



# THE BRIEF

## FALL 2016

### 2016-2017 LAW Board of Directors

#### *President*

Heidi Puckett

#### *President-Elect*

Liz Brennan

#### *VP for Membership*

Jodi Jannes

#### *Secretary*

Denise McAfee

#### *Treasurer*

Darlene Brickman

#### *Courtesy/Historian*

Erin Rice

#### *Hospitality/Program*

Ellen Hansing

April Poulsen

#### *May Annual Dinner*

Rita Pray

Juli Margolin

#### *Nominating*

Val Witt

#### *Scholarship*

Barb Norton

#### *Service Project/ Targeted*

#### *Needs*

Kathy Poetting

Marti Marvin

### President's Greetings

As we begin the 94th year of our organization, I look forward to working with this great group of women as we find ways to continue on with the rich traditions of our organization in providing financial and volunteer support to women, children, and families in our community.

A main reason members choose to join LAW is philanthropy. 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. Most recently helping raise funds and volunteering at Youth Emergency Services and Shelter (YESS) and Beacon of Life

This year, our recipient is the Ronald McDonald House. The funds we raise will go towards creating a therapeutic garden that is being designed for the house. We are excited to combine our service project and targeted needs to help support the Ronald McDonald House and the families that utilize its services. Please be on the look-out for ways that you can become involved.

Another way in which we fulfill our philanthropy mission is the Cristine Swanson Wilson Memorial Scholarship. It is a \$2000 scholarship, given to a non-traditional female student, and alternates yearly from Drake Law School and Iowa School of Law. Our scholarship fund grows through an automatic donation as part of member dues and additional contributions from members. It is administered by the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation.

Our September welcome-back dinner meeting will be held at Flavery Bistro in Ankeny, on **Thursday, September 8th**. The evening will include some wonderful food and a fashion show presented by Funky Zebra. Please bring a friend who might like to join LAW. This is a great introductory meeting, and dinner is on LAW for prospective new members! **Please fill out the reservation form and RSVP to Ellen Hansing by September 5th.**

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.

I encourage you to read through The Brief and mark your calendars for some fun, informative, meaningful events there are being planned for this upcoming year.

**Heidi Puckett, President**

**You may return your 2016-17 membership form and dues to:**

**LAW of POLK COUNTY**

**PO BOX 65502**

**West Des Moines, IA 50265**

## **General Meeting Program Highlights – Fall 2016**

### **Thursday, September 8, 6:30 pm**

Flavory Bistro, Fashion by Funky Zebra  
1450 SW Vintage Pkwy, Ste 160, Ankeny, Iowa

Enjoy a unique dining experience at one of Ankeny's newest restaurants. We will be greeted by Owner Hector and the fresh food will be carefully prepared by Chef/Owner Lisa. In addition, the traditional fashion show is back with styles from The Funky Zebra modeled by our own models.

### **Thursday, November 3, 7:30 pm**

Ronald McDonald House  
1441 Pleasant Street, Des Moines, Iowa

Tour the Ronald McDonald house, LAW's 2016-17 service project recipient. This 'home away from home' allows families to stay close to their hospitalized child at little to no charge. If you desire, help prepare a meal earlier in the evening for the house guests please contact Kathy Poetting or Marti Marvin prior to November 1st.  
(See details under Service Project below!)

### **Thursday, December 8, 7:00 pm**

Holiday Open House  
Home of Heidi Puckett, 9624 Quail Ridge, Urbandale

Bring your spouse for some early holiday festivities and fun food - an annual event not to be missed!

Check out our website: [www.lawpolkcounty.com](http://www.lawpolkcounty.com)

Email us at [lawpolkcounty@gmail.com](mailto:lawpolkcounty@gmail.com)

Join us on Facebook: **LAW of Polk County**

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **Program and Hospitality - Ellen Hansing and April Poulsen**

Food and Fashion are back at our September dinner meeting at The Flavory Bistro in Ankeny. The menu includes a cash bar, appetizers, salad, choice of steak, salmon, or lamb, risotto, and a delicious Nutella baklava dessert (April and I sampled - very worthy!) all for \$28.00 Fashion show by The Funky Zebra - the name says it all. **RSVP by September 5th. Send check and meal selection to: Ellen Hansing, 4038 Greenview Drive, Urbandale, IA 50322**

### **Vice President for Membership - Jodi Jannes**

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 a while who used to be active, please feel free to contact me at 515-256-1294 or email me at [jodijannes@gmail.com](mailto:jodijannes@gmail.com) with names and contact information. Please watch for emails announcing upcoming membership activities that will occur throughout the year. We are looking forward to welcoming new members into our group. Potential members who attend our September meeting will have their dinner paid for by LAW!

