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## WORDS & PICTURES FROM OUR Presidents & Officers WHO SERVED IN THE PAST

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### **Carol (Heinike) Goetsch ('55)**

*President, 1970-1974*

*Carol wrote:*

In 1970, I was elected president, succeeding Katharine Beckmann, who had been the 1955's class sponsor. Katharine Beckmann had been the



nursing arts instructor and my classmate at Washington University. Under her leadership, the Alumnae (as we were called) promoted the School of Nursing by providing \$15,000 to furnish the school library, then naming the library the Louise Kraus-Ament Library. During my

presidency, the last check for this commitment was presented to the Director of Nursing at our annual dinner.

Two other items of interest occurred:

1) a machine was purchased to print addresses; 2) new bylaws were voted upon and passed to change our name from "Alumnae" to "Alumni" as graduates now included men. In the fall of 1973, my family moved to Panama; the vice-president, Dorothy Hussmann Schertel ('39), completed my term. In 1976, I returned to St. Louis and was asked to present a program about Panama with emphasis on the Panama Canal. Thelma Napier ('44) attended this meeting/presentation and told me that her aunt, a physician, had worked with Dr. Gorgas when the canal was being built. Dr. Gorgas was responsible for controlling yellow fever and malaria in the Panama Canal Zone.

Prior to being president, I was treasurer in 1959-1961 and second vice-president in 1968-1970. After being president, I served as banquet chair, finance chair, and nominating chair; then I was elected treasurer, 1986-1992. During this time, Pat Stelzer ('47) researched the possibility of buying a computer. As a result of her research,

the Alumni purchased a computer for the treasurer. In compiling the names, addresses, and graduation date, the lower case "L" was substituted for the number "1" as the way a regular typewriter is configured; this caused problems. With the help of my husband and two very computer-literate people, the problems were resolved. As a result, the treasurer was now able to record dues and print labels for mailing.

One major problem was resolved during my term as treasurer and that involved obtaining a tax exemption from the state. Mr. Schertel of Nabor News Print, Inc., the printer of our *Bulletin*, alerted me that the Alumni Association did not have a certified state tax exemption. If an organization wishes to be tax exempt, it must give proof to the federal government. Once this is obtained, then the state can grant an exemption from sales tax. Pat Stelzer researched the narrative matter needed by the federal government and I supplied the three years of accounting records to complete the application. We waited a few months for the U.S. government to approve our application. Upon receiving the approval, the state gave us tax exemption; we saved over \$400 in sales tax on the *Bulletin* that year.

These two items mentioned were my contributions to the Alumni to help keep communications going with our membership.

### **Elvira (Raab) Weber ('40)**

*President, 1974-1978*

*Deceased, September 9, 2006*

### **Ruth (Hartmann) Gruenbaum ('45)**

*President, 1978-1982*

*Deceased, July 23, 2011*

### **Wilma (Aselmann) Simon ('38)**

*President, 1982-1984*

*Deceased, October 3, 2003*

## P A S T L E A D E R S

### Florence "Pat" Stelzer ('47)

*President, 1984-1988*

*Information submitted by Grace Poertner*

Before being president, Pat served as 1st vice-president, 1966, 1969-70, 1983-84; she was a director, 1980-83. She accepted the position of



corresponding secretary, 1988-92; and has chaired the Nominating and Bylaws committees. Of great assistance to the historical records of the Alumni LSN was Pat's service on the Book Committee that published in 1980 "The Inside Story" of Lutheran Hospital,

Lutheran Hospital Training School, Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing, Lutheran Medical Center School of Nursing.

Pat is now living in Illinois, close to her brother and sister-in-law; she is doing some caregiving for them, as she has done in the past for many others.

### Marlene "Mo" (Steffen) Mosberger-Anderson ('54)

*President, 1988-1992*

*Marlene wrote:*

What do I remember about being a past president of the Alumni? The first thing I recall is receiving a call late at night from Marilyn Rubin, one of my beloved classmates now deceased, asking me if I would consider running for President. After a lengthy discussion I agreed to have my name placed on the ballot and I was chosen. What terms did I preside?



I thought I had a short-term memory loss and now it's long-term as I do not remember when that was.

There were several things I do remember from my experience. First, and foremost, it was an honor to serve. Back then, we had many people willing to serve on committees, people like Pat Stelzer and Ms. Doll and many others, who were very supportive. We held our meetings at the nurses' quarters and it was a delightful feel, like you were "back home."

It was always difficult to get members to attend meetings due to various commitments, so we proposed and a change of by-laws was approved on the number of meetings we held annually. I was always astonished at the work and commitment of committee chairpersons and their members, just as I am now. I was working full time plus, at my job with the Department of Mental Health, an agency I worked for 37 years before I retired. I feel honored to have been president of the Alumni LSN.

### Marilyn B. Rubin ('54)

*President, 1992-1994*

*Deceased, March 15, 2013.*

*Please see the Special Tributes section.*

### Viola "Vi" (Kassel) Kuecker ('46)

*President, 1994-1996*

*Vi wrote:*

I was president for one term. Also, I remember serving on various committees through the years; these include: 1) being chairman of the Banquet committee one year; 2) serving as chairman of the committee that developed the initial proposal for a School Health - Nursing Program, with paid staff, in the Lutheran elementary and preschool classes of St. Louis County; this is now well-established.



