

# LAW OF POLK COUNTY, INC.

## THE BRIEF

WINTER/SPRING 2012

### PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

Dear LAW Friends,  
Happy Holidays! I cannot believe it is that time of year again! I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful holiday season. I want to say a Huge Thank You to everyone for all the support you have given LAW already this year.

We've had a great fall season so far. The year started at The Gortz Haus for our September Dinner. We got to check out their wonderful art and shop a little and enjoy delicious food and wine. In October we had a presentation from The Tallgrass Grocery Coop in Valley Junction. We learned how coops work and all the wonderful local foods we have in Iowa. In November my friend Beth Steffensen showed us how to do digital scrapbooking at the Davis Brown Law Firm. We all got inspired to work on our pictures again! We just had a wonderful celebration at my home for the Holiday Open House. It was fun to see my LAW friends and their spouses!

We are planning something new this year, a Non- Event Event! Look for your invitation and more information later on in this Brief!. The Non- Event Event will solely benefit Lutheran Services In Iowa-Des Moines Refugee Program. The refugee program provides assistance to the elderly individuals, helping people with employment, and improving access to community resources. Please let Kristen Osborn

know what you will be donating or if you have any questions about the event. Also mark your calendars for February 4 for our reveal party! More details to come later!

I would love to see you at one of the General meetings this winter and spring. Liz Brennan has some exciting programs planned that are sure to fill your calendar with some great activities. As always, plan to close the year with the wonderful May Wine Dinner – a great time to see old friends, make some new ones and introduce our great philanthropic organization to a potential member or two!

I have loved serving as your President this year. I've learned so very much and it has been a great growing experience. Not to mention I got to serve with some great friends. Please join me in the many fun things we have planned for this winter and Spring! Keep LAW of Polk Co, Inc. thriving and show everyone that you are proud to be a member!

To keep in contact with LAW activities go to our website, [www.lawpolkcounty.com](http://www.lawpolkcounty.com). Feel free to contact me for any reason at 440-0385 or [tedandapril1@yahoo.com](mailto:tedandapril1@yahoo.com)

Sincerely,  
April Poulsen  
2011-2012 LAW President

### LAW BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011

*President*

**April Poulsen**

*President-Elect*

**Karen Leibold**

*VP for Membership*

**Amber Mikkelsen**

*Secretary*

**Amy Snyder**

*Treasurer*

**Val Witt**

*Courtesy/Historian*

**Darlene Brickman**

*Hospitality/Program*

**Liz Brennan**

*May Wine Dinner*

**Denise McAfee  
Ellen Hansing  
Kathy Poetting**

*Nominating*

**Juli Margolin**

*Philanthropy*

**Liz Hodgson**

*Communications*

**Lynne Updegraff**

*Scholarship*

**Barb Norton**

*Service Project*

**Kristen Osborn**

*Targeted Needs*

**Deanne Gummert**

## WINTER- SPRING 2012 LAW MEETING SCHEDULE

DATE	MEETING	TIME	LOCATION
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**Thursday, January 5**

**General**

**Fleur Theaters**

4545 Fleur Drive

Des Moines

**Girls Night Out**

Named “Des Moines’ Best Movie Theater” by the *Des Moines Register*, The Fleur Theater offers movies and munchies. Watch for an announcement of what movie we will be seeing. We will meet for some snacks and enjoy a movie together – just what is needed after a festive New Year!

**Tuesday, January 24**

**Board**

**7 pm**

**Karen Leibold**

1550 NW 75th St

Clive

**Saturday, February 4**

**Reveal Party**

**7 pm**

**TBA**

Plans are still being made for our Reveal Party to announce the monies earned from our 1st Non-Event Event. If you would like to be part of the planning committee, please contact Kristen Osborn. Let’s make it the most successful silent auction yet – bring your friends to help raise money for Refugee Services.

**Tuesday, February 21**

**Board**

**7 pm**

**Kristen Osborn**

6308 NW 96th

Johnston

**Thursday, March 1**

**General**

**7 pm**

**Karen Leibold**

1550 NW 75th St

Clive

**Vintage Eye Candy**

You are invited into Karen’s home to look into the past through her collection of buttons. Her treasures will make you smile as you discover shapes, colors and textures that will delight you! What a sweet treat!

**Thursday, April 5**

**Board**

**6:30 pm**

**Val Witt**

**General**

**7 pm**

4342 Oakwood Lane

West Des Moines

**New Service Project Recipient**

The April meeting has always been reserved for our new Service Project Recipient to make a presentation. Who will it be for 2012-13? Come to this meeting to find out!

**Tuesday, April 24**

**Joint Board**

**6:30 pm**

**April Poulsen**

1218 32nd St

West Des Moines

**Thursday, May 3**

**General**

**6:30 pm**

**TBA**

**May Wine Dinner** *Celebrating 89 years of LAW!*

Often the most popular event of the year, please mark your calendars for the 2012 May Wine Dinner. Your personal invitation will let you know of the location and the menu.

