

Connections

MARCH 2020 Newsletter | www.smwj.org | Follow us on Facebook



President's Message | Suzanne Wible

Punxsutawney Phil has seen his shadow, so bring on the early Spring!



What a great February membership meeting! Members of the Program Committee did a phenomenal job with managing the logistics and Membership Committee Ambassadors were fabulous greeters. Maryanna Lanham designed the great team building activity (thank you for your creativity) and Becky Hoffman facilitated (thank you for your patience with managing 31 crazy, competitive women).

Our February community service project was to collect sweat pants/shirts, razors, body wash and deodorant for the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Natalie McKinney did a wonderful job coordinating the collection of items. She also made up 100 Valentine's Day gift bags with sweet treats and personally signed cards from the membership. On Friday, February 14, Natalie McKinney, Carole Lewis, Becky Hoffman and Suzanne Wible delivered the collected items, walked around the Veterans home, and gave the Valentine gift bags to the patients. What a heart-warming experience putting a smile on someone's face with a simple, kind gesture.

The Membership Committee will host a New Member Orientation on Friday, March 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Linda Cox. Our March Membership Meeting will be Wednesday, March 4 at Grille no.13. Come and join us for a little Irish flair!

In reviewing, the membership surveys (thank you all who participated); several members expressed an interest in having time to network and promote their business. For this Membership meeting on the 4th, we have arranged time for a business networking happy hour starting at 5:00p.m. If you are interested, come meet other members and promote your business. **DON'T FORGET TO WEAR GREEN!!**

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Page 2 - February Meeting
- Page 3 - Bylaws & Reports
- Page 4 - Care Committee
- Page 5 - Calendar of Events
- Page 6 - Board Nominations

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.



Our next meeting has a little Irish Flair!

Wednesday, March 4 at Grille No13 in Waldorf

5:00 pm for Business Networking, 5:30 registration, 6pm meeting

Members \$25, Guests \$30, Head's or Tails: \$5

Come help us package our Service project items for Diggs Elementary School.

SMWL BOD 2019/20

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

Chairs for the Standing Committees are:

Program: Becky Hoffman
and Carole Lewis Co-Chairs
Membership: Suzanne Wible
and Teresa Klopfer
Newsletter: Lynette Ashton
Fund Raiser: Pam Frank
and Teresa Klopfer Co-chairs.

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-Anayanian
2018 - Suzanne Wible

Foundation

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

February - Happy Valentines Day | By Becky Hoffman



Thanks to The Charles for an outstanding venue and meal. We couldn't have been happier with the private room that ended up being two rooms. (We needed it!) We are so very thankful for their flexibility and hospitality. Someone reminded me that this was the location of our meetings many years ago when it was Casey Jones. We will hopefully be able to return for one of our upcoming meetings in the future.

We had a great group of 30 members and 7 guests, a short meeting with lots of SMWL updates, a wonderful buffet with champagne, strawberries, and chocolates for dessert. Then on to Heads or Tails. The prize was a travel bag with lots of extras. Congratulations Lynette Ashton!

The evening went on to host our first ever "Photo Scavenger Hunt". Thanks, Maryanna Lanham for the suggestion. We are a competitive group! The winning team was Lynette Ashton, Debbie Oliver, Ann Rees, Laura Forbes, Linda Cox, and Jennifer Krikstan. The prizes were put together by Diana Rucci and consisted of wine, bath bombs and lots of little surprises. Great job, Diana!

With all that being said, I believe the highlight of the evening was our Service Project Valentines, candy, sweats, deodorant, and body was as donation to the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. More on that from our Care Committee Chair, Natalie McKinney.

That's all for now from the Programs Committee. Hope to see you at our next meeting/program at Grille 13 on Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Bitesize Bylaws! By Candice Kelly, Vice President

It's that time of the year again! No, I don't mean time to bring bottles of cheer and gift cards, but that's not too far behind.

