



LAW of POLK COUNTY, INC.
PO Box 65502
West Des Moines, IA 50265

[mailing label]



LAW of Polk County, Inc.

THE BRIEF

Winter-Spring 2016

President's Greetings

2015-2016 LAW

Board of Directors

President

Rita Pray

President-Elect

Heidi Puckett

VP for Membership

April Poulsen

Secretary

Denise McAfee

Treasurer

Darlene Brickman

Courtesy/ Historian

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

Happy 2016! I hope this LAW Brief finds you healthy and peaceful and anticipating a positive and growth-filled year for yourself and your family.

As we set out together on the second half of our LAW of Polk County year, we continue to have fun planned for right now, but are also planning the next year's roster of fun and philanthropy.

For the past two years we have enjoyed working with The Beacon of Life and have provided monetary, in-kind donations, and volunteer support. Since August 2015, our efforts have raised over \$4,000.00 for this worthy recipient. We are still accepting donations of money and items needed for their residential center, as well as donated items for Found Treasures, the Beacon's resale shop.

As we look ahead, of primary importance is the selection of the charitable recipient for our 2016-17 service project fundraising. We are currently seeking applicants for service project funds. If you have connections with a non-denominational Polk county charity that benefits women, children and families, please encourage them to fill out our grant proposal (on the website) by February 1st. In addition, we will be planning how to raise the money for whatever charity we select; if that organization already has a fundraising vehicle that we can join, our efforts are magnified algorithmically.

In an attempt to streamline and update our organizational structure, the Board is recommending some By-Laws changes. Please find those listed in the committee reports section of the Brief; final voting will be held at a later General Membership meeting.

Our Nominating committee will soon be filling the slate for the Executive Board, and our President-Elect Heidi Puckett will be seeking volunteers for the Board positions. In the spirit of helping each other and continuing our tradition of fun and philanthropy, say "YES!" when you receive a request for service!

I so appreciate all the hard work and generosity that our members provide to this group. We welcome ideas for shaping LAW into a flexible, relevant and meaningful organization, for both our members and our community. As demands on members' time and resources increase from all directions, we need insight and inspiration for the future. I welcome any conversation or comment.

Thanks for joining together with LAW for another year,
Rita Pray, President



LAW of Polk County, Inc.

General Meeting Program Highlights Winter-Spring 2016

Thursday, January 7, 6:30 pm

**515 Wine with Design at Smokey D's BBQ Restaurant
2nd Ave./I-80 exit, Des Moines**

Tip your hat to 2016! Paint an elegant Snowman that will grace any front door or space that it is put in! All canvases are pre-drawn and you are guaranteed a beautiful end result. Color changes are an option for each painter. Sign up online 515WinewithDesign.com. Cost \$35.00.

Thursday, February 4, 7:00 pm

**Firetrucker Brewery
716 SW 3rd St., Ankeny, IA 50023**

Learn about the art of craft beer and enjoy sampling both flagship beers and special brews. Firetrucker Brewery was voted the number 1 brewery in Iowa by Yahoo Travel. Come and appreciate the sense of community and fellowship created by the simpler things in life.

Thursday, March 3, 7:00 pm

**The Jordan House
2001 Fuller Road, West Des Moines, IA 50265**

Experience The Jordan House, a stately Victorian home of Italianate Gothic design that was built by abolitionist James C. Jordan. It was a station on the Underground Railroad and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1973.

Thursday, April 7, 7:00 pm

**Home of Kathy Poetting
2807 SW Wolcott, Des Moines, IA 50321**

Find out how LAW can provide assistance to a worthy cause when the new Service Project Recipient is revealed.

2016 Winter-Spring Meeting Calendar

Meeting Type	Date and Time	Location	Hospitality/Treats
FUN LADIES NIGHT OUT	Thursday 1/7 6:30 p.m.	515 Wine with Design Smokey D's 2 nd Ave. DSM	Dinner and drinks available on your own
BOARD	Tuesday 1/26 7:00 p.m.	Home of Ellen Hansing 4038 Green View, Urb.	Heidi Puckett
GENERAL	Thursday 2/4 7:00 p.m.	Firetrucker Brewery 716 SW 3 rd St., Ankeny	Potluck---bring a treat to share
BOARD	Tuesday 2/23 7:00 p.m.	Home of Liz Brennan 804 38 th St. WDM	Denise McAfee
GENERAL	Thursday 3/3 7:00 pm	The Jordan House 2001 Fuller Rd. WDM	TBA
BOARD/GENERAL	Thursday 4/7 6:30 p.m. Board 7:00 p.m. General	Home of Kathy Poetting 2807 SW Wolcott, DSM	TBA
JOINT BOARD	Tuesday 4/26 6:30 p.m.	Home of Heidi Puckett 9624 Quail Ridge, Urb.	Outgoing Board
GENERAL/ANNUAL	Thursday 5/5	May Wine Dinner location TBA	Special dinner!

