



# Southern Maryland WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Linked by More than Community

August & September 2023 Newsletter | [www.smwl.org](http://www.smwl.org)

# Connections

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- Page 1 - President's Message
- Page 2,3,6,7 - Our Latest Events
- Page 4 - Our NEXT Event
- Page 5 - Care Committee
- Page 7 - League Budget
- Page 8 - Calendar & Membership
- Insert - 2 Year Grant: Gals Lead Ways that you can help!



## President's Message

Becky Hoffman

*Leave a message  
at the beep!*

**"What you  
get by achieving  
your goals is  
not as important  
as what  
you become  
by achieving  
your goals."**

ZIG ZIGLAR

## SMWL MISSION STATEMENT

To promote, strengthen and support women in our community through fellowship, education, service and mentor programs.

We are a dynamic group of women dedicated to helping each other grow and support our community through fund-raising, special events, volunteer efforts, shared experiences and more.

Serving Southern Maryland and its Communities.

**Our Next Event**  
See page 4 for details

## SMWL CRABS & FUN

Wednesday, September 13, 2023  
The Rivah at Cobb Island  
5:30/6:00 pm



See page 4 for complete details.

## THE HOT DAYS OF SUMMER!

As your 2023/24 SMWL President, I am happy to start each edition of our newsletter with a small quote. Hopefully, this will give everyone positive motivation over the coming months.

I am pleased to be part of such an outstanding organization that stays true to our mission and shares our many blessings with our community. You have elected a wonderful SMWL Board of Directors. A board that I am so grateful to lead and to be a part of.

## 2023/2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

President: Becky Hoffman  
Vice President: Andrea Sanford  
Chair, Programs & Communications  
Treasurer: Corporation: Pam Frank  
Treasurer: Foundation: Ruth Mudd  
Secretary: Brenda Lowe  
Chair, Scholarships Committee

## BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Laura Bryant: Chair, Grants Committee  
Candice Kelly: Care  
Helen Heier: Membership  
Tequila House: Programs

In this edition you will find a wealth of information regarding our current finances and budget, small grants, CSM Scholarships, Care and Membership updates, past Program event overviews, photos and the calendar of events. Many thanks to Andy for sharing her artistic and writing skills to help keep us informed and to archive our long history of success. You can view past newsletters on our website at [www.smwl.org/newsletters](http://www.smwl.org/newsletters)

With the school year starting soon, I hope that you have been able to take time to enjoy and relax over the past few summer months. I look forward to seeing everyone at the next SMWL Meeting/Event at the Rivah in Cobb Island!

Quick reminder, Annual dues were due August 12. If you have not yet paid, please do so by visiting the website, or sending in a check.

Feel free to contact me directly at 301-751-1167 if you have any questions or concerns. I am always ready to listen.

## SMWL BOD 2023/2024

### OFFICERS

President: Becky Hoffman

Vice President: Andrea Sanford  
Chair, Programs & Communications

Treasurer: Corporation: Pam Frank

Treasurer: Foundation: Ruth Mudd

Secretary: Brenda Lowe

Chair, Scholarships Committee

### BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Chair, Grants Committee: Laura Bryant

Care: Candice Kelly

Membership: Helen Heier

Programs: Tequila House

### PAST PRESIDENTS

#### League

2006-2007 Rona Kelley

2007-2008 Rona Kelley

2008-2009 Diana Rucci

2009-2010 Diane Rucci

2010-2011 Doris Folineo

2011-2012 Terry Davis

2012-2013 Laura Brown

2013-2014 Laura Brown

2014-2015 Brenda Lowe

2015-2016 Diana Rucci

2016-2017 Diana Rucci

2017-2018 Mia Allen-Ananyan

2018-2021 Suzanne Wible

2021-2023 Candice Kelly

#### Foundation

2006-2007 Candice Kelly

2007-2008 Candice Kelly

2008-2009 Millie Gieseman

## Our Latest Events | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023 MEMBER APPRECIATION & ELECTIONS



We are incredibly grateful to all of the Members who came out to join us for the SMWL Member Appreciation Meeting & General Elections. We would like to thank Diana Rucci (one of our founding members and co-owner of Rucci's) for hosting this very special event. Members enjoyed fabulous dinner selections, outstanding cocktails/wine, and delicious desserts.

