



Southern Maryland WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Linked by More than Community

December

Southern Maryland Women's League

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12/8/2012



Laura Forbes-Brown

President's Message

Tis the Season to be Merry!!! Hello League Sisters, as we embark on what is my favorite time of the year, I hope that each and every one of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I also hope you took some time to reflect on the good and happiness you have in your life, the people who love you, the lives you touch and the differences you make in your environment, work place, community and homes that have an everlasting effect. Thank you for just being you and all the good you bring to The Southern Maryland Women's League!!!

So, before 'Thanksgiving Day' approached one item on my agenda or "to do list" was to "have my Christmas trees decorated" or at least my 12 foot tree decorated! Decorating my Christmas trees has become somewhat of an art and brings a sense of peace for me. I take my time and one by one, light strand by light strand, ornament by ornament, bows, ribbon and etc. Each ornament has its special spot for another year to be seen and re-visited by family and guest who gaze upon the tree. As I decorate my tree, each ornament I pick to hang has a story or a memory that follows. I take a ride down memory lane, remembering when I was in elementary school, the day Alyssa was born, living in Hawaii, a gift from a friend, a vacation or getaway, the loss of a loved one, the list goes on and on. Christmas decorating and the Holidays in general have the ability to remind us of good memories and sometimes not so good ones. I know we all have a little of both.

I remind my children every year, one of my gifts to them is decorating our home. My son asked me how can decorating be a gift? An honest question from a 10 year old boy!!!! I explained, this is a gift because it requires a lot of my time and care to detail doing so and preparing. I do this, because I love you and want you to have good memories of your childhood and remember what Christmas really is about.....giving! God gave his very best to us and I hope you will give your very best to your children one day. I hope my children will keep the same spirit alive in their hearts and want this same gift for their families and will register this with love.

- continued page 4

In this issue...

- President's Message 1
- Our Next Social 2
- Foundation News 3
- Calendar of Events..... 5

"Give the world the best you have and the best will come back to you."

~Madeline Bridge~



We are...

An organization of women dedicated to promoting, strengthening and supporting women and issues of importance through fellowship, education, service and mentoring programs.

The **Southern Maryland Women's League** provides women with a wide range of opportunities to help each other succeed through the exchange of information, services, mentoring, charitable actions, shared experiences, friendship and motivational support.

We are a dynamic group of Southern Maryland business owners, entrepreneurs, managers, homemakers and people from all walks of life with a wide variety of life experiences.

We are dedicated to helping each other grow and support our community through fundraising, special events, volunteer efforts, shared experiences, and more.

Programs & Events

Overview of our November Meeting!



MEETING DATE: Wednesday, November 7th

LOCATION: Martini's Prime Rib Room

Lobster and Holistic Health!!! I don't know of any other club that gives you so much!! Holly Dunbar, Owner and Operator of New Moon Bodyworks & Botanical introduced us to the healing art of essential oil therapy, also known as aromatherapy. She explained the properties of 5 common plant oils used in the medicinal, food, and cosmetic industries and demonstrated how easily they can be incorporated into daily routines to enhance health and well-being. **If you missed this meeting, we missed you!! We look forward to catching up on your news at our Christmas Party!**

Don't miss our next event...



SMWL 6th Annual Christmas Party

Saturday, December 8, 2012
6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

At the lovely home of Sherrie & Larry Sanders
7661 Brentland Road, Welcome, Maryland
Catering by Celebration of Spirits Chef Gary Fick

Member price complimentary (included in your dues), Guest \$60

Ugly...er Festive Sweater Contest! Wear or bring an Ugly, Festive, Crazy Fun Sweater that you would like to Donate to our EBay Auction! Winners of the Sweater Contest will win Fabulous SMWL Prizes! We will "All Win" when we sell our Sweaters and donate the money to a worthy Christmas Cause!

Our Next SMWL General Membership Meeting - JANUARY 9TH at MARTINI'S – Get ready! We will be doing a "Chinese Re-Gift Exchange" Start the New Year off right and join us for an evening of fun, food and shared laughter!! Please be sure to RSVP as soon as you receive the official email invitation, this helps us to better prepare for our exciting meetings!



Care Committee |
Donna Ellis

We Care!

As we close out this year, I'd like to say how much

I enjoy having the opportunity to keep in touch with our members to share in their celebrations and come together in times of need.

We really are sisters, and taking a moment to send a birthday card or letter of condolence is a small way of showing how much we truly care about each other.

