

**2010-2011
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President's Message by Jennifer Steines, WLN President



Jennifer Steines

Like many of you this month, Thanksgiving is at the top of my 'love' list. We get to eat great food and lounge around with our family and friends. Love it!

I was thinking about the word Thanksgiving the other day, and remembered it is actually comprised of two words: thanks and giving. Often, we acknowledge what we are thankful for during this time, but what about the 'giving' portion of the holiday? And I am not talking about the type of voluntary or monetary giving that so many of you generously do all year round. I'm talking about the giving of one's best self during this time when we are making lifelong memories with our family and friends.

Do you spend your holidays being positive and helpful? Listening to others? Choosing to make a difference, big or small? Or do you get brought down easily by the negative people in your life? Admit it - we all have negative people in our life. We love them, but they can be quite a strain on our holidays. Their intentions are usually good, and often they don't understand the power of their negative words. And it can be easy and addictive to join their negative tirades.

Let's make a promise to not go down that path this holiday season. If you try to maintain a positive attitude, it will change every aspect of your life.

I am challenging myself to do this in November in hopes that it will become habit. I have not been the best at staying positive lately and have found myself complaining more often than I should. But when I start the day with a positive attitude, my work, family, and personal relationships strengthen.

Therefore, my Thanksgiving goal is to "give a better me" to others.

Thanksgiving is also about being thankful. No matter what is going on in your life, there is always something to be thankful for. Here is what I'm going to do — for each day in November, I'm going to write down what I am thankful for. This daily appreciation will also fuel my goal of giving a better me.

While this has been a challenging year in my life, I have so much to be thankful for. I want to thank all of you for your support and friendship and wish all of you many blessings this month and in the future. I am especially thankful to our board of directors and members that work to support one another within WLN and challenge each other to give the best of themselves every day!



**MERCY
FESTIVAL
OF TREES
& MYSTIQUE
CASINO**

**2010 MERCY
FESTIVAL OF TREES**
November 19 - 27
Roshek Building - 700 Locust Street
Title Sponsor - Mystique Casino
Presenting Media Sponsor - KWWL

- The Festival opens at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 19 and closes on Saturday, November 27 at 4:00 p.m. Viewing hours: 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- All events are open to the public and will be held at the Roshek Building.
- Proceeds from the Festival will support the building of a new Intensive Care Unit at Mercy-Dubuque.
- For complete details or to register for events visit www.mercydubuque.com/festivaloftrees or call 563.589.8772.

November Luncheon

Motivational Leadership

One of the most common questions leaders ask is, "How do I motivate my staff?" The topic of motivation is also a popular request of topics among WLN members. Therefore, we invited one of the most



beloved former Women's Leadership Conference speakers, Karen McCaa, to speak on the topic of motivational leadership. If you attended the 2007 conference, you may remember Karen's keynote on "having a positive attitude" made you laugh, cry and leave that day motivated by her words.

Inspirational speaker, counselor and color commentator, Karen is the daughter of a nurse and football coach and has found her passion in delivering inspirational messages at various corporations, organizations, colleges and churches across the country.

Karen has a master's degree in counseling from the University of Tennessee and has a bachelor's in English from Eastern Illinois University. She was recently honored in an exhibit in the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame and was chosen as one of Iowa's "40 Under [the age of] 40" who is a rising star in their field.

This Indiana native began her career at Milan High School (the school from the movie "Hoosiers") and moved to Iowa on a leap of faith. Her message focuses on taking risks, following your dreams, loving others and living with honor!

Her interests include public speaking, coaching, horseback riding, flying airplanes, writing songs and poems, and spending time with family and friends.

This high energy presenter has a passion for sharing her "joy" for life and "lifting you up!"

Please join us for our November luncheon on "Motivational Leadership."

MEETING INFORMATION:

Date: Tuesday, November 23, 2010

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

Where: Grand River Center
500 Bell St
Dubuque, IA 52001

Menu: Hot roast beef sandwich, iced tea, water & dessert

Cost: Member price: \$12.00
Non-member price: \$15.00
and late RSVPs

RSVP: Noon, Friday, November 19 .
(There is a \$3 additional fee for registering after this time so be sure to register early!) Use the online registration form at www.dubuquewln.org.

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

- JFK



REGISTER NOW!

Holiday Luncheon & Fun

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

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

Diamond Jo Casino Banquet Room

Register online at www.dubuquewln.org

Welcome New Members!

Tara Eichhorn
Associate Manager
Prudential



Congratulations
to

Wendy Wheelock & Rusty Knight
who were married on
Friday, October 15, 2010!

Meet a Member

Jackie Oliver

1. Tell us about your family and social life.

I live in Dubuque with my husband, Tom, and dog, Chance. I have been blessed with two children, Shannon and Shaun, a grandson, Clayton, and granddaughter, Rylee.

Dubuque is where I was born and raised; however, I left for 28 years returning three years ago. Socially, I enjoy sporting events, concerts, dining out and getting together with friends and family.



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

I am director of sales at the Holiday Inn.

3. What did you enjoy most about the October luncheon?

I liked that each table had the opportunity to discuss questions provided by the speaker. This allowed information to be shared and hearing different viewpoints.

4. Why did you join WLN? Being a member of WLN has allowed me to meet and build friendships with many women in the organization. After being gone for so many years, this has been a great way to meet new people to network with.

5. What are the qualities of a great leader?

A great leader leads by example and is confident. A leader creates an environment in which team members feel actively involved in the entire process. Listening is a very important quality of a leader. Giving team members the opportunity to express ideas may lead to a better way of achieving a common goal.

Board Member Spotlight

Crissy Thoms

1. Describe your role on the board.

I am treasurer for WLN and have held this position on the board since July 2008.

2. Where do you work and what do you do there?

I am a CPA with my own practice. I work primarily with individuals and small businesses, preparing taxes, tax planning and bookkeeping services. I also train and provide support for QuickBooks.



3. Tell us about your family and/or social life.

I have been married for almost 20 years to my high school sweetheart, Erik. We have two children, Tait, a 4th grader, and Sydney, a kindergartener, and two pugs, Quincy and Mylo. We spend a lot of time running around from one kid's activity to the next, so we have to try hard to slow down and spend

quality time together. When the weather is nice, we love to take the dogs for a walk or hang out at the pool. When it gets colder, watching movies and toasting marshmallows is top on our list.

4. What is your leadership style? I would say my leader style is more laid-back. As a leader, I try to be honest and straightforward with those I work with, while at the same time giving positive feedback as we work together to achieve our goals. If I can throw in a little humor and keep them smiling and inspired, all the better.

5. What advice do you have for future leaders?

Some advice I would give to future leaders is to always be aware and respectful of the people you work with. As a public accountant, I deal with many different types of people and personalities. It helps to step back and see the situation from my client's point-of-view and then we can be more successful in achieving what we set out to do.

"If you want to turn your life around, try thankfulness. It will change your life mightily."

- Gerald Good

October luncheon recap

Leading strong teams

WLN welcomed Michelle Gnida, area manager for Dale Carnegie Training, who spoke on the topic of “leading strong teams.” During the luncheon, Michelle led the attendees through an interactive discussion about how embracing the diversity of your team members can make an even stronger team. Thank you to Michelle for joining us and sharing your insights, and thank you to the Grand River Center for being a wonderful host!



“Grace isn’t a little prayer you chant before receiving a meal. It’s a way to live.”
- Jacki Windspear