### **A summary of the MINUTES are as follows:**

An Annual Meeting of the Southern Maryland Women's League and Election was held on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at Rucci's Italian Kitchen and Grille, White Plains, MD.

**Members Present in Person:** Candice Kelly, Rona Kelley, Becky Hoffman, Pam Frank, Natalie McKinney, Helen Heier, Brenda Lowe, Ruth Mudd, Laura Forbes, Darlene Breck, Alyssa Cox, Cindy Bouet, Katie Roze, Linda Cox, Lisa Case, Candy Meyers, Lisa Wills and Robin Magoon.

**Establishment of Quorum:** President Candice Kelly called the meeting to order at 5:51 p.m. as it was determined there was a quorum. There were 17 members present with three proxies and more members walked in after the meeting commencement.

**Minutes of Last Annual Meeting:** Candice drew attention to the minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting and Election for August 10, 2022. She asked if everyone had a chance to review and if there were no issues, she would entertain a motion to accept. Upon motion made by Robin Magoon and seconded by Pam Frank, the minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting and Election for August 10, 2022 were unanimously approved.

**Committee Reports:** A few Board members gave general committee updates but most committee future plans were awaiting the election and new positions/chairs of the newly elected Board.

## Networking Nook

Buy local and help support  
your small SMWL businesses

### **RONA KELLEY**

#### **Tri County Hearth & Patio Center**

2475 Old Washington Rd

Waldorf, Md. 20601

301-843-1771

www.heatbyfire.com

*We are a store for all seasons.*

*Fall - think firepits & fireplaces*

*Winter - think more about*

*fireplaces and wood stoves*

*Spring - Start thinking about*

*outdoor patio furniture and new*

*barbeque grills.*

*Summer - Enjoy the outdoors -*

*maybe you need an umbrella or a*

*new Big Green Egg grill.*

---

### **VICKIE JOHNSON**

#### **Celebration of Spirits**

*Bar Catering, Full Bar Service*

*and Bartenders for all your*

*special occasions*

301-751-3235

vjohnson7775@aol.com

www.CelebrationOfSpirits.com

### **VICKIE JOHNSON - Realtor**

#### **Century 21/New Millennium**

301-751-3235

Vickie.Johnson@C21NM.com

9405 Chesapeake Street

La Plata, MD 20646

www.C21NM.com

---

### **CANDICE Q. KELLY, Esquire**

Announcing the opening of

The Law Office of Candice Q. Kelly

*No problem is too big or too small.*

204 Washington Avenue

La Plata | 301-848-8294

PAGE 2 CONTINUED...

**Presentation of the Corporation and Foundation Proposed Budgets:** Pam Frank summarized the July 2023 through June 2024 Corporation Budget and noted that the Board adopted it on May 22, 2023. Katie Rose had questions that Pam answered. Ruth Mudd summarized the July 2023 through June 2024 Foundation Budget (assuming that donations in lieu of a fundraiser would continue...not a definite thing...but a place to start anyway). This budget was adopted by an earlier electronic vote on June 14, 2023.

**Appreciation of Current Board Members:** Candice Kelly named all of the current members of the board and appointed chairpersons and asked them all to stand. She asked the membership to show their appreciation for the hard work the volunteers had done for the club and Foundation. Rona noted that the end-of-year gifts for each member would be given to members at a future meeting.

**Presentation of Plaque and Gavel to Out-going President:** Becky Hoffman presented Candice Kelly, outgoing President with a beautiful wooden plaque and gavel with her name engraved and years served as President. Appreciation was shown by all.

