



THE BRIEF

WINTER -SPRING 2017

2016-2017 LAW Board of Directors

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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

Welcome and happy 2017! I hope this issue of The Brief finds you happy and healthy. As we set out on the second half of our LAW calendar year, we continue to have a schedule of fun and learning ahead of us. In addition, we are starting to plan for next year's agenda of fun and philanthropy. I encourage you to read through The Brief, mark your calendars, and be sure to join us in the upcoming events!

This year, our service project is Ronald McDonald house. We have been collecting items for the house, such as supplies and gift cards, making meals for the families staying at the house and hospitals, and also raising monies to go towards a bench for the new Therapy Garden that they are working on at the house. I encourage each and everyone of you to find a way to serve RMH with your time, treasure or talents. If you can, take the time to volunteer to make a meal sometime - it is a wonderful and heart-warming experience. At the bottom of this letter, you will find a list of needed items. Keep RMH in mind when you are out and about shopping and pick up a few things or gift cards here and there. You may bring them along to any meeting and Kathy or Marti will deliver them to the house. And, we are always welcoming monetary contributions to go towards the swing

As we look ahead, one of the most important things coming up is the selection of our next philanthropic recipient. We are currently seeking applicants for service project funds for the 2017-18 LAW year. 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.

Our Nominating committee will soon be meeting to fill the slate for the Executive Board, and our President-Elect Liz Brennan will be seeking volunteers for the Board positions. In the spirit of helping each other and continuing our tradition of fun, food, and philanthropy, please say "YES!" when you are asked to help in some way.

Thank you for being a member of LAW and I look forward to joining with you in the upcoming activities! **Heidi Puckett, President**

Check out our website: www.lawpolkcounty.com

Email us at lawpolkcounty@gmail.com

Join us on Facebook: LAW of Polk County

General Meeting Program Highlights – 2017

Thursday, January 5, 6:30 pm

Gilroy's (formerly Jimmy's)

1238 8th Street, WDM

Take time for LAW's Girl's Night Out by enjoying stylish American comfort food at Gilroy's. The menu includes equal parts delicious and trendy faree which when combined with our own excellent company will be a good time. If you can come, text Ellen at 515-250-7118 and let her know. If you forget to text, come anyway - we'll make room!

Thursday, February 2, 7:00 pm

Iowa Center for Economic Success

8345 University Ave, Suite F, Clive, Iowa

LAW member Amelia Lobo, Director of Credit and Lending at the Iowa Center for Economic Success will introduce us to the center, which helps clients attain skill, assets, and relationships they need to succeed in creating a sustainable business. The state of Iowa does not have a good record for women starting small businesses which Amelia and her co-directors would like to change.

Thursday, March 2, 7:00 pm

Home of Ellen Hansing

4038 Greenview Drive, Urbandale

LAW's Service Project recipient will be revealed. Learn how we can use our resources and talents to support a worthy cause.

No General meeting in April

Thursday, May 4

May Wine Dinner and LAW Annual Meeting

TBA

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Program and Hospitality - Ellen Hansing and April Poulsen

Check out the listing in this Brief for our schedule of informative and entertaining program events coming up this this winter and spring. These meetings provide a great opportunity to bring along a prospective member. Looking forward to seeing you at Gilroy's!

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 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.

Future Planning Update - Liz Brennan, President Elect

Future Planning meetings are a time to come together to brainstorm ideas for LAW's future. In trying to simplify our meetings, the Board decided to hold future Future Planning discussions at a General meeting. These will be planned and announced ahead of time, so that members who would like to attend can join in the discussions. If at any time you have suggestions or question please feel free to contact me or any other Board member.

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

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

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 or Juli at 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

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.

