



2018-2019 LAW

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Juli Margolin &

Liz Brennan

Nominating

Val Witt

Scholarship

Liz Hodgson

Service Project/

Targeted Needs

Kathy Poetting &

Marti Marvin

THE BRIEF

Spring 2019

Happy New Year!

As I look back over the past LAW year, I am so proud of all we have accomplished! I want to thank my board for all your time and energy you have given to LAW.

We completed our fundraising for the Ronald McDonald House which now has a bench glider, a new waste can and sunshade for their therapeutic garden/play area.

Your response to our 2018-2019 philanthropy recipient, Kids First, has been overwhelming. Molly, Cole and Layne are so appreciative of LAW's support, from gift cards, office supplies, and cash donations, to stuffing envelopes and staffing the fundraiser. Year two for their Des Moines office is going strong and the legal community in central Iowa has embraced their services.

We have two program meetings left. In February, we'll meet at the Kids First new office and be trained to assist Layne at workshops for the children. Beyond the Mirror, in Valley Junction, will host us in March and clothing designer Jessica Plotz of Gia Rose, will show us some of her locally made designs and accessories. Our Annual May Wine Dinner meeting completes this rewarding and busy year, so mark your calendars now, you won't want to miss out! More details can be found elsewhere in this issue for all of our activities.

My time as president is quickly winding down and I am so grateful to our members, active or not, for all you do through your membership, financial contributions and targeted needs items, but most especially, the time you offer. Your efforts are so appreciated and recognized. Thank you.

May 2019 be filled with joy!

Denise McAfee, 2018-2019 LAW President

Check out our website: www.lawpolkcounty.com

Email us at lawpolkcounty@gmail.com

Join us on Facebook: LAW of Polk County

Meeting Highlights: Spring 2019

Thursday, January 3, 7 pm

Girls Night Out

It's Trivia Night at Fox Brewery, 103 South 11th Street, near Railroad in West Des Moines. Bring your spouse or your smart 21 and older child(ren) to help us win the trivia challenge. Watch for more details on our Facebook page and in an email. Bring a snack to share! Beverages are available to purchase.

Thursday February 7, 7 pm

Kids First Law Center

Our meeting will be at the new office of Kids First, 501 SW 7th Street, Suite G, Des Moines. The program will be training to assist with their workshops that help kids understand and cope with their parents' separations and divorce. The workshops are interactive with games, discussions, role plays, and videos.

Thursday, March 7, 7 pm

Beyond the Mirror

Jessica Plotz from Gia Rose will show us pieces of her clothing line and offer style tips at her friend's shop, Beyond the Mirror, 230 5th Street in Valley Junction, West Des Moines. Jessica taught herself to sew by making her daughter clothing and soon after, customers, too. Gia Rose has grown from a custom order Etsy shop to a Women & Children's boutique!

Thursday April 11, 7 pm

Home of Ellen Hansing

The outgoing LAW board will provide a salad supper for the incoming 2019-2020 board at the home of Ellen Hansing, 4038 Greenview Drive, Urbandale. Celebrate the work of the 2018-2019 board and welcome the new LAW board. Non-board members are welcome to join us!

Thursday, May 2

Annual Dinner meeting

Watch your mail for LAW's May Wine Dinner meeting invitation. More information for this much anticipated annual event will be posted on our website as the date nears.

LAW of Polk County News

Service Project and Targeted Needs

Marti Marvin & Kathy Poetting

LAW members wasted no time in becoming acquainted with our new philanthropy recipient, Kids First. Two staff members, Layne Huey and Molly McPartland attended the fall dinner to introduce us to their non-profit organization and explore some of the ways we might partner with them. Several LAW members contributed office supplies, games and gift cards. October 11 found LAW involved in the Kids First fund raiser held at Confluence brewery. Members helped with set up and clean up, contributed to the fund-raising bidding, provided cupcakes with \$395 of donated gift cards randomly attached with some of those gift cards donated back to Kids First. The sale of the cupcakes brought in \$643. On November 19-20, LAW members worked 7 hours preparing a fund-raising mailing sent to possible donors. Instead of having a white elephant gift exchange at our holiday open house, LAW members brought gift cards for places where Kids First staff could meet with their young clients.

If you haven't been a part of the fun yet, there are still plenty of opportunities to participate in the coming months. At the February LAW meeting, we will receive training that will allow us to participate in the workshops Kids First provides for children whose families are experiencing divorce. After we are trained, we can volunteer to help at the regularly scheduled workshops. We would love to have you with us as we work with Kids First! If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Poetting or Marti Marvin.

*Please see the entire wish list for Kids First included in this newsletter.

Nominating

Val Witt

If you would like to be considered for an executive board position: President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer or Vice President for Membership, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee by January 25. The committee includes Marti Marvin, Barb Norton, Kathy Poetting, Ellen Hansing, Heidi Puckett and Chair Val Witt.

