. On a separate sheet, address as many of the accomplishments and contributions listed on the nomination form as you can.

It is an honor to be nominated to the WAO Alumni Hall of Fame, so the nominee deserves as much effort as possible in presenting his or her talents and contributions.

The nomination form may be found on the Hall of Fame Facebook page by searching, "WAO Alumni Hall of Fame" or requesting the form through, [wahof@gmail.com](mailto:wahof@gmail.com), or by calling (218) 745-5232, or by mail at, PO Box 176, Warren MN 56762. The deadline for submitting the nomination is April 1, 2026.

## West Marshall Fusion Golfer Kyden Kotrba Participates In MN State High School Golf Event



The Minnesota State High School Golf event was held on June 11 and 12 at Pebble Creek Golf Course in Becker, MN. Kyden Kotrba was participating against the top golfers in Class A at the event.

The golf course was in great shape and proved to be a challenge in the 2-day event. While the event didn't end the way Kotrba was looking for, the days offered a great learning experience and was a true test of Kotrba and the other golfers. He fought through the good and the bad to finish 39th out of 88 golfers.

It was great to have the opportunity to watch Kotrba battle through what was, at times, heavy rain to continue playing and pressing on. Overall, it was a great

experience for Kotrba and now he has more motivation to get back there next year.

His coaches are excited to see where he will go with this experience as well as the future of Fusion golf.

# 2025 Golf Fundraiser



WAO staff volunteers at the chipper pool contest were Jeanne Johnson (elementary) and Heather Moreno (high school).



This quartet of WAO 2021 alumni includes Sophia Maruska, Lexi Anderson, Erin Jubie and Maddie Swanson.



Two teams taking a break include, David Loeslie (WHS 1983), Naomi (Anderson) Loeslie (WHS 1983), Dennis Schultz, Mark Poolman (WHS 1985), Betsy (Peterson) Stone (WHS 1982), Gretchen Mattson (WHS 1985), Deron Pederson (WHS 1985) and Brent Anderson (WHS 1985).



This dapper looking foursome are John Bowman, Brent Strickler (WHS 1986), David "Boomer" Durand and Kurt Peterson (WHS 1991).



All the pretty ladies in a row are Sarah Durand (WAO 2012), Brenna (Miller) Olson (WAO 2012), Hannah (Miller) Sczepanski (WAO 2015), Maddie (Dubore) Hensel (WAO 2013), Bailey (Jenkins) Marcotte (WAO 2013), Alexandra Erickson (WAO 2013), Stephanie Danielson and Shelby (Durand) McGregor (WAO 2020).



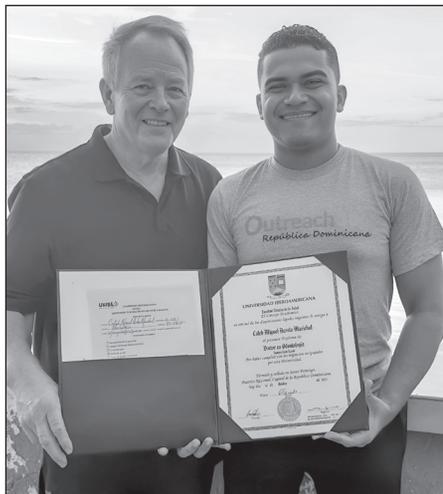
These very color coordinated members of the WHS Class of 1982 are Ron Rangstrom, Jill (Johnston) Anderson, Jane (Emerson) Holland, Bruce Nelson, Monique (Dubore) Collette, James "Ducky" Duckstad and Craig Peterson.



Four generations of Bossmans are pictured at the WAO Education Foundation's 20th Annual Golf Scramble. The Putting contest was in memory of Bill and Chris Bossman. Yvonne (Engelstad) Bossman, sitting, Stacy (Bossman) Nicholls, standing to the left, Maddie (Nicholls) Huot and her son Kohen Huot are pictured as they spent the day at the course honoring their husband, dad, brother and uncle.



## Tom Eklund: An Extraordinary Entrepreneur (continued from page 1)



Tom with Caleb Acosta, Outreach360 Scholarship Student, Dental School Graduate, Dominican Republic

Drive-In Theater, and group gatherings to watch Saturday Night Live and The Midnight Special. During the summer of his junior and senior years, Tom worked away from home at the Grand Portage Radisson Resort as a waiter, along with his classmate and good friend Chris Myhre. Mark Swanson and Todd Larson each joined one summer as well. The guys all shared a one-room cabin in the woods.

After graduating from Warren High School, Tom returned to Arizona to attend Arizona State University, where he earned a degree in Industrial Engineering in 1982. He spent the next decade with IBM, holding positions in Charlotte, Phoenix and Atlanta. While in Atlanta, Tom met the founder of Flying Doctors of America, a nonprofit dedicated to delivering free medical and dental care to underserved communities in the Dominican Republic and Mexico. Deeply inspired by the organization's humanitarian mission, he made the courageous choice to leave his corporate career at IBM and take on the role of Development Director, channeling his skills and energy into advancing the group's global outreach.

In 1994, during a medical service trip to the Dominican Republic, Tom visited a struggling orphanage in Monte Cristi. The facility had broken beds, scarce food, and children playing with improvised toys - a place seemingly forgotten by the outside world. Moved by the stark contrast between his own upbringing and the children's limited opportunities, Tom founded Orphanage Outreach, a nonprofit dedicated to bringing hope and opportunity to orphaned, abandoned, and disadvantaged children.

In the pre-internet era, Tom recruited volunteers via traditional outreach - by visiting schools, colleges, churches, and service organizations to share his vision and inspire involvement. Though he faced numerous challenges and setbacks, he successfully built a dedicated network of volunteers united by a shared commitment to service. Over time, Orphanage Outreach broadened its reach, providing thousands of nutritious meals, enhancing local facilities, and launching sustainable projects such as chicken coops, bakeries, and community gardens.

Most importantly, the organization opened doors to education. In 1999, Orphanage Outreach launched its first

summer camp, offering classes in English, art, reading, music, mathematics, and sports for orphaned and impoverished Dominican children. For many, these experiences were life-changing. At its peak, the program hosted more than 400 volunteers teaching in 30 schools during a single spring break.

