

# Connections

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021 Newsletter | [www.smwl.org](http://www.smwl.org) | Follow us on Facebook



Southern Maryland  
**WOMEN'S  
LEAGUE**

*Linked by More  
than Community*



## President's Message | Suzanne Wible

Happy Day SMWL!

On August 5th we had a very exciting Membership Meeting and here is why:

First, the SMWL voted to donate \$13,000 to the Children's Miracle Network in sponsorship of a transport ventilator for newborn babies. That is truly something to be very proud of! Second, this was the first Membership Meeting since

March 2020 and what a wonderful turn out. The Program Committee chose a great venue where we could gather outside and the networking and camaraderie was energizing! Third, two former members re-joined the SMWL. Welcome back Candy Meyers and Lisa Wills! At our September 2nd Membership meeting we will be electing new officers for the Board of Directors. If you will not be able to participate in person, please fill out the election ballot and email it to me before the meeting.

Sadly, I am not eligible to run for a position on the Board of Directors as I have already served 3 consecutive terms. I want to thank each and every one of you for your support. You are phenomenal woman and it has truly been an honor to serve as your President these past 3 1/2 years.

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### SMWL MISSION STATEMENT

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

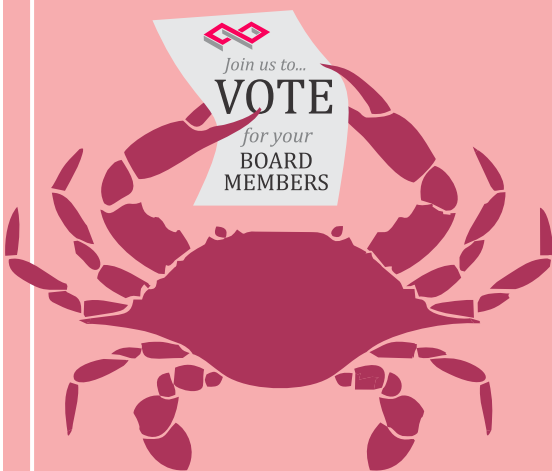
We are a dynamic group of women dedicated to helping each other grow and support our community through fundraising, special events, volunteer efforts, shared experiences and more.

Serving Southern Maryland and its Communities

## September Meeting & Elections Members Only



Southern Maryland  
**WOMEN'S LEAGUE**



Thursday, September 2nd at 6:00pm  
Capt. Billy's Crab House  
11495 Popes Creek Road, Newburg, MD

- Order direct from the Menu
- Libations Available
- Individual Checks and Tips
- Let us know if you plan to order Crabs for dinner - we'll advise Capt. Billy's in advance!

Information regarding the Elections – see pages 3 and 4

RSVP to Becky Hoffman  
via email to:  
[bhoffman@growingwithgrace.org](mailto:bhoffman@growingwithgrace.org)

**SMWL BOD 2020/21**

President: Suzanne Wible  
 Vice-President: Candice Kelly  
 Treasurer: Pam Frank  
 Foundation Treasurer:  
 Rona Kelley  
 Secretary: Kelly McCormack

**Chairs for the Standing Committees are:**

**Program:** Becky Hoffman and Carole Lewis, Co-Chairs  
**Membership:** Suzanne Wible and Linda Cox, Co-Chairs  
**Public Relations:** Andy Sanford  
**Fund Raiser:** Pam Frank  
**Care:** Natalie McKinney

**PAST PRESIDENTS**

**League**

2006-2007 Rona Kelley  
 2007-2008 Rona Kelley  
 2008-2009 Diana Rucci  
 2009-2010 Diana 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 Mia Allen-Ananyan  
 2018/21 - Suzanne Wible

**Foundation**

2006-2007 Candice Kelly  
 2007-2008 Candice Kelly  
 2008-2009 Mollie Gieseman

## July gathering at AR Workshop

*Presented by: Program's Committee Co-Chairs: Becky Hoffman and Carole Lewis  
 Committee Members: Tequila House, Natalie McKinney, and Diana Rucci*

AR Workshop in La Plata on July 15, 2021 was the place to be. We have some real talent, and the photos show just how artistic the SWML and our guests were that evening. Lots of socializing, great food, and a wonderful assortment of spirits added to the eclectic atmosphere. This event will go in the books as one of the best "Meet and Greet" yet! Thank you, Laura Forbes, owner of AR Workshop and a member of SMWL.