Spring 2019 Meetings

Meeting Type	Date and Time	Location	Notes
<i>BOOK CLUB</i>	<i>Monday, Jan. 21 7 pm</i>	<i>Barnes & Noble</i>	<i>Killer of the Flower Moon by David Grann</i>
<i>GENERAL</i>	<i>Thursday, Feb. 7 7 pm</i>	<i>Kids First Law Center 501 SW 7th Street, STE G Des Moines</i>	<i>Treats: Kathy Poetting</i>
<i>BOOK CLUB</i>	<i>Monday, Feb. 18 7 pm</i>	<i>Barnes & Noble</i>	<i>Educated by Tara Westover</i>
<i>GENERAL</i>	<i>Thursday, March 7 7 pm</i>	<i>Beyond the Mirror 230 5th St, Valley Jct. West Des Moines</i>	<i>Treats: Val Witt</i>
<i>BOOK CLUB</i>	<i>Monday, March 18 7pm</i>	<i>Barnes & Noble</i>	<i>We Were the Lucky Ones by George Hunter</i>
<i>GENERAL</i>	<i>Thursday, April 11 6:30 pm</i>	<i>Ellen Hansing's home 4038 Greenview Drive Urbandale</i>	<i>Outgoing/incoming Joint board Salad dinner</i>
<i>BOOK CLUB</i>	<i>Monday, April 15 7 pm</i>	<i>Barnes & Noble</i>	<i>Once Upon a River by Diane Setterfield</i>
<i>ANNUAL/MAY WINE DINNER</i>	<i>Thursday, May 2 Time TBD</i>	<i>Watch for your invitation</i>	<i>Past President's social prior to dinner</i>
<i>BOOK CLUB</i>	<i>Monday, May 20 7 pm</i>	<i>Barnes & Noble</i>	<i>An American Marriage by Tayari Jones</i>
<i>BOOK CLUB</i>	<i>Monday, June 17 7 pm</i>	<i>Barnes & Noble</i>	<i>Unsheltered by Barbara Kingsolver</i>
<i>BOOK CLUB</i>	<i>Monday, August 19 7 pm</i>	<i>Barnes & Noble</i>	<i>The Tea Girl of Hummingbird by Lisa See</i>

LAW of Polk County News

Future Planning

Ellen Hansing

A Future Planning meeting was held in November. Topics discussed included the following: 1) Develop a "hard" LAW calendar that would include when to pay certain fees (PO box, domain etc.) and file forms, 2) revise form for service organizations to apply for our philanthropic support (Kathy P. and Marti M. kindly volunteered), 3) attempt to reorganize LAW Google drive to save information in chronological order 4) review scholarship application, 5) possibly expedite business meetings. For example, eliminate reading minutes/balance etc., 6) finally, once again review by laws and policies to insure the most up to date version is on LAW's website. Philanthropic applications (can use old form for now) are due by February 1. Also, please let me know which appointed board position you are interested in chairing in 2019-2020. Happy New Year!

VP for Membership

Heidi Puckett

We are excited to announce that we will be having a Past President's Celebration prior to our May Wine Dinner and would LOVE to have as many past presidents as possible in attendance. Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 2, 2019. More information will follow! If you are interested in helping to plan the festivities, please contact me, we'd love to have help.

LAW of Polk County Inc. is seeking individuals who are interested in making a difference in the Des Moines community through philanthropic efforts. Thank you to those of you who have paid your dues and support our philanthropic endeavors. If you haven't renewed your membership yet this year, we encourage you to consider doing so - your dues help in continuing our mission. If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining LAW, feel free to invite them to one of our events to see what we are all about. Please watch your email for membership activities that occur throughout the year.

You may contact me at 515-210-9610 or email me at heidipuckett65@gmail.com with names and contact information or any questions.

Scholarship

Liz Hodgson

The 2018 recipient of the Cristine Swanson Wilson Memorial Scholarship is Rachel Leigh. Rachel attends the University of Iowa Law School and her goal upon graduating is to become a child advocate attorney at a non-profit law center in Iowa. Rachel is a native of Iowa City and a first-generation college student. Her volunteer experience includes Iowa Legal Aid, Kids First Law Center, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Johnson County Crisis Center Food Bank. She is on track to receive the Boyd Service Award at graduation for completing at least 100 hours of community service while in law school.

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 any time to LAW of Polk County, Inc. Please contact me if you are interested in serving on the committee to select our 2019 recipient. Email me at liz_hodgson@yahoo.com

Courtesy/Historian

Rita Pray

Our condolences go out to Karen Glomski on the loss of her husband, Richard Book; and to the family of former LAW Past President Deb Haskins, who recently passed away.