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## BOOK CLUB NEWS

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**2012 LAW BOOK CLUB** meets on the second Thursday of the month (not in July).

Time: 7:00 pm (or earlier and read awhile)

Place: Panera 4150 Westown Pkwy Ste 202, West Des Moines

### February 9

*Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman* Robert K. Massie

The extraordinary story of an obscure young German princess who traveled to Russia at fourteen and rose to become one of the most remarkable, powerful, and captivating women in history.

### March 8

*O'Hurley Born: The Last Honest Woman* \ *Dance to the Piper* Nora Roberts

Cynical journalist Dylan Crosby knew that the just-a-simple-widow routine Abby O'Hurley was giving him wasn't anything close to the truth. There was a story there. All he had to do was turn on the charm, turn down the lights and she would whisper all her secrets. Unless she uncovered his first...

### April 12

*The Great Gatsby* Scott Fitzgerald

Jay Gatsby built an illegal empire to win the love of Daisy Buchanan, but his sacrifices for her proved to be his downfall.

### May 10

*Wuthering Heights* Emily Bronte

Catherine and Heathcliff are the tempestuous lovers in this tale of passion and revenge on the Yorkshire moors.

### June 14

*The Count of Monte Cristo* Alexandre Dumas père (Translated by Robin Buss)

The Count of Monte Cristo is a delicious book, full of intrigue, great fight scenes, love, passion, and witty social satire. Dumas has a wonderful grasp of human nature and a talent for rendering all the follies of man in delightful, snappy prose.

### August 9

*The Marriage Plot* Jeffrey Eugenides

Are the great love stories of the nineteenth century dead? Or can there be a new story, written for today and alive to the realities of feminism, sexual freedom, prenups, and divorce? With devastating wit and an abiding understanding of and affection for his characters, Jeffrey Eugenides revives the motivating energies of the Novel.

(All descriptions are copied from book reviews online.)

## VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEMBERSHIP REPORT

LAW of Polk County continually seeks out individuals who want to make a difference in the Des Moines community through our philanthropic endeavors. If you know of anyone who would be interested in membership please contact Amber Mikkelsen at 745-9812 or [amberbeth29@hotmail.com](mailto:amberbeth29@hotmail.com) with names and contact information. We would also like to welcome back former members we haven't seen in awhile, please encourage those to rejoin LAW. Contact Amber with any questions.

There will be a gathering at the beginning of 2012 for members, prospective members and their families. Look for more information via email soon.

Amber Mikkelsen, *Membership Chair*

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## SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

The Cristine Swanson Wilson Memorial Scholarship will be awarded this spring to a deserving University of Iowa woman law student. The scholarship application deadline is March 15, 2012 and the application can be found at [www.lawpolkcounty.org](http://www.lawpolkcounty.org). The scholarship fund, administered by the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, is currently maintaining a balance of around \$52,000. 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 even in hard economic times. Your tax-deductible contributions can be made at anytime to LAW of Polk County, Inc.

Barb Norton, Scholarship Chair

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## MAY WINE DINNER

The May Wine Dinner Committee is beginning to plan for the 2012 event! We would love to have input from you. We will gladly consider locations, caterers, and ideas and suggestions for this annual end of year gathering. Also, each of you is welcome to join our committee, please contact us. Date Thursday, May 3 at 6:30 PM. We will be celebrating 89 years of LAW!

2012 Committee Chairs

Denise McAfee, Ellen Hansing & Kathy Poetting

## NOMINATING UPDATE

Elections were held at the May Wine Dinner for the three non-board positions for the Nominating Committee. Those elected and agreeing to serve this year are Heidi Puckett, Amy Updegraff, and Jen Pietila. Thank You, Ladies!! These three members, along with the President-Elect, Karen Leibold; VP for Membership, Amber Mikkelsen; and Nominating Chair, Juli Margolin will be responsible for proposing the executive board for the year 2012-2013. All committee members need to attend one Board Meeting before January 2012. If you are interested in an executive position (President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer or Vice President for Membership) for the 2012-2013 board please contact one of the people listed above. Thank you to the Nominating Committee members for their willingness to serve on the Nominating Committee.

## GET ON BOARD FOR 2012-2013

**Get on Board...** be a part of LAW 2012-2013. Help LAW accomplish another year of service to our community, and get to know some great people! Please let me know what interests you. [kcleibold@aol.com](mailto:kcleibold@aol.com)

### **COURTESY/HISTORIAN:**

Do you like to take pictures and scrapbook? Can you do a little cross stitching or want to meet members who stitch? Well this is the committee for you. Responsible for sending cards to members for appropriate occasions, making and sending bibs to new mothers, purchasing stationery supplies, keeping a scrapbook of all newspaper articles, pictures and other memorabilia of LAW of Polk County, preparing an annual report of the transactions and conditions of LAW of Polk County and coordinating a new mother's social activity in the Spring.

