

# Connections

March 2019 Newsletter | [www.smwl.org](http://www.smwl.org) | Follow on Facebook



Southern Maryland  
**WOMEN'S  
LEAGUE**

*Linked by More  
than Community*



## *President's Message* | Suzanne Wible

I trust you all have survived the cold weather these past few months. Great news, Spring has sprung and we will be warming up soon.

Congratulations and thank you SMWL for an exciting and successful fundraising event in February. We raised approximately \$26K. That is phenomenal considering the quick turn around of this event. This could not have happened without the hard work and dedication from every single member of the SMWL.

We kicked off March with our annual Minute To Win It at Prime Street Grille, where fun was had by all. A lot of laughs and getting to know one another through great teamwork. At this meeting, Cathy Meyers, Executive Director of the Center for Children (our 2 year grant recipients) gave a brief update on how they are using the funds we have given and what additional programs our funding will support.

Please give a warm welcome to our two newest members; Melanie Harvey and Buffy Giddens. Thank you both for your support with our fundraiser. We are excited to have you join our club!

If you know of a 501(c)3 organization in need of financial support for a specific community program, please consider sharing our small grant opportunity with them. The application can be found on our website at <https://smwl.org>.

**Our next membership meeting is scheduled for April 3rd at Kaow Thai Restaurant in LaPlata, MD. We look forward to seeing you on April 3rd!**

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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.



**SAVE THE DATE...**

**Wednesday, May 1, 2019**

We are going to wow you! Out-of-state bound! Wear black and fringe! Stay tuned for lots of clues! Bag of tricks and libations on the bus! Best \$79 you'll ever spend!

## SMWL BOD -2018/2019

President: Suzanne Wible

Vice President: Ann Seely

Secretary: Michelle Jones

Treasurer: Pam Frank

Foundation Treasurer: Pam Frank  
and Rona Kelley

Program Chairman: Becky  
Hoffman and Carole Lewis

Membership Chairman: Teresa  
Klopfer

Care Chairman – Carla Kemp

Newsletter/Media Chairman  
Rona Kelley

CSM Scholarship - Brenda Lowe

2-Year Grant - Tammy Semega

Nominating Committee - Ann  
Seely

## 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

### Foundation

2006-2007 Candice Kelly

2007-2008 Candice Kelly

2008-2009 Mollie Gieseman

## Minute to Win It March Meeting | By Becky Hoffman



The Minute to Win It general meeting was held on Wednesday March 6th at Prime Street Grille in White Plains. Thanks to Helen Heier and Pam Frank for an excellent check in and set up of teams for our games.



With about 28 in attendance, the evening started out with our usual game of Heads or Tails, won by Helen Heier. The prize was a bottle of wine and a \$25 gift card to Bath and Body Works donated for the event.

Cathy, Director at The Center for Children, briefed the league on the continued efforts by the center to support women and children in need. Cathy handed out journals to be decorated, embellished with words of encouragement, and given to teen girls going through abuse. Everyone in attendance was happy to take one of the journals.



everything from Suck it up to Junk in the trunk. See the wonderful photos of the winners and the losers. As well as the SMWL League photo.

Reports were given by board members and then a wonderful meal was served by the excellent staff at Prime Street. Thanks to Diana Rucci for organizing all the games and prizes for Minute to Win It and to Carole Lewis for executing the games. We certainly are a very competitive group of women. The games included

**Hope to see all of you at the next meeting on Wednesday April 3rd at Koaw Thai. We will have our general meeting and a CSM Grant Candidate program. Thanks to all the great members of the program committee for putting on such a great event.**

## Nominating Committee

By Ann Seely

Elections for the Board of Directors will be held at the June 18, 2019 meeting. The election will be for five members to be elected and/or re-elected to each serve a two year term.

To be eligible for election the Board, a member of SMWL must meet the following qualifications:

1. Membership dues paid and current
2. Be an active member for twelve (12) months prior to the election

Self-nominations are completely acceptable and encouraged!