From 2008 to 2010, as the organization continued to grow, its medical and dental teams extended their reach to rural agricultural communities known as *bateyes*, before transitioning those services to another nonprofit. By 2013, the Dominican orphanages had achieved self-sufficiency, marking a new chapter for the organization. Renamed Outreach360, it evolved into a fully community-based program focused on empowering local residents through education and sustainable development.

As Outreach360 continued to grow, the organization built lasting partnerships with schools across the United States, including Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia. Annually, the school's entire junior class joined Outreach360 in the Dominican Republic or Nicaragua for a week of service during spring break. The transformative experience became a defining part of the school's culture, leading Episcopal High School to present Tom with its prestigious "Integrity in Action" Award. The honor held special meaning for Tom, as previous recipients included distinguished leaders such as Senator John McCain, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Teach For America founder Wendy Kopp, and Partners in Health founder Dr. Paul Farmer. It remains one of the recognitions he values most.

When the COVID-19 pandemic brought international travel to a standstill, Outreach360 pivoted to a virtual platform, giving rise to the Virtual English Academy. What began as a necessary adaptation has since evolved into a flourishing global community, connecting students from 13 Latin American countries with volunteer teachers from China, England, South Africa, Mexico, Canada, and the United States. The Virtual English Academy has expanded its mission to include sponsoring full university scholarships for exceptional students. Several Dominican recipients have graduated with degrees in dentistry, medicine, physical therapy, and psychology, while in Nicaragua, three current scholars are pursuing online degrees in graphic design, child development, and psychology—each serving as instructors within the Virtual English Academy.

Tom and his wife, Paula, who had previously served as Outreach360's administrative director, have recently retired and now make their home in Arizona.

While back "home" in Warren, he and his family rotate between three family homes, enjoying time with loved ones and catching up with friends as much as possible. He prefers a laid-back, casual atmosphere, where he can kick back, relax, and savor life - as a civilian - for a while. Ultimately, the family will likely return abroad to continue their education and adventures.

Reflecting on his career, Tom points to two enduring legacies: the transformative impact on thousands of children in the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua, and the influence of nearly 25,000 volunteers whose experiences inspired many to pursue careers in education, social work, and international development. Tom shared that he is proud to have served alongside his dedicated team, collectively impacting the lives of students across 13 countries. He noted that many volunteers were so inspired by their experiences with Outreach360 that they changed their career paths—pursuing education or international development to continue transforming young lives.

Courtney "Coco" Barrett, a longtime Outreach360 employee, now leads the organization's Virtual English Academy from her home in the mountains of Nicaragua. Although retired, Tom remains closely involved with Outreach360. Recently, he and his WHS classmate, Chris Myhre, completed a 200-mile journey along the Pacific Crest Trail—including a climb up Mount Whitney—to raise funds in support of the organization's mission.

\*For more information about volunteering or supporting Outreach360, please visit our website at: outreach360.org.



Tom and Chris Myhre, Mount Whitney, CA

### Board Members:

Carol Anderson  
Rodger Haugtvedt  
Jessica Syverson  
Ed Rosendahl  
Duane Swanson  
Darren Carlson  
Melanie Nelson  
Lisa Almquist  
Jen Nelson

### School Board Liasons

Sally Roller  
Jordan Johnson  
Ashley Reinier



## Meet The New Office Manager For WAO Education Foundation



My name is Lydia Ranstrom and I am the new office manager for the WAO Education Foundation.

I am a 2013 WAO graduate. After graduating high school, I took online courses through Northland Community & Technical College in East Grand Forks, MN and Northwest Technical College in Bemidji, MN to study in the medical administrative field.

I am the youngest of three siblings. My mom, JoAnne, is a reading interventionist and my dad, Jim, is a custodian in the elementary school. My sister, Adaire, has four kids, is married to a farmer, and lives near Hillsboro, ND. My brother, Jordan, lives and works in Wichita, KS.

In my free time, I enjoy reading, listening to music and podcasts, and running after my nieces and nephew. I am enjoying working for the Education Foundation and helping in its mission of supporting our teachers and students at WAO.

## Residents & Friends Of Warren

2030 will mark the 150th Anniversary of Warren's founding. To commemorate this milestone event, a Sesquicentennial (150th) Committee has been formed to gather information and begin the process of planning this important celebration!

To do this, the Committee needs the public's help! We will need your memories, your photographs, your insights and your exciting stories of happenings and changes that have colored Warren's history over the past 50 years. Above all, we need your participation in the process! The goal is to make the Sesquicentennial an event to remember for years to come.

Please send your information to warrenmn150@gmail.com. As we get closer to 2030, more efforts will be needed in the planning of the event itself, what it should look like, and how best to make it a community celebration for the ages.

# Tribute and Memorial Gifts

May 1, 2025 – October 31, 2025

## In Memory of Agnes Sinn

Alan & Lana (Walker) Maruska  
Carol J. Anderson  
Dean & Jana (Walker) Maruska  
Doug & Jo Sorenson  
Jon & Brenda Ackerson Hapka  
L. Peder & Karen Larson  
Sharon (Botko) Kays  
WHS Class of 1983

## In Honor of AHS Class of 1975

Wally Olson

## In Memory of Alvina Hanson

Carol J. Anderson  
Dale & Beverly (Torgerson)  
Clausen

Darlene (Torgerson) Dvorak  
Greg & Sandy (Jagol) Johnson  
L. Peder & Karen Larson

Rick & Marie Schmiedeberg

## In Memory of Anne (Stancyk)

### Cohen

Don Loeslie

## In Memory of Arden Lind

Heather (Simonson) Clark

## In Honor Beau Joseph Marcotte

Carol J. Anderson

## In Memory of Belinda Folz

Carol J. Anderson  
Philip & Ellen Kotrba

## In Memory of Bennet Larson

Maynard & JoAnn Laymon

## In Memory of Bernice Vanyo

Philip & Ellen Kotrba

## In Memory of Beth C Johnson

Anne (Saetre) Josephson

Carol J. Anderson

## In Memory of Bob Howard

Don Vettleson

## In Memory of Brad & Eleanor

### Wallenberg

Neil and Dawn Kyono

## In Honor of Carol Anderson

Bobby & Nancy (Pederson)

