



THE BRIEF

Fall 2017

2017-2018 LAW Board of Directors

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Liz Hodgson

Amelia Lobo

May Annual Dinner

Jodi Jannes

Juli Margolin

Nominating

Val Witt

Scholarship

Ellen Hansing

Service Project/ Targeted Needs

Kathy Poetting

Marti Marvin

Dear LAW Friends,

It is hard to believe that we are beginning our 2017-18 program year! I am honored to be serving as President of this great organization. I truly enjoy this group and always look forward to the monthly meetings. Throughout my years as a member, I love the spirit of compassion and friendship found in LAW.

While I may not see many members outside of meetings, I always feel that fellow LAW members are some of my dearest friends.

The Ronald McDonald house remains our philanthropic focus this year. Last year we supported the Ronald McDonald House by collecting items for the families of the house, making meals and raising money to build a bench for the new Therapy Garden. All of these efforts will be continued through this year as we celebrate their new building! Please look for the Service Project article and list of needs in this mailing for details on how you can get involved at the Ronald McDonald house this year.

Thanks to the work of Liz Hodgson and Amelia Lobo, we have some great activities for this fall. The kick-off for our year is on Thursday, September 7 at Willow Creek Golf Club. Reservations are due September 1!

You may notice that "Board Meetings" are not listed after August. Instead, we will have regular meetings each month without a monthly Board meeting. All paid members are invited to attend all meetings.

Don't forget to invite your friends to become LAW members. Whether they are completely new to LAW or were members long ago, we will welcome them! New members attending the September Dinner are invited to join us at no cost!

Look for your membership renewal form at the end of this issue. Just tear off the back page, fill in the needed information and mail with your check. Thank you for your continued support of this great philanthropic group!

Liz Brennan, President

Check out our website: www.lawpolkcounty.com

Email us at lawpolkcounty@gmail.com

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

Meeting Highlights: Fall 2017

Thursday, September 7, 6:30 pm

September Dinner Meeting

Willow Creek Golf Course

140 SE Willow Creek Drive, West Des Moines

Come share what you did this summer and find out what's ahead for LAW this year at our September dinner meeting. The September dinner will be Thursday September 7 starting at 6:30 pm at the Willow Creek Golf Course. The menu will include a choice of Roasted Salmon Filet or Iowa Chop, baked potato, green beans amandine, salad and dessert. A cash bar will also be available. The cost of the dinner is \$28.00. Please RSVP with your meal selection of Salmon or Iowa Chop by **September 1**. You may RSVP along with your membership dues (see membership form on the last page of this BRIEF) or send check to: Liz Hodgson, 9619 Oakwood Drive, Urbandale, IA 50322. Questions? Please contact Liz at liz_hodgson@yahoo.com.

Thursday October 5, 7:00 pm

Home of Liz Hodgson

9619 Oakwood Drive, Urbandale

Please join us to learn about Primary HealthCare, a nonprofit community health center which serves the uninsured and underinsured of our community, including medical, dental and behavioral services, Homeless Outreach and The Project.

Thursday November 2, 7:00 pm

Ronald McDonald House

1441 Pleasant Street, Des Moines

Come tour the new Ronald McDonald House, the 2017-18 LAW Service Project recipient. Before the meeting and tour, LAW will prepare a meal for the families currently residing at the house. Please come at 4:00 pm if you are able to assist in preparing the meal. Otherwise, join us for the meeting and tour at 7:00 pm.

Thursday December 7, 2017, 7:00 pm

LAW Holiday Open House

Home of Liz Brennan

804 38th Street, West Des Moines

LAW members and spouses are invited to the LAW Holiday Open House. Appetizers, desserts and drinks will be served as we get together to celebrate the holiday season in this LAW tradition.

