

The Willard Warbler

Alumnae President Report

As I am writing this it is 102 degrees outside and it seemed like a good time to catch up on some indoor, airconditioned stuff. Willard had a very productive year as outlined in the Active President report. The House looks great with updated living room and now new tables and chairs in the dining room. A huge thank you to all of the 53 Alumnae who donated to our "Seat at the table" campaign. With your help, we have received \$7,600 in donations for dining room furniture. Total donations received by Willard was \$17,513. The foundation has received \$1755 for scholarships. The great thing about the donations to the Foundation is we were able to give every woman living in the house a scholarship to help with tuition and therefore relieving the financial pressure so that they would have money to live in the house. We received \$3210 in dues which helps us with alumnae events like Soup Supper, Red Velvet cake night, treats for actives during finals week, the spring luncheon and pays for the mailings of the News and Dues and the Warbler. Dues and Donations are accepted anytime!

Thank you to all of you who sent messages and pictures to Cindy Boss for the 135th Anniversary celebration. Cindy made a wonderful slide show and shared it at the Spring Luncheon. It is available to view on our Facebook page. The Alumnae survey sent by Stephanie Gates Wiese was well received and we

got some valuable information that will help us to move forward as a more complete organization. As always, we would welcome anyone that is interested in a bigger role with the Alumnae Assn to contact me at Judykrueger4@gmail.com.

Look for announcements on Facebook and by email for future Alumnae events. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Alumnae Patio Party and Mock Tours August 19th at 5:30-8 pm to start the year. This will be followed by Homecoming weekend October 9-12. Then it will be so fun to meet the new Willards at the Soup Supper in October and chat with actives at Red Velvet cake night in February, not to mention you get to eat cake! Dates are pending but we will reach out and let you know.

I want to thank all of the Alumnae that help by serving on Corporation board, Foundation board, as active and new member advisors and those that give a hand anyway they can. Your support is so appreciated by me and by all the members of the Alumnae Association. A big hug to house mom, Stacia Anderson, what a joy she has been this year. As always keep in touch on our Facebook page, the website WillardSorority.org or reach out to me at Judykrueger4@gmail.com.

Willard Love

Judy Krueger ('72)

Thanks to the Donors – A Seat at the Table

Molly Kroeker	Megan Morris Krueger	Lucy Heather Kitt	Lilah and Elaine Bailey
Heather Kimble	Kelly Krueger Covault	Cathy O'Dell Nevotti	2 chairs
Teri Hand	Sandy Frobes Leininger	Melissa Smith Foster	Jean Overton Stock
Caitlin Forbes	Liz Julian Shults	Gail Bender	2 chairs
Lisa Kopf	Christin Kline Roffers	Bonnie Holtz-McMahan	Sue Young Hartman
Sheila Filipi	Katrina Inness Longe	Jerri Reher Haussler	4 Chairs
Jan Fenemore	Cheryl VanSiver Jenkins	Millicent Porter Henry	Cheryl Austin Leavitt
Tana Clare	Tracia tenBengel Kennedy	Opal Milton Stivrins	5 Chairs
Jodi Gould	Bonnie Bryngelson Hilkemann	Brenda George Smith	Eunice Johnson Rice
Debra Ingram	Connie Jones Deminski	Marilyn McCoy Carney	5 Chairs
Tami Molck Dickins	Linda Pielstick French	Arlene Howe	Judy Dunlap Eicher
Laurie Foster-Stowe Taylor	Jennifer Putnam Erickson	Lindsey Sandau Tomlin	10 Chairs
Brenda Becker	Karen Ocker Vogel	Becky Bowmaster	In memory of Beverly
Marilyn Wagner Allison	Irene Grubbs Burnett	Lois Christensen Mills	Anderson Grady
Judy Bowmaster Krueger	Heather Nichols Nelson	2 chairs	Honoring Sue Jones
	Barb Welsh-Osga		Virginia

Opal Stivrins

by Diny Frank

It is important to recognize Willard alumnae who go above and beyond to support Willard. Our sister, Opal Stivrins is a wonderful example of how alumnae stay connected to Willard and support us both financially and with their time. She is currently serving on the Foundation Board but was a longtime member of the Corporation board and really just always available anytime Willard needed help. From cleaning the snack kitchen to changing light bulbs and doing yard work, Opal did it all. Opal is battling health issues and we believe this is the time to recognize all her hard work. You can send your thoughts and appreciation to her at ostivrins39@gmail.com.

Opal (Milton) Stoehr Stivrins from Friend, Nebraska, came to Nebraska Wesleyan University in the 1960's and lived in the old Willard Sorority house on Madison Avenue where she embarked on a lifetime commitment to Willard.

From her college majorette days as a "Plainman" to her decades as the Corporation secretary and a member of the Willard Foundation, Opal has never shunned hard work.