### **HOSPITALITY/PROGRAM:**

Needed — a member who loves to plan speakers and events. Responsible for arranging locations of board and general meetings, securing speakers for general meeting programs, appointing a Refreshment Chair for the regular meetings when needed, and serving on the May Wine Dinner committee.

### **MAY WINE DINNER:**

Do you want to chair a fun committee or plan a party? Then this is the committee for you. Responsible for arranging the location, invitations, meal, and all other incidents involved with the annual May Wine Dinner.

### **NOMINATING:**

This committee helps to shape the direction of LAW. Responsible for conducting an election at the annual meeting for the three at-large positions of the nominating committee, and chairing the committee to select the slate of officers for the following year.

### **PHILANTHROPY:**

Responsible for chairing a committee to choose the fundraising event for the following year's service project and the service project recipient.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

Do you love to send emails and communicate on the internet? This is a great way to be in the know for all LAW events. Responsible for publishing and mailing two newsletters to announce all meetings, events and projects of LAW of Polk County.

### **SCHOLARSHIP:**

Responsible for coordinating the scholarship fundraising activity, and choosing the recipient for the LAW of Polk County scholarship.

### **SERVICE PROJECT:**

Responsible for chairing a committee to organize the annual fundraising service project.

### **TARGETED NEEDS:**

Organize and deliver collection of items needed by the organization receiving our service project funds.

## COURTESY UPDATE

This year we have had three new LAW babies. Liam James Miller born July 1 to Amy and BJ Miller, Grant Douglas Mikkelsen born September 21 to Amber and Scott Mikkelsen, and Grayson Richard Updegraff born August 26th to Amy and Eric Updegraff. Congratulations to the new parents!

Happy News or sad news-let me know so that I can reach out to members to let them know that LAW friends are thinking of them. Telephone [515.277.3180](tel:515.277.3180) or email [darbrick@msn.com](mailto:darbrick@msn.com).

In May we will invite all new mothers to a New Mothers' Brunch. Please send me names of new mothers to invite.

Darlene Brickman

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## PHILANTHROPIC COMMITTEE

LAW of Polk County has a long history of supporting charities in Polk County that help women and children. The Philanthropic Committee is charged with the responsibility of choosing a group to receive funds raised in 2011-2012. The committee also discusses and decides possible fundraisers for the following year. If you would like to help choose next year's recipient and decide on our fundraising efforts, please come to the Philanthropic Committee meetings. Meetings will be held in January and will be announced in the winter issue of the Brief as well as through e-mail. Finally, if you know of a worthy group interested in applying to be our recipient, please notify me. A copy of the grant form can be found on our website [www.lawpolkcounty.com](http://www.lawpolkcounty.com).

Liz Hodgson [liz\\_hodgson@yahoo.com](mailto:liz_hodgson@yahoo.com) or 979-5833.

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## SERVICE PROJECT

LAW of Polk County has a long history of supporting charities in Polk County that help women and children. The 2011-2012 Service Project will be a Non-event Event. You will find your invitation and more information on page 8 of the brief.

A Non-event Event involves members, friends and families donating money to our charity. All the donations will go directly to the recipient. No costs for rooms, food, decorations etc... The money for the formal invitations is budgeted LAW Service Project funds.

To reach our goals we ask LAW members to consider a \$100 donation. We know this is a hard time of the year, but consider asking some friends and family members to give small donations to help you reach the larger goal.

On February 4th we plan to have a reveal party to announce our final total. More information will be sent on this event as final details become available.

## LUTHERAN SERVICES OF IOWA-2011 RECIPIENT

This year's recipient is Lutheran Services in Iowa. LSI works with refugees in Des Moines, and has asked LAW to help with a program in which older refugee women meet not only to knit and craft but also provides an opportunity for the women to get out of their homes and learn about their new community. The program was started due to the fact that the older refugee women are hesitant to leave their homes in their new country due to cultural and language barriers. The funds raised by LAW will go to purchasing knitting and crafting materials for the program. Also watch for opportunities for LAW members to provide materials throughout the year.

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## TARGETED NEEDS

LAW of Polk County, Inc. is excited to support Lutheran Services of Iowa and their refugee program as our Targeted Needs recipient for 2011-2012.

"The Des Moines refugee community is very diverse. In recent years, people of refugee status have arrived mainly from Iraq, Burma, Nepal, and Burundi. LSI has a rich history in refugee services, and today we are the only agency in Des Moines with a primary focus to provide extended support services for the refugee community."