Useldinger

Neil & Kison (Schuler) Miller

## In Memory of Chuck Baird

Don & Ellen (Fillipi) Strickler

## In Honor of WHS Class of 1964

Dale & Evie Ljunggren

## In Honor of WHS of 1969

David Saetre

## In Memory of Class of 1975

### Deceased Classmates

Mark & Julie (Hess) Nowacki

Nancy (Evin) Christman

## In Memory of Dale O. Peterson

Carol J. Anderson

Don & Corrine (Goplin) Slaughter

Howard & Vicky Goplin

Lyle & Norita (Goplin) Beaudry

Mintie Ferguson

## In Memory of David Knutson

Robert Knutson

## In Memory of David Weber

Darlene Haave

## In Memory of WHS Class of

### 1958 Deceased Classmates

Joanne (Hess) Sundby

## In Memory of Dennis L.

### Anderson

Gladwin Lynne

Arlyn & Marilyn (Kuznia) Stroble

Carol J. Anderson

Charles DuBore

David & Naomi (Anderson)

Loeslie

Don Loeslie

Doug & Jo Sorenson

Gary & Shawna Schuler

Jerry & Rita Dalzell

Larry & Donna (Mackie) Laudal

Mark & Stacy (Toupin) Plencner

Marshall & Diane (Fabel) Melbye

Michael & Betty (Bjorgaard)

DuBore

Rick & Marie Schmiedeberg

Suzie (Omdahl) Jevning

WHS Class of 1983

## In Memory of Dick Dalzell

Jerry & Rita Dalzell

## In Memory of Dick Emerson

Duane & Jerrilyn (Olson) Potucek

## In Memory of Donald Matz

Darlene Haave

## In Memory of Duane Conely

Jon & Brenda Ackerson Hapka

## In Memory of Ed Palmer

Darlene Haave

## In Memory of Elden Elseth

Bruce & Bev Ranstrom

Don Loeslie

James & Sally (Hill) Swanson

John & Rachel Peterson

Kurt & Emily Peterson

Mary (Stanghelle) Coleman

## In Memory of Elder “Speed”

### Armquist

Rovella (Franks) Weiland

## In Memory of Eric Berglund

Cameron & Erin DuBore

Michael & Betty (Bjorgaard)

DuBore

Nathan & Nikki (Boman) Peterson

Steve & Marie Goodwin

## In Memory of Ervin Rokke

Don & Corrine (Goplin) Slaughter

Jerry & Carol (Hurst) Anfinson

John & Rachel Peterson

Kurt & Emily Peterson

Suzie (Omdahl) Jevning

## In Memory of Eulalie Peterson

Carol J. Anderson

Jerry & Rita Dalzell

John & Carol Bowman

L. Peder & Karen Larson

Paul & Janet (Carlson) Aakre

Ralph & Cindy (Sabol) Melgard

## In Memory of Evelyn (Fischer)

### Cernousek

Annette Merriken

## In Memory of Grace (Fischer)

### Hodnefield

Annette Merriken

## In Memory of Ida (Fischer)

### Meyer

Annette Merriken

## In Memory of Frances

### (Pinkerton) Fanfulik

Arlyn & Marilyn (Kuznia) Stroble

Carol J. Anderson

Don & Ellen (Fillipi) Strickler

Ed & Renee (Rehder) Rosendahl

Greg & Maureen Potucek

Greg & Sandy (Jagol) Johnson

L. Peder & Karen Larson

Larry & Donna (Mackie) Laudal

## In Memory of Francis Nicholls

Laverne & Mary Kay (Nicholls)

Voll

## In Memory of Gary Hill

James & Sally (Hill) Swanson

Susan (Hill) Lee

## In Memory of Gary Strunk

Arthur & Bonnie (Opsund)

Demeyere

Steve Saetre

## In Memory of George Owens

Arthur & Bonnie (Opsund)

Demeyere

## In Memory of Georgina (Novak)

### Worthington

Carol J. Anderson

## In Memory of Greg Haugen

Erman Ueland

## In Memory of Harley Marek

Don & Ellen (Fillipi) Strickler

Sharon (Edgar) Abrahamson

Susan (Hill) Lee

## In Memory of Harriet & Lloyd

### Hill

Susan (Hill) Lee

James & Sally (Hill) Swanson

## In Memory of Irmay Haugen

Alan & Lana (Walker) Maruska

Carol J. Anderson

Doug & Jo Sorenson

Jon & Brenda Ackerson Hapka

L. Peder & Karen Larson

Maynard & JoAnn Laymon

Rick & Marie Schmiedeberg

Steve & Marie Goodwin

Suzie (Omdahl) Jevning

## In Memory of James Aas

Marlene Aas

## In Memory of James Parker

Arlyn & Marilyn (Kuznia) Stroble

Carol J. Anderson

David & Stacie Nelson

Don & Ellen (Fillipi) Strickler

John & Rachel Peterson

Kurt & Emily Peterson

Rick & Marie Schmiedeberg

## In Memory of Jan Johnston

Laverne & Mary Kay (Nicholls)

Voll

## In Memory of Jane Pribula

Arlyn & Marilyn (Kuznia) Stroble

## In Memory of Jeff Norman

Craig & Kristy (Edgar) Hanson

Paul & Lori Quanrud

## In Memory of Jerry Jevning

Angie (Pearson) Otto

Bruce & Bev Ranstrom

Connie Omdahl

Don & Corrine (Goplin) Slaughter

Don Loeslie

Duane & Jerrilyn (Olson) Potucek

Frank & Terri (Swanson) Konchan

Gerald & Sandra (Potucek)

Maruska

Jerry & Rita Dalzell

John & Rachel Peterson

Karen Pearson

Kurt & Emily Peterson

Larry & Faith Rud

Leeann (Omdahl) Mader

Lori (Toupin) Johnson

Mark & Julie (Hess) Nowacki

Sharon (Edgar) Abrahamson

Stanley & Marilyn (Strickler)

