



July 2014

The WAAT Newsletter

The Quarterly Newsletter
of the Women Attorneys Association of Topeka

Outgoing Board Members

Laura Graham
President

Jennifer Hays
Past President/KWAA Liaison

Luanne Leeds
President Elect

Alison St. Clair
Secretary

Barbara Dye
Treasurer

Jennifer Sherber
Career Development/CLE
Chair

Julia Gilmore Gaughan
Just Desserts

Hon. Marla J. Luckert
Archives/Bylaws

Kimberly M.J. Lynch
Young Lawyers

Kristin L. Ballobin
Newsletter

Rachel L. Pickering
Program

Whitney Casement
Public Relations/Website

Madeline Rogers
Social

Dara Monclare
Membership



Outgoing President's Message: Laura Graham

Thanks for a Fabulous Year!

My term as WAAT president ended June 30th, and thanks to the enthusiastic planning of Social Chair Madeline Rogers, that also happened to be the day of WAAT's fun summer social event at Berkshire Golf Club. It seemed the perfect ending to our 2013-14 membership year and I noted how representative the turnout that evening was of our overall membership. There were long-time members, as well as relatively new members, and everything in between – plus some guests. How exciting that interest and involvement in WAAT remains strong as it approaches its 30th anniversary next January!

The past year has flown by, and I'm proud of all WAAT has accomplished. In April, we had a wonderful gathering to honor Marty Snyder, who was selected to receive WAAT's *Chief Justice Kay McFarland Attorney of Achievement Award*. It was a treat to have Marty's daughter, Rachel, on hand to share what an incredible role model her mom has always been. There weren't many dry eyes in the room after Rachel's touching remarks! Justice Marla Luckert reminded us of the criteria for the award and shared the many ways in which Marty exemplifies characteristics the award recognizes. A charter WAAT member who continues to be very active in WAAT and generous with her time and talents, Marty was a very deserving recipient.

May was a busy month for WAAT. The KBA's Joe Molina presented a legislative update at our membership meeting; Joe is great about ferreting out behind-the-scenes details of legislative developments to make this update – likely to be our annual May program for as long as Joe will do it – an engaging audience-pleaser. Just Desserts, our fundraiser benefitting the Washburn Women's Alliance scholarship fund, also was in May. Just Desserts Chair Julia Gilmore Gaughan did a fantastic job organizing the event and lining up sponsors. It was a huge success; we netted almost twice as much as we ever had before, enabling WAAT to contribute \$1,800 to the scholarship fund! Finally, at the end of May our spring CLE drew a crowd, thanks to the stellar lineup of presenters arranged by Career Development/CLE Chair Jennifer Sherber.

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Outgoing President's Message

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Just to update you on several WAAT board actions – things you might not otherwise be aware of – we voted to sponsor the 25th annual KWAA Lindsborg Conference, as well as all three oral history videos KWAA has commissioned filmmaker Alisa Morse to produce. The videos, as you may have read about in KWAA emails and updates, will chronicle the stories of Kansas women attorneys and judges, capturing the experiences of legal pioneers in a format that can be shared through the internet and public showings. The WAAT board felt it important to support this monumental – and momentous – project!

As I pass the torch to our new president, the dynamic Luanne Leeds, I want to say what an honor and pleasure it has been to serve as president. I also want to thank the board members for the tremendous time and energy they invested. I am grateful to have worked with them and delighted to have gotten to know them better. As Luanne begins her term as president, I believe WAAT is in great shape – as vibrant and thriving as it was almost 30 years ago, when it incorporated! Nonetheless, if you have any suggestions for how to make WAAT's next 30 years even better, I encourage you to contact Luanne with your ideas! Thanks, all!

The 2014 Lindsborg Conference

July 24–26, 2014

You can now register for the 2014 Lindsborg Conference!

To register online visit www.kswomenattorneys.com.

Here are some of the highlights for this year!