## P A S T L E A D E R S

### Sara (Meyer) Hochgrebe ('61)

President, 1996-1998

Sara wrote:

Offices held, that I remember: President, 1996-1998; President Elect, 1994-1996; Record-



ing Secretary, 1987-1993; *Bulletin* Editor, 1977-1981 and 1984-1985, plus some other years helping Dottie (Hussmann) Schertel ('39) – for all the aspects of each of these “*Bulletin* years,” I also had the dedicated help of the “Club” – Anne, Addie, Deanna, Dianne, Marlene –

without them it would have been impossible.

### Adelaide “Addie” (Henke) Horstman ('60)

President, 1998-2000

Addie wrote:

My home has been in St. Louis since 1957. After graduation, I took a position as an RN on 3 South at Lutheran Hospital. Through the years I have served in

various offices and committees for the Alumni Association. My presidency was in 1998-2000. New membership and interest from recent graduating classes were already in decline. It was becoming difficult to find candidates to run for offices. We had

443 life members and 250 active members, when I left office. Only 1/5 of them lived in the St. Louis area. Alumni funds were reallocated and reinvested with Lutheran Brotherhood. We moved alumni memorabilia from the School of Nursing to Concordia Historical Institute, on the grounds of Concordia Seminary. A committee was put in place to plan a special two-day centennial event for August of 2005. Those were the highlights that I recall. Special thanks go out to all the board and committee/task force members who served with me.



### Evelyn (Nicol) Hancock ('55)

President, 2000-2002; 2007-2011

Please see entry for Evelyn on next page.

### Carole Mussler ('61)

President, 2002-2006

Deceased, May 4, 2008

### Martha (Darrough) Hoffstetter ('45)

President, 2006

Excerpts from Martha's message at the Centennial Banquet, August 2005: February 1943 – it was a bright and sunny but cold day



(photo by Basden Photography)

in St. Louis, when 33 promising young Florence Nightingales descended upon Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing. We were committed to save the world, young, naïve, dedicated. We were capped three months later with less than half our numbers and graduated in May

1945, finishing in Feb. 1946.

I was told when I entered nursing that it would be the hardest work I would ever do – but I would love it. Nothing could be more true – nursing prepared us for anything in life – Marriage – Motherhood – Leadership – so much. Lutheran was the citadel of learning, character building, and professionalism. It was always with a sense of pride when I interviewed for a job. No matter where – the first question was: “Where did you study nursing?” Answer: “Lutheran.” Next question: “When can you start?”

Our circumstances may have been a little different, but down through the ages, nursing remains the same. For all of you here this evening, when you graduated from Lutheran and passed your state boards, you had achieved something very special. You are leaders in your community and leaders in your professional lives and careers. You learned that you have more to give than you ever thought you had and most of all – you learned to value human life and how to protect it.

## P A S T L E A D E R S

Martha served as treasurer, 1952-1954, and as vice-president, 1994-1996, as well as on various committees. She remembers the treasurer work most vividly. When she agreed to be president in 2006, she reminded us that she was 82 years old; she saw her work that year to be as an interim president; she served until another volunteer could be found. We thank Martha for her multiple talents, which she used to facilitate the longevity of the alumni association.

### **Evelyn (Nicol) Hancock ('55)**

*President, 2000-2002; 2007-2011*

*From Evelyn's President's message in our 2011*



*Bulletin:* I'm relieved to state that, after two and a half terms as President, I have had a real resurgence of interest by younger members who bring the electronic age into fruition! It also makes me happy that we are again becoming closer to the LSN student body by having a meeting place right in the nurses' dormitory. . . . I retire from the presidency feeling satisfied that we will move along very strongly in the next few years. God Bless All Lutheran Nurses Everywhere!

### **Ruth (Haendschaeke) Eggers ('63)**

*Ruth wrote:*

I served as a Director my first year out of training. Later on I served as Corresponding Secretary, Secretary, and Vice-President. I also served on the Finance Committee, Scholarship Committee, and Nominating Committee. I helped with elections and I was Chairman of the Alumni Day Project one year. I served on the Bylaws Committee several times also.



### **A Note Found Among Alumni Historical Records**

*By Anna Tiemeyer (1901) – St. Louis, Mo.  
March 1, 1915:* Perhaps it will be of some interest to the assembly to hear something of the organization of our alumnae. The question of organizing had been agitated and debated for quite awhile and it seemed as though the time for organizing was ripe: as at that time the years 1903-04, World's Fair years. The nurses of St. Louis got together and organized the St. Louis graduate nurses association. Soon after, the Missouri State Nurses Association came into being. Then our Lutheran Hospital, not to be left out of the forward movement began to take steps to organize an alumnae. On the first Monday in December 1905 a meeting was called and the alumnae dates from that time. At the end of the year 1906 we had a membership of 32. The first meeting was held at 2651 St. Vincent Ave. I do not know who were the first to hold office. The minutes of that first meeting were lost. That is all the data I have.

The 1980 publication, *The Inside Story – Anniversary Publication, Lutheran Medical Center School of Nursing Alumni, 1905-1980*, had, at the back of the book, a chart entitled "Officers who have served the Alumni." This chart included the names of officers as known from 1926-1980. Knowing of this chart stimulated us to develop an updated chart of the names of officers who have served over the past 50 years. Please take a look at the next two pages.