Fall 2017 Meetings

Meeting Type	Date and Time	Location	Notes
Book Club	Monday, Aug. 14 7 pm	Barnes & Noble 4550 University Ave, WDM	<u>Hamilton</u>
Board	Tuesday, Aug. 22 7 pm	Liz Hodgson 9619 Oakwood Drive, Urbandale	
September Dinner Meeting	Thursday, Sept. 7 6:30 pm	Willow Creek Golf Club 140 SE Willow Creek Dr., WDM	RSVP by 9/1
Book Club	Monday, Sept. 18 7 pm	Barnes & Noble 4550 University Ave, WDM	<u>Born a Crime</u>
October Meeting	Thursday, Oct. 5 7 pm	Liz Hodgson 9619 Oakwood Drive Urbandale	Speaker: Primary HealthCare
Book Club	Monday, Oct. 16 7 pm	Barnes & Noble 4550 University Ave, WDM	<u>Lincoln in the Bardo</u>
November Meeting	Thursday, Nov. 2 7 pm	Ronald McDonald House 1441 Pleasant, Des Moines	Tour the new house!
Book Club	Monday, Nov. 20 7 pm	Barnes & Noble 4550 University Ave, WDM	<u>Intruder in the Dust</u>
Holiday Party	Thursday, Dec. 7 7 pm	Liz Brennan 804 38th Street WDM	Bring your spouse for holiday fun!
Book Club	Monday, Dec. 18 7 pm	Barnes & Noble 4550 University Ave, WDM	<u>Still Life</u>
Book Club	Monday, Jan. 15	Barnes & Noble 4550 University Ave, WDM	<u>News of the World</u>

LAW of Polk County News

Future Planning - Denise McAfee, President Elect

Please plan to attend our October LAW meeting to share your thoughts and recommendations for philanthropic organizations we can support, program topics, and fundraising ideas LAW can use to further our purpose for women, children and families of central Iowa. Suggestions for social and volunteer opportunities are also welcomed. We will discuss these items at our LAW meeting on Thursday, October 5, 2017. This meeting is open to all members. If you cannot attend, feel free to contact me or any board member with your suggestions.

Vice President for Membership - Heidi Puckett

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 515-210-9610 or email me at heidipuckett65@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.

Courtesy/Historian - Erin Rice

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 erinric@msn.com.

Nominating - Val Witt

The Nominating Committee for 2017-2018 includes Mary Dopf, April Poulsen and Rita Pray. These three members, along with the President Elect Denise McAfee, VP Membership Heidi Puckett, 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 2018-2019 board, please contact one of the people listed above, or email at lawpolkcounty@gmail.com.

Scholarship - Ellen Hansing

The Cristine Swanson Wilson Memorial Scholarship will be awarded this spring to a deserving University of Iowa 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 anytime to LAW of Polk County, Inc. Please contact me if you are interested in being on the committee to select our 2018 recipient. Email me at hansing@raccoon.com

May Annual Dinner - Jodi Jannes and Juli Margolin

The May Wine dinner is a relaxing night out with our LAW friends. At this dinner LAW members review the past year's activities and services. The current president passes the gavel to the incoming president signifying the end of the 2017/18 year. Juli Margolin and Jodi Jannes will be planning this event. Please look in the winter *BRIEF* for more details to come.

Service Project News- Marti Marvin & Kathy Poetting

What an exciting time for LAW to be involved with the Ronald McDonald House, our service project recipient for the second year in a row! The house is about to get a complete make-over! Plans call for demolition in August and a rebuild in eleven days in September. The new Ronald McDonald House will have 18 rooms capable of housing a family of four. During the past year, LAW has helped RMH in three ways: we have raised money to purchase a bench for a therapeutic garden; we have cooked meals on-site for families staying at the house and for the Family Room at Mercy hospital; and we have purchased items from the "wish list" such as gift cards, personal care items, cleaning supplies and paper products. This year, we plan to continue our involvement with Ronald McDonald House making meals and providing "wish list" items. Please join us on November 2 to cook a meal and take a tour of the new facility. You can bring "wish list" items to any meeting and Marti or Kathy will deliver them to RMH. As the new house is built, we look forward to other opportunities to support the Ronald McDonald House in their mission to provide a home away from home for families with hospitalized children.

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



Fall 2017 Book Club Selections

The Book Club meets on the third Monday each month at Barnes & Noble on University in Clive. Discussions begin at 7 pm. If a date is changed, LAW members will receive notification via e-mail.