It's time to think about the Annual Meeting and election of directors for our Board. There are four open positions. The following board members' terms are expiring: Pam Frank, Becky Hoffman, and Carole Lewis. I am filling out Ann Seeley's two year term, which means that my term on the Board expires, as well. The Nominating Committee will contact the outgoing board members to determine their interest in continuing, and will be seeking nominations from the membership. Remember, you can self-nominate – don't be shy!

Our Bylaws state:

Section 7.3.5 Nominating Committee – The Nominating Committee shall be chaired by the President, who shall determine the size and composition of the Committee subject to a minimum of one additional member of the Board of Directors of Corporation and one member at large. The Nominating Committee shall operate in accordance with the Nomination and Election Procedures approved by the Board.

Take a look at the wording – “Committee shall operate in accordance with the Nomination and Election Procedures approved by the Board.” The Board established a policy in 2015, revised it in 2018, and at the most recent Board meeting, the Board approved an updated version of the Policy. It reads in part:

The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of no less than three (3) and no more than five (5) active members. Unless the President has been recused, the President shall count as one of the five (5) active members. No member of the Nominating Committee should be a candidate for the Board of Directors. A majority of the Nominating Committee shall constitute a quorum. A member of the Committee shall record minutes of meetings, recommendations and conclusions, and shall deliver a copy of such minutes to the Secretary of the Corporation.

The Policy states that any member who is in “good standing” and who has been a member for the previous twelve months is eligible for nomination to the Board. “Good standing” is defined as membership dues and all outstanding invoices are paid in full.

The Nominations & Election Procedures is published elsewhere in this newsletter and will be distributed at the upcoming meeting. If you would like a copy sooner, please contact the Nominations Chair, Suzanne Wible.

Membership Committee

Save the Date!!!

New members March 13, 2020
Linda Cox's home (8930 Mitchell
Drive La Plata, MD) at 6pm-8pm;
invite will be coming in the mail.

Treasurers Report

By Pam Frank

We currently have \$3,079.36
in the bank account.
Reminders – please pay invoices for
missed meetings!
Invoices for 2020-2021 will be
coming out in April/May.

Foundation Treasurer

We approved two small grants.
The checks were sent in December
to the Jude House for \$1000
and to Hospice for \$500

The Two year Grant recipient
check was sent to Center for
Children \$11,000.

The Foundation spent \$223.66
on the Valentine for Veterans
Community Project for cards,
candy and small
miscellaneous items.

Foundation Accounts
Current Balances:
Checkbook \$41,039.54
Community Foundation of So Md
Fund \$43,707.41
Certificate of Deposit \$32,563.48



Care Committee | By Natalie McKinney

Greetings Awesome SMWL Sisters... This year seems to be moving along. March is here and it's time for longer days of daylight and time to bring a little sunshine or spring brightness into our homes. Before we all start running about, I must send birthday shout outs to our wonderful SMWL sisters with March birthdays.

Brenda Lowe March 20
Teresa Klopfer March 22
Pam Frank March 27

*Happy
Birthday!*

Have a wonderfully glorious birthday and why not celebrate all month.... Enjoy every moment of it!

I have a little news of my own and I wanted to say WOO-HOO! A warm welcome goes to Lynn O'Meara, she is joining me on the Care Committee, and this will allow the Committee to reach out even more. Remember, if you know or hear of one of our sisters celebrating, needing a little pick me up or just sunshine. Reach out to me so that we can reach out to them. We Care!!

Natalie – nsmckinney@verizon.net

By The Ways



*Here's a little ditty from me to you
About a few important things to do.*

*Ladies, ladies, well-mannered, yes you are
But, let's admit, sometimes you go too far*

*Miss Manners would be chagrined should she darken our door
To see that we talk when another holds the floor.*

*She'd tsk, tsk and be appalled
Because she knows you are well-bred ladies
and not tawdry broads*

*I beg, I implore, I plead, in the name of good manners
When our President convenes the meeting,
kindly cease all banter.*

The End.

Author unknown, or at least she is unwilling to own up to authorship!

