

Connections

A Publication of the Warren/Alvarado/Oslo Public School
Education Foundation

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Succeed
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Donovan Kropelin, Master Sergeant E7 United States Air Force



Donovan Kropelin, Master
Sergeant

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

Growing up in Warren during the 1990s and early 2000s gave Donovan Kropelin a typical small-town experience; one filled with bike rides, hanging out with friends, and a laid-back atmosphere. Raised with two brothers, Kent Kroeplin and Matthew Korynta, and a sister, Nicole Kroeplin, Donovan realized from an early age that his dreams reached far beyond his hometown. His strong desire to see more of the world led him, as a teenager, to the decision to enlist in the United States Air Force, giving him a perfect opportunity to explore more of the world's culture and cuisine.

As a teenager, Donovan started his work journey with a variety of local jobs. His first official job was a paper route with the Grand Forks Herald, which he signed up for as soon as he was old enough. This was just the beginning for young Donovan. He later went on to work at Dale's Foods, as a CNA at the Good Samaritan Center, then in the construction field, and at a landscaping company with his friend Josh Horgen. He also helped take care of his siblings and worked at the Garden Shop in Warren. Through this broad range of experiences, he discovered his preference for working with people and being outdoors.

While working in construction, Donovan joined a demolition crew, tearing down decrepit farmhouses, which he found both invigorating and fascinating. Donovan learned that as a CNA, he developed a

passion for helping others. These roles helped him discover the type of career he wanted - one that utilized his skills, offered challenges, and kept him fully engaged. Despite his varied local jobs, Donovan felt the pull of a more exciting adventure beyond his hometown of Warren. He wanted something hands-on and challenging. Enlisting in the United States Air Force was the perfect fit, giving him the chance to see, taste, and experience the world. It was exactly what he had been searching for. After collecting his WAO diploma in 2004, he was off in search of exciting, new horizons.

But first... the final chapter of Donovan's high school years. Reflecting on his early school experiences, Donovan recalls them being less than ideal. By his own account, he was not one of the students at the top of the class. He felt like the "little weird kid" in most of his classes. Still, he shares that his teachers made learning enjoyable. Mr. Rick Schmiedeberg was a memorable influence, one whom Donovan remembers "laid into" him more than once. Donovan now recognizes this discipline as being exactly what was needed, describing Mr. Schmiedeberg as "strict but helpful." Donovan remains grateful for those life lessons. Mr. Schmiedeberg treated him fairly and never gave up on him, something Donovan still appreciates.

As a junior in high school, Donovan participated in WAO wrestling, joining with his friend, Conrad LaDuke. Though he started late in his high school career, he recalls the program fondly. He appreciated spending quality time with his friends while participating in a school-based activity. He also appreciated teachers like Joe Corradi, Mr. Jones, and his science teacher, Mr. Johnson, who he describes as "phenomenal." One encounter that particularly motivated Donovan was with a guidance counselor who doubted his potential; telling him that he'd "never make it in the military." Those words became fuel for his ambitions, driving him forward. Once he enlisted, he took (figurative) flight, proving any doubters wrong.

When asked about his favorite memory at WAO, Donovan shared how much he enjoyed the collaborative learning environment in many of his classes. He had a great time with his friends,

especially during study hall and lunch, and he loved the freedom to walk to Don's (Jet Stop, today) over the noon break. Just hanging out with the guys was the best part of his day.

During high school, while working with the lighting for the high school musical, Donovan met his future wife, Pam Lindenberg (WAO, Class of 2005). As he came down from the lighting booth, he took the opportunity to strike up a conversation with her. He enjoyed her wit and sense of humor and the ease with which they spoke together. Within a few months, they were dating.

In June 2004, Donovan left for basic training at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas, while Pam completed her senior year. She made plans to continue her studies at the Technical College in Wadena.

In October 2004, Donovan graduated as a Munitions Systems Apprentice from the 363rd Training Squadron. After being stationed at Holloman AFB in New Mexico, he and Pam married, and she joined him there to start their lives together. They now enjoy a loving family with three wonderful daughters: Luna, their eldest is 12, brings a bit of sass to the family; Tali, the family sweetheart, is 10 and Cora, age 3, rounds out the family with her boundless energy, keeping everyone on their toes. Donovan shares that his daughters are amazing and always keep him entertained; he truly cherishes his family time. The girls attend school right on base, allowing him and Pam to attend their events with ease. When Donovan's dad, Keven, comes to visit, they enjoy exploring the sights and sounds of Japan together, often with a lively round at one of the nearby golf courses.

Donovan and Pam spent his early service at Kadena Air Base in Japan, where he began his career as a Munitions Inspector (2004 - 2007). He advanced to the position of Precision Guided Munitions Inspector and held that role until 2008. During these years, Donovan handled, stored, shipped, and tested munitions and explosives, working directly with everything from missiles to bombs used by bombers. He found his work as a munitions storage inspector to be invigorating and rewarding. He entered the role with confidence, as it allowed him to

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Join the WAO Education
Foundation for our
20th Annual

Golf Scramble Fundraiser

Friday, July 25, 2025

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

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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 22, 2025 in Mesa, AZ

See back page for more information.

Warren-WHS-WAO Florida Picnic

February 8, 2025 - 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 23-27, 2025

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News and Notes . . .

Jeff Fagerstrom, WHS 1988. He and his wife, Wendy live in Thief River Falls and they have five children. He is the manager and president of the Northwest Minnesota Housing Cooperative (NMHC) which was formed in 1998. It is a collaboration between the USDA Rural Development and the Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation. NMHC builds affordable, sustainable housing throughout Northwest Minnesota, partnering with local developers, contractors, retailers, financial institutions and government agencies to create a path to home ownership. NMHC also serves as the contractor partner for North Star Neighbors, a community and trust serving Northwest Minnesota. Recently, Jeff received a Community Compass Award recognizing his efforts strengthening our communities to build tomorrow's best future for all who live and work in Northwest Minnesota.

Kendra (Aakre) Heuring, WAO 2011, is the youngest sibling of four Aakre sisters and two Aakre brothers who grew up on a family farm southeast of Warren. All six were very involved in school activities at Warren High School and then Warren-Alvarado-Oslo High School. Following her graduation at WAO, Kendra attended Concordia College where she graduated from in 2015 with an Accounting Degree. She quickly earned her CPA license and ever since has worked at Cargill, Inc. in several accounting and finance roles. She has worked remotely for Cargill for the past 6 years mainly because they have moved several times to accommodate her husband, Zack's jobs. They have been married for 9 years and are parents of three sons. Currently, they live in Audubon, MN. They have led worship at different churches and are currently worship leaders at their home church in Detroit Lakes, MN.