## Networking Nook

Buy local and help support  
 your small SMWL businesses

### RONA KELLEY

#### Tri County Hearth & Patio Center

2475 Old Washington Rd  
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 301-843-1771

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*We are a store for all seasons.*

*Fall - think firepits & fireplaces*

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 fireplaces and wood stoves*

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 barbeque grills.*

*Summer - Enjoy the outdoors -  
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 new Big Green Egg grill.*

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## Board of Director Candidates for Election | September 2, 2021

### Pam Frank - 2 year term

I was born and raised in Indian Head where I still live. I am single, have 3 children (2 girls and a boy) and 3 crazy beautiful grandchildren (2 boys and a girl). I have been a member of the SMWL since 2014.

In 1998, I founded a government contracting firm and ultimately worked in Washington for 20 years. Since closing my business, I have worked as a management consultant to mostly non-profit organizations and am currently the Executive Director of the Charles County Military Alliance Council (MAC), an advocate for the Navy installation in Indian Head and the town.

I currently serve on the BOD of the Indian Head Center for the Arts and I am actively involved in the revitalization efforts currently taking place in my home town. I LOVE the beach (and everything that goes with that), to cook (and obviously eat!) and travel to places I have never been.

I am proud to be a member of the SMWL – I love the mission of making a difference in Women's lives.

### Helen B. Heier - 1 year term

Helen is a lifetime resident of Charles County, Maryland (with exception of living in Annapolis for two years) and now has moved back to Charles County. She attended Charles County public schools.

She has three children - David, Joann, and Darren and six grandchild. One of God's greatest gifts are my children and grandchildren.

Helen was a Eucharistic Minister and is a Member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Bryantown, Maryland (did not serve while in Annapolis).

She works for Bridgett, Mock and Associates, P.A. in Waldorf, Maryland, as the Firm Administrator – September 1, 2021 she will have been with them 29 years.

Helen's hobbies include: Dancing, Crossword Puzzles, and Reading Good Books.

Helen took office as the 50th President of the Charles County Chamber of Commerce on January 14, 2008. She and her late husband are the first husband and wife to be President of the Charles County Chamber.

Helen's involvement in the Chamber has been numerous:

- Served on the Board of Directors, and then on the Executive Board as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, President Elect, and then President - total 7 years.
- Committee Member Membership Growth & Retention Ambassadors Committee - 8 yrs.
- Committee Member and then Chairperson Presidential Ball - 13 years.
- Chairperson Working Women's Appreciation Day - 13 years.
- Committee Member Map of Charles County - 1 year.
- Actively participates in all Charles County Chamber of Commerce events.

Helen is involved in many civic organizations currently and over her lifetime to name a few:

- Southern Maryland Women's League – currently Member and currently on Membership Committee Chairperson. She was on the Board some time ago.
- She was a Registered Notary Public - State of Maryland
- Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Society – was Member
- IAAP (International Association of Administrative Professionals) – was a Member-at-Large and a Member 11 years; and was Vice President of the Chesapeake Chapter 4 years (non-existent now)
- National Association for Female Executives – was Member
- UMCRCM (was Civista) Health Foundation Crabfeast Fundraiser – Committee Member for 3 years
- UMCRCM – on Board of Directors & the Finance Committee – Going on three years now.
- American Heart Association – P.G. Co – was Co-Chairperson for Telepledge for 2 years and was a Committee Member for the Benefit Auction for 6 years
- American Cancer Society, Oxon Hill/Clinton – was on Board of Directors for 4 years and was Chairperson of Phon-a-thon for 2 years
- United Way, Charles County – was a Committee Member for 2 years
- Waldorf Kiwanis Club – was a Volunteer - Children's Aid Society Christmas Programs - 6 years and Volunteer - Christmas in April Programs



## Networking Nook

Buy local and help support  
 your small SMWL businesses

### LISA CASE

**Carousel Clothing, Inc.**  
 2939 Festival Way  
 Waldorf, MD 20601  
 301-645-4660, 301-843-8884  
 cell: 301-643-8888

### Holiday special for SMWL

**members: 10% off any purchase,**  
 includes children's formal wear,  
 medical and school uniforms and  
 our custom embroidery services on  
 gift items and company logos!  
 (exp 12/31/20)

### CANDICE Q. KELLY, Esquire

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### Andrea Sanford Design

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## Board of Director Candidates for Election | September 2, 2021

### Becky Hoffman - 2 year term

Becky has lived in the Charles County area for most of her life with a short stint in Florida. She is Southern Maryland raised and proud of our community. Graduate of Lackey High School and studied restaurant management at CSM and Broward Community College.