Sirek

Tami (Copp) Reynolds

## In Memory of Jimmy Hill

James & Sally (Hill) Swanson

Susan (Hill) Lee

## In Memory of Jodi Charboneau

Steve Saetre

## In Memory of John Carlson

Brian & Jeriann (Jevning) Jones

Carol J. Anderson

Dewey & Shari Swanson

Don Loeslie

Family of John Carlson

Greg & Maureen Potucek

Janice Grochow

Jay Vansickle

Jerry & Rita Dalzell

Jim Johnston

John & Rachel Peterson

Kelly & Pamela Foerster

Larry & Donna (Mackie) Laudal

Leeann (Omdahl) Mader

Mark & Julie (Hess) Nowacki

Marshall & Bev Fulks

Michael & Betty (Bjorgaard)

DuBore

Stanley & Marilyn (Strickler)

Sirek

Steve Saetre

## In Memory of John Omdahl

Robert & Deanna Bossman

## In Memory of Karen

### (Wilkinson) Viele

Charles & Rosemary (Wilkinson)

Berget

## In Memory of Kathy (Kotrba)

### Hammer

Greg & Maureen Potucek

Philip & Ellen Kotrba

## In Memory of Kevin Kalt

Arlyn & Marilyn (Kuznia) Stroble

Carol J. Anderson

Ed & Renee (Rehder) Rosendahl

Paul & Janet (Carlson) Aakre

Philip & Ellen Kotrba

## In Memory of Kim (Hanson)

### Jacobs

Donovan Knutson

Gladwin Lynne

Jerry & Rita Dalzell

Kent Hanson

Kevin Hanson

Duane & Susan (Jackson) Palm

Steve Saetre

## In Memory of LaVonne

### (Larson) Anderson

Don Loeslie

## In Memory of Leila Lehmann

Philip & Ellen Kotrba

## In Memory of Leonard R.

### Novak

Carol J. Anderson

## In Memory of Lila Golden

Carol J. Anderson

Darlene Haave

Don & Ellen (Fillipi) Strickler

Doug & Jo Sorenson

James & Judy (Burwell)

Pulkrabek

John & Deb (Zutz) Copp

L. Peder & Karen Larson

Suzie (Omdahl) Jevning

## In Memory of Linda (Kollin)

### Boman

Jan Aafedt

Melissa (Hedlund) Glander

Roger & Peggy (Moen) Demeyer

## In Memory of Lowell Goplin

Don Loeslie

Howard & Vicky Goplin

Sharon (Nordin) Hegland

## In Memory of Lyle H. Pederson

Bobby & Nancy (Pederson)

Useldinger

## In Memory of Lyle Nelson

Gladwin Lynne

## In Memory of Margaret

### (Strunk) Saetre

Steve Saetre

## In Memory of Mark Fagerstrom

Arlys Pederson

Arlys Trudell

# WAO Spanish Students Return From Costa Rica

By Zachary Relling

On June 22, 2025, eight WAO students returned from their twelve day trip to Costa Rica. Sid Carlson, Savannah Corbin, Cooper Deschene, Noah Dvorak, Chase Kalt, Carissa Monroe, Dalton Nelson, and Annie Peterson traveled on this experience. During the trip, our students had opportunities to interact with the local culture, participate in new experiences, learn about new ecosystems and sustainable farming practices. For some it was their first time leaving the United States, for others it was their first time boarding a plane. They all put their best foot forward and immersed themselves in this opportunity.

We viewed the local flora and fauna from rafts as we white water rafted down the Sarapiquí River. Later, they learned how to make a traditional Costa Rican dish, Gallo Pinto, and helped cook tortillas and a banana marinade. Students hiked trails by the Arenal Volcano, having the opportunity to see old lava flows and some local plants up close. In Monteverde, the students took to the trees in a zipline canopy tour of the cloud forest, and at night, they explored some walking trails in search of nocturnal animals. Then we went to the west coast and spent some time on the beach in Tamarindo swimming in the Pacific Ocean.

After a seven hour bus ride, we arrived in San Pedro de Los Santos, a small community in the center of the country. Here,

the students met their host families they would stay with for three days and they had a discussion about consumption and what it means to live sustainably. On our second day in San Pedro, the students did some community service, widening and clearing a dirt hiking path and covering it with gravel. After a morning of hard work, we spent the afternoon playing a soccer match and learning how to make cheese tortillas. Our last day in the homestay was spent in Providencia, where the Green Communities has a fully sustainable and organic coffee plantation. There, the students learned about sustainability and the importance of protecting our environment and natural resources. They learned about how coffee is traditionally grown and how Green Communities makes small changes to eliminate the waste byproducts and reuse all parts of the coffee bean. Students considered how they could make changes in their lives to live more sustainably and eliminate some of the waste that has become so normal in our lives.

On the last day in Costa Rica, we attended a traditional dance demonstration with dancers dressed in the traditional costumes of Costa Rican culture. Carissa and Annie even had an opportunity to participate and learn a couple steps.

This has been an amazing experience and opportunity for these students and they will carry these memories with them for the rest of their lives.



Pictured in the front row, left to right: Annie Peterson, Carissa Monroe and Savannah Corbin. Back row, left to right, Noah Dvorak, Chase Kalt, Cooper Deschene, Dalton Nelson and Sid Carlson. These eight Spanish students from WAO along with their Spanish teacher, Zach Relling were in Coasta Rica for a school trip.

Pictured above are front row, left to right, Savannah Corbin, Carissa Monroe and Annie Peterson. Back row, left to right, Cooper Deschene, Chase Kalt, Sid Carlson, Dalton Nelson, Noah Dvorak and Spanish Teacher, Zach Relling.

## WAO Schools Construction Update



I am happy to report that we continue to make good progress each day. The last phase of the building project is now underway, while other areas are still being finished. The remodel in the elementary cafeteria, kitchen, and previous office space is going to totally transform the east side of our elementary school! In the high school, the painting in the Auditorium Gym is now finished and the

floor will be redone this week. Finally, the entrance signage out front has been delivered and will be installed next week. A reminder that there will be a community open house this winter once all academic, athletic, art, and office spaces are finished. In the meantime, you can follow the WAO building project updates on the school website and on the school social media. If you ever have any questions about the construction project at WAO schools, please contact WAO Superintendent - Bryan Hackbarth.