Jessica (Aakre) Davoli, WAO 2008. Married to Joe Davoli and they have a son and two daughters who were all born within five years of each other. After high school, she attended Waldorf College (now Waldorf University) in Forest City, Iowa. Always a great athlete, Jessica played basketball and also walked on to play volleyball all the while earning a degree in Math Education and she also earned her coaching certification. With all the college courses she was able to take at WAO, she was able to graduate in 3.5 years. The summer after her graduation she and Joe were married in 2012 and both started teaching in Pillager, Minn. Jessica also coached volleyball as well as track and field during her time there. They have lived in Lake Shore, MN since 2013. Having three young children beginning in 2019, Jessica is in her second year teaching math part-time at Stare Academy in Baxter, MN. She says they all love living in lake country and feel blessed with their sweet family.

Dr. Shari Olson-Nikunen, AHS1979, is the interim president of Northland Community and Technical College in Thief River Falls. She grew up on a farm south of Alvarado. Following her high school graduation she attended North Dakota State University earning both her Bachelor's degree and Master's degree. She followed those accomplishments by earning her doctorate from the University of North Dakota. After career stops in Wyoming, Arizona and the Twin Cities, she returned to Northland Community and Technical College, where she spent 13 years of her long career in education. Her appointment as interim president of Northland Community and Technical College became effective on July 1, 2024.

Erin (Aakre) Anderson, WAO 1996 graduate attended Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa. She played basketball there and earned her AA degree. Following her two years at Waldorf, she transferred to Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska where she finished her basket-ball career and graduated in 2000 with a Bachelor's degree in Finance. After marrying her husband, Ben Anderson, they moved to Nashville, Tennessee where she enrolled in a graduate program at Middle Tennessee State University. She graduated in 2002 with her MBA. Erin started working at Tevecca Nazarene University in Nashville in their Adult

Studies program, helping adult students return to college to earn their Bachelor's degree. In 2011, Erin accepted a position at Harding Academy as the Head of School Assistant and Admissions Associate. Erin said she loves her position at the University. She added, that along the way, she and her husband, Ben have the privilege raising their son and two daughters.

This is a very interesting extended note about the four children of long-time Warren High School educators, **Wilfred and Harriet Johnson** who came to Warren in 1941. They were great members of the community and all four of their children were born here and graduated from Warren High School. They went on many family trips to see the USA. The four Johnson siblings get together at least once a year to travel to their grandparent's original homestead where their mother was born near Regent, N.D. They all enjoy the North Dakota Badlands and the beautiful wide open spaces. They say the years have been good to them and they are all very fortunate to enjoy the times they spend together. The two oldest children are twins, Bruce and Brad. They graduated from **Warren High School in 1967.** They both graduated from Bemidji State University. After graduation, the two brothers decided to spend time in the South Pacific, visiting America Samoa, New Zealand and Australia in the latter part of 1971 and early 1972.

Bruce Johnson, WHS 1967, spent 40 years in the sports medicine field as an athletic trainer at UND and East Grand Forks, MN. Included during this time was a 16-year career as an orthopedic surgery assistant at Altru Health System. He lives in Albert Lea, MN on a beautiful lake with wife, Kathy, who is a retired physical therapist. Bruce has three children, seven grandchildren and two step-grandchildren. He says they have traveled to Italy twice and overall enjoy lake life to the fullest with canoeing and kayaking. Bruce enjoys getting together with brother, Brad for frequent North Dakota Badlands trips.

Brad Johnson, WHS 1967, is married to his wife, Gratia, a retired RN and they settled on a farm near Waseca, MN, where Gratia grew up. They have been married for 51 years. Brad spent 36 years employed by Wenger Corporation in Owatonna, MN. They have traveled overseas and plan on visiting Australia in 2025. They have three children and three grandchildren who live nearby, so they are frequently together. They spend a lot of time being with their grandchildren and their activities. Brad enjoys canoeing and studying history as well as Badlands trips with his brother, Bruce.

Diane (Johnson) Danielson, WHS 1970, is the oldest of the Johnson family's sisters. She has been married to Myron Danielson for 51 years. They have lived in Stephen, MN for the last 30 years after Myron left his teaching job in Warren. They have lived in multiple towns where their employment sent them. Diane is an RN and a graduate of Abbot Northwestern Nursing program in Minneapolis, MN. She worked many years at Altru Health System in Grand Forks, ND. They have two sons and five grandchildren. They retired early and traveled around the country. They enjoy quiet drives and picnics in the country. Diane keeps in contact with close friends in Warren. Most of her time is spent tending her beautiful flower garden.

Denise (Johnson) Pesola, WHS 1975, is the youngest of the four Johnson kids. She lives near Rollag, MN on a beautiful lake setting with her husband, Russ, who is a retired band director at Concordia College. "Denny" graduated from Concordia College and the University of Minnesota. She taught middle school band in Moorhead and is a professional horn player and pianist. Denny played in the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony for 36 years and currently plays in Amerikan Poijat brass septet that has played all over the country and overseas. Denny and Russ have visited many European countries. In her down time, Denny is a talented watercolor artist and photographer. They enjoy their four cats.

2024 Golf Fundraiser



Jessica (Myrfield) Carlson, (WAO 1999), and her friend Beth Heath were volunteers at the "Guess the number of teas and balls" contest.



Volunteers Michelle (Miller) Nybo, (AHS 1987, WAO teacher) and Joan (Grega) Peterson, (WHS 1974, former teacher), taking a break at their contest post.



Volunteer sisters Katie Kleven, (WAO 2014) and Kirsten Kleven, (WAO 2010) were in charge of the chipper pool contest.



Brats and beverages were served by volunteers DeAnna (Carlson) Zink, (WHS1982) and her husband Wayne Zink. WAO Ed. Foundation's good friend, the late Dwaine Sanden started this tradition and the Zinks have taken over this site the past few years and always do a great job.

Volunteers Pam and Jim Jubie are stationed at "putting contest" area. The contest was sponsored by the Steve Nelson family.



The kitchen crew volunteer servers were from left to right MaryBeth (Maruska) Edman, (WHS 1971, former teacher); Lisa (Abrahamson) Greer, (WHS 1987), Jo Sorenson, (former teacher), Joanne (Edgar) Ranstrom, (AHS 1980, WAO teacher).



Mark Nelson (WHS 1988, WAO custodian), volunteered his services to make sure everything ran smoothly out on the golf course at the WAO Education Foundation Golf Fundraiser. Mark's family sponsored the putting contest.



