



Diana Rucci

President's Message

Ho Ho Ho Where Did The Time Go?

It seems like just yesterday I was preparing my first newsletter for the 2016/2017 SMWL Club year; so much has happened since then. We have added several new faces to our club, shared in fellowship, crabs, cocktails and a dip in the pool - all while preparing for another smashing Women of Impact Event.

I am so proud of the membership for all of your contributions in making the Women of Impact (WOI) night an overwhelming success. The WOI Dinner and Awards Ceremony is beginning to look like a legacy for SMWL.

From the outreach in the community to the lives we have touched and the friends we have made - these are a signs of great things to come!

As we approach the holidays, I wish each of you a very blessed, festive and memorable Christmas and holiday season. I look forward to breaking bread and sharing a moment or two with each of you at the **SMWL Christmas Party *this* Sunday**. I also look forward to all of the crazy antics of our annual Chinese Gift Exchange night on January 6th.

May you all eat, drink and be merry and may all of your Christmas dreams come true!

Diana Rucci

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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.



Ladies of the SMWL CSM Scholarship Committee met in June of 2016 and read applicant's letters. They chose three applicants who would receive \$1,000 each toward their tuition, books and child care. Another SMWL member donated a \$500 Scholarship – resulting in four scholarship recipients.

The CSM Scholarship Reception brought recipients and donors together on Friday, October 21, 2016 at the CSM La Plata Campus. Attending the reception as league representatives were Mia Allen-Ayanian and Brenda Lowe. Scholarship recipients for 2016 are Amy Barrick, Ariel Canaday, Erica Jones and Michaela Smith.

It is a great feeling when you attend these events and see that the efforts of SMWL in raising money for those in need comes full circle! Thank you!



Pictured from left to right: Amy Barrick scholarship recipient and her daughter, Brenda Lowe SMWL Scholarship Committee Chair and Mia Allen-Ayanian SMWL Vice President.

Below is a "Thank You" Letter from one of the recipients:

Dear Southern Maryland Women's League,

First of all, I would like to say how honored I am to be receiving this scholarship from such an important group of women in Southern Maryland. As a woman in southern Maryland, I know the love and kindness that unifies us all. We may be just past the Dixie line, but southern hospitality is something we are born with here. Thank you all for your generosity and hospitality to a fellow southern Maryland woman.

I am a single mother to a beautiful baby girl, and times get tough. However, since having my little girl I have met some of the most kind, compassionate women I've ever met. Women in southern Maryland are not only unified in hospitality, but in heritage. My ancestors were born and raised here, and I will raise my daughter here. With this scholarship, I will be able to achieve my goal of becoming a nurse without the stress of finances. I want to become a labor and delivery nurse, and give back to all the mothers in Calvert County. As a teen mom, I can bring experience to the table that other girls may not have. I know nursing is not an easy field to pursue, but it will be so worth it in the long run for my family and my community.

I chose CSM because I needed a small town community college. I would be so lost in a big university. I needed an option close to home to stay close to my family. I needed a nursing program close to home. Nursing is a rigorous major, but it is the major for me. I feel like I can make such a difference in the delivery room at Calvert Memorial Hospital. I can't wait to fill out my application one day and write RN. I plan on getting my associate's degree at CSM, and transferring to the University of Maryland Baltimore County for my bachelor's degree. Through hard work and determination, I can achieve my dreams and give back to my community.

I would like to thank the Southern Maryland Women's League once again for your generosity. Thank you for looking at my situation and lending a helping hand. Thank you for easing some of my financial burden off of my shoulders. Thank you for your compassion. Thank you for the charming hospitality that resides in every woman in Southern Maryland. Thank you for the time and effort put into this scholarship. Thank you for believing in me, I promise I won't let you down. This scholarship is such an honor and I am going to use it at its full potential. Thank you so very much!

Sincerely,
Michaela Smith

Greetings Sisters!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Our treasury balance for the league is \$7,054.65

Looking forward to a great Christmas party and someone will be the lucky winner of a \$100.00 gift card.

PLEASE pay promptly for your guest in the amount of \$70.00. You can pay online, swipe your card at the party or we will gladly accept your check. As always the vendors are paid on your behalf.

Rev. Dr. Lyn Bell

Happy Birthday to our October, November & December members!