Many of you know that **Pam Roberts** broke her leg and we had the opportunity to try out a new program called **MEAL TRAIN**, and several members came to the rescue and cooked and delivered meals to help her after surgery. We shared the same email request for cherished member **Brianna Bowling** who recovering from knee replacement surgery and doing well.

Speaking of Brianna, she has a blog site "Journey of a Dressage Student" where she describes her surgery in detail (squemish alert). You can visit it by going to this link:
<http://briannadressage.blogspot.com/#/2012/12/partial-knee-replacement-healing-and.html>

Remember, if **anyone knows of a member in need, please send me an email so we can send them a card or offer additional support services.**



I wish each and everyone much happiness and the best of health in the New Year!!

Message from the Editor | Andy Sanford

25th Hospice Festival of Trees



In case you missed it, this year was the **25th Annual and LAST Hospice Festival of Trees** event. Years of devotion, dedication and a lot of really, really hard work -- by many of our own SMWL Sisters -- have gone into making this one of the most success and longest running charitable events.

This year, your SMWL sponsored and decorated a Festival tree to honor **Lisa Jason**. The tree was then donated to Civista Hospital and can be viewed there. We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to support our community! We are truly blessed!





The SMWL Foundation continues to support needs of 501(c)3 Public Charities in the Southern Maryland area.

The Board voted to give small grants to the following: Sisters Lifting Sisters Retreat; Sponsor the Walk to End Homelessness coordinated by Lifestyles of Southern Maryland; and Donate to the Youth Group of New Life Church in their efforts to help stop Human Trafficking of young women and children.

In addition to Small Grants, the Foundation voted to replace 10 broken dressers, two armoires and two beds at the Angel's Watch Shelter.

It is noted, that due to an innocent error with YWLP, the Foundation cannot continue to fund their projects. The coordinators of the group were assured YWLP was a 501(c)3 non-profit by the Board of Education. However, the organization, through the Board of Education is a tax-exempt charity under section 115(1) of the Internal Revenue Code, not the 501(c)3 Code. This was discovered when they were asked to provide a copy of their 501(c)3 Letter from the IRS, prior to us funding one of the bigger events, Rachel's Challenge and they did not have that letter. Even some representatives of the Board of Education thought they were such an entity and told Milton Somers school that they indeed were a 501(c)3 public charity.

There are many different types of tax-exempt non-profits; but the designation of a Tax-exempt non-profit (public charity) under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code is very difficult to obtain.

SMWL Foundation By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation state that it will only donate funds to another 501(c)3 Public Charity.

However, in good faith, the Board voted to write the check directly to Rachel's Challenge which is a 501(c)3 Non-profit (public charity). The Foundation funded the \$2,200.00 YWLP originally requested for this event at their school.

Having said all of this, there is still a tremendous opportunity for the ladies of SMWL to mentor these young ladies and attend their events. One such event was the Rachel's Challenge 'Chain Reaction' Anti-Bully program recently held at Milton Somers Middle School on November 28, 2012 – and -- **we were proud to have provided Rachel's Challenge with \$2,200 to be the major sponsor of this important event.**

And, one exciting new piece of news...SMWL Membership voted almost unanimously to sponsor the Yellow Mediterranean Bedroom Suite for terminal patients at the Charles County Hospice House to make a lasting impression from our club and share our compassion and support for families within our community. We have the opportunity to pay for the room over five years. The suite will have an attractive and permanent plaque on the outside wall of the suite with our name on it; and we have the opportunity to personalize things within the room with SMWL's "touch". This opportunity is awesome and will help SMWL leave a lasting legacy....a goal that we have discussed wanting to accomplish repeatedly.

Member Spotlight!

To help us learn more about our SMWL Sisters, each month we randomly select (pick names out of a hat) one lucky member to highlight and share!

For December 2012, we are excited to Highlight SMWL member...

Jane Staples

Occupation/Business:
Owner, Jane Staples Agency
State Farm Insurance, Waldorf



Are you married? Yes, to Steve

Do you have any children? Yes, a handsome son, Gunnar!

What is the one thing that your SMWL sisters may be surprised to learn about you? I'll answer that and combine it with your "Most proud of question", I met my husband in my Junior year of high school while hanging out with friends at their Senior Week in Ocean City – and we've been together ever since!!

Favorite sweet treat? Anything Chocolate!

In your birth order, are you first, second...? Middle with 2 brothers and 6 sisters!

Eye color: Blue **Tattoos?** No

Favorite Christmas movie: *It's a Wonderful Life*

What motivates you to succeed: Wanting to enjoy life completely without financial hardships.