In the late 1960's she served as the Alum Advisor who always showed up with stylish refinement. In later years, whether the project involved landscaping, organizing or deep cleaning, Opal could be found deeply engaged in getting the job done.

Opal always had a plan and it often ended with something special she had baked, a trip to Taste Inn, or Stauffers Cafe to split a hot beef sandwich and slice of lemon meringue pie!

For many years the weeks of late May throughout the month of June, our house at 5110 Madison Avenue got her undivided attention. Her love, devotion, and loyalty to the sisterhood has known no bounds. She was always ready to dig in to whatever task was needed and has so generously contributed financially to many Willard Sorority projects.

Opal Stivrins is a living example of dedication and devotion, and it is such a privilege to call her our sister and our friend!

From the Active President

I am excited to share that Willard Sorority has had another successful year! Throughout the 2024-25 academic year, Willard has accumulated many awards. Twenty-nine of our members upheld the scholarship pillar by working for a spot on the Dean's List for the Fall '24 semester. Throughout the spring semester, we held multiple sisterhood study nights, spent hours utilizing the study room, and enjoyed many group study sessions at the library. I am excited to see that hard work pays off when I see the long list of names that will be on the Spring '25 Dean's List. The sisterhood pillar was also strengthened when members put in countless hours to rehearse for the Howl Like Hell and Lip Sync competitions, which we both won! In addition, our chapter took home the trophy for winning Greek Week. As president, I was overjoyed to see the collaboration, dedication, and memories that were created, which allowed us to win.

In the spring semester, we added a new executive position, the Sisterhood Chair. This position was created to have a dedicated individual focus on improving bonds on a small and large scale. She worked hard to sponsor at least one scheduled sisterhood-focused event per semester, where members relaxed, played games, and got to know each other better. She also held team-building workshops during chapter meetings, pop-up events, and worked with our courtesy chair to implement sisterhood appreciation cards. I am so proud of the positive impact this addition has had on our chapter, and I cannot wait to see where this takes us! Our Greek ties were also strengthened during our socials, formals, Panhellenic-sponsored events, and philanthropy events. NWU Greek Life is a strong, tight-knit community that our members are proud to be part of.

In February, our philanthropy chair worked diligently to host our annual Build Your Own Burrito Philanthropy event. This philanthropy event was four hours long, and the dining room was packed the entire time. It was wonderful to see many of our alumni support our cause, Fresh Start! We raised over \$2,000 for this outstanding local non-profit. S'more Local Love was hosted in April. This year, our chapter voted to donate all proceeds to BaveBe Child Advocacy Center- a non-profit organization focused on providing a safe, child-friendly location for conducting forensic interviews and medical evaluations for abused children in Southeast Nebraska. Over \$1,500 was donated.

Our year ended by celebrating the fifteen seniors who graduated. The senior class was not only large in numbers, but large in its impact. While we are sad to return in the fall without them, we are grateful to have

continued on next page

Recruitment News

Hello, my name is Eden Schmit and I am a senior and this year's recruitment chair.. We are so excited for recruitment this year, and to welcome a new group of wonderful people into our chapter.

On Tuesday August 19th, we will have our Alumnae patio party from 5:30-6:30pm, and then our mock tours to follow from 6:30-8pm. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to my email at eschmit@nebrwesleyan.edu or text me to RSVP (402) 416-5450 with your name and that you will be coming to mock tours.

Formal recruitment this year will be August 21st-24th. If you would like to help serve red velvet cake on Saturday, August 23rd, please email me.

Attached is the Willard Reference form. If you know anyone coming to Wesleyan, encourage them to go through the recruitment process. If you would like to write anyone a recommendation, please email me or mail the reference to the Willard house. I would like all recommendations by August 16th.

Thank you so much for all of your help and support during this year's recruitment!

Eden Schmit



From the Active President, *continued*

had them in our chapter, and we know they will do great things in their personal lives, careers, and alumni statuses. Willard now has 43 members going into recruitment, but I look forward to seeing the amazing women who will join our sisterhood.

I want to end by saying thank you. Our alumni support has shown up for philanthropy events, the Alumni Luncheon, house renovations, culmination week snacks, and financial donations that keep our house strong. Without your support, Willard would not be where it is today. I am excited for a new year with all of you!

Morgan Stokebrand

From the Corporation President

Dear Willard Alums,

Another year has flown by and it is time to update you on Willard and the Corporation. Our new housemother, Stacia Anderson, has been amazing. She has brought so much love, fun, etc. to the house, and she is always trying to promote sisterhood. Stevie, Stacia's dog, also arrived last fall and the girls love him. He brings so much happiness and comfort to the girls too. I tease the girls because sometimes they speak first to Stevie before they speak to me.

