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## President's Message by Jenny Daughetee, WLN President



**Jenny Daughetee**

On April 27th, the Women's Leadership Network held our 3rd Annual Women of Achievement Awards Ceremony. This beautiful evening provided us the opportunity to honor the every day women in our community who achieve the extraordinary!

In preparation for the event, we solicited nominations from the entire community. We sent out letters to hundreds of area businesses and individuals with the nomination information. We placed posters throughout town and used e-mail, Facebook, Linked In and the WLN Web site to collect nominations. The quantity and quality of the nominees we received were extraordinary. The selection committee carefully and diligently sifted through all 58 nominations, reading the wonderful comments that the nominators made about the nominees. The people who nominated included co-workers, friends, family members and bosses. Many women were nominated more than once, and in more than one category. In total, we honored 58 Women of Achievement nominees; women who were recognized for their achievements in the workplace, home and community throughout the tri-state area. Awards were given in various categories, including achievements in her field, growth and accomplishments in personal life, service and support of community, organizational impact, unsung champion and Wuppy.

It was a difficult selection process, but after very careful review, the committee selected recipients whose nominations best reflected the qualities of a woman of achievement. Our 2010 recipients included Claudette Bees (Dubuque Community

School District), Tori Richter (American Trust & Savings Bank), Carrie Cannon (Sedona Staffing), Diana Myers (Cascade Food Pantry), Shirley Rosenthal (US Bank), Gina Blean (Unified Therapy Services), Kelly Heysinger (Unified Therapy Services), Lisa Gottschalk (McGraw-Hill), Dixie Avenarius (Mercy Medical Center), Marilyn Michels (Patterns Inc), Erin Coates (Horizons Family Service Alliance), & Kelly Cooper (Dubuque Area Labor Management Council). We've included selections from their nominations forms – once you read these, you will see how amazing the women in our community really are!

Each of our nominees made a choice with their lives: to share their talents, selflessly and to the fullest, in the workplace, the home and the community. We thank all the nominees for their decision to positively shape their communities. WLN is proud to have the opportunity to recognize their achievements.

If you didn't have the opportunity to attend the Women of Achievement Awards, please consider attending next year; and even better, consider nominating that special woman in your life that has been an example to all!

A huge thank you goes out to the committee for Women of Achievement, who worked so diligently to make the evening a success: Shelley Boland, Pam Brookens, Mary Ann Konzett, Kelly Cooper, Kelly Jo Fassbinder, Nicole Gantz, Lynn Hager, Diane Hanson, Melissa King, Katie Lange, Nancy Laugesen, Sue Moran, Barb Myers, Marcie Rowan, and Deb Schroeder.

We would also like to recognize the hard working staff at NICC's Professional Development Center for their contributions. And a special thanks to Jennifer Steines for chairing the Women of Achievement committee. **THANK YOU to all of you for your commitment and hard work!**

# Congratulations!

## 2010 Women of Achievement Award Recipients

### **Achievements in Her Field:** **Claudette Bees**

"She uses her skills as a teacher in all the roles she plays. She will ask you what you think, is interested in everyone's views and listens like a real pro. She challenges and is respectful, dynamic and vibrant. She believes all students can learn and want to excel and that her job as an educator is to never give up on them."



### **Achievements in Her Field:** **Tori Richter**

"She began her career at American Trust in 1986 when the banking industry was dominated by male professionals. She quickly realized she was going to have to work very hard in both the banking industry and the city to be recognized as a leader. She was the first female commercial loan officer in Dubuque and continues to be one of the few female commercial banking officers in the county. She has juggled family as a mother of three and has served on several boards of directors. She loves music and has balanced her passion for live entertainment with her professional life."



### **Growth & Accomplishments in Personal Life:** **Carrie Cannon**

"She has overcome a lot in her personal life. She came from a broken home, moved out when she was just 16 and has been moving in a positive direction ever since. With her unflinching faith, she got through the grief of the untimely deaths of her mother, father and brother. She has been determined to give her family what she never had – a solid family life with a lot of love and guidance. She gets involved when she sees a need and is a great listener and friend anyone would love to have."



### **Service & Support of Community:** **Diana Myers (no picture available)**

"She has spent an unbelievable amount of time making sure the residents of her community who need assistance have it available to them. In 2008, the Cascade Food Pantry nearly closed due to a lack of financial support. She was not going to allow that to happen so she organized a full force fundraising effort which brought the Cascade Food Pantry back to financial stability. She makes herself available to the citizens in need and she doesn't judge – she just continues to make sure food is available when someone calls."

