



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan 2013 Annual Report

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FURTHERING
HER STORY
TOGETHER

Women Lawyers Association of Michigan



President
Hon. Angela Sherigan

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Marla Linderman

Vice President
Michele Rivas

Treasurer
Kristen Pursley

Secretary
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WLAM ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

April 2013

PRESIDENT'S REPORT –

The 2012-2013 year was a very busy year for the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan. Our organization continues to grow and the state board continues to strengthen and become more visible.

It was my pleasure to serve WLAM as president this year, again, and I am so pleased with our members' commitment to WLAM. The year started out with the 2012 annual meeting and program in Grand Rapids, and with Julie Wagner as our president. However, a few months into the term, Julie left us for a position out of state and had to resign. Thank you, Julie, for your service. WLAM did not follow the normal pattern of succession and I returned to serve the remaining term as President. It was truly an honor, the support and vote of confidence that the board bestowed upon me.

During the last year, WLAM has continued to work with Governmental Consultant Services Inc., our association management company, renewing the contract for another year.

Our committees continued to see new faces this year, and were very active. The Candidate Rating and Endorsement committee conducted the daunting task of ratings and endorsements for the 2012 judicial races. We received a lot of feedback, some good, some not so good, and will be visiting all of the regions soon for input on improving the process. The Legislative Committee was busy also, and WLAM released a statement condemning the free speech violations that occurred at the Michigan House of Representatives, which garnered national attention.

We also took part in the investiture of Justice Bridget Mary McCormak at the Michigan Supreme Court. I attended the ceremony and presented Justice McCormak with a WLAM banner. This was a first for WLAM, and for the Michigan Supreme Court.

The Regions have continued to have a strong membership and were very active, continuing to provide support, networking, speaking events, and participating in charitable and community service events at the local levels. The reports follow.

Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

I am confident that as WLAM moves forward into the next year, and beyond, it will continue to grow, and work to secure the rights of women in society, by meeting our mission to advance the interest of women members of the legal profession, to promote improvements in the administration of justice, and to promote equality and social justice for all people. I cannot wait for our 100 year anniversary in 2019!

Thank you to the Board of Directors, the Regions, and the membership for another great year.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela

Hon. Angela Sherigan
2011-2013 President, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

Treasurer's Report – Submitted by Kristen L. Pursley

2012 Statement of Operations

1. Dues Revenue – WLAM actual dues revenue for 2012 remained substantially the same as 2011, with a modest increase of \$130 (\$45,620 in 2012; \$45,490 in 2011).
2. Annual Meeting Revenue – The 2012 budget presumed the annual meeting would generate \$2610.00 in net revenue (\$8660 projected income-\$6050 projected expense). In fact, WLAM's 2012 Annual Meeting exceeded budget expectations and generated \$4,397.73 in net revenue.
3. Dues paid to Regions – The 2012 budget estimated dues to regions in the amount of\$ 11,378.75. Actual dues paid to regions in 2012 totaled 7,267.50 (\$4,111.25 under budget projections).
4. Partnering Programs – Our partnering programs resulted in \$128.89 in income in 2012, falling short of 2012 budget expectations by a total of \$1371.11. This shortfall is due primarily to the transition to a new association management company and a resulting delay in promotion of WLAM's partnering efforts.
5. State Sponsored Events – The 2012 showing of *Miss Representation* in Ann Arbor, MI generated \$2,222.50. This exceeded 2012 budget expectations by \$1222.50.

In light of the Michigan's continuing economic recovery, dues revenue budget expectations were lowered for 2013 (below 2012 budget expectations). Annual meeting revenues are expected to far exceed 2013 budget expectations.

In view of these 2013 expectations, WLAM seeks to provide the following membership benefits in 2013-2014:

- An additional state-wide sponsored event in 2013;
- Special project funding to regions to support membership development;
- Budgeted upgrades for our communications and technology, including the addition of an online member directory.

Continuation of Procedural Improvements

With the move to a new association management provider in 2011, WLAM's financial processes continue to provide a monthly statement of operations that compares actual year to date finances with our expected budget as of that date so we can quickly ascertain if we are on target with the annual budget. Further, WLAM seeks to provide up to date information requests to regional leadership so that regional financial reports are accurate and dues payments to the regions are timely.