Last summer we were very busy and I mentioned last year in my letter that we made many improvements and did some redecorating. The house looks wonderful. This summer our main expense is the purchase of new dining room furniture. The current furniture was bought in 2007 and the tables still look fine but the chairs are literally falling apart. We are excited about the new purchase and hopefully it will brighten up the dining room. We are hoping we don't have unexpected expenses this summer and in the ensuing school year because money is going to be tight.

Unfortunately our numbers are down. We hope to have 31 girls in the house. Recruitment will be different this fall because there are only two sororities on campus now, Willard and Delta Zeta. We are hoping our numbers will increase. We had to raise our board and room to \$7346 yearly and it is still the best deal on campus.

We are excited because after 12 years with the same food service we are changing to Best Fed Greeks. They are highly recommended and we think our food will be much healthier, tastier and much better quality. I imagine most of you remember eating together in the dining room and we think that promotes sisterhood by spending time together and sharing a meal. We hope that Best Fed Greeks will provide the atmosphere and food.

The Corporation tries to be fiscally responsible and this year is going to be more difficult with increased expenses. If you haven't paid your dues or thought about a monetary gift it is never too late. Please send to Judy Eicher, 10101 Edgewater Lane, Lincoln 68527. We are so thankful for all of the love and support you alums provide us. We wouldn't be here at 5110 Madison if it weren't for you. You are always welcome to visit!

Please take care and stay well.

Nora Bohling Hlinrichs

Warbler News 2025

Class of 1955

Lois Christensen Mills - Lincoln, NE

I reside at Eastmont Towers as does Willard sister Kathy Owen. We sometimes dine together or play bridge. I serve on committees here and sing in the choir. Kathy accompanies us. My husband, Frank Mills passed away March 6, 2023. He was a Phi Tau at NWU.

Class of 1956

Marilyn Wagner Allison - Temple, TX

Earl and I are well and continue with our activities, the gym, church and friends. Life in Texas has been very good.

Class of 1959

Joy Haupt Carol – Penney Farms, FL

I am very excited to report that I'm now on my 12th or 13th year of living through Paraneoplastic syndrome – a one in a million diagnosis with a prognosis of three years of life. I've gone far beyond. Mayo Clinic has been doing some videos and studies on me. If you'd like to see one on YouTube, just go to Joy Carol Mayo health and you'll see a four-minute video that says a little bit about me and about my illness. There's a new one that's coming out (5 parts: each about four minutes long) now from Mayo Clinic called "Life of a Specimen – Insights." I'm doing very well. And actually I am too busy. Still preaching, speaking, doing some workshops, being in PEO, singing in a semi-professional chorale, doing many activities here on at Penney Farms. I have taken a break from writing a book. The last one was published a year ago called "Different Together: Bridges of Mutual Respect." I hope all of you are doing well and wish I could be there for the spring lunch. Willard love.

Class of 1960

Janet Madsen Davidson - Colorado Springs, CO

My son and daughter and I drove to Alaska and back last July, partially retracing the trip Paul and I took with our baby son in 1963 when Paul was beginning his service in the US Public Health Service. Lots of driving each day but we were able to enjoy many interesting stops along the way.

Class of 1964

Carolyn Myers Gaswick – Lincolnwood, IL

In January 2024 Dennis (also 1964) and I moved to a retirement community just north of Chicago, close to our family. Then on May 27, 2024, our granddaughter, Vivian Gaswick was born. It has been a delight to be so close so we can see her, our three year old grandson, and all our family often.

Class of 1968

Jerri Reher Haussler - Hastings, NE

Dee and I are still active and in good health. Kids and grandkids keep us busy, and we still travel to watch our grandkid's sports in Omaha and fly a few places, including Arizona and North Carolina. I will have a photography show in Lincoln in the hall at the Conference Center on the UNL Innovation Campus in November/December 2025, so I invite Willards and friends to stop by! Thanks, Lincoln Alums, for all your hard work to keep Willard Sorority viable!

Class of 1972

Judy Bowmaster Krueger - Lincoln, NE

Hi to everyone! Hope you all are doing well.

Cathy O'Dell Nevotti - Sugarland, TX

Greetings from Texas! Last summer I became a granny again! I now have 7 grands ranging from 19 and a freshman in college to twin baby girls born June 15th. What a blessing! Love to all my Willard sisters.

Linda Pielstick French - Hastings, NE

We're excited to welcome a new member to our family. Our son, Jonathan, who also graduated from NWU, got married to Jes Biondo on July 20, 2024 in North Carolina. We're so happy for him!