Let's Go Ponies!!!  
Bryan J. Hackbarth  
WAO Superintendent

## Donations

May 1, 2025 – October 31, 2025

Advantage Ag Air	Garden Corner	Nelson
Ag Country Farm Credit Services	Garden Valley Technologies	Nelson Ford of Grand Forks
Albatross Indoor Golf Club	Gene & Sally Roller	Nick & Jessica Syverson
Alvarado Lions Club	Gerry & Patti (Olson) Evin	North Star Ag Services, Inc / Jacob Edgar
American Federal Bank	Glow By Krissy	North Valley Health Center
Annette Merriken	Gowan Construction	Northdale Oil
Argyle Builders Supply	Gretchen Mattson	Northern Plains Track
Argyle Service LLC	H & J Farms / Kurt Peterson	Novak Built LLC
Arthur & Charlotte Drenckhahn	H & S Construction of TRF, Inc.	Oakpoint Inc
Ash Grove Ag, Inc.	Hamm's Repair	Oberg Farms
Audrey (Nice) Barta	Hank's Sports Bar & Grill	Old Dutch
Auto Value	Hansen Public Relations	Olson Underground Inc
Baylor Enterprises	Harvey & Leslie Sedlacek	Otter Tail Corporation / Eric & Kristi Flyen
Ben & Kari (Stinar) Miska	HDR / Dillon Nelson	Patricia (Neegard) Anderson
Bergstrom Electric Inc	Heather Mereno	Paul & Mary Jo (Gowan) Richard
Bernatello's Foods	HLJ Farms, Inc.	Pete & Becky (Nelson) Erickson
BETASEED / Scott Edgar	J W Peterson Inc	Peterson Sheet Metal Inc
Billy & Cindy (Nowacki) Franks	J&J Promotions / Jeff Hanson	Phil Thompson & Associates
Bob & Elaine Perius	J&N Concrete Construction	Philip & Ellen Kotrba
Bobby & Nancy (Pederson) Useldinger	Jake & Ashley (Gubrud) Reinier	PKM Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Bonnie (Franks) Ornquist	Jason & Stacy Hanson	Premium Waters
Bradley Johnson	Jay Swanson Insurance Agency	Probitas Promotions
Brady Martz & Assoc, PC	Jeanne Johnson	Prudential
Bremer Bank/Old National Bancorp	Jeff & Sara Steer	R & R Farms, Inc
Brenda Ackerson	Jeff Jacobson	Ralph & Delana (Lundeen) Johnson
Brian Ljunggren	JEJ Farms	Raven Crawford
Bryan Hackbarth	Jenny Langevin Insurance Agency, Inc	Raymond Larson
C&R Cleaners & Laundry	Jeremy & Jaime Woinarowicz	Reinhart Foods
Calvin & Amber Schoepp	Jerome Ranstrom	Richard & Margaret Fanfulik
Carol J. Anderson	Jill M. (Johnston) Anderson	Rick & Marie Schmiedeburg
Carol Bowman	Jody (Westberg) Pulkrabek	Rivard's Turf & Forage
Carol (Wittman) Kilen	John & LaVerne (Storbakken) Messelt	River 15 Cinema
Carolyn (Stengl) Matz	Johnson Controls/Dustin Boyle	Rock Solid Nutrition
Central Street Creations	Johnson Family Farms	Rodger & Kim Haugtvedt
Charles & Margaret Cheney	Jordan & Brooke (Bork) Johnson	Roger & Peggy (Moen) Demeyer
CHS Ag Services	Judith (Tillett) Stromberg	Roger Quern
Chuck & Kristina (Knut) Long	Judith (Tillett) Stromberg	Rokke, Aandal & Associates P.L.
Chuck & Lovie (Johnson) Graham	Julia Nelson	Rydell Auto Center, Inc.
Circle M / Joey McGregor	Justin & Lindsey Buegler	Sara Larson
City of Warren	KB Electric	Seven Clans Casino
Cole Papers	KB Stump Removal	Sharon (Plencner) Brown
Colliers Securities LLC	Keith Abrahamson	Simply
Craig Peterson	Kelsey (Sorenson) Deschene	Sjoberg CableVision Inc
Czeh, Wilson & Wilmer CPA	Kevin Hanson	Stacy (Bossman) Nicholls
D&D Commodities	KROX (Attn: Chris Fee)	Stanley Maynard
Dahlstrom Motors	Kyle Borowicz	Stephen & Elizabeth Murray
Dairy Queen / Rick Roley	Laine & Lisa Almquist	Steve & Desilee Brekke
Dallas & Joyce (Andresen) Way	Lana (Walker) Maruska	Steve & Marie Goodwin
Damon & Ashley Stroble	Laura (Anderson) Efta	Stinar / Aakre Farms
Dan & Kay (Wittman) Finley	Laura Golden	Strickler Farms, Inc./Brent Strickler
Darby Boe & Amanda Liebersbach	Laverne & Mary Kay (Nicholls) Voll	Sue (Matcha) Roley
Darlene Haave	Lawrence Torgerson	SuperMarket Foods
Darrel & Melanie (Fulks) Nelson	Leroy & Carol (Bren) Holub	Terry Black
Darren & Jessica (Myrfield) Carlson	Liberty Business Systems	Thaddeus Stryker
Dave Schroeder	Linda Short	The Dell
David & Donna Gehrls	Little Shop On The Prairie	The Silo Boutique
David & Jen Nelson	Main Street Cafe	Thomas & Rita D. (Czapiewski) Welch
David & Kathy Goroski	Manda's Masterpieces	Thomas Hanson
Delores (Anderson) Sedlacek	Margaret (Streich) Dufault	TNT Automotive (Attn: Scott Jorgenson)
DelRoy & Marlene (Olson) Shane	Mark & Judy (Evin) Flaten	Todd & Jan (Narlock) Mortimer
DelRoy Lieberg	Mark Nelson	Tony & Michelle Gullikson
Dewey & Shari Swanson	Mark & Lisa Turgeon	Town & Country Plumbing & Heating
Digi-Key	Mark Thompson	True North Equipment
Diversified Contractors, Inc	MarKit County Grain LLC	True Value
Don & Ellen (Fillipi) Strickler	Marshall County Coop	Tyler & Laura Golden
Donald & Sharon (Ulrich) Hedquist	Marshall County SWCD	UND Alumni Foundation/ DeAnna (Carlson) Zink
Donlar Construction	Mary (Martin) Keller	University of MN Crookston
Doreen (Hammerback) Jensen	Mary (Ovsak) Bliven	US Bank - Jeanne E. Kotrba Trust
Dr Patricia Wrolson	Mary (Stanghelle) Coleman	Warren Auto Repair
Dr. Tim & Kate Erickson	Mary Beth (Maruska) Edman	Warren Eye Care
DuBore Funeral Home	Mason & Anna Wang	Warren Jaycees (Attn: Alex Marcotte)
Dvorak Brothers Farms	Matt & Ashley (Holien) Vongroven	Warren Lions Club
Dwight W. Peterson Farms	Michelle Boroski	Warren Pharmacy
Ed & Renee (Rehder) Rosendahl	Michelle (Miller) Nybo	Warren Riverside Golf Course
Elm Crest Motel / Kelly Mattson	Mike Rosendahl	Wayne & Rhonda Jordheim
Elmer & Anita (Stanghelle) Carlson	Miller Electric	Wayne T. Torgerson Farm
Erdahl Heating & Air	Minnesota Twins Baseball Club	Wikstrom Telecom Internet
Eric Baird	Minnesota Vikings	Willow Dunn Ranch (Attn: Michelle Sullivan)
Eric & Kristi (Rosendahl) Flyen	Minnesota Wild	WJB Insurance Agency/Bill Bienek, Agent
Eric & Mary Stanislawski	Mirror Mirror Salon / Katie Jo Marquis	Wok-N-Roll (Bob Miller)
Ericco Tool & Mfg	Misselhorn Tiling & Excavation	Yvonne (Engelstad) Bossman
Ewing Oil (Cenex)	Napa Supply of Warren	Zachery Stene
Family Chiropractic	Nathan Peterson Farms	
Faye Wallsten	NCTC Foundation	
Fert-L-Lawn	ND Mill & Elevator (Attn: Becky Boman)	
Frandsen Wealth Management & Trust	Neil Kruger	
G&G Farms Partnership	Nelson Farms / David & Jen	