**Election of Board Members for July 1, 2023 for one and two year terms:** Candice reported that the Nomination Committee (consisting of Candice, Kelly McCormack, Natalie McKinney and Pam Frank) reached out to the current Board Members whose terms were expiring and asked if they wanted to re-run. All were willing to re-run except for Rona Kelley and Natalie McKinney. Candice noted that she would be coming off the Board and serve as ex-officio Past President and Parliamentarian in a non-voting capacity. She noted this left three Board positions open. Appointed non-voting members of the Board that were appointed as Committee chairs last year, Laura Forbes and Andy Sanford agreed to run for regular Board positions and Alyssa Cox expressed interest in running for a Board Position.

Members elected last year for a two-year term...who will be finishing out their second year of their term from July 2023 through June 2024: Pamela Frank, Becky Hoffman and Tequila House.

**Members who have agreed to run for the Board for a two-year term:** Brenda Lowe, Helen Heier, Ruth Mudd, Laura Forbes, Andrea Sanford and Alyssa Cox. Candice agreed to serve as ex-officio Past President and Parliamentarian. So, Candice asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Candice Kelly called for a motion to accept the slate of directors by affirmation. Upon motion made by Rona Kelley and seconded by Pam Frank, the membership unanimously approved the slate by affirmation and the members were all elected to the Board.

Candice Kelly noted that Becky Hoffman would automatically move into the President's position and she introduced the new Board of Directors to the membership: Becky Hoffman: President; Andrea Sanford, Brenda Lowe, Pam Frank, Ruth Mudd, Laura Forbes, Tequila House, Helen Heier and Alyssa Cox. Candice noted she would remain on as ex-officio Past President and Parliamentarian in a non-voting capacity. (Update: Aug 23 - Alyssa Cox has resigned from the Board due to expanded work commitments. The BOD voted to transfer Candice Kelly from ex-officio to Board Member at Large and to serve at the Care Committee liaison.)

## Networking Nook

**Buy local and help support  
your small SMWL businesses**

---

### **Beverly Brown**

**Travel Advisor - Owner Chesapeake  
Travel**

Independent Contractor for  
Travel Leaders

443-286-1519 mobile and  
WhatsApp  
301-863-0409 fax  
Facebook -  
[www.facebook.com/chesapeaketraavel](http://www.facebook.com/chesapeaketraavel)

Join My Group on Facebook for  
deals and specials at "Chesapeake  
Travel Insider's"  
Twitter - @chesapeaketrvl  
Instagram - Chesapeake Travel  
[www.beachboundandbeyond.com](http://www.beachboundandbeyond.com)

---

### **Andrea Sanford Design**

Logo Design, Marketing, Newsletters,  
Social Media Coaching, Wine Glass  
Painting Parties, Custom Resin Gifts,  
Wreaths and more!  
301-399-0583  
[asanford12@gmail.com](mailto:asanford12@gmail.com)

---

## **AD YOUR BUSINESS INFORMATION HERE!**

Email me your business name,  
contact info, services and an SMWL  
Member discount/special offer if  
desired!

We love to shop, support, and  
use services offered by our SMWL  
Members and their families.

[asanford12@gmail.com](mailto:asanford12@gmail.com)

PAGE 3 CONTINUED...

**By-the Ways:** Members gave By-the-Ways for upcoming events...like the CSM Golf Tournament's Sip & Swing that SMWL would be sponsoring with part of their scholarship commitment money, upcoming Children's National Hospital events, Lifestyles events and Katie Rose announced that she would be downsizing her Grille No 13 Business and was excited to have a smaller, more manageable carry out business in the future. She thanked all the members for their support over the years.

**Old Business / New Business:** Candice asked if there was any Old Business. Being none, she asked if there was any New Business. Being none, she called for the motion to adjourn.

**Adjournment:** Upon motion made by Pam Frank and seconded by Robin Magoon, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Brenda Lowe Date: 6/29/2023*

SMWL Members,  
Spouses & Guests

# Crabs, Knockers, & Fun Social



Wednesday, September 13th  
*at the Rivah on Cobb Island*

5:30 Check In, 6:00 Dinner. Join us for a very casual  
evening of great food, refreshments and fun!