Class of 1973

Gail Finley Bender - Lincoln, NE

John and I still live in Lincoln. I am busy with church activities, being a docent at Sheldon Art Museum on the UNL campus, and OLLI classes. As docents, we mainly give tours to LPS 5th graders. As a retired teacher, I enjoy being with the students without having the homework and meetings at school. OLLI is the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute through the UNL alumnae office, teaching on a variety of subjects from Tai Chi to politics/history or even trees/plants information. Call if you're coming or in Lincoln. I'd love to visit. (402) 202-8973

Class of 1981

Connie Hultman Carter - Chappell, NE

I am still working at the crop insurance agency. We still raise corn and wheat on our farm. Our grandson just graduated from high school. Our family is well. I enjoy seeing everyone's posts on Facebook. Hello to everyone.

Class of 2003

Katrina Inness Longe - Elkhorn, NE

We are enjoying our (second) new home after a long year - we lost our first one here in Omaha in the April 2024 tornado. We also recently took a trip to Dubai and The Maldives. It was an amazing experience!

Please Return before August 15th

Reference given by:

Address:

CONFIDENTIAL REFERENCE ON PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS
(For use ONLY by the members of Willard Sorority)

This form is being sent to you in order to assist our chapter in the 2024 new member selection process. Please give careful consideration to the questions asked and fill in as much information as possible.

***Please return this form to: eschmidt@nebrwesleyan.edu
or Willard Sorority, Attn: Eden Schmidt, 5110 Madison Ave, Lincoln, NE 68504***

Name of prospective new member:

How do you know her?

FAMILY:

Relatives in Willard (include maiden name if possible):

ACADEMICS:

College attended (if transfer student):

High School attended:

How would you characterize this woman scholastically?

Scholastic Awards:

ACTIVITIES:

_____ Art _____ Contests _____ Civic
_____ Music _____ Service Clubs _____ Church
_____ Sports _____ Publications _____ Dramatics
_____ Student Government _____ Other _____ HOSA_

Please elaborate on these activities and include outstanding achievements (i.e. offices held, honors received):

Special Interests:

Outstanding Achievements in these areas (Offices, Honoraries):

PERSONALITY:

This young woman:

Is of good character and integrity:

_____ excellent _____ good _____ averagle _____ poor _____ unknown

Accepts responsibility

_____ excellent _____ good _____ averagle _____ poor _____ unknown

Has leadership potential

_____ excellent _____ good _____ averagle _____ poor _____ unknown

Is willing to accept authority and to abide by group decisions

_____ excellent _____ good _____ averagle _____ poor _____ unknown

Please tell us why this young woman would make an outstanding Willard (giving special attention to each of the four pillars of sisterhood, scholarship, service, and character):

TO WILLARD GIVING REFERENCE: (please check the blanks accordingly)

___ 1) I recommend this young woman for Willard membership

_____ a) I know this young woman personally

_____ b) I do not know this young woman personally but I am basing my recommendation on information from:
_____ another Willard, _____ high school faculty, _____ peers of the young woman, _____ a mutual friend,
_____ other

___ 2) I do not recommend this young woman for Willard membership based on information received. If further clarification is required, the chapter membership advisor may contact me.

___ 3) I am unable to commit myself to a decision regarding this young woman,

_____ a) Due to limited information received,

_____ b) After contacting all available sources and receiving no information

I appreciate you taking the time to fill out this form. The information you have provided will be a tremendous help during our new member selection process this August.

In gratitude and Willard Love,

Eden Schmidt

Willard Sorority Recruitment Chair



Chapter Eternal

Chapter Eternal is a list of Willard alumnae who have passed away.

We recognize these women at our annual Alumnae Luncheon by reading their name and moving a rose from one vase to another vase in their honor.

Carolyn Wagner Andrews

Class of 1977 ~ died December 24, 2024

Joanne Young Weston

Class of 1955 ~ died May 30, 2024

Jean Thurber Sell

Class of 1961 ~ died October 18, 2024

Kimberly Bramstedt

Class of 1990 ~ died September 29, 2024

Peggy Goin Rasmussen

Class of 1969 ~ died September 17, 2024

Kay Bowmaster Green

Class of 1967 ~ died August 28, 2024

Janee Jacobsen Ahlers

Class of 1968 ~ died March 11, 2024

Jacqueline Mason Jennings

Class of 1951 ~ died September 3, 2014

Johna Platz Walker

Class of 1977 ~ died November 10, 2021

Linda Larson

Class of 1969 ~ died December 29, 2023

Ruth Schmeeckle Bischoff

Class of 1947 ~ died October 28, 2022

Patty Dutton Kizzier

Class of 1951 ~ died July 31, 2023

Beverly Robson Perkins

Class of 68-69- Died March 11, 2024

Kerry Worle Journey

Class of 2019- Died May 30, 2025

Willard Alumnae Foundation

6230 Andrew Court
Lincoln, NE 68512

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WillardSorority.org
There is information on Alumnae officers, a way to pay dues and make donations.
Find us on Facebook. There are groups for alumnae and actives.
Please send your email to willardsorority@gmail.com to receive Willard News and the Warbler electronically.