They provide services to their clients through three core areas assisting elderly individuals, helping people overcome barriers to employment, and improving access to community resources.

Jill Stuecker, Director of Refugee Lutheran Services in Iowa, has provided a list of needs/ideas that LAW can help provide throughout the upcoming year.

- ◇ Notebooks (to provide to clients for participation in English classes)
- ◇ Pencils (for English classes)
- ◇ Crayons/coloring books (for the kids during English classes)
- ◇ Dry erase markers (for classrooms)
- ◇ Kleenex (for classrooms)
- ◇ Paper towels (for break room during English classes)
- ◇ Tea bags( for breaks during English classes)
- ◇ Sugar (for breaks during English classes...families from Burma, Bhutan, and Eritea won't drink tea without sugar so they go through a lot)
- ◇ Bus tokens, which provide transportation for the clients to get to and from English classes, are the biggest need at this time.

I anticipate collecting these several times throughout the LAW year. I will provide more information about that later. Throughout our year I will send out through e-mail and/or our Brief the item(s) to be collected.

LSI's refugee services in Des Moines help individuals build self-sufficiency for their new lives here in Iowa. Let's show them LAW supports and welcomes our new neighbors!

Deanne Gummert

[gummerts@mchsi.com](mailto:gummerts@mchsi.com)

Targeted Needs Chairperson 2011-2012

## LAW OF POLK COUNTY 1ST ANNUAL NON-EVENT EVENT

*This is a very special invitation!* You are being invited to attend our first-ever Non-Event Event

This is **NOT** an invite to a Silent Auction!

This is **NOT** an invite to a Jewelry party!

This is **NOT** an invite to a Candle party!

This is **NOT** an invite to a Bag party!

This is **NOT** an invite to a Gourmet Food party!

This is **NOT** an invite to a Kitchenware party!

This is **NOT** an invite to a Romantic Aid party!

This is **NOT** an invite to a Make-up party!

This is **NOT** an invite to a House Decorating party!

AND, this is **NOT** an invite to a Scrapbooking party!!

*Aren't you relieved? Especially this time of year?!*

Well, at LAW's event this year, you don't have to worry about finding a day and time that works best to host a party, you don't have to worry about making a guest list for the consultant, and you definitely do not have to clean your house or get dressed up for this event!! Nor do you have to worry about going to one of these parties and buying items you might or might not use!!

If you are excited about this event, all we ask is that you might donate \$10.00 for every party you'd rather not be invited to, maybe \$20.00 or more if you feel real passionate about not coming....you know...those romantic aid parties *can* be pretty embarrassing! At this event, all proceeds will be going to LAW of Polk County's charity of the year, the Lutheran Services of Iowa Refuge program. These refugees have been displaced from their homelands and need our help.

Please relax at home and write a check that will make a difference in the life of another person, made payable to LAW of Polk County Inc. Please have your donation into LAW by February 1st. Donations can be mailed to Kristen Osborn, 6308 NW 96th St, Johnston, IA 50131. Of course, all donations are 100% tax deductible and a receipt will be sent to you.

In honor of all this hard work, we will be having a simple party to reveal our overall donation to LSI Refuge program on February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, location to be announced....

***Formal Invitations will be coming in the mail with self address envelopes to return your donations please give generously to help these refuges.***

*"We do not mean to offend or disrespect anyone who actually sells products like these or host parties like these."*



# MEMBERSHIP INVITATION

Amber Mikkelsen, *Membership Chair*

There will be a gathering at the beginning of 2012 for members, prospective members and their families. Look for more information via email soon.

## 2011-2012 LAW MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mail to: PO Box 65502, West Des Moines, IA 50265

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Firm or Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

New address       New phone number       New e-mail.

I would like to receive the LAW Brief (newsletter) via email instead of a printed copy.

Contact me via e-mail to remind me of upcoming meetings & events.

I would like a phone call to remind me about LAW events.

I would like to be contacted to serve on a committee this year.

Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to host a General Meeting

I would bring treats to a General Meeting

Payment of dues offers entrance to the Holiday Party and all General Meetings. You will receive The Brief and a directory of all members. You will also be part of an organization that promotes women and children in Iowa through our Service Projects and Scholarship.

### 2010-2011 LAW FEES

\$40 ..... Yearly Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Dues include a \$5 tax-deductible donation to Scholarship Fund.)

\$10 ..... Student Dues \$10 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(If you are a spouse of a Law student, use this lower membership fee.)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ ..... Additional Donation to Scholarship Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: LAW of Polk County  
Mail to: PO Box 65502, West Des Moines, IA 50265



LAW OF POLK COUNTY, INC.

PO Box 65502  
West Des Moines, IA 50265



The mission of LAW is  
to enrich the greater  
Des Moines community  
and our membership  
through philanthropy  
and fellowship.

