

# President's Message

*By Brandi Lynn Nieto*

Our annual meeting was held May 2, 2014 at the home of William "Bill" Suhre. For those of you that haven't been to Bill's house, it is a sight to see. The view is spectacular and his outdoor patio provided a wonderful view of the sunset.

The meeting this year was less formal than usual, but turned out really well. It was attended by attorneys, Judges, paralegals, office assistants and even some students! It was a great opportunity for the younger attorneys, paralegals, assistants and students to network and meet the people in our legal community that they may work for someday.

There were almost 50 silent auction items this year, everything from sports tickets, pet and child themed baskets and some adult offerings with adult beverages. Together we raised over \$2,800.00 for Weld County Legal Services, exceeding our goal by \$300.00 – which means that COLTAF will now award Weld County Legal Services with an additional \$2,500.00 cash award which Weld County Legal Services desperately needs!

The event was family friendly this year, a new take on the annual meeting, and was a real success. There was an area directed towards the kids, which included games, activities and a face painter, which the kids really loved.

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and talk a lot less about work and a lot more about life, it was relaxed, casual and it felt like you were spending time with old friends.

Many awards were presented throughout the event.

The Walker Miller Lifetime Achievement Award which recognizes an attorney for a lifelong dedication to excellence in the practice and administration of law, and for serving as a shining example and inspiration to others in the legal profession was presented posthumously to Judge Roger Klein and accepted by his wife and son.

The Andrew Borg Award which recognizes an attorney in recognition of outstanding contributions to the representation and availability of legal services to indigent persons and was presented to attorney Sean Lacefield.

The Frank Henderson Award which recognizes an attorney for a life and practice that displays sterling character and unquestioned integrity, and ongoing dedication to the highest standards of the legal profession and was presented to Mike Lazar.

Weld County Legal Services also presented an award, the Sandy Carr Award recognizes an attorney or non-attorney who works to assist those who cannot afford legal services and strives to make the legal process accessible to those without counsel was presented this year to Angela Reyes of Denver who has made Weld County Legal Services Legal Nights a success.

A final award was presented by the Weld County Bar Association to Melvin Dinner for an extraordinary legal career spanning 63 years!

New officers were elected. Our new President will be Krea Sledge, Lisa Harbour-Weibel will take over as Vice President, Lee Moorehead will serve as the new Treasurer/Secretary and two new board members were elected, Liz Minnerop and Kristen Zacheis. However, we are still on the lookout for two additional board members, if you are interested, please let us know.

I want to close by thanking you for allowing me to serve as your Weld County Bar Association President for the past year. I learned a lot about my fellow board members, our legal community and those that contact the Weld County Bar Association for assistance.

I hope that you will all continue to take part in our activities and help those in our community that need it.

Thanks!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Nieto', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brandi Lynn Nieto, WCBA President