September 18	<u>Born a Crime</u> by Trevor Noah	Noah has used stories of his life on The Daily Show. His autobiography is the story of his growing up in South Africa. Because he had a black African mother and a white Swedish father his birth violated the Immorality Act of 1927 that outlawed interracial relationships. Though apartheid ended a decade after Noah's birth, its legacy lived on in the country's nigh-inescapable ghettos and perpetual racial conflicts, continuing to affect his life as he came of age. Noah is quick with a disarming joke as well as serious in describing the experiences in his formative years of poverty, injustice, and violence.
October 16	<u>Lincoln in the Bardo</u> by George Saunders	"It's historical in one way but sort of fantasy in another. It takes place in February of 1862, right after Lincoln's son Willy has died, and he's suffering terribly...it's an amazing book." Recommended by Iowa Public Radio
November 20	<u>Intruder in the Dust</u> by William Faulkner	"If you want to get started with Faulker and understand why he is loved so much, Intruder in the Dust is a really good starting place. If you like To Kill a Mockingbird, then you'll love this story." Recommended by Iowa Public Radio
December 18	<u>Still Life</u> by Louise Penny	The first book in the Louise Penny series is <i>Still Life</i> . An elderly woman was killed by an arrow in the forest. She has no apparent enemies except an estranged niece who would inherit her property. She is a little strange and lets no one in her house and although she is a painter she won't let anyone see the paintings. An interesting facet of the book is that the writer highlights tensions between French and English Canadians.
January 15	<u>News of the World</u> by Paulette Jiles	Historical fiction set in the aftermath of the American Civil War; this morally complex, multi-layered story explores the boundaries of family, responsibility, honor, and trust. Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd travels through northern Texas, giving live readings from newspapers to paying audiences hungry for news of the world. In Wichita Falls, he is offered a \$50 gold piece to deliver a young orphan to her relatives in San Antonio. Four years earlier, a band of Kiowa raiders killed Johanna's parents and sister; sparing the little girl, they raised her as one of their own. Recently rescued by the U.S. army, the ten-year-old has once again been torn away from the only home she knows. The aging Captain and little girl make a treacherous 400-mile journey to the aunt and uncle she does not remember; then find that the relatives regard her as an unwanted burden. A respectable man, Captain Kidd is faced with a terrible choice: abandon the girl to her fate or become—in the eyes of the law—a kidnapper himself.



2017-2018 Membership Form September Dinner Reservation

(Please detach this page and send with your check.)

Name _____

Spouse Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

____ new address ____ new email ____ new phone number

____ I would like to be reminded of LAW events: (circle one) by email by phone

____ I would like to receive the next edition of *The Brief* as: (circle one) paper electronic both

____ I would like a ride to meetings.

____ I would like to serve on the _____ committee(s).

____ I would like to host a meeting or provide treats for a meeting.

Membership (paid by December 31) entitles you to:

- Attend all meetings
- Invitations to the Holiday Open House, May Wine Dinner and other special events
- Our newsletter, *The Brief*
- Current membership directory
- Be a part of a great philanthropic and social organization that supports women and children in Polk County

Please make checks payable to LAW of Polk County, Inc. and mail to: **LAW of Polk County, Inc., P.O. Box 65502, West Des Moines, IA 50265**. If you are sending in your RSVP for the September Dinner, your check must be received by September 1.

Dues for 2017-2018	\$40.00
(includes a \$5 donation to our Scholarship Fund)	
Additional donation to the Scholarship Fund	\$ _____
Contribution to the Ronald McDonald House	
(tax deductible, make check to LAW)	\$ _____
September Dinner Reservation	
(due by September 1)	\$28.00
TOTAL due to LAW of Polk County, Inc.	\$ _____

Get on Board...

Being part of LAW allows new friendships to develop while helping to carry on the tradition of supporting various charities that enrich the lives of children, women, and families in Polk County and surrounding communities. Please consider helping with a committee this year.

COURTESY/HISTORIAN: Responsible for sending cards to members for appropriate occasions, purchasing stationery supplies, keeping a scrapbook of all newspaper articles and other memorabilia of LAW of Polk County, and taking pictures at LAW meetings and events. Please contact the chair of this committee if you have news about a current or former LAW member.

HOSPITALITY/PROGRAM: Responsible for arranging locations of meetings, securing speakers for meetings, appointing refreshment chair for each meeting, and serving on the May Annual Dinner committee. This committee is always looking for new ideas for meetings and locations for the meetings. Please contact the co-chairs if you have some meeting ideas!

MAY ANNUAL DINNER: (AKA May Wine Dinner) Responsible for securing the location, meal, invitations, and all other incidentals involved with this event. Please contact the co-chairs if you are interested in helping!

SCHOLARSHIP: Serves as liaison for LAW of Polk County with The Greater Des Moines Community Foundations, and responsible for choosing the recipient for the LAW of Polk County scholarship. Please contact the chair of this committee if you would like to help select our next recipient.

SERVICE PROJECT: Organizes the annual fundraising service project. Also serves as a liaison with our service project recipient to coordinate volunteer activities and projects. Please contact the co-chairs if you would like to volunteer at The Ronald McDonald House, our partner for 2017-18.



LAW of Polk County, Inc.
P.O. Box 65502
West Des Moines, IA 50265