



WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY

ALUMNI

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Minutes

Seventeenth Annual Meeting

Monday, September 16, 2024, 10:30 AM

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Chapel

Opening

President Mark Eckert opened the seventeenth annual WLS Alumni meeting at 10:32 a.m. with a reading from Mark 8:27–30 and with prayer. President Earle Treptow greeted the alumni. He reported on enrollment numbers for the year and on the seminary receiving accreditation from the Association of Theological Schools during the past summer.

Awarding of Scholarships

President Mark Eckert welcomed Senior Nathaniel Stein and Middler Joseph Wessel, this year's recipients of the WLS Alumni scholarships. Both expressed appreciation for the gifts received.

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Classes

President Eckert welcomed the alumni by decade. The oldest alumnus present was from the class of 1960.

Minutes of September 18, 2023

A motion was made, supported, and adopted to accept the minutes of the September 18, 2023, annual meeting.

Elections (Vice President, Secretary, Committee Members)

The alumni cast written ballots. The results of the election were as follows:

- Vice President: Matthew Arnold (WLS 1994)—term ending 2026
- Secretary: Nathan Ericson (WLS 2002)—term ending 2026
- Nominating Committee member: Gerhardt Juergens (WLS 2005)—term ending 2027
- Membership Committee member: Daniel Heiderich (WLS 1998)—term ending 2027

Financial Report

Treasurer Rich Waldschmidt presented the WLS Alumni treasurer's report. In the year ending June 30, 2024, WLS Alumni received \$6870 in gifts for the operating fund. We awarded two \$1000 scholarships and supported the Grow in Grace retreats with a \$400 gift. Net assets as of June 30, 2024, were \$8728, an increase of \$4063. There were \$1075 in gifts to the endowment

fund; together with market changes, the endowment balance increased during the year ended June 30, 2024, by \$5612 to \$38,503. A motion was made, supported, and adopted to accept the treasurer's report.

Main Presentation (Pastor Paul Prange, WLS 1988)

WELS Board for Ministerial Education Administrator Paul Prange, chair of the Ministry Recruitment Task Force, reported on the work of the task force, especially in relation to addressing the teacher shortage that has increased greatly in recent years. One issue the task force considered is the development of a shared philosophy among our congregations for enrolling active members of other Christian churches—a major driver of increased school enrollments—in our Lutheran schools. Rev. Prange also shared the other recommendations developed by the task force, including recommendations that relate to MLC and WLS, and a proposal to call ministry recruitment counselors who would serve across all WELS districts, identifying and training potential influencers of student enrollment in ministerial education.

Roll of Alumni Departed to Glory Since Last We Met

Professor John Brenner read the roll of 27 WLS alumni, plus 3 others who served in the WELS ministerium, who had departed to glory since the 2023 WLS Alumni annual meeting. The alumni then sang hymn 880, "For All the Saints," stanzas 1–3, 7, and 8. Student Owen Eubank was the organist for the day.

Acknowledgements, Announcements, and Adjournment

The date of the next annual meeting is anticipated to be Monday, September 22, 2025. A motion was made, supported, and carried to adjourn the meeting. The seventeenth annual meeting of WLS Alumni adjourned at 11:45 a.m. with the singing of the doxology.

Respectfully submitted,



Pastor Nathan Ericson, Secretary

Related Documents

- Minutes of the September 18, 2023, annual meeting;
- The Chronicler's Report of WLS alumni who departed to glory since the 2023 meeting;
- The WLS Alumni Treasurer's Report.