- Carole Lewis – 10/11
- Paige Blankenship – 10/14
- Rona Kelley – 10/14
- Larisa Pfeiffer- 12/02
- Mia Allen-Ayanian- 12/04
- Andrea Sanford – 12/25
- Becky Humbert – 12/27
- Tara Brinkley – 12/29
- Ann Seely – 12/31



Welcome to our newest members... Kelly Jo Morgan Burch and Torri Turner! We have five others who have expressed interest and should be joining in the near future - we now have 48 members.

New Member Package with updated Membership Guidelines: When a potential new member sends in an application Brianna Bowling sends out the email for vote. Once approved Ann Seely sends the approved potential new member a welcome package that includes a dues invoice. Once dues are received, the welcome email is then sent to the membership as an announcement.

The original guidelines were outdated...so the Membership committee met and updated them...and this update includes pro-rated dues guidelines. Please note the updated guidelines below:

MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

Ladies must attend at least three functions of the SMWL general membership as a guest of a current member before being proposed for membership. After each general membership function, the Treasurer will report the names of attending guests to the Membership Committee Chair, who will keep a record of guests' attendance. Guests are welcome to any meetings of the SMWL. However, if guests attend the meeting where service projects are voted on; they will not be eligible/authorized to vote.

Guests are welcome to attend a minimum of three (3) functions (to include, but not limited to meetings) of the SMWL prior to joining, but can attend more than three. Guests are generally charged \$10.00 more for meetings or events than the published member price. Some exceptions apply: Members do not pay for the Christmas Party; as a portion of their dues pays for this. So, if a guest attends the Christmas Party, she will pay the full cost amount (typically...\$60). Other special events may be more expensive for guests. Members' dues subsidize all events/meeting expenses.

Applications for new members may be submitted after the individual has satisfied the three (3) meeting requirement and will be voted on via an email vote. The membership committee appointed person will email proposed members' name, photo and a brief bio to the full membership and allow three days for the membership to vote "Yea" or Nay". Any vote not received shall be considered affirmative. If four percent (4%) or more of the current members vote against a proposed new member, membership will not be offered (i.e. 2 votes out of 50 would be 4%). Once voted in, applicants will be considered full members upon remittance of dues.

All Members are required to participate in some way in SMWL's annual fundraiser.

All Members are also encouraged to join at least one committee and get to know other sisters and help to make the club a success

Annual dues are due to the League Treasurer by July 1st of each fiscal year. If a member pays their dues during the month of June before June 30th, they will receive a \$5.00 discount on the dues payment. New members joining between July and December will pay dues for the full year. New members joining between January and June will pay prorated dues of \$60.00-flat fee. If the new member joins in May or June, it will be recommended that they wait and just pay the dues for the upcoming new Fiscal Year (due by July 1st) of \$160 or \$155 if paid before June 30th. In this case, for the months of May and June, she can attend events at the guest price.

Members who do not pay their dues in a timely manner will be removed from the membership directory, but may renew membership at any time by paying their full year's dues and any amounts outstanding such as dues, event fees, meals and other items. Past members that desire to rejoin SMWL may do so by paying the full current years' dues and any amounts owed to SMWL at the time of their departure.

"Diva's Do's & Don'ts" Event – Ann Seely & Mia Allen-Ayanian – Co-Chairs We are looking for a date in February 2017...stay tuned!

Submitted by **Andrea Sanford, WOI Event Co-Chair**



SMWL
**Women
of Impact**
Awards Ceremony and Dinner

There are no words to describe the feeling of pride and sense of accomplishment as we reflect on the overwhelming success of the 2016 SMWL Women of Impact event.

We enjoyed a completely sold-out event -- yes, an entire room filled with 400 positive thinkers and doers coming together to celebrate the good works of 44 amazing young girls and women who go above and beyond their everyday duties and obligations to donate their time, talents, services... and love to help other people in need.

We are simply overwhelmed at the response and support of our League sisters and their incredible efforts to ensure its success. Each Committee Chair spent countless hours devoted to their tasks to volunteer their time and talents...

From gathering together to share ideas and breakdown schedules and tasks; to handling the contract, facilities and food planning with our grand event sponsor - The Greater Waldorf Jaycees; to sharing news of the nomination opportunities with the community; to working with the 91+ nominees, nominators and their families to contact, collect and review a massive amount of nomination and nominator information; to researching and gathering all of the materials to create the colorful room decorations and unique table centerpieces; to collecting, managing and displaying a beautiful and successful silent auction; to handling ticket sales and table seating arrangements in order to accommodate all our guests; to managing the huge event accounting and financial needs; to contacting and obtaining generous sponsors; to the many donations of items for our silent auction, wagon of cheer and desserts from our membership and friends; to the rose purchase & sales; to the Maryland Independent, social media and multi-media event advertising; to obtaining such amazing and uplifting entertainment and speakers; to inviting and confirming our Dignitary/VIP support and guests; to the printed and visual materials (overall event marketing package and flyers, website/social media updates, tickets, letters/postage, print ads, flyers, videos, countless emails, program book, posters, signs, centerpiece art, scripts, trophies, certificates, winners announcements); to the actual day-of-the-event room decorating, set-up and all of the last minute changes/requirements, to the MC's and their behind the scene adjustments; to capturing the images of the evening through event photography; and much more.

