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President's Message by Jenny Daughetee, WLN President



Jenny Daughetee

It's holiday time again! Along with the hustle and bustle of the preparations for the holidays, we welcome back the memories from celebrations of years past. Everywhere we look, there are symbols that spark those memories: pine trees, poinsettias, holiday lights, stars, reindeer, holiday music on the radio, snowflakes, stockings, cookies and ornaments.

My favorite memory trigger happens in the middle of what many deem to be a chore – decorating the tree. I have a box of ornaments that I've collected since I was young; some that were purchased by me at various stages of my life, but most were gifts from very special people in my life. As I pull each ornament out of its box, my mind is flooded with memories from when each one came into my life. I have a few that were gifts from past employers, which remind me of friends I had made during those stages of my life. I have one that I made as a 10-year old at my friend's slumber party in December – my girls really enjoy seeing that I actually had a crafty creative side to me (thanks to my friend's talented mother)! I have several that were given to me by my husband when we were dating – often engraved with our names and the year they were given. Every few years, he surprises me with a new one to add to my collection.

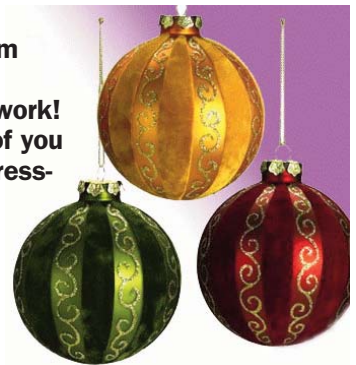
My favorite ornament in my collection, though, was given to me by my grandmother. Up until I finished high school, we spent every Christmas with my grandma at her house. It was her favorite holiday – she loved having the entire family together, cooking

and baking, doing the dishes together, playing euchre. She always dressed up in her favorite red outfit and put on her favorite red lipstick. Best of all, she giggled like a little girl with every gift that she gave. After each gift, we always shared a giant bear-hug.

When I was 8-years old, my grandmother decided to give ornaments to each of the grandchildren. The one she gave me was a small painted ceramic ornament of a little girl holding a stuffed bunny. Although I really find the ornament to be adorable, what makes it particularly special to me is the box that it came in. It included a special personalized note from my grandmother, telling me why this ornament immediately reminded her of me. My grandmother passed away when I was in high school, and every year since then, when I read her special note to me in her shaky handwriting, it is like spending a little part of the holidays with her again.

When things get hectic in the preparation for the holidays, I walk to my tree, look at that little girl, and spend some time reflecting on memories of holidays past. It always reminds me of how important it is to slow down and really enjoy every minute with my family and friends, making new memories that I'll cherish forever.

**Happy holidays
to all of you from
the Women's
Leadership Network!
We wish each of you
good health, stress-
free holidays,
and fond
memories that
will last you a
lifetime!**



'Tis the season to have some holiday fun!



Holiday Fun!

Facilitated by Jennifer Steines, WLN president-elect

Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Time: 11:30 - noon: Registration, Networking and Lunch
Noon - 1:00: Program

Where: Hotel Julien
200 Main St
Dubuque, IA

Menu: Caroline's Chicken – bacon wrapped breast stuffed with cranberry rice pilaf and citrus beurre blanc, served with chef's choice of fresh vegetables and signature mashed potatoes. Served with fresh baked breads, herb butter spreads, Caroline's house salad, coffee and iced tea.

Cost: Member price: \$15.00
Non-member price: \$20.00
and late RSVPs

RSVP: Noon, Friday, Dec 11. **(There is a \$5 additional fee for registering after this time so be sure to register early!)** Use the online registration form at www.dubuquewln.org.

You may now pay for your WLN lunches by credit card! Register online and follow the instructions.

Cash and check payments are still accepted at the door.

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

- Charles Dickens

Welcome New Member!

Brittney Jacobs
Marketing and
Administrative Manager
Steinhart's Farm Service, Inc.