Carol (Wittman) Kilen, WHS 1981, and Keith Abrahamson, WHS 1981, were volunteers at the poker table contest.

Donovan Kropelin, Master Sergeant

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Donovan with his wife, Pam and their girls, Cara, Tali and Luna.

spend more time as a supervisor and leader. Donovan spent the next four years serving as a Munitions Controller in the 49th Maintenance Squadron; during that time earning his Associate Degree in Applied Science, Munitions Systems Technology at the Community College of the Air Force.

Donovan held the Guided Munitions Inspector role until 2008. During these years, Donovan handled, stored, shipped, and tested munitions and explosives, working directly with everything from missiles to bombs used by bombers. He found his work as a munitions storage inspector to be invigorating and rewarding.

While stationed at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico, the opportunity to apply for First Sergeant arose in 2009, Donovan seized it. He entered the role with confidence, as it allowed him to spend more time as a supervisor and leader. Donovan spent the next four years serving as a Munitions Controller in the 49th Maintenance Squadron. While in that role, he earned his Associate Degree in Applied Science, Munitions Systems Technology at the Community College of the Air Force.

In 2013, his assignment found him stationed at Osan Air Base in the Republic of Korea. While there, he was the Plans / Programs Non-commissioned Officer in Charge with the 51st Munitions Squadron. After spending a year in Korea, he was reassigned to Misawa Air Base in Japan where he earned the position of Senior Munitions Inspector.

Donovan's current rank is First Sergeant, 961st Airborne Air Control Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan. What does a typical day as a Master Sergeant entail? Donovan knows firsthand the responsibilities required to keep the Air Force personnel mission-ready. His day begins with a list of priorities, addressing the most critical issues first and working through each task. High-priority matters often involve disciplinary actions, career development, and helping resolve personal matters among the enlisted members and officers. His work spans everything from career planning, mobility, and readiness to morale, mental health, and well-being and anything that impacts the unit as a whole.

Based at the personnel headquarters, Donovan's day must align with various time zones, as records are maintained stateside and operate on Mountain Time which sometimes means working after standard hours to ensure seamless

operations. "By taking care of my people, they take care of the job; and my job as a First Sergeant is taking care of them," he says. He finds great satisfaction in helping people grow and become the best versions of themselves.

Donovan is responsible for supporting the entire 961st Airborne Air Control Squadron Operations Group, which includes 160 flyers and operators, as well as all enlisted personnel, civilians, and officers in the unit. Reflecting on his career, he's quick to say that every step has been worth it for both him and his family. He sees the positive impact of guiding people toward growth and fulfillment, often likening his role to that of a counselor, helping his team make decisions, access resources, and find solutions that suit them best.

MSgt Kropelin has deployed three times in support of the United States Air Force. First, in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM - a military operation launched following the 9/11 attacks - and twice in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE - an international war against the Islamic state. He was the team lead for the 48th munitions squadron during the inaugural Air Force Combat Operations Competition, winning five of eight events, securing the competition victor and taking home the coveted Sierra Trophy for the Royal Air Force Lakenheath, United Kingdom. Donovan continues to enjoy athletic events and competitions. He will soon participate in the Tour de Okinawa, a cycling competition in which he's been in previously but after being hit by a truck, failed to complete it. He intends to reverse that situation with the next competition.

Seeking to further his education, Donovan completed the Air Force Non-Commissioned Officer Program in 2017, then in 2021 he earned his Air Force Additional Duty First Sergeant with the 18th Munitions Squadron in Kadena. His current position, as of September 2023 is Master First Sergeant, 961st Airborne Air Control Squadron. When asked about his favorite aspects of his job, he said, "It's the people; they can make or break a location. They can be the most amazing part of the job or the bane of your existence." He finds it both interesting and challenging to understand difficult individuals and bring them into the fold, often reminding them to "get over themselves." For those who need additional support, he gathers all the necessary resources to help them, whether they're facing minor performance issues or

more serious family or disciplinary challenges. Being halfway around the globe from family, many officers and enlisted personnel see their units as their family, making camaraderie essential for the well-being of the entire team. Donovan is proud of the Airmen who have worked for him and who have allowed him the privilege of learning from them. He remains dedicated to helping people connect and build those bonds. "It's an amazing career," he shared.

On the flip side, one of the most challenging aspects of his career is getting people to look beyond their tunnel vision. When someone is fixated on an idea, it's difficult to shift their mindset unless they're flexible thinkers. Stateside, people can disconnect easily with family and friends nearby, but abroad, they often feel isolated. Helping people get out of their own way is both entertaining and challenging for Donovan. He finds it rewarding to witness the valuable life lessons and remarkable growth in those he supports.

Throughout his distinguished career, Donovan has earned numerous major awards and decorations, including the Air and Space Commendation Medal, Air and Space Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Award, Air and Space Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal with two service stars, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, and the Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal. Donovan has also achieved six promotions. He had nine assignments while being enlisted. Notably, in 2009, he was recognized as a Distinguished Graduate of the Airman Leadership School; in 2018, he was named the United States Air Forces in Europe Munitions Supervisor of the Year; and in 2023, he earned the United States Air Force First Sergeant Academy Team Award.

MSgt Donovan Kropelin's military career has taken him and his family across the globe, leading to accomplishments he never imagined as a teenager in Warren. Though his heart remains connected to his hometown, his true home is wherever his journey takes him. Describing himself as a "collector of experiences," Donovan believes in trying new things to truly understand them. He's participated in the Tour de Okinawa and several half-marathons and enjoys a range of activities: golfing, playing video games with his daughters, drawing, and doing "nerdy stuff" with his family. Passionate about fitness, he's dedicated to weightlifting and has a strong interest in martial arts as well.

So, what's next for Donovan? While he's achieved much, he's always looking forward. Now eligible for military retirement, he has several paths ahead. He's considering the Skill Bridge program, where he would acquire a new skill to prepare for his next career step. After leaving the military, he plans to work stateside initially but aims to return overseas in a government role. He's on track to complete his B.A. in Human Resources by the summer of 2026, and once he graduates, he plans to leverage his degree to secure a civilian position in Human Resources.

Donovan plans to return to Warren next

fall for his brother's wedding. While "home," 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.



Donovan at work.



Annie Peterson competed at the state cross country meet on Saturday, November 2, 2024. She placed 74th out of 159 runners with a near personal record time. Annie said "competing at the state level was a great experience. I am grateful for all the support I received from the school and the community." Peterson is the very first West Marshall Fusion cross country runner to compete at the state level.