### **Service & Support of Community:** **Shirley Rosenthal**

"She goes above and beyond with community service involvement in the tri-state area and Galena. She is an advocate for the Riverview Center where she is on call for a support hotline for sexual abuse victims and is an advocate for rape victims. She volunteers heavily in her community of Galena to make it a better place for all to live. She is a true leader and is an inspiration to all who know her."



### **Organizational Impact:** **Gina Blean**

"She is a successful entrepreneur who has grown her business quickly. She is a leader in the community and promotes the highest quality of health care in the area. She knows herself, her goals and her values. Once a goal is met, she continuously creates a new challenge for herself and the business. She exceeds the expectations of her employees and inspires everyone around her with her dedication and caring personality."



(Continued on page 3)

*"Not knowing when the dawn will come, I open every door."*

*- Emily Dickinson*



## WOA Recipients *cont.*

*" I don't want to get to the end of my life and find that I lived just the length of it. I want to have lived the width of it as well."*

*- Diane Ackerman, Poet*

### **Organizational Impact:**

#### **Kelly Heysinger**

"She broke right through the glass ceiling using her leadership skills, dedication and expertise that currently makes her the co-owner of an outpatient pediatric clinic. She ensures the smooth running of the clinic while maintaining a focus on quality care. Her experience and expertise is what took her business from a vision to reality. She balances her work and family and continues to be a leader in her professional field. She delivers exceptional results with everything she does."



### **Unsung Champion: Marilyn Michels**

"She started the SCRIP program at her church and is always there to help with fundraisers. She was instrumental in developing the land for a softball field for the Dubuque Girls Independent League. She also helped raise money for the VSA arts of Dubuque with the fundraiser 100 Men who Cook. In addition to all of this, she works full-time and her boss calls her dedicated and reliable; she has a strong work ethic, she is the 'get it done' person and also a good friend."



### **Organizational Impact:**

#### **Lisa Gottschalk**

"She has worked in the publishing industry for more than 25 years. She is an outstanding and proven leader as well as a role model to colleagues. As a woman with many roles in her company, she embraces growth and development. One of her most endearing qualities is her sincere interest in her colleagues' well being and success. She often taps into their hidden potential and takes them to the next level with her encouragement and inspiration. She has touched so many lives."



### **WUPPY - Young leader:**

#### **Erin Coates**

"She positively impacts the lives of hundreds of people in the Greater Dubuque area each year. She is the supervisor for a program that teaches families valuable skills they need to improve their lives at home. In addition to providing for families in their moment of struggle, she manages and motivates a staff of 17. She is also an active volunteer in the community and a wife with two children."



### **Unsung Champion: Dixie Avenarius (no picture available)**

"There are many times that so many responsibilities would've fallen through the cracks had she not been there to maintain the department. She has been with Mercy for 37 years and has contributed to the success of the Festival of Trees and the Black and White Gala. Without her amazing ability to juggle multiple projects, the events could not have achieved their level of success. Although her title is development assistant, she is referred to as the VP in charge of everything."

### **WUPPY - Young Leader:**

#### **Kelly Cooper**

"She has been instrumental in helping to develop a collaborative approach to workforce development in the Dubuque area. She is changing the perception of the skilled trades in the tri-state area and is providing our youth with access to future career opportunities. Her leadership in coordinating programs such as Summerfest Dubuque is essential to the success her organization has experienced. And she effortlessly balances her high demanding work life with her family life as a wife and mother of two."



# News and Information

## May Annual Meeting Event: The Power of Influence

Most people believe they have little or no influence with others if they don't have a job title that says so! Here is a fact: the most introverted of people will influence 10,000 people in their lifetime!



Can you be a person of influence? Absolutely! Key qualities of influential people include integrity, character, honest and open communication, humility, keeping promises and many more.

This luncheon presentation, by Pam Hillary, owner of Kneading Minds and WLN past-president, will be full of great information that will give you many ideas on how to influence others in your life at home, at work and in the community.