Order from the Crab/Seafood or Ledo Pizza Menu.

*Pay on your own. Don't forget bar tab/servers tips.*

12364 Neale Sound Drive | Cross bridge, drive past  
Skuttlebutts and bear left, drive past the playground on  
the right, and then turn left into boat yard area.

RSVP by 9/8/23 to Andy: [asanford12@gmail.com](mailto:asanford12@gmail.com)  
**\$5 Heads & Tales and Door Prize Fun!**



## The 2023/2024 Membership dues are \$250.

The final due date for all payments is August 31, 2023.

Members with special circumstances may be offered a payment plan by contacting Pam directly.

Non payment of dues will result in the loss of membership privileges.

To pay your dues online, please include a \$9.00 Bank Service Fee for a total of \$259.

[www.smwl.org](http://www.smwl.org)

To past members who wish to reinstate membership, please contact Pam Frank, Corporation Treasurer, directly via email to: [pam@phfservices.net](mailto:pam@phfservices.net)



## MEMBERS ARE INVITED BY MEMBERS.

After attending 3 Meetings, prospective members may submit an Application and Bio to their Sponsor. The Sponsor will share with the Membership Committee for review and a full membership vote.

Once/if approved by the membership the prospective member will be notified. Membership materials will be shared once membership fees are complete.

## Care Committee



First, we'd like to thank Natalie McKinney for her past service as our Care Committee Chair as she did an excellent job of gathering information and sharing well wishes, sympathy, and cheer by sending cards, making calls and updating members on other members needs and celebrations.



And now, let's recognize the following awesome SMWL sisters that have celebrated their birthdays in July and August, and those who will celebrate in September...

- Torri Turner - July 6
- Helen Heier - July 13
- Darlene Breck - August 8
- Candice Kelly - August 24
- Diana Rucci - September 2
- Michelle Kelly - September 4
- Laura Forbes-Bryant - September 8
- Becky Hoffman - September 16
- Natonya Thomas - September 16

Happy Birthday



*Celebrate, celebrate, and celebrate and let the good times roll!!!*

If you are one of our members are having any difficulties, has experienced the loss of a family member, has special circumstances, or has a special reason to celebrate, please reach out to our new 2023/34 Care Committee Chair, Candice Kelly via email to share: [candiceqk@gmail.com](mailto:candiceqk@gmail.com)



## Treasurers Reports

Submitted by Pam Frank (Corporation) and Ruth Mudd (Foundation)

**Corporate:** Balance as of June 30, 2023 is \$2,004.30

**SMWL Foundation** (Budget attached PDFs)

Balance as of May 22, 2023 = \$14,146.71  
Transfer from Certificate of Deposit = \$33,808.56  
**Total:** \$47,955.27



**Community Foundation of Southern Maryland (charitable/ endowed fund):** Balance as of January 26, 2022 is \$49,879.22

## The Ways We Help

Each year, your SMWL Foundation supports several small grants for local non-profits. The latest grants approved by the board include:

- \$500 - Grace Lutheran Wine & Cheese Social in Support of Lifestyles - April 2023. *(BTW: this event raised \$22,000 to increase the amount of GLS scholarships and in support of the "Funds of Grace" for LifeStyles of Maryland.*
- \$500 - CSM Sip & Swing held on August 10th.
- \$500 - Charles County Rotary Foundation - Lobster Festival scheduled for October 1, 2023.

## This is your SMWL Newsletter!

Please email me with your news... including special family announcements, business information and SMWL specials, charitable organizations or drives that are near and dear to your heart, By-the-ways and more!