Tribute and Memorial Gifts

May 1, 2024 – October 31, 2024

In Memory of Betty Evin

Nancy (Evin) Christman
In Memory of Beverly Mae Stoe
Lee & Susan (Bergman) Myxter
In Memory of Bruce Laymon
Maynard & JoAnn Laymon
In Honor of Cait Irene Madilyn Laymon

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Bobby & Nancy (Pederson) Useldinger
Rev Dale & Nadine (Anderson) Peterson

In Memory of Cheryl Stauffenecker

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Duane & Jerrilyn (Olson) Potucek
Francis & Marcia Kuznia
Mick & Jan Riopelle
Scott & Rachel (Potucek) Deitz

In Memory of David Bymoan
Robert & Sheila (Bodell) Hoerner
In Memory of David Knutson (Class of 1966)

Robert Knutson
In Memory of Deceased Classmates of 1959

Rodney Carlson
In Memory of Deloris Coulter Johnson

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In Memory of Dennie & Elsie Conely
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In Honor of Don Knutson's Birthday
Myron Knutson

In Memory of Donald & Connie Omdahl

Sally Erickson
In Memory of Donald Dvorak
John & Rachel Peterson
In Memory of Donald Omdahl
John & Rachel Peterson
Larry & Donna (Mackie) Laudal
Leeann (Omdahl) Mader
In Memory of Dorothy (Edman) Manz

Bruce & Bev Ranstrom
Robert & Betty (Ranstrom) Iverson
In Memory of Elsie (Batko) Conely
Darlene (Torgerson) Dvorak
Gerald & Suzie (Omdahl) Jevning
Sharon (Botko) Kays

In Memory of Eric Johnson
Mark & Lisa Turgeon
In Memory of Evelyn (Fischer) Cernousek

Annette Merriken
In Memory of Gary & Tony Hill
James & Sally (Hill) Swanson
In Memory of Gary Bren
AHS Class of 1964
In Memory of Gary Johnson
Arlyn & Marilyn (Kuznia) Stroble
In Memory of Gaylord Solem
Gerald & Suzie (Omdahl) Jevning
In Memory of Glorianne Loeslie
Carol J. Anderson
Dean & Jana (Walker) Maruska, Carter & Patrick

Gerald & Suzie (Omdahl) Jevning
L. Peder & Karen Larson
Steve & Desilee Brekke
Wayne & Sharon (Ranstrom) Larson
In Memory of Grace (Fischer) Hodnefeld
Annette Merriken

In Memory of Greg M. Haugen
Irmy Haugen
In Memory of Hank and Mary Johnson
David P. Johnson
In Memory of Harriet, Lloyd and Jimmy Hill

James & Sally (Hill) Swanson
In Memory of Ida (Fischer) Meyer
Annette Merriken
In Memory of Janet (Larson) Anderson

Bob & Cheryl (Larson) Hangsleben
Karen (Hickman) Larson
Wayne & Linda (Larson) Hamrick

In Memory of Jason Bye
Arlyn & Marilyn (Kuznia) Stroble
Carol J. Anderson
David & Donna Gehrls
Don & Ellen (Fillipi) Strickler
Gerald & Suzie (Omdahl) Jevning
Gladwin Lynne

Jerry & Rita Dalzell
Karen Pearson

Philip & Gloria Thompson
In Memory Jeff Evin
Nancy (Evin) Christman

In Memory of Jennifer Pederson
Arlyn & Marilyn (Kuznia) Stroble
Carol J. Anderson
Gladwin Lynne
Philip & Gloria Thompson
Sharon (Edgar) Abrahamson

In Memory of Jerome Simonson
Scott & Rachel (Potucek) Deitz
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Sharon (Botko) Kays
In Memory of Jon O'Keefe
Arlyn & Marilyn (Kuznia) Stroble
Carol J. Anderson
Michael & Betty (Bjorgaard) DuBore

In Memory of Joseph & Emil Fanfulik
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In Memory of Joyce Boardson
Carol J. Anderson
In Memory of Julie Glass Evans
Carol J. Anderson
Jordan & Brooke (Bork) Johnson
Karen Pearson

In Memory of June Bergh
Jon & Brenda (Ackerson) Hapka
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Gerald & Suzie (Omdahl) Jevning
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Ken & Barb Peterson
L. Peder & Karen Larson

In Memory of Lee Toftner
Don Loeslie
Gerald & Suzie (Omdahl) Jevning
In Memory of Leonard & Delphine Olson & Sister Nancy
Richard & Barbara Olson

In Memory of Lisa (Erickson) Bye
Arlyn & Marilyn (Kuznia) Stroble
Carol J. Anderson
Clayton & Jodi (Olson) Quade
David & Donna Gehrls
Don & Ellen (Fillipi) Strickler
Elmer & Anita (Stanghelle) Carlson
Faye Wallsten
Gerald & Suzie (Omdahl) Jevning

Gladwin Lynne
Jerry & Rita Dalzell
Karen (Hickman) Larson
Karen Pearson
Philip & Gloria Thompson
Todd & Kathy (Filipi) Kleinvachter
In Memory of Lois Pagnac
Arlyn & Marilyn (Kuznia) Stroble
Doug & Jo Sorenson
In Memory of Lucille (Sabol) Kjos
Don Loeslie
Gerald & Suzie (Omdahl) Jevning
Ralph & Cindy (Sabol) Melgard
In Memory of Lucille Rakowski
Darlene (Torgerson) Dvorak
John Rakowski
Richard & Margaret (Olson) Nelson
In Memory of Lyle Pederson
Bobby & Nancy (Pederson) Useldinger
In Honor of Mark & Julie's Grandchildren

Mark & Julie (Hess) Nowacki
In Memory of Marlie Faith Schmidt
Class of 2014

In Memory of Mary Ann (Mattson) Hanson

Anonymous
Marlys (Mattson) Nelson
In Memory of Michael Dudinsky
AHS Class of 1964

In Memory of Michael Olson (AHS 1972)

Wally Olson
In Memory of Patricia (Wilson) Bjorgaard

Allyn & Susan (Matcha) Roley
Arlyn & Marilyn (Kuznia) Stroble
Bette (Grega) Swanson
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Robert & Mona Rae Fagerstrom
Rodney Carlson
Steve & Marie Goodwin
Tony & Michelle Gullikson
Vernon Borowicz
Wayne & Sharon (Ranstrom) Larson

In Memory of Paul Meyer
Josh & Patti (Meyer) Bjorneby
In Memory of Randy Loeslie
Larry & Donna (Mackie) Laudal
Stacy Laudal