# 2025 Class Reunions



**WARREN CLASS OF 1960** — From left to right in the front row, Rovella (Franks) Weiland, Gayle (Iverson) Owens, Darla (Conely) Jones and Sharon (Botko) Kays. Back row, left to right: Robert Elseth, Bill Gilbert, Paddy (Marek) Barton, Dan Carlson, Leroy Ljunggren, Brian Peterson, Marion (VanBaalen) Anderson.



**WHS CLASS OF '58 TURNS 85** — Front row, left to right, Evelina (Abeld) Love, Leonard Novak, Stanley Sirek, Dolores (Weiland) Zammert. Back row, left to right, Mary (Madsen) Garry, Marlene (Bonnette) Carlson, JoAnne (Hess) Sundby, Bonnie (Opsund) DeMeyere.



**WARREN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1965** — Front row, left to right are, Rob Ovsak, Ron Slusar, Paul Knutson, Mary Jane (Hendrickson) Emerson, Don Anderson, Roylene (Stanlake) Hebert, Sharon (Cheney) Cook. Second row, left to right are, John Holmstrom, Arden Peterson, Ron Kuznia, Jerry Riopelle, Janice (Botko) Filipi, Barb (Lindroth) Wessling, Susie (Lundgren) Anderson, Betty (Sorenson) Carlson, Sharon (Rood) Myers, Shirley (White) Holub. Third row, left to right are, David Johnson, Jerome Hickman, Ken Storbakken, Allyn Roley, Paul Short, Ralph Kotrba, Lowell Sedlacek, Duane Potucek, Wally Diedrich.



**WARREN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1975** — Pictured (seated) from left to right, Julie (Hess) Nowacki, Linda Saetre, Julie (Swanson) Palm, Nancy (Anderson) Erickson, Kay (Conely) Portillo, Bev (Potucek) Erickson, Deanna (Larson) McFarland. Second row, left to right, Cindy (Trudell) Engelstad, Nancy (Evin) Christman, Denise (Johnson) Pesola, Loren Zutz, Lori (Larson) Frank, Nancy Monroe, Brian Demeyere, Jayne Broten. Back row, left to right, Dale Loeslie, Linda (Kohlhase) Gabrielson, Vickie (Johnston) Wilson, Donovan Knutson, Steve Mortensen, Paul Potucek, Cindy (Kotrba) Scruggs, Debra (Plencner) Fawcett, Doris (Flaten) Wang, Sue (Jackson) Palm, Jon Kobetsky, Conrad Miska. Missing from the picture: Earl Pawlowski and Sue (Jerik) Weber.



**ALVARADO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1975** — From the top of the stairs to the bottom, left to right are, Walter Olson, Randy Narlock, Sandra (Dagoberg) Henneberg, Jodi (Swanson) Maloney, Rebecca (Nelson) Erickson, Roger Mathsen, Paul Moyer, William Yanish, Jeanne (Kollin) Boman, Darlene (Torgerson) Chandler, Kristina (Knut) Long, Krista (Sjol) Kollin, DeeAnn Olson, Phillip Vanyo. Deceased classmates that will never be forgotten are Troy Anderson, Randall Hanson and Dana Moen.

## Chat with the Chairman

Greetings from the WAO Education Foundation!