New York Times Columnist Gail Collins is the Keynote speaker! KWAA is very excited to welcome Gail Collins, American journalist, op-ed columnist, and author. Ms. Collins joined The New York Times in 1995 as a member of the editorial board and, in 2001, became the first woman appointed editor of the Times's editorial page. A noted women's historian and author of *When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present*. This book and her other works will be available for purchase on KWAA's website.

History room to highlight 25 years of KWAA! KWAA will offer a History Room for attendees to stroll down our 25-year memory lane. You can see some great pictures from various conferences and be able to enjoy remembering the details of conferences over the years.

Red Carpet Gala night on Friday. Dress as fancy as you like! Cocktail hour followed by dinner and KWAA historical videos. Bring your cash or checkbook for our infamous auction which benefits law student scholarships. It will be a night to remember!

For year-long benefits join KWAA! Stay in touch with other women attorneys and get more professional development by joining KWAA. KWAA offers networking events on local and statewide levels. The listserve lets you easily access answers to legal questions as well as providing a source of referrals.

25TH

ANNIVERSARY
Lindsborg Conference

KWAA
Kansas Women Attorneys Association

Chief Justice Kay McFarland Attorney Achievement Award Recipient 2014 Marty M. Snyder

On April 16, 2014, WAAT presented the Chief Justice Kay McFarland Attorney Achievement Award to Marty M. Snyder. The meeting began with opening remarks by President Laura Graham. Justice Luckert then spoke about Marty's professional career and achievements which were numerous and influential to the growth of women attorneys in Kansas. Lastly, Marty's daughter spoke about her mother as a role model and how much her upbringing and her mother's influence had contributed to her own successes. It was a wonderful event and we thank all of those in attendance!



**Chief Justice Kay McFarland Attorney
Achievement Award Recipient 2014**

Marty M. Snyder
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Congratulations Marty!



JUST DESSERTS!

TO BENEFIT THE WASHBURN WOMEN'S ALLIANCE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

THURSDAY, MAY 15TH, 2014

5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

AT THE HISTORIC FIRE STATION NO. 2 ~ 719 SW VAN BUREN

*DELICIOUS DESSERTS
LIGHT HORS D'OEUVRES
WINE
JAZZ
GOOD FRIENDS
GREAT CAUSE!*

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Just Desserts event this year to raise funds for our contribution to the scholarship fund for the Washburn Women's Alliance. With our sponsors, attendees, and additional contributions, we were able to increase our typical \$1,000 donation to **\$1,800** this year! Such exciting news to share!



Just Desserts

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Passing the Gavel

Laura Graham to Luanne Leeds



At the general membership meeting on June 11, 2014, we congratulated Laura Graham on a great year as the WAAT President, and also witnessed the passing of the gavel to WAAT's 2014-2015 President, Luanne Leeds. Also announced was the 2014-2015 slate of officers, which passed by vote. Please also congratulate these members and thank them for their time and effort this coming year!

President-Elect – Alison St. Clair

Goodell, Stratton, Edmonds & Palmer

Treasurer – Derenda Mitchell

Kansas Attorney General's Office

Secretary – Sarah Morse

Fisher Patterson Sayler & Smith

Save the Date!

Upcoming General Membership Meetings & Other Events:

- July 24-26th: Lindsborg Conference (registration begins in April)
- September 17th: **Constitution Day**—Judge Pierron invited WAAT members to participate in educating students in local school districts about Constitution Day. Presenters are needed at one or two school districts for grades K-12. Presentation ideas from those used in the past are available for inspiration. A committee of those interested in participating will be formed by Luanne Leeds. Please contact Luanne if you are interested in participating in this fun and important event (leedslua@gmail.com).

Food from the Bar Update

From April 1st through April 30th of this year many of WAAT's members assisted with KWAA's "Food from the Bar" food drive by setting up food collection barrels in their offices where canned goods, cereals, and peanut butter were deposited for donation to Project Topeka. WAAT also received \$121.85 in monetary donations that were forwarded to Project Topeka.

This year WAAT's members were able to contribute 396 lbs of food to Project Topeka.

A big THANK YOU to all of our members who helped contribute to this important event!