Worked under Chef Anthony Gillette and has held several positions in the food and beverage industry. Has certification in ServSafe, TAM, Crowd Management, and Bartending. Current position as Facility Director/Compliance at Grace Lutheran Church and School for 27 years.

Passionate about fundraising and philanthropy. Has been a member or held a position on many boards and committees. Some include: Business Member of the Charles County Chamber of Commerce, board member of the Southern Maryland Women's League. Past Chair, University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center Foundation (retired member after 11 years), Co-Chair, University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center Foundation Annual Autumn Wine Tasting (9 years), Past Food-Chair of Charles Regional Medical Center Foundation Annual Run/Walk and "C" Ball. (5 years).

Contributed to the success of many events for organizations such as put not limited to Health Partners, LaPlata Garden Club, Jude House, Center for Children, Lutheran Compassion Center, Charles County Prison Ministry, Boy Scouts of America, Chesapeake District LWML, LifeStyles Inc., Tri-County (MD) Alumnae Chapter (TCMDAC) Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Thrivent Financial, and many more that would ask her to donate her time, organizational skills, and to lend a helping hand.

Becky is married and has 6 children and 14 grandchildren. Grateful for her life and faith! In her spare time she likes to garden, sew, draw, read, look at the ocean-lighthouses-sunrise, and drinking good wine!

### Rona Kelley - 1 year term

I was part of the group that began SMWL and still have a vested interest in seeing the success of the organization. It will be my pleasure to continue providing guidance to our group. I have served in every position on the Board and am currently the Foundation Treasurer.

I have lived in Charles County for over 43 years. Married to Dale with two children and many grandchildren. My husband and I have had the opportunity to travel extensively throughout the United States by RV.

Co-owner of Tri County Hearth & Patio Center & Magic Broom Chimney Sweeps in Waldorf established 40 years ago.

### Candice Kelly - 1 year term

It would be my great honor to serve on the SMWL Board and I respectfully ask for your consideration and vote.

I am a founding member of SMWL, along with my dear friends: Mary Sue Greisman, Elaine Lancaster, Theresa Lutich, Gail Manuel, Tracey Messick, Diane Mock, Pam Roberts, and Diana Rucci. When we were together there was laughter, no make that hilarity, and joy! We started working on little projects to raise funds for issues and groups we cared about and we wondered if there weren't other women who might enjoy some fun and hilarity while helping out those in need. Around a table at Olive Garden the idea for SMWL was hatched and Mary Sue Greiseman came up with our logo tag line "Linked by More than Community."

Since 2005, the women who have shared their time and talents with SMWL have contributed in ways they can't imagine and may never fully appreciate. I am so proud of SMWL and the generosity of heart and spirit of its members.

(continued, page 5)



## Networking Nook

Buy local and help support your small SMWL businesses

### Beverly Brown

Travel Advisor - Owner  
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443-286-1519 mobile and WhatsApp  
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 Twitter - @chesapeaketravel  
 Instagram - Chesapeake Travel  
[www.beachboundandbeyond.com](http://www.beachboundandbeyond.com)

## Board of Director Candidates for Election | September 2, 2021

So – I am a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a lawyer, a person who has served Charles County and the State of Maryland in many ways .... but what I really want you to know about me is that I try my best every day to be a better person and to live by the words of Mother Teresa – “We can do no great things only small things with great love”.

### Natalie S. McKinney - 2 year term

I am running for my second term on the Board of Directors for the Southern Maryland Women's League.

I am currently a member of the Alzheimer's Association; Executive Council for Charles County Maryland and I have a passion for helping others while bringing awareness to various situations. Lastly, I am a current Federal attorney with 35 years of government service, and I have three delightful grandchildren. Thank you for your consideration.

### Andrea Sanford - 2 year term

As a Charter member, I understand the mission of our association and our intent to come together as women -- in friendship, support, and community. I also share our vision and continued volunteer efforts to raise and distribute funds in support of programs to benefit women and children within our community. Over the past 10+ years, I have served three terms as your Marketing Chairwoman, and one as your Foundation Secretary.