Winter 2016-17 Meeting Schedule

Meeting Type	Date and Time	Location	Hospitality/Treats
General	Thursday, 1/5/17	Gilroy's 1238 8th Street WDM	Ladies Night Out
Book Club	Monday, 1/9/17 7:00pm	Barnes & Noble 4550 University Ave, WDM	
General	Thursday, 2/2/17 7pm	Iowa Center for Economic Success 8345 University Blvd, Suite F Clive	Darlene Brickman
Book Club	Monday, 2/13/17 7pm	Barnes & Noble 4550 University Ave, WDM	
General	Thursday, 3/2/17 7:00pm	Home of Ellen Hansing 4038 Greenview Drive, Urbandale	Val Witt
Book Club	Monday, 3/13/17 7:00pm	Barnes & Noble 4550 University Ave, WDM	
Book Club	Monday, 4/10/17 7:00pm	Barnes & Noble 4550 University Ave, WDM	
Board	Tuesday, 4/18/17 7:00pm	Home of Liz Brennan 804 38th Street WDM	16-17 Board
General	Thursday, 5/4/17	TBA	
Book Club	Monday, 5/8/17 7:00pm	Barnes & Noble 4550 University Ave, WDM	
Book Club	Monday, 6/1/17 7:00pm	Barnes & Noble 4550 University Ave, WDM	

Book Club	Monday, 8/14/17 7:00pm	Barnes & Noble 4550 University Ave, WDM	
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Winter 2016-17 Book Club Selections

January 9	<u>The Midwife of Hope River</u> by Patricia Harm	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.
February 13	<u>Letters From Skye</u> By Jessica Brockmole	A charming love story expressed only in letters across continents over the timeframe of two world wars that stirs the heart. It was one of Publisher's Weekly's Best Books of 2013. A perfect selection for the month of Valentines!
March 13	<u>Victoria's Daughters</u> By Jerrold Packard	Queen Victoria bore four sons, but this book is about her five daughters. They were born to privilege but were married of politically all over Europe and experienced lives of intrigue and turmoil.
April 10	<u>A Man Called Ove</u> By Fredrik Backman	Ove is a curmudgeon -- the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. They call him 'the bitter neighbor from hell.'" However, behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. When a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox, it unfolds as a heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. The story explores the profound impact one life has on countless others.
May 8	<u>The Nazi Officer's Wife</u> By Edith Hahn-Ber, Susan Dwoerken	Susan Dworken assembled the writings of Edith Hahn-Ber that are in the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC to write this book. Edith Hahn was studying law in Vienna when the Gestapo forced her and her mother into a ghetto, issuing them papers branded with a "J". Soon, Edith was taken away to a labor camp, and though she convinced Nazi officials to spare her mother, when she returned home, her mother had been deported. Knowing she would become a hunted woman, Edith tore the yellow star from her clothing and went underground, scavenging for food and searching each night for a safe place to sleep. A Christian friend gave her papers with which she fled to Munich. A Nazi party member fell in love with her there, married her and kept her true

		identity a secret. Even when giving birth, she refused painkillers so she would not reveal self-incriminating information. During the war, she and her daughter are in a bombed out area, hiding, as Russians are raping women in the streets. Through it all, she wrote and kept her records of the experiences.
June 1	<u>Laura</u> By Vera Caspary (1942)	<p>The author, Caspary, pioneered the psycho thriller. Her novel, <u>Laura</u>, ran in Colliers magazine from October to November 1942 as a seven part serial entitled <i>Ring Twice for Laura</i>. Houghton Mifflin published <u>Laura</u> in book form. The story is about the murder investigation of the charming beautiful, beguiling, Laura, who was an ambitious and successful New York advertiser. A hardened NYPD detective who investigates and interrogates many of her admirers begins to fall in love with Laura. There is a stunning plot twist.</p> <p>Caspary's feminist themes were far ahead of her time. Her use of five different first person narrators was a stylistic tour de force. She also blended a murder investigation with a woman's quest for love and success as a new literary theme. The novel has some autobiographical elements; Caspary, like Laura, was an independent woman who earned her living as an advertiser and who struggled to balance career and romance</p>
July	No Book Club	
August 14	<u>Alexander Hamilton</u> By Ron Chernow	Chernow begins Hamilton's story in the Caribbean, showing how this bastard child born in 1755 and orphaned at the age of thirteen, took steps toward becoming a self-made man. He describes hamilton working in an import-export firm where he learned the commodities trade and dealt with exchanging money from all over the world. Washington selected him as treasury secretary because of his organization skill, integrity, understanding of international business, and banking experience. It was hamilton who persuaded Washington to avoid foreign entanglements. Hamilton's widow, Eliza, was committed to preserve her husband's materials to save his reputation from the slander of his political adversaries after his death. Chernow' research for the book included twenty-two thousand pages of materials.

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 / 515-953-8813) or Marti Marvin (martim6642@yahoo.com / 515-254-1014) for

more information