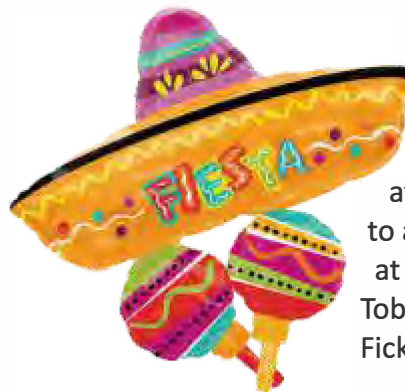
I will be contacting members to serve on the Nominating Committee with me. We will have no more than five (5) and will meet several times before the June meeting. If you are thinking about running for election, you will not be eligible for service on this Committee. Please let me know if you have any questions – happy to address any and all.

Ann.Seely@yahoo.com



## Our Fabulous February Meeting

By Becky Hoffman



On Feb. 6, 2019 with 33 members and 10 guests in attendance, we were treated to a wonderful Mexican Buffet at The Blue Dog in Port Tobacco. The Chef owner, Gary Fick was excellent host.

We had a private room and were treated to a complimentary Coconut Margarita.

The evening started off with wonderful conversation and a buzz all about our upcoming fundraiser – SMWL's Loves and Laughs Comedy Night. Everyone turned in their sold ticket, brought in last minute auction items, added to the Yeti of Cheer, and discussed sponsors and seating.

We then moved on to a great game of Heads or Tails with a beautiful necklace from Joson's. At the end of our meal we geared up to play BINGO. We played four games with prizes, wonderful jewelry, gift certificates, and a Blue Dog print.

Hats off to the great program committee that I have the pleasure to work with.

## Our Cherished SMWL Membership - 43 members!

Erika Abell  
Lynette Ashton  
Darlene Breck  
Linda Sullivan Cox  
Terry Davis  
Donna Ellis  
Laura Forbes  
Pam Frank  
Anna Marie Galterio-Keselyak  
Ivonne Garcia  
Buffy Giddens

Paige (Blankenship) Gillentine  
Bonnie Baldus Grier  
Helen Heier  
Rebecca Hoffman  
Tequila House  
Evie Hungerford  
Michelle Jones  
Rona Kelley  
Candice Quinn Kelly  
Carla Rayne Kemp  
Teresa Klopfer

Maryanna Lanham  
Carole Lewis  
Brenda Lowe  
Robin Magoon  
Natalie Sneed McKinney  
Kadie Thames Moffitt  
Ruth Mudd  
Larisa J. Pfeiffer  
Katie Pierce  
Ann Cipriano Rees  
Kimberly A. Roper

Kim Rosenfield  
Joan Rosier  
Diana Rucci  
Sherrie Sanders  
Andrea Sanford  
Ann Seely  
Tamrah (Tammy) Semega  
Tracey L. Stinnett  
Torri N. Turner  
Suzanne Wible





In Loving Memory of SMWL Sister...

## Lynn Bell

The memorial service will be held  
March 30 at Calvary Gospel Church,  
11150 Berry Road, Waldorf,  
Maryland at 11:00 am

## Membership News

By Teresa Klopfer

We have a total of 43 members to date. The newest member is Buffy Giddens. She comes to us by Helen Heier, Thank you Helen. Lets send her a warm welcome. We are looking forward to adding 5 more new members in the near future.

I would also like to send out a THANK YOU, to everyone that help with the comedy night. Thank you for helping with a auction items, sponsorships, selling tickets, setting up. This was a huge success., Thank you for your time, money, gifts and your support!! We raised over \$24,000.00, more than the previous year.

## Board Buzz | By Ann Seely

First off: On behalf of the Board THANK YOU to everyone for pulling together and making our Comedy Night Fundraiser such a great success. To have almost 100% participation from the club is amazing and goes to show you what we can accomplish when we pull together! It was a fun night and we raised a lot of money to put back into our community. WIN-WIN!!!

The Board met on February 19th for a regularly scheduled meeting. All board members were in attendance. During the Foundation Board meeting, we approved two small grant requests. One for \$500 to SaMercy to sponsor the walk/run and the second was \$500 sponsorship to Grace Lutheran Wine event.