We'd love to include your information to share with our SMWL Sisters.

asanford12@gmail.com  
 smwl@gmail.com

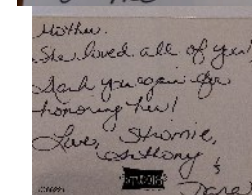
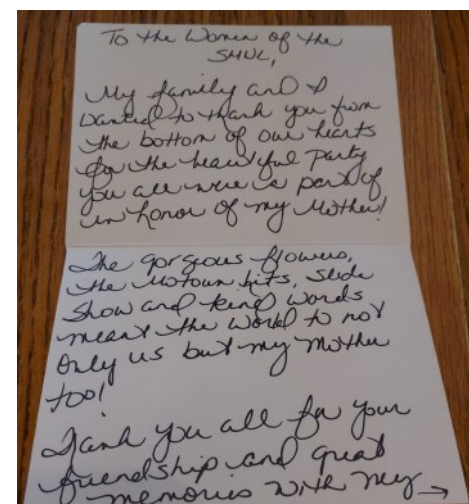


## Honoring Our Friend

The SMWL is a group of ladies from all walks of life who come together to support, celebrate, mentor, learn and share fellowship through good times, and bad. And, when a member passes, it truly leaves a void in our League, and our lives.

Terry Davis and a several SMWL ladies have talked for a while about doing something with Donna's Friends and, of course, her family, to help add some closure for to her passing. Because of the COVID environment at the time... many people could not come to the funeral.

Terry decided she was going to hold a *Celebration of Life* on Donna's Birthday this year... we are honored to share a few photos from this celebration here today.



## 2023/24 SMWL LEAGUE BUDGET



### INCOME

Fundraiser \$250.00  
x 40 Members  
= \$10,000.00

Carry over May 22 2023  
Checking \$14,146.71

Transfer from Certificate of  
Deposit \$33,808.56

**Total Income \$57,955.27**

### EXPENSES

Administrative Insurance  
\$677.00 (Good through 2026)

Accounting \$400.00

Administrative Expenses  
(Postage, Books etc.) \$200.00

PO Box rental 1/2 year Due  
January \$101.00

Total Administrative \$1,378.00

### SCHOLARSHIPS

CSM Scholarships \$3,000.00  
1,500 2nd part due on  
Giving Tuesday  
Total \$3,000.00

### Grants

Bi-Annual (15,000) distributed  
over 2 years) \$7,500.00

Small Grants \$2,000.00

Memorial Grants TBD

Total Grants \$9,500.00

**Total Expenses \$13,878.00**

Submitted by Ruth Mudd  
Foundation Treasurer | 6/14/2023

## Our Latest Events

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9TH, 2023**  
**POOL & PATIO PARTY - SIT, SIP & SWIM**

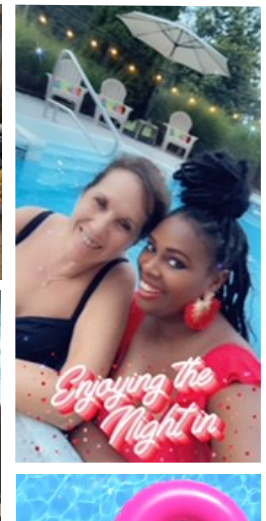
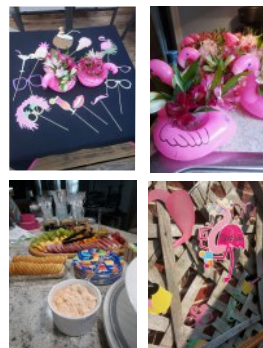


Thank you to League President, Becky Hoffman for planning, managing, and hosting the 2023 Ladies Nite Pool Party at her beautiful home in Waldorf.

Everyone enjoyed good company, great food, refreshments, and lots of **pink flamingo** fun!

Holding special Program events during the summer months is always difficult as many members are out of town on vacation or have extended seasonal work commitments. We truly appreciate all of the lovely ladies who were able to join the fun!

Speaking of vacation... please join us in sharing an extra special thank you to Becky and her wonderful husband, Bill for their amazing efforts in making this SMWL event happen. They both had to leave their family vacation early to repair damage incurred to their home during the recent storms in our area. Thanks to their personal efforts, we were still able to hold this fun event.