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

Thank you

I would like to thank all the regional and student chapter treasurers for their hard work this year: Lyndsay Ott (Macomb), Lori Herr (Mid-Michigan), Channelle Kizy-White (Oakland/WBA), Jennifer LaMay (Great Lakes Bay), Kate Sharkey (Washtenaw), Alena Clark (Wayne), Jeannine Bolhouse (Western), Jessica Baker (Cooley Lansing), and Garmai Kweekeh (Cooley Grand Rapids). I would also like to Michele Rivas, former State Treasurer and current Vice-President, for making it so very easy to assume treasurer duties, for providing support throughout the year and especially when I was home with a new baby.

INCOME:

640 • Dues

640.1 • Sustaining 10,075.00
640.10 • Associate Member 125.00
640.2 • 5 + 27,025.00
640.3 • 1 - 5 years 5,900.00
640.4 • Student 2,025.00
640.5 • Admitee 75.00
640.6 • Retired 200.00
640.7 • Extra Region 475.00
640.8 • New (Incentive) 0.00
640.9 • Paralegal 120.00
640.99 • Transition 75.00
Total 640 • Dues 45,620.00

660 • Interest Income 44.13

680 • Other Income

680.1 • Partnerships 128.89
680.2 • Miss Representation Screening 2,222.50
680.4 • WLAM Merchandise 295.00
Total 680 • Other Income 2,646.39

690 • Annual Meeting Income

690.1 • Members 3,105.00
690.2 • Non-Members 0.00
690.3 • Sponsorship 6,174.30
690.4 • Student 0.00
690.5 • Luncheon Only 300.00
Total 690 • Annual Meeting Income 9,579.30

Total Income 57,889.82



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

EXPENSE:

700 • Member Services Expenses

710 • Board

710.1 • Meetings 25.65

710.2 • Conference Calls 418.79

710.4 • D&O Insurance 875.00

Total 710 • Board 1,319.44

720 • Committee Expenses

720.10 CREC 762.50

720.2 • Membership Committee 197.45

Total 720 • Committee Expenses 959.95

730 • Licenses & Fees

730.1 • Non-profit Permit - State fee 20.00

Total 730 • Licenses & Fees 20.00

740 • Regions

740.1 • Dues to regions 7,267.50

Total 740 • Regions 7,267.50

750 • Marketing

750.3 • Constant Contact 144.00

750.5 • WLAM logo merchandise 498.62

Total 750 • Marketing 642.62

780 • Other Events

780.2 • Miss Representation Screening 1,000.00

Total 780 • Other Events 1,000.00

790 • Annual Meeting Expense

790.1 • Facility 3,557.81

790.2 • Awards

790.2.1 • President Gift 99.82

790.2 Awards - Other 254.20

Total 790.2 • Awards 353.48

790.4 • Committee 0.00

790.5 • Supplies 431.14

790.8 • Give Aways/Speaker Gifts 116.46

790.10 Speakers 1,127.06.00

Total 790 • Annual Meeting Expense 3,544.21



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

800 • Professional Fees

800.10 • Accounting Services 600.00

810 • Management Contract GCSI 24,000.00

Total 800 • Professional Fees 24,600.00

810 • Professional Dues

810.1 • NCWBA 150.00

Total 810 • Professional Dues 150.00

820 • Bank Fees

820.1 • Merchant Services 3,044.98

Total 820 • Bank Fees 3,044.98

830 • Web Resources

830.1 • Web Hosting Fee 214.40

830.4 • Tech Support 15.00

Total 830 • Web 229.40

840 • Office Supplies

840.10 • Copies 74.30

840.30 • Labels 31.10

Total 840 • Office Supplies 105.40

850 • Postage 65.47

860 • Phone 600.99

890 • Charitable Contributions 250.00

900 • Prior Year Expenses 1,149.99

Total Expense 46,991.69

Net Income 10,898.13



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

Great Lakes Bay Region

The women of the Great Lakes Bay Region had a great year! We enjoyed events throughout the region, in Frankenmuth, Midland, Bay City, and Saginaw. This summer our group convened for a wine and chocolate tasting event in Frankenmuth. In addition, we enjoyed spending time outside and supporting a worthy cause when many of our members attended “Rockin on the River” an event to Support Child and Family Services of Saginaw, held on the Princess Wenonah, a small cruise ship docked in the Saginaw River in Bay City. In the fall, we enjoyed social events at local restaurants in Saginaw and Midland. This Holiday Season we had our annual Holiday Dinner Party at Kathleen’s Restaurant at Apple Mountain Ski Resort in Freeland. In the spirit of the season, we collected lightly used professional clothing, which was donated to Shelter house, a Domestic Violence Shelter in Midland, Michigan.

