

THE BRIEF

Fall 2015

2015-2016 LAW

Board of Directors

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Denise McAfee

Hospitality/Program

Liz Brennan

Ellen Hansing

May Annual Dinner

Juli Margolin

Barb Norton

Nominating

Liz Hodgson

Scholarship

Nancy Strater

Service Project

Board

Targeted Needs

Val Witt

President's Greetings

Welcome to the 93rd year of this fine organization. I am honored to serve as your president this year, and am looking forward to meeting our mission (slightly condensed) of Philanthropy and Fun with Friends!

A recent survey of our membership revealed that one of the main reasons members affiliate with LAW is philanthropic. We enjoy working together to raise money and awareness of the work of our service project recipient, and our history shows that we have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars over the decades for charities in the Greater Des Moines community.

This year, for a second year in a row, our recipient is The Beacon of Life, a transitional housing program for women who have suffered homelessness, incarceration and other life-altering events. Last year on behalf of the Beacon we rounded up over \$5000, and donated myriad items to the Beacon's second-hand store Found Treasures. This year, we hope to do the same or even better.

The Beacon of Life has already started organizing its Cake Gala, to be held **October 1** at the Scottish Rite Consistory in Des Moines. LAW is once again an organizational sponsor for the event; individual members may additionally participate by purchasing tickets and tables, donating and purchasing silent auction items, and donating cupcakes and gift cards. Mark your calendar now for this really FUN event and begin considering how you might donate to the cause.

Another arm of our philanthropy is the \$2000 scholarship, which this past year was awarded to Drake Law student Dawn Hernandez. Our scholarship fund grows through an automatic donation as part of member dues, and is administered by the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation.

Our September welcome-back dinner meeting will be held at the cooking store Bolton and Hay on **Thursday, September 3**. Please bring a friend who might like to join LAW. This is a great introductory meeting, and dinner is on LAW for new members who pay their dues on or before that night. (RSVP by August 27!).

As always, we invite prospective members to visit at any one of our general meetings. We have found that the personal touch of a reminder phone call or offer of a ride to a meeting helps new people become integrated much faster. Please think of each meeting coming up as Bring a Friend Meeting, and we will continue to expand our membership and our reach into our community.

Included in this mailing, please find a membership form to fill out/update and return with your dues and September dinner reservation; and a chart for your convenience for tracking your personal donations to Beacon of Life. We ask you to keep track of gift cards, silent auction items and Targeted Needs donations so we can measure our impact on our service project recipient this year.

Looking forward to a great year of fun, fellowship and philanthropy!

Rita Pray, President

REMEMBER: SEPTEMBER DINNER RESERVATIONS DUE BY AUGUST 27.

**You may return your 2015-16 membership dues/form along with dinner reservation to:
LAW of POLK COUNTY PO BOX 65502 West Des Moines, IA 50265**

General Meeting Program Highlights Fall 2015

Thursday, September 3, 6:30 pm

Bolton and Hay

2701 Delaware Ave. Des Moines

Get ready for fall parties as you prepare delicious appetizers and dessert while catching up with your LAW friends at the annual September Dinner Meeting.

Thursday, October 1, 5:30 pm

Beacon of Life Cake Gala

Scottish Rite Consistory, 519 Park St, DSM

Cocktail Hour, Dinner, Entertainment, Silent Auction,

Program to benefit our Service Project Recipient, The Beacon of Life.

Thursday, November 5, 7:00 pm

General meeting location to be announced; preceded by Board meeting at 6:30

Thursday, December 3, 7:00 pm

Holiday Open House

Home of Rita Pray, 8878 NW 71st CT Johnston

Bring your spouse for some early holiday festivities and fun food.