The busy summer of 2025 is in the history books and it will soon be time to turn the calendar to 2026! The week of the Marshall County Fair was a fun time to have many alumni back “home” for their class reunions and gatherings. Our 20th annual golf scramble was held on July 25th. 226 golfers joined us for a fun day of golf and activities. It was great to once again have administrators, school board representation, and staff participate along with alumni, community members, and friends. The golf course was very lively with much color and very creative team themes that were carried out throughout the event. We took in over \$41,000! It is very obvious that this event wouldn't happen without our WONDEFUL WILLING volunteers. Mark your calendars for Friday, July 24, 2026 for our 21st annual golf scramble next summer.

Hundreds of WAO Education Foundation pencils were handed out by board members and volunteers during the annual Marshall County Fair Parade.

A large number of reunion gatherings would have loved to have had the chance to tour the school remodel/building project this past summer. Hopefully next year you'll have the opportunity to return to Warren and do that. Every time that I went into the Foundation office this summer I saw changes somewhere. It is unbelievable and amazing! As of early November, work is still underway. If you are looking for the Foundation office, we are still in a temporary office in the elementary building. Stop in and introduce yourself to Lydia Ranstrom, our new office manager.

On the day of the golf scramble the Foundation held a drawing for two raffles that we had. One was a 50/50 that was won by Jocelin Lee in the amount of \$1,350. One hundred twenty tickets were sold for the other raffle at \$100 each. Brandon Gornowicz was the \$3,000 winner, Tanner Dahlen won \$1,000 and Kayla Kroll and Jae Wright each won \$500.

Postage rates continue to go up and it costs us more to get each returned newsletters from the post office even if it has a new address on it. If you relocate, please send us an e-mail at [edfoundation@wao.k12.mn.us](mailto:edfoundation@wao.k12.mn.us) or call us at 218-745-4646 ex. 1317 to give us your new address/phone numbers. This helps to keep the cost down and ensures that you receive a timely newsletter. Our database is only as accurate as you help make it.

This school year, the Foundation provided school supplies for grades preschool through fifth grade in the amount of \$12,988.85. This money came from the CJ Anderson Endowment. All of the items were purchased from businesses within the WAO School District.

What will \$25.00 buy you? Many people have bought a one-year membership in the Foundation. This money along with undesignated money from donations and memorials is used for classroom needs/ requests and for scholarships that the Foundation funds. It's a win, win!

This past year we funded some money to the WAO Spanish Class for their trip to Costa Rica and to the FCCLA group for their national convention in Orlando, Florida. Both events were educational experiences for all of the students that attended. In addition, the Foundation has funded \$57,847 to the district for classroom needs so far in 2025.

American Education Week was held the week of November 17th. Each school employee received \$20.00 in Warren Bucks as a thank you for their support and dedication to the district as well as their patience and hard work from the end of the last school year as the building/remodel moved into high gear the day school was out and it still continues.

If our board can be of any assistance to you with more information, please feel free to contact me or one of our board members. “We can't succeed without you!”

Best wishes for a wonderful, safe holiday season and all good wishes in 2026!

Carol Anderson

# 2025 Class Reunions



**WAO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2015** — Front row, from left to right, Zach Halverson (and daughter), George Vela, Ashlee (Johnson) Hauge, Brenna (Tescher) Schmidt, Shayla Miller, Hannah (Miller) Sczepanski, Ariana (Porter) Prestebak, Kendall (Hapka) Bergh, Megan (Saiger) Erdahl, Chris Berglund and Jared Wohlers. Back row, left to right, Alex Hamrick, John Flom, Tyler Helgeson, Austin Erdahl, Peter Durand and Cameron DuBore.



**WAO CLASS OF 2005** — Pictured front row, from left to right, Tabitha Spears, Chassidy (Boman) Beavers, Conrad LaDuke, Amber (St. Germain) Sannes, Amy (Thompson) Dancy, Mike Trudell and Amanda (Johnson) Kraby. Back row, left to right, Josh Steer, Dylan Gilje, Kyle Bell, Kelby Stoner, Kirk Hanson, Kyle Kovar, David Farder, Travis Carl and Tim Przybylski. Missing from the photo: Adam Sedgeman, Abby (Bodell) Chisholm, Danika (DeWall) Przybylski, Kris Kliner and Angela Flaten.



**WHS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1970 REUNION** — Front row, left to right, Lynn Waldorf, Merle Stinar, Ted Engelstad, Terri (Johnston) Gaddis, Gail (Norman) Vesey, Karen (Erickson) Benitt. Second row, left to right, Conrad Goroski, Marijo (Anderson) Nabben, Patti (Miska) Erickson, Marilyn (Kuznia) Stroble, Jill (Oien) Nelson, Marilyn (Steer) Kuznia. Back row, left to right, Mark Swanson, Arlyn Stroble, Dick Knutson, Dale Grega, Diane (Johnson) Danielson, Robert Knutson, Janet (Carlson) Aakre. Missing from the picture are Pete Hanson and Sam Potucek.



**WHS CLASS OF 1985 REUNION** — Top row, left to right, Vyron Morkassel, Dean Jordheim, Todd Carlson, Mark Poolman, Kendall Mattson. Middle row, left to right: Brian Larson, Todd Maruska, Deron Pederson, Brenda (Anderson) Roux, Gwen (Peterson) Summers, Michelle (Frederick) Riopelle. Front row, left to right, Andrea (Pederson) Jadeke, Jodi (Klegstad) Kaiser, Jackie (Novak) Schroeder, Wade Peterson, Barb (Kasprick) Ljunggren, Nancy (Oberg) Sturman and Judy (Gulden) Weiland. Attended but not in the picture: Brent Anderson, Gretchen Mattson, David Nelson and Daryl Olson.

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!