We look forward to discussing our plans for next year at our upcoming annual meeting to be held at the Atrium Restaurant in downtown Bay City.

JENNIFER L. LaMAY
Region President



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

MACOMB ANNUAL REPORT

I am proud to submit this report on the various activities of Macomb during the 2012-2013 year. We have been more active than ever and our membership has increased nearly double. We began the year with a very successful membership drive that we hope to make an annual event. The event was very well attended and set the tone for the entire year.

Another very successful event included a seminar presentation by outgoing State Bar President Julie Fershtman entitled "Improve Your Image and Ratings for Career." The presentation instructed or members on the importance of public ratings and awards and how to get higher ratings and get recognized by organizations that grant awards such as Super Lawyers. This presentation led to a pledge to help one another with their ratings and nominations. This event also inspired a regional referral list in which members signed up for during a holiday luncheon.

The Macomb Region also engaged in some physical activity. First we held a yoga event led by a licensed therapist who designed a relaxing class guiding us through poses to ease the stress of our jobs. We also started a golf clinic which is a 5 lesson program led by a pro. The idea spurred from the feeling that deals are made on the golf course and the golf course is usually filled by men. This clinic is still going and is a nonthreatening, fun way for us to bond and learn to golf.

Right now we are currently in the process of co-sponsoring a CLE seminar with the Macomb County Family Law Committee on the topic of "Identifying and Advocating for Victims of Domestic Violence" which will take place on May 13. We are also in the preliminary stages of planning a book club meeting featuring the book "Lean In" by the COO of Facebook who discusses how women unintentionally hold themselves back in their careers. It will be a lively discussion!

In sum, we have had a very successful year and look forward to the year ahead.

- Kristin Stone

WLAM MID-MICHIGAN REGION

Annual Report

The Mid-Michigan Region had a very successful year. Beginning in May 2012, the Mid-Michigan Chapter honored a new board. Since the induction of the new board, the Region has set some new goals which they have strived for all year.

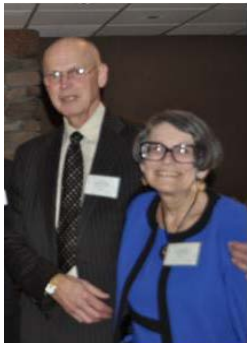
The Region hosted various events in order to insight membership. These events were hosted in order to allow members and nonmembers to socialize in a relaxing atmosphere. The Region was also proud to have student members from the Lansing campus of Thomas M. Cooley Law School participate in these events.

One of Mid-Michigan's major goals this year was communication! This year, the Region began to utilize the WLAM website to post events. The Region also began a Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/WLAMMidMichigan>

With regard to community service, the Region took an active role in Toys for Tots during the holiday season. The Region held their first holiday party on December 4, 2012 and asked that each person in attendance bring a toy. The toys collected were sure to bring smiles to children's faces.

The Mid-Michigan WLAM held their 20th Annual Stell Scholarship Award ceremony on October 25, 2012. At the reception the organization honored Judge David L. Jordon for his dedication to women's rights and the community. Judge Jordon has been an active supporter of the Women



Lawyers Association of Michigan since its existence and proudly displayed a WLAM banner inside his courtroom. Judge Jordan retired in 2012 after twenty-two years on the bench. Judge Jordon is married to Judge Carolyn Stell, Ret., for whom the scholarship is named. Judge Carolyn Stell was gracious enough to attend the ceremony honoring her husband; Judge Stell also took the podium that evening and gave an inspirational speech about her struggles and achievements as the fourth female attorney in Ingham County.

Every year the Region also awards a \$1,000.00 scholarship to a deserving student who exemplified high academic achievement while furthering the rights of women in society. The recipient of the scholarship this year was Josephine Olabisi Ogboye, from Michigan State University College of Law.

With last year behind us, and the 2013 year "springing" forward, the Region has several exciting events in the near future.



WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OAKLAND COUNTY REGION OF WLAM



Annual Report

- **June 23, 2012 – Summer Planning Meeting** - We had a great summer planning meeting at Kristin Murphy's house to plan our 2012-2013 year. We discussed our agenda for the coming year as well as special events we have planned. Many of our popular events will continue such as our mentoring event, fall networking, Patriot Week event, holiday party and Wine Down. We also signed up for committees and special committees for the year and were pleased to welcome some new faces. We are looking forward an active and fun year! Our first board meeting will be after Labor Day on September 5th at 5:30 p.m.
- **Patriot Week Event** - For the 3rd year in a row the WBA hosted a Patriot Week event showing a movie to commemorate the women's suffrage movement. We gathered for a free event at Goldfish Tea in Royal Oak. This year we showed the movie - *One Woman, One Vote*.
Synopsis: The 70-year battle for women's suffrage is the subject of this gripping documentary. One Woman, One Vote documents the struggles both of the leaders and the women who fought alongside them. From Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Alice Paul, this film follows the fight for equal rights.
- **Membership Drive Event/Wine & Dine** - This event was a great success with a SOLD OUT crowd! We were joined by lawyers, law students and judges to make this event a fantastic success. Everyone enjoyed the delicious appetizers and wine from Pizzeria Biga. The event brought in 5 new members to our region – 2 lawyers practicing over 5 years and 3 lawyers practicing from 1-5 years.
- **Mentor Mingle** – This year we changed up the format of the annual mentorship event. This fun & new alternative to the standard mentor match-up provided the opportunity to chat & mingle with various attorneys experienced in their respective fields. The structure is with the hope that a lasting Mentor-Mentee relationship will develop organically. The event was set up in a "speed-mentorship" fashion where the Mentors were assigned to a table allowing groups of Mentees to rotate between the Mentor tables in 15 minute increments. Mentees chose up to 6 attorneys they want to speak with at the event. The mentors included a Judge, in house counsel and attorneys practicing in a variety of different areas of law. The event had a good turn out and was well received by mentors and mentees alike.
- **Holiday Party** – Our Annual Holiday Party took place at Leon & Lulu's on Thursday, December 13, 2012! This fun and festive event included the opportunity for holiday shopping as well as a silent auction. A portion of the night's proceeds were donated to our charity for the year. This year it was the Jacqueline Bayley Foundation - Jackie was an attorney at Collins Einhorn PC who passed away in 2011 from ovarian cancer a few months after her 34th birthday. She was 31 when diagnosed. The foundation is run by

female attorneys who were friends with Jackie (Eleanore Schroeder of Vandevveer Garzia and Dana Bennett of Foster Swift) and is a non-profit. The purpose of the foundation is raise funds for ovarian cancer awareness and research. Ovarian cancer is known as “the silent killer” since by the time it’s diagnosed, it’s usually in an advanced stage.

- **“Is Your Networking Not Working?” Event with Katrina Campau** – January 24, 2013. This event was an absolute hit. Katrina Campau led us in an interactive and helpful session for ways to improve your networking and focus on different personality types when networking. It was an excellent and productive session where everyone brought home at least one thing they learned or wanted to improve on in their networking.
- **Wine Down** – A fantastic group gathered at Black Finn in Royal Oak on March 13, 2013, for the Women’s Bar Association’s Wine Down. Always a great night to network, socialize and wind down after a busy day!
- **Annual Dinner** – WBA is looking forward to our Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony on May 23, 2013, at Andiamo in Bloomfield at 5:30 p.m. We will honor a lawyer with the WBA Annual Award which celebrates the accomplishments of a woman who is an inspiration to other female lawyers and approaches her practice with civility and professionalism. Also awarded at the Annual Dinner is the Judge Recognition Award for a judge who demonstrates their commitment to community, judicial efficiency and integrity. We will also swear in our 2013-2014 board! Sponsorships are available, for more information contact Channelle Kizy-White at (248) 662-5499 or ckizy@kizylaw.com.
- Stay tuned as we look forward to our 2013-2014 year and a launch of our new website!

Wayne Region Annual Report-Submitted by Deanne L. Bonner Simpson, Wayne Region Corresponding Secretary

At our May 2012 annual meeting, President L. Nichole Hunter announced the theme for the Wayne Region's upcoming year: "Do One Thing." The membership was encouraged to Do One Thing to give back to the community in some way before our 2013 annual meeting. The Wayne Region has made this theme part of every event and has served the community in a number of ways.

Garden Party: In August, we held our Fourth Annual End of Summer Wine and Garden Party at the home of Wayne County Circuit Judge Connie Kelley. Special thanks to Judge Kelly for being a gracious hostess to our membership. In addition to the traditional socializing, the members heard from Lynn Burdell of the Don Bosco Community Center in Detroit. This event was featured in the Detroit Legal News.