Upcoming Event

Personal Financial Makeover
Speaker: Deb Schroeder, Dupaco
Tuesday, January 26, 2010
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Holiday Inn Dubuque
Register online at
www.dubuquewln.org

The Board Recommends

- **Carrie** recommends the Web site WalkTheTalk.com. "You can sign up for free resources, and they email you every morning with a quote and good solid encouragement. Very inspirational, and I love the daily quote."
- **Marcie** recommends the book *Stop Screaming at the Microwave...How to connect your disconnected life* by Mary LoVarde
- **Nicole** recommends the CD "All I Want for Christmas is You" by Lisa Layne. "The title song is so beautifully sung, it'll become your new favorite Christmas song."

Meet A Member

Kim Tsacudakis



1. Tell us about your family and social life.

I am proud to say I was born and raised in Dubuque. I have a small family whom I see often. My mom, Roxann raised my brother Jason and me. I enjoy spending time with my nieces and nephew. In my free time, I like to spend as much time as possible with family. I enjoy family game nights and just hanging out with my dog, Macy. As far as hobbies, I enjoy making jewelry and reading. I am addicted to a couple of television shows that are can't misses. And I can't forget my favorite form of exercise, shopping. (You will see me at the bargain racks and tables.)



2. Where do you work and what is your position?

I currently work for Rainbo Oil Company/Kwik Stop/Dairy Queen. Rainbo Oil Company owns and operates several wholesale lube oil branches in Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin and Missouri. In addition we own and operate 8 Kwik Stop convenience stores and 2 Dairy Queen's. (Don't forget to pick up a wish to fulfill off the Magical Kwik Stop Christmas trees!) I serve as the finance director at Rainbo Oil Company. My responsibilities include managing the day-to-day operations of the financial department as well as software implementation, training, and on-going improvement and maintenance.

3. What did you enjoy most about the November luncheon on work-life balance?

Work-life balance is so important for all of us in the workforce. Trying to balance all of our responsibilities and still have time for family, friends and ourselves can be challenging. This year I have realized that the quantity of time I spend at work does not equal quality. (I am just realizing that the old saying is very true.) I have realized that having enough relaxing time at home or doing something I enjoy does contribute to a healthy and productive work environment.

4. How is being a member of WLN valuable to you?

I enjoy meeting other professional women in our area. I have met some new people and as well as reconnected with some old friends! In the future I hope to continue to become more involved with the WLN organization. It is a great group with lots to offer.

5. Who do you think is a great leader and why?

I have experienced many great leaders in my professional and personal life. A great leader is someone who inspires others to continue to grow both professionally and personally. A great leader leads by example and can mold and change with any circumstance. A true leader never forgets to teach one of my favorite quotes: **"If you don't design your own life plan, chances are you'll fall into someone else's plan. And guess what they have planned for you? Not much."** – John Rohn, author and motivational speaker.

WLN is committed to the promotion and support of women, both personally and professionally. As part of that commitment, WLN donates to organizations in our community that will directly impact the mission of WLN. Over the past 16 months, WLN has donated to several charitable organizations, including Big Brother/Big Sister, Maria House, Dubuque Area Youth Leadership Council Scholarship, Dubuque Rotary Club Days of Caring, the Safe School Fund, Galena/Jo Daviess Historical Society, Sister Water Project and Hospice of Dubuque.

If you know of a local organization that is in need of support, consider submitting a donation request to the WLN Board. A request form and requirements can be found on our Web site at www.dubuquewln.org. Click on the menu option "Forms" then the document "Donation request."

*"Remember
This
December,
That love
weighs more
than gold!"*

*- Josephine Dodge
Daskam Bacon*



November Recap

The Juggling Act: Balancing Work and Life

On Tuesday November 24, 2009, B'Ann Dittmar, market president for U.S. Bank in Dubuque, led a thought provoking conversation about work-life balance. Ladies in attendance shared stories on what makes a "great day" and reflected on how to balance work, social and unique selves.

B'Ann also shared tools for improving work and personal life satisfaction. This luncheon was a stress-free opportunity to mentally prioritize our work and personal life goals. Thank you to B'Ann for an inspiring presentation, and thank you to the Best Western for a delicious Italian buffet!



"Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts."

- Janice Maeditere