**Dues are still accepted through the end of February to be listed in this year's directory.
If you have not yet paid dues, find the membership form on our website and mail to :
LAW of POLK COUNTY PO BOX 65502 West Des Moines, IA 50265**

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

Painting, beer tasting and history---get it all at LAW this winter! Check out the listing on the opposite page for our schedule of informative and entertaining program events for this winter and spring. These meetings are fun and non-threatening, and are great opportunities to bring a prospective member along.

Service Project

To date, LAW and its members have donated more than \$4000.00 to the Beacon of Life, our 2015-16 Service Project recipient. We are still accepting cash donations, which can be sent to the LAW PO Box address. Please find more information about Beacon of Life's mission on our website, or go to www.beaconoflifedm.org. Thanks to our members who provided silent auction items and cakes for the Beacon's annual Cake Gala in October, as well as items for the Beacon's fall Quiz Bowl. Watch for announcements about the spring Quiz Bowl date, another opportunity for our members to support the Beacon of Life.

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 of 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 invite them to a meeting or contact VP for Membership chair, April Poulsen at [515-238-9129](tel:515-238-9129) or tedandapril1@yahoo.com.

Welcome back to Marti Marvin, Erin Rice, Jill Struyk, and Mary Dopf. Glad to see you back!

Future Planning Update

HEIDI PUCKETT, President-Elect

Mark your calendar for Thursday, March 3, for the second Future Planning meeting of the year. We will meet prior to the general meeting, between 5:45-6pm (location TBA) for a quick bite to eat and discussion about future plans for LAW. 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. **If you have any suggestions for discussion, please send them to heidipuckett65@gmail.com prior to the February 23rd board meeting, so we can vote on what to discuss at the Future Planning meeting.**

Courtesy/Historian

DENISE MCAFEE

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.

Thanks to Net Image Group, LLC in Adel, Iowa for our website monitoring and support.

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 valrwitt@msn.com for a pick-up/drop-off of items. Please keep track of your donations for our final accounting of donation-impact.

WINTER-SPRING 2016 BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

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

- February 8** *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.)
- March 14** *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah: Historical World War II fiction about two sisters in France during the Nazi regime. Suspense, fear, intrigue, and love.
- April 11** *Winter at the Door* by Sarah Graves: A homicide cop moves from Boston to a small Maine town in the woods looking for a vanished child and learns of murders by a serial killer who is now looking for her.
- May 9** *Behind the Beautiful Forevers—Death and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* by Katherine Boo: nonfiction story of the lives of residents in the slums by an American woman married to an Indian who works in the city.
- June 13** *The Alphabet House* by Jussi Adler-Olsen: a psychological thriller set in World War II
- No July Book Club**
- August 8** *Life from Scratch* by Sasha Martin: The *Washington Post* calls it a multilayered love story with recipes. The goal of the author was to "cook the world" by preparing a meal from every country in her Oklahoma kitchen.

FIRST OFFICIAL NOTICE: Proposed changes to the Bylaws

Heidi Puckett, President-Elect

In accordance with our Bylaws, any changes must be voted on at a general meeting, with the membership having been given notice of the proposed changes either at the previous general meeting or by mailing, at least 7 days prior to the voting meeting. The proposed changes are as follows:

ARTICLE IV – Dues

The fiscal year is from June 1 – May 31 inclusive. Annual dues shall be set by the Board and shall be paid prior to ~~October~~ **15th December 31st** of each fiscal year. Only members whose dues are current for the fiscal year shall receive the Directory.

Reasoning – Our directory is now given out at the May Wine dinner instead of in January. Changing the deadline allows for all paid members to be in the directory.

ARTICLE VI – Officers

Section 4. ~~A term of office shall not exceed one (1) year. An officer may not serve two (2) consecutive terms in the same office and he/she~~ An officer may not hold more than one (1) office at any one (1) time.

Reasoning – In trying to streamline our duties, we have discussed holding a position for 2 years can be more efficient and maintain more consistency in the running of LAW.

ARTICLE IX – Board of Directors

Section 3. A majority of the Board of Directors present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Reasoning – to clarify what constitutes a quorum.