In Memory of Roger Dick
Jerry & Rita Dalzell
In Memory of Ross Hill
Gladwin Lynne
In Memory of Sherilyn (Oberg) Wallace
Arlyn & Marilyn (Kuznia) Stroble
Brian Black
Judy (Johnson) Dallmann
Patricia (Anderson) Juvrud
Rodney Carlson
In Memory of Shirley Gaber
Rovella (Franks) Weiland
In Memory of Slim (Gayle) Short
Carol J. Anderson
Ed & Renee (Rehder) Rosendahl
Jordan & Brooke (Bork) Johnson
Michael & Judy (Gulden) Weiland
Richard & Mary Beth (Maruska) Edman

Robert & Mona Rae Fagerstrom
Steve & Marie Goodwin
In Honor of Sterling Marjorie Bergh
Carol J. Anderson

In Memory of Susan (Baird) Morgan
Arlyn & Marilyn (Kuznia) Stroble
Billy & Cindy (Nowacki) Franks
Mick & Jan Riopelle
Rovella (Franks) Weiland

In Memory of Tom Aafedt
Alan, Lana (Walker) Maruska, & Sophia

Bob & Elaine Perius
Carolyn (Stengl) Matz
Darrell & Cherry (Hanson) Olson
Jan Aafedt

Scott & Deena Francis
Richard & Margaret (Olson) Nelson
Steve & Marie Goodwin
Tom & Jenny Borowicz
Wendell & Michal (Loeslie) Sands
Rex & Lynn Huttes

In Memory of Walter & Eleanore Goplin
Don & Corrine (Goplin) Slaughter
In Memory of Walter Hillman

Bruce & Bev Ranstrom
Dewey & Shari Swanson
Hansena Swanson
Jerry & Rita Dalzell
Orlan & Jacquelyn Ranstrom
Steve & Marie Goodwin

In Memory of Warren Jadeke
Bruce & Bev Ranstrom
In Memory of Wendell Sands
Dave & Mona (Heggestuen) Schroeder
Don Loeslie
Elaine (Danielson) Potucek
Jan Aafedt

Jordan & Brooke (Bork) Johnson
Lee & Susan (Bergman) Myxter
In Honor of WHS Class of 1957
Ervin & Pam Rokke

In Memory of WHS Classmates of 1958 that have passed
Dolores (Weiland) Zammert
In Memory of WHS Classmates of 1960

Marion (VanBaalen) Anderson
In Memory of Wilbert “Willie” McGregor
Carol J. Anderson
Dean & Jana (Walker) Maruska, Carter and Patrick
Sigvart & Marlene (Wittman) Silnes
Anne (Saetre) Josephson

Greetings From The New WAO Superintendent



First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the WAO Education Foundation for all of their kindness, support, and generosity. Since my arrival in July, I have been able to attend monthly meetings, assist with the golf scramble, and get to know the foundation board members a bit. You all know this already, but that’s a pretty special group of people; who care deeply about our students, educators, and our schools at WAO. Obviously we are very fortunate here!

My name is Bryan Hackbarth, and it’s an honor to be the superintendent at Warren-Alvarado-Oslo. My career in public education includes 5 years of youth outreach programming, six years as a K-12 school counselor, nine years as a principal, and this is my third year as superintendent. I am married to my wonderful wife Jame and my daughter Hayley is in her first year of law school in Charleston, South Carolina.

No doubt, it’s been an interesting transition with everything going on at WAO. But now that the dust has settled a bit; I can see that we are in a great place! I am happy to be joining a strong team of educators, with amazing students and families. From day one, I have felt welcomed and supported here and I am super excited for the future at WAO!

The WAO building project has been one of the most exciting things I have ever been part of in my career. Like anything else, there have been some ups and downs along the way, but we continue to make great progress! If you have not had a chance to check out things for yourself yet, WAO building project updates are shared every two weeks on the school website and on our school social media.

I hope you have enjoyed the beautiful fall weather and had a chance to spend some extra time outdoors with family and friends. With the warm weather we have had, it’s even harder to believe that we are already in November and have completed our first quarter of school! Even with the extra challenges during the construction, it’s business as usual around here and I am very happy to report that we are off to a great start to our school year! I want to extend my sincere appreciation to all of the WAO staff, students, and families for doing your part.

Please feel free to stop by or connect with me otherwise; if you just want to chat or if you have any questions or concerns anytime.

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

Greetings From Office Manager Mallory Craik



Hi! I am so excited to introduce myself as the new office manager at the WAO Education Foundation office! I graduated from Warren Alvarado Oslo High School in 2004. After high school I moved out of Warren but I didn’t stay gone long! In 2008 after the death of my father, Lowell Westberg, my husband Jake and I moved back to Warren to be close to family. At that time we opened up “Mallory’s Studio” on Johnson Ave. In 2012, we welcomed our first son, John, to our family and his brother, Wilson joined soon after in 2013! In 2015, we made the decision to close our studio brick-and-mortar location to have more time with family, but I continued my photography career on location. I still enjoy capturing senior photos, families and children.

In 2021, Jake and I opened up “Great Eastern Pet Cremation” to serve pet owners in our community. We have had the opportunity to serve hundreds of families and help them through the difficult time of losing a pet.

Currently, I work at the Warren Sheaf as writer, photographer and office help. I enjoy writing about our amazing communities and the people that live here!

My hobbies include teaching strength training classes at IronWheel Fitness and leading Level Up Youth group at Harvest Church. I also love spending time with my family at the lake.

My kids are now in 7th and 5th grades at WAO and it’s been so fun to see them growing up in the same school that I attended.

I have very much enjoyed my new position with the Foundation and learning about all of the wonderful things the Foundation does!

