Conversation with a Woman Leader —

November luncheon program features Attorney General Lori Swanson

What are the duties of the office of the state’s Attorney General? How does having a woman in this powerful office benefit the people of Minnesota? When we meet in November we will learn from our speaker, Attorney General Lori Swanson.

Lori Swanson was elected Minnesota Attorney General in 2006 and reelected in 2010. She is Minnesota’s 29th Attorney General and the first female to hold that office. In her work she has been an advocate for Minnesota citizens, especially in the areas of consumer protection, predatory lending, health care, utility rate hikes, telecommunications, public safety, and protecting seniors from financial fraud.

From 2003 to 2006 she served as Solicitor General for Minnesota; from 1999 to 2000, as Deputy Attorney General. She graduated magna cum laude from William Mitchell College of Law. In 2009 Lawyers USA named her one of the top 10 attorneys in America. In 2012 the national publication Health Leaders named her one of 20 Americans making a difference in healthcare. The National Consumer Law Center has recognized her for her consumer protection work, and she was awarded the Pro Patria award for her support of National Guard and Reserve members deployed to active duty.
Our Fall Luncheon honoring our scholarship winners and new members October 1 was a great success. We had 136 reservations, which I believe is a record attendance for this event. Members and their guests had a beautiful day in which to socialize, renew acquaintances, sign up for interest sections, and hear the heart-warming stories of 10 of our 21 scholarship recipients. It never ceases to amaze me how mature these young ladies are and how dedicated they are to obtaining a quality education. Several of our scholars have already experienced life-changing traumatic experiences, such as serious injuries from a car crash, losing a parent, or immigrating to America.

Our Interest Fair was well attended and all 18 of our sections provided attractive displays of their programs and talked with potential members. I think our newest members and guests were quite impressed by the variety of programs that we provide. My thanks go to the Program Committee for successfully dealing with the many details necessary to carry out this event. This was the first year we have gathered at the Roseville Radisson, and I believe it is one of the better venues we have had. There was plenty of space for both the Interest Fair and the luncheon and the staff were very accommodating with our requests.

Congratulations go to Martha Arneson and the Scholarship Committee for their work in selecting the recipients. This year we had a special transportation problem for the students because our luncheon was held off campus. The committee and several other members tackled the problem and even the hotel was recruited to provide rides to and from the event when students needed them.

Karen Kaler, our honorary president, thanked the club for our efforts in providing $50,000 for scholarships this year. She told the students that the members of the UMWC fully support them and believe in their potential for realizing their dreams. She also related a brief account of the first women attending and teaching at the University during its early days.

If you have looked carefully at the luncheon reservation forms in the back of your directory, or read the Holiday Tea invitation on page 1, you may have noticed that there will be a charge this year for the Holiday Tea at Eastcliff in December. In previous years, the University President’s budget had subsidized the total cost of the event; however, due to financial retrenchment at the U, the Club will be charged for the refreshments for the tea.

It will still be a wonderful event, with the opportunity to see Eastcliff in its holiday splendor and socialize with each other and our gracious hostess, Karen Kaler. Most important: This is our time to share our gifts with the children who are hospitalized at the University Medical Center during the holidays. Please plan to join us.

With warm regards,
Kathy Ball, President

Next Board meeting, November 12
The Board will meet at Becketwood in the Windsor Room, Tuesday, November 12, at 10:00 a.m. Coffee and tea will be provided – but no treats due to the noon luncheon. All officers and section chairs are expected to attend and provide reports of their current activities. Please carpool if possible. Also remember to send in your luncheon reservations by the deadline, Tuesday, October 29.

Membership dues are due...
“Time flies by so quickly.” The new 2013-14 membership year began in June and over the summer, the Membership Directories were mailed to all members of record. It is once again time to pay your club dues, if you haven’t already done so. Just fill in the yellow form from the front of your Membership Directory and send it, along with your check, payable to UMWC, to Treasurer Shirley Ferraro, 1418 Arden View Drive, Arden Hills, MN 55112.

Memorial Gifts
It is a lovely gesture to make a UMWC Scholarship/Memorial gift in memory or in honor of a friend or relative. The Club will notify the family or individual of your thoughtful generosity.

Mail your check, payable to UMWC Scholarship/Memorial Fund, along with your wishes for acknowledgments to UMWC Treasurer Shirley Ferraro, 1418 Arden View Drive, Arden Hills, MN 55112.

Winter Preview—mark your calendars
December 10—Annual Holiday Tea and Amplatz Children’s Hospital Benefic, 1:30–3 p.m. at Eastcliff, 176 N. Mississippi Blvd, St. Paul. Make your reservations by November 26 with the form in your 2013-14 Directory.

February 4—Conversation with a Woman Leader at Becketwood will feature Romaine Scharlemann of the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota. Ms. Scharlemann will present “Minnesota Girls Are Not for Sale.”
Welcome to new members of UMWC

We welcome ten new members to our ranks this fall. Please be sure to greet and introduce them to other members. Don’t forget to add their names to your Directory.

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UMWC Scholarship recipients touched our hearts at October luncheon meeting.

As anyone who has attended the UMWC Scholarship luncheon can tell you, the young women we support are fabulous! It is impressive to hear their stories, to learn about their struggles to achieve an education, and to rejoice in helping them realize their ambitions.

While you are thinking about it, and before the new year is upon us, please consider making a donation to the UMWC Scholarship Fund. Then, next year, come hear how your donations are making such a difference.

Martha Arneson, UMWC Scholarship chair, (center back) and nine of this year’s 21 scholarship recipients who were able to join us for the October luncheon. One by one, the young women told the UMWC audience about how they had arrived at this point in their lives and how much the UMWC scholarship means to them.

Honorary president Karen Kaler and UMWC president Kathy Ball, delighted by the young scholars’ stories.

Mary Gao, majoring in psychology and in her junior year at the University, thanking the UMWC women.

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Deadline for next Newsletter: December 9, 2013

Please submit articles in typed or electronic format. Send to Kathy Ball, UMWC President by mail: 2597 Fernwood Ct., Roseville, MN 55113 or by e-mail: kathyodyssey88@gmail.com