## 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.

- OHS 1957 Darlene (Barclay) Murray
- WHS 1952 Verna (Laidley) Stave
- WHS 1976 Lyle Nelson
- AHS 1959 Marilyn Nelson
- WHS 1984 Mark Fagerstrom
- WHS 1971 Kathy (Kotrba) Hammer
- WHS 1956 Anne (Stancyk) Cohen
- AHS 1953 James Aas
- WHS 1975 Kim (Hanson) Jacobs
- WHS 1963 Harley Marek
- OHS 1963 Sharon (Barclay) Micoch
- WHS 1972 Jeff Norman
- AHS 1951 Patricia (Boushee) Kobetsky
- WHS 1953 Georgine (Novak) Worthington
- WHS 1943 Agnes (Botko) Sinn
- AHS 1959 Orlan Ranstrom
- WHS 1945 Dale O Peterson
- WHS 1953 Arthur "Jerry" Jensen
- Teacher Clinton Perkins
- Teacher Vynnette (Hanson) Perkins
- OHS 1943 Phyllis (Awes) Anderson
- WHS 1954 John Carlson
- OHS 1965 Judy (Hart) Schiller
- WHS 1946 Frances (Pinkerton) Fanfulik
- WHS 1957 Ervin Rokke
- AHS 1987 Jodell (Anderson) Johnson
- WHS 1963 Richard Confer
- WHS 1972 Beth C Johnson
- WHS 1972 Charles Baird
- OHS 1984 Craig Elden
- AHS 1985 Linda (Kollin) Boman
- AHS 1950 John Sersland
- WHS 1959 John Omdahl
- WHS 1956 LaVonne (Larson) Anderson
- Teacher Patricia (Swanson) Rolland
- WHS 1965 Peggy (Johnson) Fredlund
- WHS 1955 John "Jack" Buchner
- WHS 1961 Don Slusar
- WHS 1944 Lola (Berg) Fulks
- WHS 1977 Mary Plencner
- WHS 1953 Sigvart "Sig" Silnes
- VNHS 1989 Trish Rogalla
- AHS 1972 Jerry Knute
- Friend Kevin Kalt
- Friend LaVerne Pribula
- Friend Leonard R Novak
- Friend James Parker
- Friend David Johnson

Recently deceased family and friends list is updated weekly on the Education Foundation link at [www.k12.mn.us](http://www.k12.mn.us)

**Become a Member  
Just \$25**

**So we can keep this newsletter  
coming to you!**

# 2025 Class Reunions



**WAO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1995** — Front row, left to right, Kison (Schuler) Miller, Jennifer (Jenkins) Garceau, Heather (Levenhagen) Goroski, Janine Diedrich, Michael Rivard, Darrel Narlock. Middle row, left to right, Kris Ranstrom, Tiffany (Saunders) Rivard, Becky (Owens) Ament, Steve Roux, Michael Filipi, Eric Knoll. Back row, left to right, Brandon Stoner, Jeff Turn, Jon Kuznia, Chris Maurstad, Micah Hamm, Josh Howard, Ryan Howard.



**OSLO CLASS OF 1965 REUNION** — From left to right are, Leah (Olimb) Hendrickson, Sandy (McGuire) Simonson, Fred Slominski, Carol (McGuire) Olimb, Ann (Carpenter) Walski, Kaye (Parr) Vanyo, Cindy (Holter) Mason, John Gowan, Gayle (Quern) Gjovik, Charles Fjeld, Kathy (Mozinski) Pietrzak, Roger Quern and Lynnett (Tinnes) Hedlund.



**OSLO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1975** — Front row, left to right, Dan Braaten, Jerome Holter, Jim Nelson, Arlette (Plutowski) Britton, Adele (Rivard) Shane, Mary Jo (McFarland) Sweeney, Marie (Duray) Oihus, Leah (Thompson) Beach, David Gowan, Twyla (Osowski) Stenvold and Ann (Hoverson) Teigen. Back row, left to right, Michael McFarland, Dan Gowan, Lyle Nelson, Steve Nelson, Steve Farder and James Dickson.



**OSLO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1985** — Back row, left to right, Greg Lang, Scott Morkrid, Terry Osowski, Kari (Holter) Lavecchia, Patti (Papenfuss) Lehman, Dori (Buck) Anvinson, Missy Donarski, Lee Bushaw, Jeff Rustad and Jon Nelson. Front row, left to right, Harlan Knutson, Jackie (Devine) Roberts, Dawn (Knutson) Labine, LaRayn (Veralrud) Holte, Kimberly Anvinson and Joel Walski.



**AHS 1970 CLASS REUNION** — Back row, left to right, Tim Ritland, Calvin Kollin, Dan Dahlstrom, Mark Erickson and Elton Hendrickson. Middle row, left to right, Diane (Lundeen) McClellan, Joy Selnes, DeLana (Lundeen) Johnson and Angie (Hendrickson) Schultz. Front row, left to right, Val (Vanyo) Ritland, Lona (Kollin) Spicer and Sherry (Cormican) Gellert.



## Jackie (Arnold) Lee says it's that time again **MESA/WARREN Picnic Is Coming!**

Time to make your winter plans around the Warren, and surrounding community, fun event held yearly in Mesa, AZ. It's a great place to connect with hometown friends, share stories and to make new memories. Invite your friends and classmates to join you.

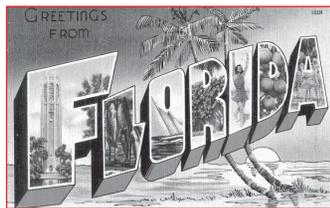
Rain or shine, the gathering will be held Saturday, February 21, 2026 at the NorthPoint Building, Viewpoint Golf Resort, 650 N. Hawes Road, Mesa, AZ 85207. Someone at the guard station will direct you to the building. Look for a good old-fashioned potluck lunch from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Dinnerware and water will be provided. BYOB and a dish to share.

Donations are accepted for expenses with the excess going to the WAO Education Foundation. The Foundation has donated their cookbooks as give-aways for this event but you have to be there to win.

Committee members are: Jackie Arnold Lee, Joanne and Dean Dahlman, MaryKay (Ovsak) Gazda, Hank Hendrickson, Kay (Hendrickson) Root (kayroot@gmail.com) and many fabulous volunteers.

See you in sunny Arizona.

## The Warren WHS/ WAO Florida Picnic February 7, 2026



Pavilion at Maxine Barret Park — 12-4 p.m.  
1800 Harbor Dr. S., Venice, Florida  
Contact: dsholy@sandslandscaping.com for more information or questions.

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.

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

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  gifts that pay life income  an insurance policy

Make checks payable to: WAO Education Foundation  
(All gifts to WAO Public Education Foundation are tax deductible.)