Donations

May 1, 2024 – October 31, 2024

- Advantage Ag Air
Ag Country Farm Credit Services
Albatross Indoor Golf Club
Alexandra Erickson
Amber Schoepp
American Crystal Sugar
American Federal Bank
Ann Berget Zavoral
Anne (Saetre) Josephson
Annette Merriken
Argyle Builders Supply
Argyle Service LLC
Arthur & Charlotte Drenckhahn
Ash Grove Ag, Inc.
Ashley Vongroven
Audrey (Nice) Barta
Auto Value
Baylor Enterprises
Ben & Kari Miska
Bernatello's Foods
BETASEED / Scott Edgar
Bill & Carol Sedgeman
Bill Grange
Billy & Cindy (Nowacki) Franks
Bobby & Nancy (Pederson) Useldinger
Brady Martz & Assoc, PC
Bremer Bank
Brian Ljunggren
Bryan Hackbarth
C&R Cleaners & Laundry
Carol J. Anderson
Carol Kilen
Caroline Sedlacek
CHS Ag Services
Chuck & Lovie (Johnson) Graham
Circle M / Joey McGregor
City of Warren
Cole Papers
Colliers Securities LLC
Czeh, Wilson & Wilmer CPA
D&D Commodities
Dahlstrom Motors
Dairy Queen / Rick Roley
Dallas & Joyce (Andresen) Way
Dan & Kay (Wittman) Finley
Darby Boe
Darlene Haave
Darrel & Melanie Nelson
Darrell Rindy
Darren & Jessica (Myrfield) Carlson
David & Annette Maurstad
David & Donna Gehrls
David & Kathy Goroski
David & Naomi (Anderson) Loeslie
David Erickson
David Sholy
David Sorensen
Deanna (Larson) McFarland
DelRoy & Marlene (Olson) Shane
DelRoy Lieberg
Dewey & Shari Swanson
Digi-Key
Don & Ellen (Fillipi) Strickler
Dona (Fagerstrom) Nielsen
Donald & Sharon (Ulrich) Hedquist
Donlar Construction
Doreen (Hammerback) Jensen
Doug & Jo Sorenson
Dr. Tim & Kate Erickson
DuBore Funeral Home
Dvorak Brothers Farms
Dwight W. Peterson Farms
Ed & Renee (Rehder) Rosendahl
Eldor & Bonnie (Franks) Ornquist
Elizabeth Murray
Elm Crest Motel / Kelly Mattson
Elmer & Anita (Stanghelle) Carlson
Erdahl Heating & Air
Eric & Kristi (Rosendahl) Flyen
Ewing Oil (Cenex)
Family Chiropractic
Fert-L-Lawn
First International Bank & Trust / Wayne Zink
Garden Corner
- Frandsen Wealth Management & Trust
Garden Valley Technologies
Garrett & Kim (Carlson) Molacek
Gary & Janet Solmonson
Gary & Nancy (Kliner) Wagner
Gene & Sally Roller
George & Susan (Hill) Lee
Gerald & Sharon (Cheney) Cook
Gerald & Suzie (Omdahl) Jevning
Gerry & Patti (Olson) Evin
Glow By Krissy
Golf Center
Goodwin Farms
Gornowicz Construction
H & J Farms / Kurt Peterson
H & S Construction of TRF, Inc.
Hamm's Repair
Hank's Sports Bar & Grill
HLJ Farms, Inc.
Irmy Haugen
Iron Wheel Fitness
J W Peterson Inc
J&J Promotions / Jeff Hanson
J&N Concrete Construction
Jaime Woinarowicz
James Duckstad
Jeanne Johnson
Jeff & Sara Steer
JEF Farms
Jenny Langevin Insurance Agency, Inc
Jerome Ranstrom
Jerry Jensen
Jim & Pam Jubie
Joan (Grega) Peterson
John & Carol Bowman
John & LaVerne (Storbakken) Messelt
Johnson Family Farms
Jon & Brenda Ackerson Hapka
Jon & Julie (Fulks) Jonasson
Jordan & Brooke (Bork) Johnson
Josh & Patti (Meyer) Bjorneby
Judith (Tillett) Stromberg
Justin & Lindsey Buegler
Katie Kleven
KB Stump Removal
Keith Abrahamson
Kelly & Natasha Kotowicz
Kelsey (Sorenson) Deschene
Kim Brekke
Kirsten Kleven
KROX (Attn: Chris Fee)
Laura (Anfinson) Jevning
Laura Efta
Lawrence Torgerson
Lee & Kareen Daby
Lee Hestnas
Leroy & Carol (Bren) Holub
Leslie & Patty (Pickett) Howard
Liberty Business Systems
Lisa Abrahamson
Little Shop On The Prairie
Lori (Toupin) Johnson
Lynn Sinn
Main Street Cafe
Manda's Masterpieces
Margaret (Streich) Dufault
Marie Goodwin
Mark & Julie (Hess) Nowacki
Mark Nelson
Mark Thompson
MarKit County Grain LLC
Marshall County Coop
Marshall County SWCD
Mary (Martin) Keller
Mary (Ovsak) Bliven
Mary Beth Edman
Mary Lou Gast
Mary Stanislawski
Mason Wang
Matt Waterworth
Melba Laidley
Meraki Hair Salon
MiChelle (Miller) Nybo
Michelle Boroski
Michelle Senger
Miller Electric
Milton Sommers
Minnesota Twins Baseball Club
- Minnesota Vikings
Misselhorn Tiling & Excavation
Napa Supply of Warren
Nathan Peterson Farms
NCTC Foundation
Nelson Ford of Grand Forks
Nick & Jessica Syverson
Nordic Fiberglass, Inc.
North Risk Partners / Thune Insurance
North Star Ag Services, Inc / Jacob Edgar
North Valley Health Center
Northern Plains Track
Oakpoint Inc
Oberg Farms
Old Dutch
Olson Underground Inc
One-N-Only Bar
Otter Tail Corporation / Eric & Kristi Flyen
Paige Michalski
Patricia (Neegard) Anderson
Patrick & Ann (Berget) Zavoral
Patrick & Kathleen (Vansickle) Carr
Phil Thompson & Associates
Phyllis Novak
PKM Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Premium Waters
Probitas Promotions
R & R Farms, Inc
R.J. Zavoral & Sons Inc
Raymond Larson
Reinhart Foods
Richard & Margaret Fanfulik
Rick & Marie Schmiedeberg
Rivard's Turf & Forage
River Cinema 15
Rock Solid Nutrition
Rodger & Kim Hautgvedt
Rokke, Aandal & Associates PLLC.
Russell & Susan Miller
Ryan & Dana (Adolphson) Larson
Rydell Auto Center, Inc.
Sara Larson
Shane & Megan (Maruska) Dagoberg
Simply Boutique
Sjoberg CableVision Inc
Stacy Hanson
Steve & Laura (Jenkins) Ondrovich
Steve & Marie Goodwin
Stinar / Aakre Farms
Strickler Farms, Inc./Brent Strickler
Stroble Farms
Sue Roley
SuperMarket Foods
The Dell
The Silo Boutique
Thomas & Rita D. (Czapiewski) Welch
Thomas Hanson
Todd Mortimer
Tony & Michelle Gullikson
Town & Country Plumbing & Heating
True North Equipment
True Value
UND Alumni Foundation/ DeAnna (Carlson) Zink
University of MN Crookston
US Bank - Jeanne E. Kotrba Trust
WAO Art Dept / Nick Engfer
Warren Eye Care
Warren Jaycees
Warren Pharmacy
Warren Riverside Golf Course
Warren Sheaf
Wayne & DeAnna (Carlson) Zink
Wayne T. Torgerson Farm
Wikstrom Telecom Internet
WJB Insurance Agency/Bill Bienek, Agent
Wok-N-Roll (Bob Miller)
XCEL Energy Foundation
Zachery Stene

2024 Class Reunions



WAO CLASS OF 2004 — Held their 20th class reunion at Hank's during the Marshall County Fair. Back row, left to right are, Tony Hamrick, Ben Hamrick, Catie (Blanchard) Deutsch, Mallory (Westberg) Craik, Amanda (Johnson) Altendorf, Heather (Erickson) Gerszewski, Megan (Lydeen) LaTourelle, Ashley (Gubrud) Reinier, Rebekah (Stinar) Aakre. Front row, left to right are, Kevin Reitmeier, Emilee (Torgerson) Staehnke, Brandon Holter, Danelle (Chandler) Klassy, Jared Goodwin, Aaron Gerszewski, Ryan Swanson, Chad Thompson, Cody Rick. Travis Carl is laying in the front.