What TV character best describes you? Any one of the women of CSI, or a crime detective show! Love them!

If you could play hookie for one day –where would you want to go? I would be surrounded by friends in a lovely Beach Front restaurant on a beautiful tropical island!

Favorite Charity: Angel's Watch – I am most proud of all of the support that all of our SMWL sisters have shared with the mothers and children of those in need.



Visit our Facebook Page and LIKE us and you could win a prize!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Southern-Maryland-Womens-League/113078255376018>

President's Message continued...

I have developed traditions for them to follow, I'm sure many of you have the same for your families. One tradition we have on Christmas Eve is allowing the kids to open one gift, and they know what the gift is.....New Pajamas!!! They are excited to see what mom picked and of course they always give me a request....maybe this tradition is more about me....I want to make sure they look good on Christmas morning for their pictures!!! LoL..... Anyway, it's practical!!

My point is our lives are based on memories. Memories are ours to keep, cherish, re-create or give away. We can choose to share them with others, store them away, or even celebrate them. They are always apart of whom we are and no one can take them from us. I know, some memories are painful and we try hard to forget them. For me, those painful memories have helped shape me into who I am today and I am thankful for those times in my life and wouldn't change anything if I could go back in time. Where ever you are today, embrace the time and situation, whether good or bad, happy or sad, it's only for a season and it will pass. Be thankful for the many blessings, friendships, laughter and love you have in your life. These things are gifts! May God bestow priceless memories for you this Christmas season, May God bless you this year with peace, love and good will to others and yourself. Take time, enjoy your parents, siblings and their spouses, nieces and nephews, children and grandchildren... make time to share some of your treasured memories with your family, friends and even strangers. Let them know how much you love them, even if you do not say the words, your actions speak volumes. Make the time... Merry Christmas.

I hope to see you all at our Christmas Party, let's create a memory that evening that will last more than a lifetime!

Warmest Holiday Wishes,
Laura Brown

Program Committee | Diana Rucci

Planning Ahead



The Program Committee held its first committee meeting in October and made a few changes to the 2012-2013 calendars. The biggest change was moving Mystery Night to March and Minute to Win It to May following the Annual Fundraiser in April. We figured we are going to need the laughs after we all work hard to raise a boat load of money. Our 6th Annual SMWL Christmas Party will be held at The Sander's Home on December 8th from 6pm to 10pm. Remember your cost have been previously paid in your dues but your guest will cost \$60. We are also going to have some fun and raise a little dough with an "Ugly Sweater" contest so get your glue guns and sparkles out Ladies! While you are "getting things out" grab your calendar and be sure you have January 9th as our SMWL Meeting date as this is a change due to the holiday. January's theme is a "Chinese Re-Gift Exchange" and will be held at Martini's Prime Rib Room. I am sure we will all have a little something we will want to exchange ;-)

And, for you -- our SMWL member -- we may not state it enough, or loudly for all to hear, but we truly cherish you and your membership and we enjoy seeing you participate at our meetings and supporting our special events! We can't have a successful club with your participation and support! Don't forget to RSVP on time to attend our meetings and special events!

Membership Report | Helen Heier



Our Numbers...

On December 6th, I sent each member via email a new Membership Birthday List and the new Membership Directory dated 12-05-12.

We now have 52 members!!!!!!

REMINDER - I have added something new to the Membership Directory (Sponsor and Day Joined). Please look at your name and if your info is not filled in, please e-mail ME only who your sponsor was and the day you joined and if you were a Charter member please advise. I would like to get this list completed asap.

To contact Helen directly, please email her at helen@bridgett-mock.com

Happy Birthdays!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- December 19: Holley Zippi
- December 25: Andrea Sanford
- December 27: Becky Humbert
- December 27: Lisa Wills
- December 28: Connie Fuksa
- December 30: Margie Earnshaw

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- January 20: Patricia Harris
- January 20: Susan McClanahan
- January 25: Doris Folineo
- January 30: Rebecca Martin



LIKE our Facebook page!!!
 If YOU need help setting up your own Facebook profile, contact Andy Sanford and she will help teach you how to use this powerful Social Media tool! Asanford12@gmail.com

2012/13 SMWL Calendar of Events...

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8TH – NEW DATE!