To view additional photos, the award nominees, recipients and additional information, please visit our website: www.smwl.org and our facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SoMDWomensLeague/>

Thank you to all of the SMWL sisters who came forward to support this amazing event. It is said, it takes a village to create a success... and impact. And, by coming together, we did just that!



Southern Maryland
WOMEN'S LEAGUE
Linked by More than Community

2014/2015 SMWL Board of Directors

President: **Diana Rucci**
dianarucci@gmail.com

Vice President: **Mia Allen-Ayanian**
miallenayanian@gmail.com

Secretary: **Brenda Lowe**
ahloweha@aol.com

League Treasurer: **Lyn Bell**
lbell@sisministriesinc.org

Foundation Secretary: **Andrea Sanford**
asanford12@gmail.com

Foundation Treasurer: **Becky Humbert**
bhumbert@olg.com

Program/Event Chairs:
Laura Forbes Brown & Mia Allen-Ayanian
laurabrown@wildblue.net
miallenayanian@gmail.com

Membership Chairs: **Brenda Lowe & Becky Humbert**
ahloweha@aol.com
bhumbert@olg.com

Care Committee
Suzanne Wible
suzanne.wible1@navy.mil

Special Event Coordinator
Ann Seely
ann.seely@yahoo.com

Media/Public Relations/Newsletter
Andy Sanford & Larisa Pfeiffer
asanford12@gmail.com
lpfeiffer@csmdu.edu

Submitted by Program/Event Chairs: Laura Forbes Brown & Mia Allen-Ayanian

Remaining events in 2016:

December 11th – Christmas Party & Gathering - TBD Guest \$70.00

December 20 - **BOD Meeting – DeHanas Real Estate 5:30pm**

2017 January 4 – Chinese Gift Exchange – Szechuan Gardens –Members \$25.00 Guest \$35.00

January 17 - **BOD Meeting – DeHanas Real Estate 5:30pm**

February 1 – Social & Committee Meeting – Rucci’s Deli – Members \$25.00, Guest \$35.00 -1 Free Drink

February 21 – **BOD Meeting – DeHanas Real Estate 5:30pm**

March 1– Minute to Win It – The Prime Street - Members \$25.00 Guest \$35.00

March 21 – **BOD Meeting – DeHanas Real Estate 5:30pm**

April 5 – Speaker TBD – Tessa & Rona to Chair – The Prime Street Grill

April 17 – **BOD Meeting - DeHanas Real Estate 5:30pm**

May 3 – Mystery Night (date & time could change) TBD – Michelle, Becky, Darlene, Tessa & Laura to Chair

May 15 - **BOD Meeting DeHanas Real Estate 5:30pm**

June 7 – Annual Business Meeting and Membership Appreciation –The Prime Street Grille

June 20 - **BOD Meeting: Transitional Meeting of current and new BODs**

June 21 – 5 And Dine Golf – Swan Point – Michelle to set up

NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN JULY

The SMWL Annual Christmas Party is this Sunday, December 11. Member are free of charge, guests are \$70.00 per person. Please RSVP to Laura Forbes-Brown at Laura_forbes@comcast.net

A special thank you to SMWL member Kim Rosenfield for graciously opening her beautiful home for our party.

We look forward to an evening of fun and good cheer with all the ladies of the Southern Maryland Women’s League!



2 Year Grant Committee Rev. Dr. Lyn Bell

Its Christmas time in the city!

It's also a time that we have an opportunity to support the Jude House Children by helping with their annual Christmas party.

Please buy a toy(s) for a girl or boy child, ages 2-12 years. Don't wrap the toys. Jude House has a wrapping event Friday, Dec. 17, which we can volunteer to assist. **Bring your toy(s) to Kim Rosenfield's home this Sunday to the SMWL Christmas party (contact me if want to give a toy(s), but will not be at the party).**

REMEMBER the more toys you purchase, the more opportunities to win \$100.00 gift card!