WHS CLASS OF 1974 — Front row, left to right are, David Conely, Linda (Baird) Giedd, Jon Oien, Jim Stinar, Doug Palm, Cleo (Sedlacek) Fogal. 2nd row, left to right are, Dean Schantzen, Diane (Schantzen) Hageman, David Peyton, Marcia (Bjorgaard) Harris, Ann (Truhn) Knutson, Sara Hedlund, Jeff Gustafson. 3rd row, left to right are, Sheila (Bodell) Hoerner, Julie Vanek, Peggy (Ullevig) Howard, Donna (Fultz) Bonvillian, Steve Wassberg. 4th row, left to right are, Janice (Feltman) Dehesh, Lori (Swanson) Thurston, Jon Hapka, Linda Short, Tony Howard. Back row, left to right are, Scott Johnson, Rick Bustrack, John Golden, Mike Danielski, Les Howard and Mike Kvamme.



WARREN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1969 — Celebrated their 55th class reunion at the Warren Riverside Golf Club during fair week. Front row, left to right: Gayle (Sorenson) Heldt, Beatrice (Peterson) Oberg, Maureen (Hendrickson) Fredrickson, Renee (Rehder) Rosendahl, Patty Wrolson and Patti (Olson) Evin. Middle row, left to right: Janelle (Kroll) Schoenbauer, Joel Engen, David Saetre, Jane (Bennett) Safar, Ken Palm, Mike Cheney, Gerry Evin and Dan Edman. Top row, left to right: Norman Halsa, Jerry Sedlacek, Ed Rosendahl, Mary Bjorgaard, Kay Ann (Hendrickson) Root, Debbie (Anderson) Robinson and Duane Swanson.

ChatwiththeChairman

Greetings from the WAO Education Foundation!

Many exciting things have been happening with the Foundation and at WAO! The week of the Marshall County Fair was a fun time to have many alumni back "home" for their class reunions and gatherings. Our 19th annual golf scramble was held on July 26 with 225 golfers joining 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. We took in over \$30,000 to support WAO Scholarships! Mark your calendars for Friday, July 25th for our 20th annual scramble next summer!

Also, on the day of golf the Foundation held the drawings for two raffles that we had. One was a 50/50 that was won by Derik Nelson in the amount of \$1,410. One hundred twenty tickets were sold for the other raffle at \$100 each. Mylo Carlson was the winner of \$3,000, Mason Sundby won \$1,000 and Joel Swanson and TJ Bowman each won \$500.

If you are planning for a class reunion in any of the schools that now make up WAO School District in 2025 and haven't already contacted us for a list of addresses for your classmates, we can provide that for you. All that we ask in return is an updated list of addresses, cell numbers, and emails to add to our data base.

If you relocate, please send us an e-mail at edfoundation@wao.k12.mn.us or call us at 218-745-4646 ext. 317 to give us your new address/phone numbers. Our database is only as accurate as you help make it.

Four new staff members were each presented with a \$50.00 gift certificate to the WAO Wearhouse. In addition, new licensed full-time staff were given \$200.00 to purchase items for their classrooms.

Two longtime board members left the Foundation this fall. Carol Sedgeman was one of the directors and Carol Bowman was treasurer and office manager. We miss and appreciate all of their great ideas and wonderful work that they contributed to the success of the Foundation.

Our newest board member is Lisa Almquist and Mallory (Westberg) Craik is our new office manager. Mallory is a (2004 WAO graduate).

There is much excitement along with many trucks hauling, machines moving dirt, cranes, many workers outside and inside and overall a very busy area along MN Highway One and inside the WAO school buildings right now! If you'd like to follow the progress of the remodeling/addition check out the school website at: wao.k12.mn.us At the top of the home page there are six buttons. Click on the one entitled BUILDING PROJECT UPDATES and you'll be able to read the monthly updates and take a look at some pictures.

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 scholarships. It's a win, win!

Please consider making a donation to the WAO Education Foundation. Many workplaces have matching funds that are available to their employees.

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!"

Happy Holidays to you and your family. May the season be one of joy and warmth and the year to come filled with health and many blessings.

Carol Anderson

2024 Fall Needs

Funded by the Ed. Foundation

J. Dahlin, 2nd grade - Flexible Seating, \$662.86
M. Gullikson, 1st grade- Wiggle Wobble Chair Feet, \$111.96
S. Larson, 4th grade - Generation Genius for Science, \$897
J. Maruska, HS Library - Subscription renewal Junior Lib. Guild, \$1,457.38
M. Fridstrom, Band - Band Music Library, \$372
T. Desrosier, 6th grade - Classroom Library, \$767.49
K. Miska, Speech - I-Pad apps, \$231
TOTAL: \$4,499.69

2024 Class Reunions



OSLO HIGH SCHOOL'S CLASS OF 1974 — Held their 50th Class Reunion on August 16th at the home of Jim and Genevieve Nelson. 17 of the 38 graduating members were in attendance. Pictured left to right are Neil Johnson, Lynne (Stadstad) Hoverson, Keith Chisholm, John Nelson, Richard Wosick, Genevieve (Bayne) Nelson, David Braaten, Sheila (Sweeney) Slominski, Kevin Holter, Michelle (Jones) Dahlstrom, Tim Ferry, Joy (Duray) Bushaw (holding a picture of her twin sister, June, who was unable to attend), Rodney Teigen, Mary (Pokrzywinski) Morberg, Gary Slominski, Rosemary (Bushaw) Larson and Ron Clemetson. The following day everyone celebrated by riding on the float "We are the Bobcats" in the Oslo Days Celebration parade.