Lunch and Learn Series:

- In October, we held a lunch and learn in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The featured speakers were Katie Strickfaden, the Legal Director of the Wayne County Solution Oriented Domestic Violence Prevention Court, and Glenda Cook from the YWCA Interim House. We followed-up this event with a dinner prepared and served by WLAM-Wayne Region members at the YWCA Interim House on November 4.
- In January, we held a lunch and learn at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. A panel of Wayne Region members, moderated by Elizabeth Jolliffe, discussed career options in the profession for women, and answered questions from the students in attendance. The meeting was a great success, and we were able to add to our student members as a result. This event was featured in the Detroit Legal News.

Mentor Jet: The National Association of Women Judges, WLAM-Wayne Region and the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association held two mentor jet events. One event took place at Wayne State University and the other at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. Various types of legal professionals agreed to mentor law students about legal careers in a "jet-like" setting. The mentors were seated at a table as second and third year law students moved among them for five minute mentoring sessions, similar to a speed dating event.

New Member Mixer: The region had a New Member Mixer on November 1, 2013 at Wa-Hoo in Detroit. In addition to recruiting new members, we began our efforts to drum up support of our Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure team, which will participate in the race on May 18, 2013.

Holiday Party: The region's annual holiday party took place in December at Fishbones. Members enjoyed good food and good company. At this event the region also invited speakers from the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

Winter Wine Down: This yearly event took place in February at the Zin Wine Bar in downtown Plymouth. Members enjoyed gourmet appetizers, drinks and good company. Many of the attendees were from Western Wayne County and eastern Washtenaw County who are not always able to attend events in downtown Detroit. A speaker from the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure attended. This event was featured in the Detroit Legal News.

Gleaners Volunteer Day: On March 23, members of the WLAM-Wayne Region joined with members of the DMBA to pack boxes of food for Gleaners Community Food Bank. This event was featured in the Detroit Legal News.

Annual Meeting: The Wayne Region Annual Meeting in May will feature a panel of practitioners and others involved in the fight against Human Trafficking, including identification of and support for victims.

The Wayne Region has enjoyed a successful year thanks to our dedicated board, committees, sustaining and new members. We thank all of those who helped make this year such a success. We hope to continue to expand our region and support our members in their careers. We look forward to another successful year in 2013-14.



Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

The **Washtenaw Region** had another great year. It started on May 16, 2012 with the swearing in of our new board members. The new board members were: President, Elizabeth Kitchen-Troop; Vice President, Bonnie Shaw; Treasurer, Kate Sharkey; Secretary, Jennifer Lawrence; Regional Representative, Anna Frushour; Communications Chair, Rita Wilson; and we were later joined by Membership Chair Lori Burke.

We want to thank this year's board members for their hard work and dedication in promoting women in the legal community. These are some of the highlights from this past year:

1. Annual Softball Game: In June, we held our annual Judges vs. Lawyers softball game at Buhr Park. We played ball, grilled some hot dogs and enjoyed great conversation with our colleagues. Overall, it was a great turnout.
2. 3rd Annual Summer Party: In July, at member Heidi Salter-Ferris' home on Ford Lake in Ypsilanti, we held our annual summer party. Members brought a dish to pass and enjoyed the beautiful views.
3. Judicial Forum: At the end of July, our region along with the Washtenaw County Bar Association, the Washtenaw Association for Justice, the Michigan Hellenic Bar Association, the Vanzetti-Hamilton Bar Association, the Ann Arbor Branch of the NAACP and the Michigan League of Conservation Voters held a judicial forum at Washtenaw Community College. The event was very well attended and gave people an opportunity to meet and greet with all the candidates.
4. Social Skills Event: In August, the Washtenaw Region and the SBM YLS hosted a social skills event at Stixx in historical downtown Ypsilanti. Our members had the opportunity to learn how to play pool and introduce young attorneys to our organization.
5. Judicial Awards: In September we were honored co-host an event with WLAM President Angela Sherigan. President Sherigan came to smudge Judge Timothy Connor's courtroom and give him an award for Judge Connor's support of Native Americans. The smudging ceremony was followed by a great discussion on peacekeeping courts.
6. Annual WLAM Tailgate: In October, member Elizabeth Jolliffe hosted a tailgate party for the University of Michigan football game. The event was well attended.
7. Judicial Forum: In October, along with the WCBA, our region hosted a second judicial forum after the primaries. This forum was held at Bach school and we had many locals in attendance.
8. Bias Awareness Lunch: As part of Bias awareness week, the Washtenaw Region hosted a luncheon. We had a wonderful panel of experts discuss the topic "Promoting Diversity in the Legal Profession."