## SMWL Calendar of Events

Always remember to  
with a YES or NO!

# RSVP

**PROGRAMS:** *SECOND Wednesday of each month (unless a special event is planned)*

### 2023

- AUGUST 9, Wednesday: Swim, Sip & Sit Pool Party at Becky Hoffman's Home
- SEPTEMBER 13, Wednesday: Annual Crab Feast, The Rivah at Cobb Island starting at 5:30 pm.
- OCTOBER 14, Saturday: Possible "Witchy" special event – more info to come.
- NOVEMBER 15, Wednesday: Minute-2-Win-It Game Nite. *Join the Programs Committee to help!*
- DECEMBER: Holiday Party, information to come

### 2024

- JANUARY: Wednesday the 10th - After-Holiday Gift Exchange, Location: Hunan Star
- FEBRUARY: Wednesday the 14th\* - Date may change due to Valentines Day
- MARCH: Wednesday the 13th – Join the programs committee to help plan this!
- APRIL: Wednesday the 10th – Join the programs committee to help plan this!
- MAY: Wednesday the 8th – Join the programs committee to help plan this!
- JUNE: Wednesday the 12th – Join the programs committee to help plan this!
- JULY: Wednesday the 10 – Join the programs committee to help plan this!

**BOARD MEETINGS:** *THIRD Tuesday of every other month (unless a special meeting is planned).*

- JULY 12 – Wednesday: A/R Workshop
- SEPTEMBER 19, Tuesday: A/R Workshop
- NOVEMBER 21, Tuesday: A/R Workshop
- JANUARY 16, Tuesday: A/R Workshop
- MARCH 19, Tuesday: A/R Workshop
- MAY 21, Tuesday: A/R Workshop
- JULY 16, Tuesday: A/R Workshop

**NEWSLETTER PUBLISHING:** *FIRST Tuesday of every other non-board meeting month. Please send in your submissions one week prior.*

- August 23 \*\* *Special date as Andy out of town for work event*
- October 3, Tuesday
- December 5, Tuesday
- February 6, Tuesday
- April 2, Tuesday
- June 4, Tuesday

## Membership Committee

We are currently in the middle of membership dues renewal and right now, our membership numbers are steady.

To date, we've had one member resign and one new member join: **Paige Blankenship**, sponsored by her mom, Brenda Lowe will be sorely missed. However, we totally understand the demands placed by two little ones, and the long drive from AA County! Thank you for 9 years of membership and your outstanding support!

**Natonya Thomas**, sponsored by Katie Rose, is our newest member! We look forward to seeing Natonya at our next meeting and having the opportunity to get to know her ever better.

At the next membership committee meeting we will be discussing and finalizing a few new SMWL items, including:

- New Member Interest Response and Invite
- New Member Name Tag Ribbon
- Updated SMWL Membership Brochure
- 

Contact Becky Hoffman for additional information.

Help us grow our League,  
please feel free to invite  
friends/prospective  
members to our upcoming  
meetings or special  
Program events.



## Ad Hoc Committee - Fundraiser

For the League to provide donations in support of our charitable obligations (2-Year Program Support, CSM Scholarships, and a variety of Grants), all members historically, have come together to host an annual fundraiser through our 501c3 non-profit SMWL FOUNDATION. Your participation in this annual fundraiser is a requirement of membership. Due to the past covid-related guidelines all members were contacted individually by the AD-Hoc Committee to review options and find a resolution. Through these conversations, League members opted NOT to hold an annual fundraiser in 2022/23 and agreed collectively to provide a personal donation of \$250 in support of the SMWL Foundation. As planning large successful fundraisers is still a difficult task, the Board voted to continue the \$250 Foundation for the 2023/24 year.

**Donation requests will be sent in early October for payment by December 1.** An Ad-Hoc Committee will be developed for a new membership survey before the end of this fiscal year.