2015 Fall Meeting Calendar

Meeting Type	Date and Time	Location	Hospitality/Treats
BOARD	Tuesday 8/25 7:00 pm	Home of Denise McAfee, 3000 School Street, DSM	Juli Margolin
GENERAL	Thursday 9/3 6:30 pm	Bolton and Hay 2701 Delaware Ave Des Moines	Dinner provided by Chef Doris
BOARD	Tuesday 9/22 7:00 pm	Home of Nancy Strater, 31682 Napa Valley Dr, Waukee	April Poulsen
GENERAL/SERVICE PROJECT	Thursday 10/1 5:30 pm	Scottish Rite Consistory, 519 Park St., DSM	Beacon of Life Cake Gala
BOARD	Thursday 11/5 6:30 pm preceding General Mtg.	Location to be announced	TBA
GENERAL	Thursday 11/5 7:00 pm	Location to be announced	TBA
BOARD	Tuesday 11/17 7:00 pm	Home of Val Witt, 4342 Oakwood Lane, WDM	Val Witt
GENERAL/HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE	Thursday 12/3 7:00 pm	Home of Rita Pray, 8878 NW 71 st CT, Johnston	Board



**January 7, 2016
Ladies Night Out
Fun To Be Announced**

Check out our website: www.lawpolkcounty.com

Email us at lawpolkcounty@gmail.com

Join us on Facebook: LAW of Polk County

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Program and Hospitality

LIZ BRENNAN, ELLEN HANSING

Are you tired of making the same ol' appetizers every time you have friends over? Are you dreading the Holiday season because you don't know what to bring to a pot luck? Do you want to have a fun evening with your LAW friends? If so...Please come to the September Dinner Meeting, **Thursday, September 3, 6:30 pm, at Bolton & Hay, 2701 Delaware Avenue, Des Moines**. Our cooking teacher, Doris Gorius, will show us how to make some fun new appetizers. Come ready to work and ready to eat! In addition, we will also enjoy a 10% discount on all purchases made. Bolton & Hay is a great kitchen store - famous for their durable cookie sheets! **RSVP BY AUGUST 27, \$35 for class and dinner.**

Send check and reservation to LAW of Polk County, PO Box 65502, WDM, IA 50265.

Service Project

Join LAW and the wider Des Moines community at the **Beacon of Life Cake Gala, October 1st** at the Scottish Rite Consistory. Bring spouses, friends and family to share in dinner, cocktails, silent auction and entertainment as we contribute our resources to benefit the Beacon's work. We are currently collecting \$10 and up gift cards for local stores and restaurants, as well as silent auction items. Contact lawpolkcounty@gmail.com if you have a donation to be picked up. Please find more information about Beacon of Life's mission on our website, or go to www.beaconoflifedm.org.

Vice President for Membership

APRIL POULSEN

LAW of Polk County Inc. is seeking individuals who are interested in making a difference in the Des Moines community through philanthropic efforts. If you know anyone who is interested in joining LAW or maybe you haven't seen someone in awhile who used to be active, please feel free to contact me at [515-238-9129](tel:515-238-9129) or e-mail me at tedandapril1@yahoo.com with names and contact information. Please watch for e-mails announcing upcoming membership activities that will occur throughout the year. We are looking forward to welcoming new members into our group. New members who pay their dues on or before our September meeting attend the September dinner free!

Future Planning Update

HEIDI PUCKETT, President-Elect

LAW's great history of philanthropy, fun and scholarship support is a result of the forward-thinking of past members and leaders. Hence, "Future Planning", when we get together and brainstorm ideas for how we want our future to look. We need both new and long-term members to give input on how to grow our membership, where to channel our philanthropic efforts and funds, and how to keep our organization streamlined and up to date in its operations. Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, October 20, 7:00 p.m.** at the WDM Barnes and Noble for the first Future Planning meeting of the year.

Courtesy/Historian

DENISE MCAFFEE

As Courtesy-Historian chair, please contact me with any news about yourself or any LAW of Polk County members so that the information can be acknowledged and or shared with our membership. Email me at mcafee@mchsi.com.