### **Service Project/Targeted Needs - Kathy Poetting and Marti Marvin**

Join LAW on Thursday, November 3 as we prepare and share a meal with families staying at the Ronald McDonald House, our 2016-17 Service Project recipient. Meal preparation begins at 4pm and we serve dinner at 6 pm. The General meeting will start at 7:30 and include a tour of the house. Contact Kathy Poetting ([kpoetting@mchsi.com](mailto:kpoetting@mchsi.com) / 515-953-8813) or Marti Marvin ([martim6642@yahoo.com](mailto:martim6642@yahoo.com) / 515-254-1014) for details about preparing/serving dinner. We plan to repeat this activity several times during the year, so even if you can't help this time, let them know you are interested in helping at some point.

Another opportunity to support the Ronald McDonald House is through the Therapeutic Garden project. The garden is in the process of redesign and more information will be available later in the year. At this point, we are collecting money to purchase a bench as a memorial to our participation. You may make a contribution on the membership renewal form and be on the lookout for additional contribution opportunities throughout the year.

In addition to dinners and the garden project, Ronald McDonald House is in need of household and office supplies, gift cards and contribution to fund the \$10 per night charge for families to stay overnight. More information about this wish list is available on the back page of this newsletter. Contact [lawpolkcounty@gmail.com](mailto:lawpolkcounty@gmail.com) if you have a donation to be picked up or bring them to any general or board meeting. Please keep track of your donations for our final accounting of donations-impact.

### **Future Planning Update - Liz Brennan, President Elect**

Future Planning meetings are a time to come together to brainstorm ideas for LAW's future. We will talk about future program ideas, possible fundraisers and social opportunities as well as potential groups we could support. The Future Planning meeting is open to all members. Please join me for our fall Future Planning meeting at (4550 University Ave, WDM) on Tuesday, October 18 at 5:30pm. (This is prior to the Board meeting - we will be done in enough time to make the Board meeting)

### **Courtesy/Historian - Erin Rice**

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 [erinric@msn.com](mailto:erinric@msn.com)

### **Nominating Update - Val Witt**

The Nominating Committee for 2016-17 includes Ellen Hansing, Liz Hodgson, and Barb Norton. These three members, along with the President-Elect Liz Brennan, VP for Membership Jodi Jannes, and Nominating Chair Val Witt will be responsible for proposing the executive board for the year 2017-2018. If you are interested in an executive position (President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer or Vice President for Membership) for the 2017-2018 board, please contact one of the people listed above, or email at [lawpolkcounty@gmail.com](mailto:lawpolkcounty@gmail.com)

### **May Annual Dinner - Rita Pray and Juli Margolin**

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 Rita at [ritapray@gmail.com](mailto:ritapray@gmail.com) or Juli at [jimargolin@msn.com](mailto:jimargolin@msn.com).

### **Scholarship - Barb Norton**

The Cristine Swanson Wilson Memorial Scholarship will be awarded this spring to a deserving Drake University female 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 2017 recipient. Email me at [barb.norton@outlook.com](mailto:barb.norton@outlook.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](http://lawpolkcounty.com), where a copy of our grant application is available. Or, email us at [lawpolkcounty@gmail.com](mailto:lawpolkcounty@gmail.com)

---

## 2016 Fall Meeting Schedule

In an effort to simplify, we are going to try having only one meeting per month - alternating between Board meetings and General meetings. We are hoping this honors our member's time, and allow time for more interest groups to meet.

Meeting Type	Date and Time	Location	Hospitality/Treats
General	Thursday, 9/8 6:30pm	Flavory Bistro 1450 SW Vintage Pkwy, Ste 160, Ankeny	Chef Lisa and The Funky Zebra
Book Club	Monday, 9/12 7:00pm	Barnes & Noble 4550 University Ave, WDM	
Book Club	Monday, 10/10 7:00pm	Barnes & Noble 4550 University Ave, WDM	
Future Planning	Tuesday, 10/18 5:30pm	Barnes & Noble 4550 University Ave, WDM	
Board	Tuesday, 10/18 7:00pm	Home of Kathy Poetting 2807 SW Wolcott, DM	Erin Rice
General	Thursday, 11/3	Ronald McDonald House 1441 Pleasant St, DM	Membership
Book Club	Monday 11/14 7:00pm	Barnes & Noble 4550 University Ave, WDM	
General	Thursday, 12/8 7:00pm	Home of Heidi Puckett 9624 Quail Ridge, URB	Board
Book Club	Monday, 12/12 7:00pm	Barnes & Noble 4550 University Ave, WDM	
General	Thursday, 1/5	Fun to be Announced!	TBD
Book Club	Monday, 1/9 7:00pm	Barnes & Noble 4550 University Ave, WDM	