9. Stress Relief Event: In November, we hosted a “Yoga for Everyone” event. Our member, Sally Rutzky led the event. She gave wonderful tips and easy stress relief moves for the office or at home.
10. Annual Holiday Party: At the home of member Nora Wright, we celebrated the holidays together. The party included the presentation of the Mary Foster Award which is given annually to a local member in recognition of her leadership, talent and significant contribution to women attorneys and women in general. This year the award was given to Justice Bridget Mary McCormick. We also presented newly elected Judge Carol Kuhnke a WLAM sash to display in her courtroom.
11. Meet and Greet with the Judges: In January, the Washtenaw Region co-hosted an event with the Washtenaw County Bar Association at Weber’s Inn. The event was an opportunity for the legal community to come out and meet the newly elected judges and seating judges. We had a great turnout that included former judges as well.
12. Mentoring Event: In February, the region hosted a mentoring event with UM law students and Cooley law students. The event was held at Bar Louie in downtown Ann Arbor. It gave law students the opportunity to speak candidly with our members about the legal profession.
13. Skills Event: In March, we co-hosted an event with the Women’s Exchange of Washtenaw. This event included a panel discussion on “How to Be Your Best Advocate.” After the impressive panel spoke about negotiating, the members broke into small discussion groups. The event was very well attended.
14. Skills Event: On April 18th, with SBM, the Washtenaw Region will be hosting a wine tasting event at Creekside Bar & Grill in Ann Arbor. Learn how to engage in the art of wine tasting and learn which foods go best with certain wines in an instructional wine tasting environment. Wine tasting instruction by wine consultant Linda Thomas. Wines will be from Wines for Humanity. Each attendee will be served with six courses of wines and matching food. For more information Register online at <http://e.michbar.org>, or alternatively, RSVP to Bonnie Shaw and pay at the door: (248) 961-3261, bshaw@vivacqualaw.com. Registration closes Friday, April 12. Walk-ins are also welcome if space is available.
15. Mom’s In Lunch Discussion: This month’s upcoming discussion will be “Employment Protections for Working Mothers”. This will include Q&A with Angela Walker, employment attorney at Nacht, Roumel, Salvatore, Blanchard & Walker, P.C. Learn about your rights related to pregnancy; taking time off (maternity leave/parental leave); pumping at work. Thursday, April 25, 2013 from 12:00 pm-1:00 pm at 200 N. Main Street, Lower Level Conference Room. If you have any questions contact Kate Sharkey at ksharkey@lsscm.org. Walk-ins welcome!
16. Annual Luncheon: On May 23rd, the Washtenaw Region will be hosting their annual end of the year luncheon. The upcoming board will be sworn in at this event.



Linda Jo Carron, *President*
Kim Large, *Vice President*
Jeannine Bolhouse, *Treasurer*
Emma MacGuidwin, *Secretary*
Kelly Brushaber, *Regional Representative*

Women Lawyers Association of Michigan
Western Region

Board Members:

Emily Green	Kathlene Sheridan
Lindsay Canan	Claire Whitman
Christy McDonald	Kelly Clum-Matthysse
Liesel Cervin	
Linsey Aten, Immediate Past President	

WLAM WESTERN REGION

2012 - 2013 Annual Report
Submitted: March 27, 2013
Kelly Brushaber

1. 2012 Membership Luncheons

a. In September, 30 Western Region members enjoyed a social luncheon sponsored by Cooley Law School – Grand Rapids. Board members were introduced and WLAM committee chairs described the regional committees, goals for the year, upcoming events and encouraged membership involvement. Our focus on charitable work and giving will be Women At Risk, International (WAR, Int'l), which supports women and children in our community and around the globe.

WAR, Int'l, a U.S.-based, non-profit organization, currently works in over 31 countries, creating havens of safety and healing for at-risk women and children. Its purpose and passion is to give voice to the silenced cries of the oppressed, wrap arms of love around them, and whisper messages of purpose and dignity into their brokenness. Through culturally sensitive, value-added intervention projects and programs, WAR, Int'l offers these women and children an opportunity to live life with dignity. Although specifically known for its fight against human trafficking and rehabilitating work with trafficking victims, WAR, Int'l addresses numerous different risk issues facing women and children today.

b. In October, Western Region hosted a membership luncheon for 33 attendees at the University Club, featuring WAR, Int'l President, Rebecca McDonald. WAR, Int'l offered jewelry for sale at the meeting and WLAM purchased two items made by women in foreign countries who are supported by the efforts of WAR Int'l and raffled these items to attendees.

c. In November, Western Region hosted a membership luncheon for 23 attendees at the University Club. As part of our annual leadership theme, Jennifer Maxson, coach and consultant from Varnum Consulting, spoke to us about the business of networking.