Having the opportunity to volunteer and share my personal communications, marketing, and graphic design skills, it's been an honor to create the SMWL logo icon and overall branded materials, plus most of the annual fundraiser marketing materials, the website, newsletters, and social media.

Married for over 38 years, Billy and I are parents to three amazing (adult) kids and one incredible cute grandson.

I appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve the awesome members of our Association and kindly ask for your support and vote of confidence.

## This is *your* SMWL Newsletter!

Please email us to share 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 the information to share with our SMWL Sisters.

asanford12@gmail.com  
 smwl@gmail.com

### SMWL ELECTION BALLOT

Indicate your choice by placing an X next to the Candidate's name.

A mark in this column is considered a vote for this nominee.	Candidate Names (alphabetically) <b>TWO YEAR TERM</b> - September 2, 2021 - June 20, 2023
	Pam Frank
	Becky Hoffman
	Natalie McKinney
	Andrea (Andy) Sanford
A mark in this column is considered a vote for this nominee.	Candidate Names (alphabetically) <b>ONE YEAR TERM</b> - September 2, 2021 - June 20, 2023
	Helen Heier
	Rona Kelley
	Candice Kelly

## Care Committee | Natalie McKinney

Welcome fall!!! Can you believe it? August is now over, and fall will be here soon. The heat and humidity will hopefully leave soon, and we can enjoy being outside without an umbrella or something to keep the heat at bay. The Charles County Fair is around the corner and I'm looking forward to it. The nuts, the breads, the jams and butters; some of the fall smells will be in the lingering in the air. Oh joy!! I would be remised if I didn't recognize our awesome SMWL sisters that are celebrating a birthday in September.

Diana Rucci – September 2

Michelle Kelly – September 4

Laura Forbes – September 8

Rebecca Hoffman – September 16

Lynette Ashton – September 28

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

Again, if you know that one of our members has a medical procedure, has experienced the loss of a family member, or just has a special reason to celebrate. Please reach out to me so that we can reach out to that member – I know that when we work together, we can do everything! To share information, email me at: [nsmckinney@verizon.net](mailto:nsmckinney@verizon.net)

## Treasurers Report | Pam Frank

### Don't forget your dues

are due... please plan to pay at our next meeting at Capt. Billy's, or contact Pam directly and she'll be happy to take your payment. Credit and debit cards are accepted.

## Calendar of Events

### DATES FOR MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS 2021 - 2022

**GENERAL MEETINGS ARE THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED** – Additional information will be shared as we get closer to each month's event. Watch your emails for special invitations & announcements.

#### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021

Capt. Billy's 6pm ELECTIONS

#### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2021

Blue Dog 6pm Grant Request Presentations

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2021 - SPECIAL EVENT VENUE

Villa de Alpacas Farm – INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

#### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2021

Foster's Grill 6pm (may change)

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021

Holiday Party at the home of Candice Kelly

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2022

#### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022 – Mystery Night

#### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2022 – MEMBER APPRECIATION AND ELECTIONS

#### BOARD MEETINGS (3RD TUESDAY)

TUESDAY – AUGUST 17, 2021

TUESDAY – SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

TUESDAY – OCTOBER 19, 2021

TUESDAY – NOVEMBER 16, 2021

TUESDAY – DECEMBER 21, 2021

*Sometimes you may forget just how amazing you are.  
 This is your reminder!*

## August Special Membership Meeting

*Presented by: Program's Committee Co-Chairs: Becky Hoffman and Carole Lewis  
Committee Members: Tequila House, Natalie McKinney, and Diana Rucci*



In August a "Special Membership Meeting" was called to consider a request for funding for a Transport Ventilator by the Children's Miracle Network. Fosters in La Plate graciously offered their patio deck for this special meeting. A representative from the network gave a presentation and Candy Meyers and Lisa Wills added important information on the subject. The opportunity to support this project was greatly received by our membership. We were finally able to utilize SMWL Foundation funds to help support a worthy cause that helped right in our very own area. The vote was unanimous. Candice Kelly and the Grant Committee will have additional information in this newsletter.

Please join us at Thursday, Sept 2, 2021 at Capt. Billy's for our general meeting and elections of officers. If you have any ideas for venues or programs, please contact any of our program committee members. We are always open to suggestions!

