

WAYNE REGION REPORT (6/10 – 4/25/11)

Submitted by Elizabeth Jolliffe, Wayne Region corresponding secretary

Bottom Line Up Front: The Wayne Region had another good year of fun, relevant events and increased its membership from 105 to 132 members between June 2010 and April 2011. This continues the strong growth Wayne had the previous year from 70 to 104 members. We believe the Region's activities, visibility and outreach beyond its members drive this growth.

Events:

The Region's activities this past year included its signature events and some new activities.

The Region kicked off the summer with a planning retreat hosted by President Allison Bach. We moved smoothly into August with a fun happy hour held jointly with the Macomb Region at the delicious Roast restaurant in the Westin Book Cadillac Hotel.

September brought the Region's second annual "End of Summer Garden Party". WLAM member Wayne County Circuit Court Chief Judge Pro Tem Lita Popke hosted this year's party at her beautiful home in Canton. The event sponsors included the Dickinson Wright Women's Network, QuickenLoans, and Cheryl Hunter's "All the Details" who provided the beautiful fall flower garden cookies. With 12 members of the judiciary, county referees, the Wayne County Friend of the Court, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Chief of Staff, 18 law students and lawyers from Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw Counties, a record total of 93, we had a great mix of people.

In November we held the first of this year's two lunch & learns. November's speaker was Leah Reynolds, a specialist on generational differences in the workplace. New member Ellen Hoepfner facilitated the event and her firm, Clark Hill PLC, hosted the lunch.

On December 16 the Region reprised its "Rockin' the Holiday" gathering at the Hard Rock Café in Detroit. The location, parking and side room at the Hard Rock are perfect for an easy way to convene and share some holiday cheer.

Vice President Jeri Parkin again hosted the Winter Dinner Wine Down on Friday, January 28 at her home in Northville. 35 lawyers and law students attended for a wine & lasagna dinner and much mingling.

The Region's second lunch & learn featuring Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Lynne Pierce was a huge hit on March 30. Judge Pierce, a former Wayne Region president, spoke on "How to Become a Judge at the State Trial Court Level". Judge Pierce also solicited excellent advice from WLAM member 36th District Court Judge Kay Hansen who has firsthand experience on being appointed. The topic brought out many non-members who may be contemplating becoming a judge someday. Judge Pierce's daughter, WLAM member Lauren Phillips,

moderated the event. Dykema, Lauren's firm, graciously hosted the event and provided the beautiful lunch and parking.

On April 14 the Region held a New Member Mixer at Wah-hoo restaurant in Detroit. 18 women got together for some great food and good networking, and two people even joined on the spot.

The Region's annual lunch meeting is May 12 at Andiamo's restaurant in the Renaissance Center. The Region will swear in its new Board and kick off its new year-long theme on personal leadership development. State Bar of Michigan President-Elect Julie Fershtman, also a WLAM member, will help kick off the theme by speaking on her experiences in "Learning to Lead" in various aspects of her professional career.

Throughout the year we held quarterly Moms-in-Law lunch discussions in the SMART Detroit conference rooms in the Penobscot Building in Detroit. These are free and open to members and non-members, moms and non-moms. The Region holds its monthly board meetings at the Panera in Livonia, on Schoolcraft near Middlebelt. These are open to all interested members.

As we close the year, we thank our Board and active committee members, Allison Bach, Jeri Parkin, Joni Van Genderen, Nichole Hunter, Tenicia Vanzant, Julie Pfitzenmaier, Hayley Rohn-Dave, and Melissa Perkins. In addition, throughout the year several of our newer, younger members have gotten involved in the creation and planning of the Region's events. These members include Alena Clark, Ellen Hoepfner and Lauren Phillips. We thank Alena, Ellen and Lauren for diving in and we look forward to their ideas and energy this coming year as well. We also welcome and encourage the involvement of many more new and/or experienced members in 2011-2012.