Nominating Update

LIZ HODGSON

The Nominating Committee for 2015-16 includes Ellen Hansing, Barb Norton and Kathy Poetting. These three members, along with the President-Elect Heidi Puckett, VP for Membership April Poulsen, and Nominating Chair Liz Hodgson will be responsible for proposing the executive board for the year 2016-2017. If you are interested in an executive position (President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer or Vice President for Membership) for the 2016-2017 board, please contact one of the people listed above.

May Annual Dinner

JULI MARGOLIN, BARB NORTON

The May Wine Dinner is our year-end celebration of the previous year's events, a chance to thank the outgoing board, welcome the incoming board, and a wonderful chance to get together with old and new LAW friends. Let us know if you have any fun, new, exciting ideas/locations, or would like to help with this committee. Email Juli at jjmargolin@msn.com or Barb at ganorton15@mchsi.com.

Philanthropy

The board has taken on the mission of choosing a group to receive the funds we raise specifically for our philanthropy. If you know of an organization or group that would benefit, direct them to our website, lawpolkcounty.com, where a copy of our grant application is available. Or, email us at lawpolkcounty@gmail.com.

Scholarship

NANCY STRATER

The Cristine Swanson Wilson Memorial Scholarship will be awarded this spring to a deserving University of Iowa woman law student. The scholarship fund is administered by the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines. A portion of your annual dues is a tax-deductible donation that supports the scholarship fund, but we welcome all additional donations that keep this scholarship fund growing. Your tax-deductible contributions can be made at anytime to LAW of Polk County, Inc. Please contact me if you are interested in being on the committee to select our 2016 recipient. Email me at nstrater@msn.com.

Targeted Needs

VAL WITT

In addition to monetary support for The Beacon of Life, we collect gently used clothing and household items for re-sale at Found Treasures, the Beacon's second-hand store. Sales benefit the programs of the Beacon, and the store provides vouchers for the clients to obtain clothing for job interviews and work. Please bring your donations to any board or general meeting and I will deliver them to Found Treasures. Or contact me at valwitt@msn.com for a pick-up/drop-off of items. Please keep track of your donations on the following chart for our final accounting of donation-impact.

BEACON OF LIFE DONATIONS RECORD 2015-16

Please track your personal donations to the Beacon of Life throughout the year:

Donations of Targeted Needs:

Bags of Clothing/Items for Found Treasures and approximate value:

In-kind donations (house supplies etc) and approximate value:

Donations of Gift Cards: (for Cake Gala cupcake draw)

Number/Type:

Total value:

Donation to Silent Auction: (single items, cake or basket)

Description:

Estimated Value:

Final sale value:

Monetary Donation/Sponsorship: (eg table for Cake Gala, Quiz Bowl)

Type:

Amount:

Family/Friends Solicitations:

Estimated amount you are responsible for getting others to donate:

FALL 2015 BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

All meetings are held at 7 pm at Barnes & Noble, 4550 University Ave, WDM

September 14 **You** by Caroline Kepnes: "...a terrifying novel for the social media age."—Barnes & Noble overview.

October 12 **The Girl on the Train** by Paula Hawkins: A literary mystery (Huffpost.com said so) with not one character that can be trusted.

November 9 **Dead Wake** by Erik Larson: Remember *Devil in the White City*? Same author. This story exposes toxic secrets in a haunting tale of the sinking of the four-funneled, 787-foot Cunard superliner Lusitania.

December 14 **The Rosie Project** by Graeme Simsion: Brilliant but emotionally challenged (autism? Asperger's syndrome?) genetics professor creates a questionnaire to find a perfect wife.

January 11 **The Accidental Empress** by Alison Pataki: Historical fiction based on the life of Sisi the Habsburg empress and wife of Emperor Franz Joseph I who fell in love with her sister's fiancé and made him her own. (Yes, the author's father was the governor of New York.)

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