### MEETING INFORMATION:

**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2010

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

**Where:** Dubuque Golf and Country Club  
1800 Randall Place  
Dubuque, Iowa

**Menu:** Grilled chicken breast croissant with fresh fruit and dessert

**Cost:** \$15 for WLN Members ONLY and \$20 for late RSVPs

**RSVP:** Noon, Friday, May 14. **(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](http://www.dubuquewln.org).

*"Real women don't have flushes, they have power surges."*

*- Sandra Cabot*

## Welcome New Members – May 2010

### Jodi Beidler

Vice President Life-Health-Financial Service  
TRICOR Insurance

### Connie Haberkorn

Branch Manager  
The QTI Group

### Jolene Mausser

Independent Beauty Consultant  
May Kay

### Mindy Meyers

Family Support Coordinator/Site Manager  
ECIA

### Melody Mueller

Employee Benefits Specialists  
TRICOR Insurance

### Stella Runde

Portfolio Manager  
DB&T

### Kelli Schubert

Human Resource Administrator  
Honkamp Krueger & Co., P.C.

### Sheila Udelhofen

Director of Human Resources  
TRICOR Insurance

### Mindy Wiley

Family Support Coordinator/Site Manager  
ECIA

## SAVE THE DATE

### Golf Outing

Monday, June 21, 2010

### July Luncheon

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Holiday Inn Dubuque

# Meet a Member

## Meet A Member

*Katie Lange*

**1. Tell us about your family. Where did you grow up?**

I was born here in Dubuque, attended Clarke College, and I have been married for almost 10 years to Matt. We have 3 energetic boys – Adam 7, AJ 5, Aiden

2. Both my family and my husband's family all live in Dubuque, so we get to spend a lot of time together. I also enjoy reading, walking, family time and watching Iowa Hawkeye and Chicago Bear Football.



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

I have worked at Honkamp Krueger for 11 years. I have held many positions but am currently an accounting manager. I work with small to medium-sized businesses and their owners as their business consultant and income tax advisor.

**3. What did you enjoy most about the April Women of Achievement Awards?**

I really enjoyed the networking and visiting with some individuals who I had not seen in a really long time. I was on the logistics committee for planning the event, and it was really nice to see how everything came together. I love that we honor such great women in the community.

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

I value getting to know other successful women in the area from whom I am able to learn a lot. They all have such a huge bucket of knowledge that they are willing to share. The monthly meetings that I have attended have been very informative and allow for learning about things I otherwise may not have.

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

I think my dad, Dennis McCarthy, is a great leader. I don't think I really realized it though until his retirement party at work. It was amazing to me the amount of people who took the time to come and congratulate him. I think he is a great teacher who takes the time to get to know those he is working with. He builds that personal relationship and has even taken some under his wing. That makes him a great leader.

*"Something which we think is impossible now is not impossible in another decade."*

*- Constance Baker Motley*

(First Black Woman in the U.S. to become a Federal Judge)

## Loras College student forming Women's Speaker's Bureau

Jessica Milbrandt, senior at Loras College, is working with Professor Kristin Anderson-Bricker on an internship to integrate women's history into the Dubuque Community Schools and also introduce community women to young people in the schools and after school programs. As part of her internship, she wants to create a Women's Speaker Bureau that teachers and other community members could use if they needed a speaker for an event or class. The Speaker's Bureau is an opportunity for young women to learn and listen about various topics by a woman.

By accepting to be a speaker, your name, contact information and topics you would be willing to speak on will be recorded and the list will be dispersed throughout the community. Whenever a need for a speaker arises, the organization could directly contact you.

If you would like to participate in this Speaker's Bureau, contact Jessica at [Jessica.milbrandt@loras.edu](mailto:Jessica.milbrandt@loras.edu). Please include your name, title/position, address, phone number, e-mail address, the best way to contact you, topics you wish/could speak on and the best days or times for availability.



## Women's Leadership Network Annual Golf Social 2010

*Join us for a fun filled afternoon with golf, food & prizes!*

**Monday, June 21, 2010**  
**Lacoma Golf Course, East Dubuque, IL**  
**Arrive by 12:30 p.m. for 1 p.m. shotgun start**  
**9-hole, best shot event**

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Golfers:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Golf reservations: Golf, cart & dinner = \$55/person

Golf & cart only = \$35/person

Dinner only at 4:30 p.m. = \$25/person

*Checks payable to: WLN*

- I am interested in sponsoring a hole for \$100 at which I can promote my business.
- I am interested in donating a raffle prize which will give my organization recognition at the dinner.

Register online at [www.dubuquewln.org](http://www.dubuquewln.org)

-OR-

Mail registration form and payment to:

**WLN Golf Outing**

**c/o Marcie Rowan**

**NICC Town Clock Center | 680 Main St | Dubuque, IA 52001**

-OR- Fax this form to 563-557-0319

-OR- Email this information to: [rowanm@nicc.edu](mailto:rowanm@nicc.edu)