2. 2012 Holiday Reception

In December, we hosted a holiday reception at the YWCA in Grand Rapids and offered hors d'oeuvres, desserts, punch and wine to 43 judges, lawyers and law students. Attendees donated children's undergarments to WAR Int'l, per its request for these basic necessities for the victims of abuse that WAR Int'l assists.

3. 2013 Membership Luncheons

- a. In January, Western Region hosted a social luncheon for 13 attendees at Sundance Grill Restaurant in Grand Rapids.
- b. In February, 22 attendees met for lunch at the University Club in Grand Rapids and were inspired to make a plan for healthy aging by Dr. Diana Bitner of Spectrum Health. Dr. Bitner educated us on the unique biological changes that women face and promoted getting sufficient amounts of water and sleep, exercising in moderation, and meeting with a personal physician to determine a unique plan for the rest of our lives.
- c. In March, WLAM held a membership luncheon at the University Club for 15 attendees. Julie Fershtman from the Foster Swift law firm advised us regarding raising your compensation, self-promotion and improving your image.
- d. On April 25, WLAM will hold its Bring Your Child to Work Day membership luncheon at the Grand Rapids Children's Museum. Members, guests and their children will have lunch and local judges will facilitate an interactive presentation for children and adult attendees about famous women in history and the law. After the luncheon presentation, children may visit and play in the museum under adult supervision.

4. 2013 Western Region Annual Meeting

After the event format change in 2012, Western Region again will host its Annual Meeting evening reception on May 13 at Bistro Bella Vita in Grand Rapids. We will enjoy an hors d'oeuvre and cocktail reception while we mingle with fellow WLAM members, judges and guests. In a brief program, we will present the WLAM Western Region Outstanding Member Award to Nikole Canute and will induct our 2013-2014 Board.

5. Service Projects / Social Events / Charitable Endeavors.

a. In February, 10 WLAM members volunteered and participated in a community service project at the Wyoming boutique of WAR Int'l. We removed labels from crayons for recycling, punched holes in price tags and labeled shopping bags for this worthwhile charitable cause, all for use in home jewelry parties to support WAR, Int'l. After our volunteer tasks were completed, we browsed and shopped for jewelry, scarves, ornaments and small gift items in the charity's boutique.

b. On April 10, Western Region members and friends are invited to participate in a cooking class at Uptown Kitchen in Eastown. Chef Molly Clauhs of the Grand Rapids Cooking School will demonstrate how to make a delicious 3-course meal, along with tips and tricks for meal preparation for busy professionals.

c. Our planning for the 30th Annual Women Lawyers vs. Local Judges Charity Softball Game to be held on June 15 is on schedule. Proceeds will benefit the YWCA of West Central Michigan. This spring, WLAM Softball Committee handled the following tasks: (1) sent sponsorship request letters in February; committee members followed up with their designated firms and companies, (2) team poem writing was conducted and will be provided to Grand Rapids Bar Association (GRBA) in mid-April; (3) ticket pricing was established at \$15 for adults and \$10 for children; and (4) publicity is underway. This year, we hope to raise more than last year's total proceeds of \$13K for the YWCA, including a \$500 sponsorship from Western Region.

6. Membership Directory. Regional Membership Committee is continuing to collect and edit the contact information, areas of practice and photos of Western Region members in connection with updating our electronic membership directory.

Annual Report of the WLAM Foundation

April, 2013

The WLAM Foundation enjoyed another very successful year of supporting women's education, raising over \$38,000 for scholarships. The success of the Foundation is largely based on the exceptional talent of its Board of Directors, comprised in 2012-13 of Dawn Van Hoek (Chair), Paula M. Talarico (Treasurer), Sandra L. Sorini (Secretary), Lori D. Becker, Z. Kay Fitzpatrick, Nancy Glen, Markeisha Miner, Deborah K. Nowak-Vanderhoef, Meghan Kennedy Riordan, and Maya Watson.