WHS CLASS OF 1964 — 60th class reunion during the 2024 Marshall County Fair. Front row, left to right are, Carol (Eggen) Duffy, Jackie (Slusar) Gustafson, Joyce (Andresen) Way, Susan (Gunderson) Hess and John Hess. Middle row, left to right are, Ann (Berget) Zavoral, Carol (Parkin) Loeslie, Sara (Rogalla) Vegge, Cheryl (Larson) Hangsleben, Yvonne (Engelstad) Bossman, Terry Slusar, Bob Baird and Alan Schoenack. Back row, left to right are, Stuart Morgan, Tom Drews, Dick Rominski, Doris (Kasprowicz) Rost, Veronica (Dobias) Nordby, Patty (Stroble) Emerson, Ron Loeslie, Mike Franks and Dale Ljunggren.



WHS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1984 REUNION — Front row, left to right: Chuck Sabol, Michelle Kasprick, Tami (Copp) Reynolds, Brenda (Owens) Ose, Jeriann (Jevning) Jones and Veronica (Lubarski) Halvorson. Second row, left to right: Price Jenkins, Scott Jadeke, Andrea (Korynta) Orbich, Kathy (Lamb) Fulks, Laren (Loeslie) Lorenzen and Chad Vesey. Back row, left to right: Mark Carlson, Mark Leverington, Howard Fulks, Terry Blacklance and Kevin Hamrick. Missing are Mark Hendrickson and Michael DuBore.



WAO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2014 REUNION — Back row, left to right: Dillon Novak, Gunnar Bowman, Hayden Strickler, Danny Schmidt, Katie Kleven. Front row, left to right: Lisa Grega, Cassidy Mercil, Dara (Narlock) Westby, Molly Roller, and Caitlyn Magedanz. Not pictured: Matthew Bergh and Dylan Stinar.

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.

ALV 1956	J. Wendell Sands
ALV 1959	Lorraine Steinberg
ALV 1963	Kay Dorrance
ALV 1969	Duane Nelson
ALV 1972	Michael Olson
OHS 1945	Donna Rutherford
OHS 1946	Donna Omdahl
OHS 1952	Weldon McFarland
OHS 1955	Carl Johnson
OHS 1955	Gaylord Solem
OHS 1961	Ralph Messelt
OHS 1966	Diane Slominski
OHS 1973	Loren Shane
OHS 1974	Dale Osowski
OHS Staff	Lucille Rakowski
WHS 1939	Elsie Conely
WHS 1946	Einar Swanson
WHS 1948	Ed Palmer
WHS 1949	Sally Awes
WHS 1949	Mary Ann Hanson
WHS 1953	John Eidem
WHS 1953	Wilbert McGregor
WHS 1954	Norman Bystol
WHS 1955	Donald Nelson
WHS 1956	Lucille Kjos
WHS 1956	Lee Toftner
WHS 1958	Janet Anderson
WHS 1959	Patricia Bjorgaard
WHS 1959	Sherilyn Wallace
WHS 1960	Chris-Ann Abrahamson
WHS 1967	Jill Halvorson
WHS 1968	Randy Loeslie
WHS 1968	Susan Morgan
WHS 1968	Tom Edgar
WHS 1971	Leslie Swanson
WHS 1972	Gayle "Slim" Short
WHS 1978	Michael Lubarski
WHS 1982	Julie Evans
WHS 1989	Lisa Bye
WHS 1990	Jason Bye
WHS 1994	Jennifer Pederson
WAO 2012	Jon O'Keefe
WAO Staff	Bryan Thygeson
WHS Staff	Anita Anderson
WHS Staff	Donna Jean Peterson
WHS Staff	Glorianne Loeslie
Friend	Leslie Seward
Friend	Cheryl Stauffenecker
Friend	Patricia Wilke

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

Become a Member

Just \$25

So we can keep this newsletter coming to you!

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!



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

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

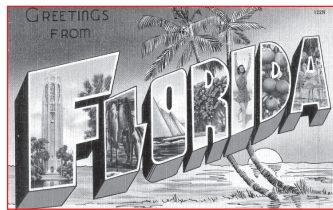
Rain or shine, the gathering will be held Feb. 22, 2025 at the NorthPoint Building, Viewpoint Golf Resort, 650 N. Hawes Road, Mesa, AZ 85207. Someone at the guard station will direct you to the building. Look for a good old-fashioned potluck lunch from 11:30-3:00. Dinnerware and water will be provided. 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: Marion Miska Hickman Pace, Jane Miska Sirek, Jackie Arnold Lee, Joanne and Dean Dahlman, MaryKay Ovsak Gazda, Kay Hendrickson Root (kayroot@gmail.com) and many fabulous volunteers.

See you in sunny Arizona.

TheWarrenWHS/WAO Florida Picnic February 8, 2025



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) 745-4846

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.)

2024 Class Reunions



CLASS REUNION OF WHS 1959 — Front row, left to right: Romelle (Vanek) Ferris, Marilyn (Strickler) Sirek and Judy (Johnson) Dallmann. Back row, left to right: Neil MorKassel, Bob Bossman, Rodney Carlson and Warren Strandell.



ALVARADO CLASS OF 1964 — Held their 60th class reunion at the home of Dave Arnold's in Grand Forks. Class members present were from left to right, Duane Kovar, David Larson, David Arnold, Ilene (Nelson) Sherlock, Rosemary (Bubb) Fernencik, Virgil Olson, Dale Hammerlund and Marvin Hedlund. Classmates missing were, Gary Bren (deceased), Michael Dudinsky (deceased), Mary (Everson) Wesley, Haugen Marciniak, Donald Larson, Donna (Mackie) Laudal, Nancy Martin and Gerald Novak.

Residents&FriendsOfWarren

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.

Board Members:

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

School Board Liasons

Sally Roller
Jordan Johnson

Warren Alvarado Oslo Education Foundation Alumni Yearbook Service Order Form

*The yearbooks are being transferred to digital format
(PDF - Adobe Acrobat)

Once the desired years are copied, they will be put on a DVD, CD or Flash Drive and sent via mail to the address below.

Name: _____
(Please print legibly)

Email Address: _____

Phone: (Cell) _____

(Home) _____

Address to send to:
Street Address: _____

City, State: _____ Zip Code _____

Yearbook year(s) you want copies of and circle the media choice:

DVD/CD or Zip Drive

DVD/CD or Zip Drive

Cost: \$10.00 for the first year copy and \$1.00 for each additional year copy
(Note: Multiple years may be copied on to one DVD, CD or Flash Drive)
TOTAL: _____ (Please send payment with order)

*Please send check or money order to: WAO Education Foundation
224 East Bridge Ave.
Warren, MN 56762