Community Service Project

Yes, we did it again! This time it was at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Thanks to your hard work and outpouring of kindness we were able to deliver the valentines bags and the many donations. We had so much fun handing out the Valentine cards and gifts; some staff



members even joined in on the fun. While there we saw service members from every branch of the military and from wars going back to Vietnam. They all had a story to tell and even their personal rooms and spaces told a story of times past but not forgotten. It was a truly humbling experience and a day I will not forget. SMWL... thanks, we couldn't do any of this without you!!



SMWL Calendar of Events

SMWL CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2020

GENERAL MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS ARE THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED
There is a cost for members and guest. Additional information will be shared as we get closer to each month's event.
Watch your emails for special invitations & announcements.

MARCH: 3/4/20

Grille 13 - General Meeting with an Irish flair!
Service Project - School children at Diggs Elementary (awaiting approval)- Packets of seeds with our logo and uplifting message attached and a free ice cream coupon from Chick fil A in LaPlata.

APRIL: 4/1/20

Kaow Thai Restaurant - General Meeting – Two Year Grant Selection
Service Project - Charles County Nursing Home - treats and candy to put in little gift bags for the seniors with an Easter theme.

MAY: 5/6/20

New Event TBA – Very mysterious!
Service Project - U.S. Marines Chemical Biological Incident Response Force stationed at Indian Head - coffee, snacks, signed cards, and gift cards collected and sent to the Marines at Indian Head.

JUNE: 6/3/20

MEMBERS ONLY: Member Appreciation Night/ Election of Officers/ Committee member sign up at Rucci's Deli
Service Project - Angel's Watch and LifeStyles - Juice boxes, healthy snacks and summer fun books (puzzles, math fun books) for school aged children.

BOARD MEETINGS (3RD TUESDAY)

MARCH 17, 2020
APRIL 21, 2020
MAY 19, 2020
JUNE 16, 2020

**Southern Maryland
Women's League
Program and Meeting with an Irish Flair**

**WEDNESDAY
MARCH 4, 2020
Grille No. 13**

3016 Waldorf Market Place, Waldorf, MD 20603
Join us starting at 5pm for **BUSINESS NETWORKING!**
5:30pm registration
6pm brief meeting
Heads or Tails - \$5 - Wear GREEN and receive an extra band!!!

6:15pm served dinner with a choice of:
Corned Beef and Cabbage, Shephard's Pie, or Grilled Chicken
salad – dessert – non-alcoholic beverage included
Members - \$25 Guests - \$30
Leprechaun Bingo – Prizes and more!!!

SERVICE PROJECT – Help us put together seed packets, notes, and free ice cream coupons from Chick fil A in LaPlata to be distributed at Diggs Elementary School pending approval from Central Office - CCBOE

RSVP by March 1 to Helen Heier helen@bridgett-mock.com

Calendar may be subject to change.

This is your SMWL Newsletter!

Please share your good news, By-the-Ways, special events and more today!
Newsletters are generally published each month and shared before the our general meetings.

Email info to Newsletter Chair Lynette Ashton: davelynette@comcast.net:

Special thanks to
*Lynette Ashton
& Andy Sanford*

Board Nomination Committee **2020 Nomination & Election Procedures** Approved by Board – Feb. 18, 2020

Southern Maryland Women's League, Inc. Nominating Committee Standard Operating Procedures

1. General Statement and Purpose

Nominating Committee – the President shall determine the composition of the committee. The President shall recuse herself from the committee if her name is in consideration for the Board, and the Vice President, shall proceed as chair. If both the President and Vice President recuse themselves, the next available member of the Board of Directors shall serve as chair.

2. Objectives

- a. To encourage, solicit, and accept nominations for Board of Directors
- b. To present a list of qualified candidates to serve/fill Board Positions.

3. Qualifications of Nominees

A member in good standing who has been an active member for the twelve (12) months prior to the election is eligible for nomination. A member is in "good standing" if membership dues and all outstanding invoices are paid in full.