Fundraising in 2012-13 took the forms of event sponsorship (\$1,900), the Fifth Annual Culinary Challenge (\$6,721), the "Dean's List" giving campaign (approx. \$29,995), and the Kimberly M. Cahill Fund (\$1,200). Major continuing support was shown by corporations and law firms, particularly General Motors, the Albert & Doris Pitt Foundation, the Dickinson Wright Women's Network, Bodman PLC, Sue Ellen Eisenberg & Associates, Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss PC, Kerr, Russell and Weber PLC Fund and the Culinary Challenge Committee. As in prior years, a significant number of individuals also contributed to the campaign, joining the corporations, law firms and special funds in their generous support. The 2013 Dean's List of donors follows:

Summa Cum Laude (\$2,500 and above)

Albert & Doris Pitt Foundation
Culinary Challenge Committee
Dickinson Wright Women's Network
General Motors

Magna Cum Laude (\$1,000 to \$2,500)

Bodman, PLC
Carole Chiamp
Sue Ellen Eisenberg & Associates PC
Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss PC
Kerr, Russell & Weber, PLC

Cum Laude (\$750 to \$999)

Hon. Pamela R. Harwood

Good Citizenship (\$125 to \$749)

Nina D. Abrams	Lambro Niforos
Barris, Sott, Denn & Driker, PLLC	Deborah Nowak-Vanderhoef
Hon. Marianne O. Battani	Hon. Lynne A. Pierce
Becker Legal, P.C.	Linda Rexer♥
Kenneth M. Bernard, CFA	Hon. Michael & Meghan Riordan
Bernard Wealth Management Corp.	Peter & Martha Ruggirello
Thomas Cranmer♥	Talarico & Associates, P.C.

Nancy Diehl♥
Sandra Sorini Elser
Julie I. Fershtman♥
Z. Kay Fitzpatrick♥
Nancy Glen & Ralph McDowell
Trish Oleksa Haas
Michael S. Hohauser
Charlotte Johnson
Hon. Marilyn J. Kelly♥
Barbara McQuade
Markeisha J. Miner

Hon. Lawrence S. Talon
Sharon Smith♥
Marianne Talon
Holli Targan
Dawn Van Hoek
Dana Warnez♥
Maya K. Watson
WLAM –Washtenaw Region:
IN HONOR OF KAREN SIDNEY
Kim D. Winokur

♥ ***Donations made to the Kimberly M. Cahill Scholarship Fund***

Virtually all of the money raised by the WLAM Foundation goes directly into law student scholarships or an educational endowment fund; less than ten percent of the money raised goes to administration, a very low percentage in the fund-raising world. The Foundation's web site, www.wlamfoundation.org, contains news, archives, photographs, profiles of student-awardees, and much more. Event support was handled with considerable aplomb by Barbara Kuchmanich, with the backing and in-kind contributions of Talarico & Associates PC.

Awards made to Outstanding Women Law Students this year totaled \$30,000 (increased from \$25,000 in 2012), awarded to ten students attending Michigan's five accredited law schools. The 2013 Outstanding Women Law Students are:

General Motors Scholars:

Elise Marie Elzinga, Michigan State University College of Law
La Toya N. McBean, Thomas M. Cooley Law School
Rachael Soren, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law
Suzanne Steele-Quinn, Wayne State University Law School

Dickinson Wright Women's Network Scholar:

Jillian Wilson Ambrose, University of Michigan Law School

WLAM Foundation Scholars:

Stephanie R. Edwards, Thomas M. Cooley Law School
Ryanne E. Exposito, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law
Klaudia Nikolli, Wayne State University Law School
J. Olabisi Ogboye, Michigan State University College of Law

Kimberly M. Cahill Scholar:

Caitlin R. Howitt, University of Michigan Law School

Students were selected on the basis of their demonstrated leadership and on their commitment to women's and diversity issues. Full profiles of the students appear on the Foundation's web site, www.wlamfoundation.org. The 2013 Outstanding Women Law Students were introduced at the Foundation's Annual Reception, held on March 20, 2013, at Local Kitchen & Bar in Ferndale. The event was well-attended by students and their families, former awardees, dignitaries, members of the Dean's List, and friends of the Foundation. Attendees were inspired by remarks from READING WORKS Executive Director Susie Schechter, and from John Nussbaumer and Hon. Victoria Robers representing Just the Beginning Foundation, WLAM Foundation's 2013 Community Honoree. Generous sponsors of the reception were Kenneth M. Bernard, CFA, Bernard Wealth Management Corp., Nancy Glen & Ralph McDowell, Hon. Michael & Meghan Riordan, and Talarico & Associates, PC. The WLAM Foundation would like to especially thank Dr. David Bauer and WLAMF Trustee, Z. Kay Fitzpatrick, for providing us with live entertainment at the reception.

Many thanks to all for the support shown during the year!

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Van Hoek,
Chair, WLAM Foundation
dvanhoek@sado.org