Please let Rita Pray know of any births, deaths or celebrations among our membership, so that it can be properly acknowledged. Send information to ritapray@gmail.com

May Annual Dinner

Juli Margolin and Liz Brennan

Save the Date! Mark your Calendars! The Annual May Wine Dinner will be on Thursday, May 2!

Planning has started for this traditional and fun event. Please plan on joining your friends on May 2 to celebrate another successful LAW year.

The May Wine committee needs your help! We want as many past members as possible to attend the dinner - please let all your (past or present) LAW friend know about the date of this year's dinner. The May Wine dinner is a great time to catch up with each other.

The May Wine committee is planning to meet on Thursday, January 31 at 7 pm at Barnes and Noble on University. If you would like to help with the party planning, please join us. If you have any questions, please contact Juli Margolin or Liz Brennan.



Below are items needed by Kids First Law Center of Greater Des Moines.
Please let us know if you would like to volunteer or donate an item.

Items for Workshops:

- Name Tags
- Wall Pads (poster-size paper with adhesive back)
- Printing paper
- Barking dog puppet (dog puppet that makes a barking noise)
- Gift cards for additional supplies listed above (Hy-Vee, Walmart)

Items for Meetings with Child

Clients:

- Gift cards to food places
 - Dairy Queen
 - McDonald's
 - Starbucks
 - Caribou
 - Orange Leaf
 - Menchie's
 - Dunkin Donuts
 - Visa (general)
- Simple travel games
 - Ker'plunk
 - Connect Four
 - Checkers
 - Jenga
 - Trouble
 - Battleship

Volunteers to:

- Assist with misc. fundraising opportunities:
 - Event committee for annual fundraiser
 - solicit gift cards from fast food places, ice cream and coffee shops
- Assist with assembling mailings
- Co-facilitate workshops for kids (training with Kids First required)
- Represent Kids First at volunteer/agency fairs
- Host a "Meet Kids First" Event in your home (breakfast, coffee, or after work) or a luncheon at Kids First to introduce your friends to our mission

Items for the Office:

- Post-it notes
- Legal pads (8½ x 11)
- Postage stamps
- Pens, staples, paper clips
- Stapler
- 2-prong Fastener File Folders

LAW BOOK CLUB

2019 Winter/Spring/Summer Selections

The Book Club meets on the third Monday each month at Barnes & Noble at 4550 University in West Des Moines. Discussions begin at 7 pm. If a date is changed, LAW members will receive notification via e-mail.

January 21 ***Killers of the Flower Moon*** by David Grann

A true-life story set in 1920's Oklahoma, this book tells of the systematic murders of wealthy Osage Indian tribe members, the mysterious conspiracy to cover them up, and the bungling by the FBI of one of their first investigations

February 18 ***Educated*** by Tara Westover

An autobiography by Tara whose parents were survivalists in Idaho. They had no contact with the government and did not allow the children to attend school. Her father owned a metal salvage yard. Her mother sold healing herbs and published a book, *Butterfly Miracles with Essential Oil*. She learned on her own mathematics, grammar and science then took the ACT. She attended Brigham Young University, Harvard and Cambridge University.

March 18 ***We Were the Lucky Ones*** by George Hunter

The story of the five Kurc siblings and their parents is based on true events. In the spring of 1939 they are not yet worried about the increasing hardships threatening Jews in Radom, Poland, but soon after the family members were flung to the far corners of the world. They were determined to survive and to reunite. It is a tribute to the triumph of hope and love against all odds that is a hopeful and inspiring read.

April 15 ***Once upon a River*** by Diane Setterfield

Magic and mayhem in a mystery by the author of *The Thirteenth Tale*.

May 20 ***An American Marriage*** by Tayari Jones

Roy is a young executive and Celestial is an artist. They are still newlyweds when Roy is arrested and sentenced to 12 years. Celestial knows he did not commit the crime but as time passes, she loses her feeling of love for him and becomes attached to an old friend. Then suddenly Roy's conviction is overturned, and he comes home.

June 17 ***Unsheltered*** by Barbara Kingsolver

Willa inherits a house just as her husband loses his academic tenure, his father requires their care, their daughter returns home after a failed love affair and their son gives them his baby because his wife committed suicide. A contractor tells them the house is in architectural shambles with no foundation. Looking for a preservation grant, Willa explores the history to find that the house belonged to a family in 1871 with troubles also. The story of the structural instability of the historic home and tribulations of its occupants is an allegory about the strains within American society.

No July Book Club

August 19 ***The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*** by Lisa See

See has wanted to write a novel about the One-child Policy in China for 20 years. This story is about a Chinese mother and her daughter who has been adopted by an American couple. See paints an unforgettable portrait of a little-known region in China and the intricate relationships between women.