4. Composition of Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of no less than three (3) and no more than five (5) active members. Unless the President has been recused, the President shall count as one of the five (5) active members. No member of the Nominating Committee should be a candidate for the Board of Directors. A majority of the Nominating Committee shall constitute a quorum. A member of the Committee shall record minutes of meetings, recommendations and conclusions, and shall deliver a copy of such minutes to the Secretary of the Corporation.

5. Committee Calendar/Time Line

March: Committee Chair completes the composition of the Committee

April: Committee should meet and begin process. These meetings shall be conducted in person or conference call to allow all members to attend and give voice. During these meetings, the following should be addressed:

- a. First meeting: Solicit nominations from membership. Set a date for nominations to be due no later than midnight of the due date. Nominees shall submit their interest in writing along with a personal biography of up to twenty-five (25) words.

May: Present a slate of nominees to current Board of Directors. Send email to Membership with names and biographies of proposed Board of Directors before the Annual Meeting and encourage members unable to attend the Annual Meeting to cast their vote in writing via email prior to the meeting.

- a. Second meeting: Review all nominees and biographies prior to being presented to the Board of Directors
- b. Nominees who are not eligible to serve on the Board of Directors shall receive written notice as to the reason for their ineligibility.
- c. Send out list of candidates to the general membership one (1) weeks prior to the election

June: Prepare ballots for distribution at the Annual Membership Meeting.

- a. Ballots will list the nominees in alphabetical order
- b. Blank lines will be included on the bottom for write in nominations or nominations from the floor.

Board Nomination Committee **2020 Nomination & Election Procedures** Approved by Board – Feb. 18, 2020

Voting at the Annual Membership Meeting:

- Sufficient copies of the ballot will be available to take at least three (3) votes.
- Sufficient pens will be made available for members' use
- Sufficient copies of the by-laws and these procedures will be made available at the meeting.
- The names of those nominated will be read by the Chair of the Nominating Committee. Nominees will briefly introduce themselves. If a nominee is unable to be present, she may designate a proxy to present her qualifications.
- A call for nomination from the floor will be made.
- A member of the Nominating Committee shall instruct the membership present to add any nominees from the floor.
- The Treasurer and Membership Chair shall verify that the member is eligible
- Affirmation from the nominee that she accepts the nomination from the floor and is willing to fulfill the duties of a Board Member must be accepted by the Nominating chair via phone conversation, text, in person or email.
- If there are no nominations from the floor, and the number of candidates are equal to the slots open for election, the chair can take a voice vote, or can declare the nominee is elected, thus effecting the election by unanimous consent or 'acclamation'. (Roberts Rules of Order PG 35).
- If a ballot is required the procedures listed below will be followed:
- Ten (10) minutes will be given to answer any questions regarding the voting process.
- Ten (10) minutes will be given for each ballot taken.
- Once a member has voted, she will personally hand her folded ballot to a member of the counting team
- The counting team will consist of three (3) members, one being the Chair of the Nominating Committee, and two (2) other members who did not serve on the nominating committee. These members will be

selected from membership at large present at the election.

Absentee Votes via email

- Absentee Votes must be sent to the Nominations Committee Chair no later than midnight of the day prior to the election (example: election is to be held April 2, ballots are due by 12:00 AM on April 1).
- Each emailed vote will receive a confirmation of receipt from the Nominations Committee Chair.
- In lieu of printing a ballot, marking the preference, scanning, and returning the ballot, absentee voters may list the candidates for whom they are voting within the body of their email.
- The received ballots will be printed by the Nominations Committee Chair and presented to the counting team.
- Should a member who voted electronically be able to attend the meeting, her electronic vote will be voided.

Counting Votes at the meeting

- The ballots will be counted three (3) times by the counting team and recorded on the ballot sheet after each count.
- After the final count, the winners will be declared and the ballot certification will be signed by the counters. The certification will become part of the minutes of the meeting.
- The Chair of the Nominating Committee will announce to the membership at large the results of the election.
- The non-elected candidate receiving the most votes shall be called upon to serve any Board of Directors position that becomes vacant during the next two year term.