**Save the Date: January 5, 2017 Girls Night out - Fun to Be Announced**

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



## Fall 2016 Book Club Selections

<p><b>September 12</b></p>	<p><b><u>The Hog's Back Mystery</u></b> by Freeman Willis Crafts</p>	<p>The author was a crony of Agatha Christie and, like Agatha, wrote meticulously plotted crime fiction. In this mystery puzzle, two female friends are visiting an old school chum in the English countryside when her husband suddenly disappears without a trace. They call in Inspector French to investigate but one of the friends disappears. Clues, false leads and red herrings point to affairs, professional misconduct and criminal cover-ups! At the end of the book, page numbers reference the clues that solved the case.</p>
<p><b>October 10</b></p>	<p><b><u>And After the Fire</u></b> By Lauren Belfer</p>	<p>In the ruins of Germany at the end of WWII, American soldier Henry Sachs takes a souvenir, an old music manuscript, from an apparently deserted mansion and by mistake, kills a girl who tries to stop him. Years later when Henry dies in New York City, a niece who has experienced a devastating act of violence herself, finds the manuscript and begins a journey to find its rightful owner hoping to make peace with her own past. (Be sure to get the one written by Lauren Belfer; there are other books with that title)</p>
<p><b>November 4</b></p>	<p><b><u>Sisi:Empress on Her Own</u></b> By Allison Pataki</p>	<p>Married to Emperor Franz Joseph, Elisabeth --who is called Sisi --captures the hearts of the people as their "fairy queen", but beneath that dazzling perception lives a far more complex figure. In Vienna, the halls of the Hapsburg Palace buzz not only with imperial waltzes and champagne but also with temptations, rivals, and cutthroat intrigue, as Sisi grows restless and stifled by strict protocols in a turbulent marriage.</p>
<p><b>December 12</b></p>	<p><b><u>Liar Temptress Soldier Spy</u></b> By Karen Abbott</p>	<p>Using primary source material and interviews with spies' descendants, the author tells the stories of four courageous women --a socialite, a widow, a farm girl, and an abolitionist, -- who were spies in the Civil War. Belle Boyd became a courier and spy for the Confederate army after shooting a Union Soldier. Rose O'Neale Greenhow, a beautiful widow, engaged in affairs with powerful Northern politicians to gather intelligence for the Confederacy. Emma Edmonds cut off her hair and assumed the identity of a man to enlist as a Union private. Elizabeth Van Lew, a wealthy Richmond abolitionist, hid behind her proper Southern manners as she orchestrated a far-reaching espionage ring, right under the noses of suspicious rebel detectives.</p>
<p><b>January 9</b></p>	<p><b><u>The Midwife of Hope River</u></b> by Patricia Harm</p>	<p>In the 1930', the heroine, Patience Murphy, a midwife in Appalachia struggling against disease, poverty, and prejudice -- and her own haunting past -- is a strong and endearing character that courageously attempts to bring new light, and life, into an otherwise cruel world.</p>

## Ronald McDonald House Wish List

We all know that these are difficult times financially, and no one feels the impact harder than the families we have staying at the Ronald McDonald House. You can help ease their burden by sponsoring a night a week or a month for a family at only \$10 per night.

Because we serve as a “home away from home” for our families, we use a lot of general household, personal care, and food items. You can view our entire Wish List below, but the following are items we always need:

- Paper plates & bowls (not styrofoam)
- Fresh fruit
- To-Go food and drink containers
- Stamps
- Gift cards (see Wish List for more details)

### Wish List

Gift Cards - Casey's, QuikTrip, Starbucks, Hy-Vee, Target, Walgreen's

Food Pantry - Keurig Coffee K-Cups, Breakfast Bars, Granola Bars, Butter (Sticks & Tubs), Seasonal Fresh Fruit/Veggies, Cereal (Single Serving Boxes), Chips (Single Serving Bags), Fruit Snacks, Fruit Cups, Sliced Bread, Lunch Meat, Sliced Cheese, Ready to eat microwave Mac N Cheese

Household - Trash Bags, Clorox Wipes, Stainless Steel Polish

Office - Postage Stamps, Copy Paper, Card Stock

Kitchen- Crock Pot Liners, Paper Bowls (non-Styrofoam), FIT Veggie Cleaner, Ziploc Baggies (sandwich, snack, quart, gal.), Paper Plates (non-Styrofoam), Stainless Steel Scratchers, Leftover disposable food containers (to-go)

Families - Local Sporting Event Tickets, Civic Center Tickets, Botanical Garden Passes, Bus Passes, Spa/Salon Certificates, Cross Word Puzzles, Word Search, Activity Books, i.e., Sudoku, Baby Wipes, Crayons & Coloring Books

Laundry - Laundry Detergent (HE Only, Please), OxiClean, Stain Remover, Bleach, Tide Washing Machine Cleaner, Liquid Fabric Softener

Personal Men's/Women's Shave Cream, Women's Deodorant, Toiletries (individual or large sizes), Bar Soap, Lip Balm, Hand Sanitizer (travel size & regular size), Toothpaste (Large size), Hair Brushes, Shampoo & Conditioner (Large size), Adult individual toothbrushes

---

**LAW members can bring contributions can brought to any meeting or contact Kathy Poetting ([kpoetting@mchsi.com](mailto:kpoetting@mchsi.com) / 515-953-8813) or Marti Marvin ([martim6642@yahoo.com](mailto:martim6642@yahoo.com) / 515-254-1014) for more information**