SMWL Christmas Party @ Sherrie's Home

Wednesday, December 19

BOD Meeting; info TBD

2013: Wednesday, January 9

SMWL General Meeting, Chinese Re-Auction! \$25/members; \$35/non-members, Martini's

Wednesday, January 23

BOD Meeting, Re/Max 100 Building

Wednesday, February 6

Event for National Heart Month, Celebrate Body, Mind & Soul, TBD

Wednesday, February 20

BOD Meeting, 5:30pm Re/Max 100

Wednesday, March 6

SMWL Meeting: **Mystery Night**
TBD

Wednesday, January 24

Diva's Do's and Don'ts, Hosted at the home of Rona Kelley

Wednesday, March 20

BOD Meeting, 5:30pm Re/Max 100

Wednesday, April 3

Decoration Workshop for Fundraiser

Wednesday, April 19

BOD Meeting, 5:30 pm Re/Max 100

Friday, April 25

SMWL Annual Club Fundraiser

Wednesday, May 1

SMWL Meeting: **Minute to Win It!!**

Wednesday, May 15

BOD Meeting, 5:30pm Re/Max 100

Wednesday, June 5th

Annual Business Meeting @ Martini's

Wednesday, June 19th

BOD Meeting: Transitional meeting of current and new BODs

This is your newsletter!

Send your information, By-the-Ways or Pet Projects in to our league President so we can include them in our next newsletter! Space is limited, so expect editing and submissions are first come-first served.

URGENT NEED!

Christmas Connection for KIDS!!!

Last year we donated pillows and blankets for children in need in Western Charles County. This year, our Christmas Connection contact is in need of 188 Giant Candy filled Candy Canes (available at Dollar Store & Walmart) AND they desperately need Gloves, Mitten, Hats, Socks and Children's Underwear. All sizes, both genders needed!!! Deadline is December 16. Drop off to See-Thru Windows in Waldorf or directly to Grace Lutheran School & Church in La Plata. For additional Information, contact Laura Brown directly!

BUSINESS ALLIANCE OF CHARLES COUNTY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Tuesday, December 11th.

Our great friend, Wayne Magoon has served as the inaugural Chairman of the Board for the Business Alliance of Charles County for the past year, and we've put together an awesome party to thank him! Visit the BACC website for additional information.

<http://www.bizalliance.org/alliance.events?eventId=567447&EventViewMode=EventDetails>

Thank you from SLS Ministries

SLS Ministries Inc.: Thank you SMWL for sending 3 women that were financially challenged to Restoration Retreat (A Post-Abortive Healing Journey) November 30-December 1, 2012. It was another successful retreat. God bless your outreach to women and girls in the continuing journey in being victorious over life's adversities. From the Board of Directors of SLS Ministries Inc. Blessed regards, Rev. Lyn Bell SLS Ministries Inc., www.slsministriesinc.org



Kiwanis Club of La Plata's Annual Christmas Ornament features Maxwell Hall.

Available at Safeway in La Plata on the weekends, and through several locations around the County, your purchase of these annual ornaments help support the La Plata Kiwanis Club and its mission to serve their sponsored local clubs including the:

- La Plata High School Key Club
- Milton Somers Builders Club
- Walter J. Mitchell K-Kids Clubs/Terrific Kids program
- Matula K-Kids Clubs and the Terrific Kids program and the Clubs annual Scholarship program.



2012/2013 SMWL Board of Directors

President: **Laura Brown** (2011/14)
laura_forbes@comcast.net

Vice President: **Brenda Lowe** (2012/14)
ahloweha@aol.com

Secretary: **Cindy Lantz** (2012/14)
cynlantz@yahoo.com

Foundation Treasurer: **Brenda Lowe** (2012/14), ahloweha@aol.com

League Treasurer: **Rona Kelley** (2012/14)
rona@heatbyfire.com

Program/Event Chairs

Vickie Johnson (2011/13)

Diana Rucci (2010/14)

Vicki: vjohnson7775@aol.com

Diana: diana.n.rucci@wellsfargo.com

Membership Chairs

Helen Heier (2011/13)

Diana Rucci (2012/14)

Helen: heier2@comcast.net

Diana: diana.n.rucci@wellsfargo.com

CSM Grant Project

Carole Lewis (2011/13)

icare4faces@yahoo.com

Care Committee

Donna Ellis (2011/13)

donnajellis@hotmail.com

Media/Public Relations/Newsletter

Andy Sanford (2012/14)

asanford12@gmail.com

Angel's Watch Grant Liaison

Laura Forbes-Brown

laura_forbes@comcast.net

PAST PRESIDENTS

Rona Kelley: 2006-2008

Diana Rucci: 2008-2010

Doris Folineo: 2010-2011

Terry Davis: 2011-2012