At the beginning of our club year (July) the board voted to allocate one quarter of the available small grant funds to each calendar quarter to ensure that we had funds available throughout the year – not just during the first two quarters. This has worked out well and we are putting funds raised back out into the community on a regular basis. The next quarter begins April 1 and we hope to see applications coming in for consideration.

REMINDER: A small grant is up to \$999.99 and is approved by Board vote. Requests for \$1000.00 and above go before the entire club for approval. SMWL Grants may be requested by any registered 501(c)3 organization. Grants are reviewed by the Board of Directors and generally voted upon at the next scheduled Board meeting. You can find the application on the SMWL website.

Nominations for the Board will be called for in the next month. Self-nominations are entirely appropriate and encouraged! Look for a separate article in this newsletter for more information.

The Board did a quick de-brief of the fundraiser so we can continue to improve on our events. A club wide after-action report (Michelle had a much better name for this!) will be held so we can get everyone's feedback on what worked well and what we can improve. Everyone can participate in this meeting on Wednesday, April 24 at Rona Kelley's house at 6pm.

**The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Foundation and League will be APRIL 16 at 6 PM at Babes Boys Tavern in Waldorf. Members are always welcome to attend.**



## Fundraiser Debrief

**Wednesday, April 24, 2019 6-9pm**

**Location: Rona Kelley home -- 8790  
Greenbriar Court Port Tobacco, MD**

Purpose: Discuss last months event - What went well? What went wrong? What did you notice that could help us improve?

Next year fund raising event? Do we do something different? Pros and Cons

If you cannot attend - please e-mail me rona@heatbyfire.com your thoughts. Need to hear from all of you. Its important to get feedback from multiple sources.

If sending in email, please include the following topics:  
What did you notice about: Food, Facilities, Program, Auction Live, Auction Silent, 50/50, Yeti of Cheer, Participation, Sponsorships, Deserts, Printed materials, Tickets, Seating, Committees?  
Do you have any comments for next year?

RSVP requested at rona@heatbyfire.com  
Lite fare and libations can be arranged.

## Our Next Meeting...

### CSM GRANT CANDIDATE MEET & GREET

Come join us for a great evening!

Wednesday, April 3rd, 2019

Kaow Tha Restaurant, La Plata, Maryland

5:00 pm check-in, 6:15 presentation, 7pm dinner  
Complimentary Cocktail included.

\$25 Members, \$30 Guests. Heads & Tails: \$5

RSVP by April 1, 2019 to Helen Heier

helen@bridgett-mock.com

## Community Foundation Fund

By Rona Kelley

Our fund balance as of December 31, 2018 was \$37,951.58.

On an annual basis, the BOD makes the decision whether to reinvest the amount available for distribution or to make a disbursement. The board voted on March 19, 2019 to withdraw \$1,800 which is the available amount for this year. It will go to our two-year grant selection - The Center for Children. The need is for Trauma Focused Therapy.

Funds at the Community Foundation of Southern Maryland are in an endowed funds. An endowment is a permanent fund on which the earnings are available for grants for nonprofit organizations while the principal (the amount deposited into the fund) remains intact. An endowed fund is a perpetual fund from which grants can be given annually.



### Condolences to:

Andy Sanford on the loss of her sister, Eleonore Papadakis  
Laura Forbes on the loss of her father, Bill Simpson

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, Rona Kelley: [rona@heatbyfire.com](mailto:rona@heatbyfire.com)

Special thanks to  
**Rona Kelley &  
Andy Sanford**  
for our SMWL Newsletter!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018-2019

By: Becky Hoffman & Carole Lewis, Chairs

**GENERAL MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS ARE THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED - \$25 members \$35 guests**

**APRIL: 4/3/19 @ 5:00 check-in, Kaow Thai, La Plata / General Meeting w/ CSM Grant Candidate Meet & Greet???** CSM is invited to give a presentation.

**4/16/19 Board Meeting at Babe's Boys, Waldorf**

**4/24/19 Wrap up for the FundRaiser at Rona Kelley's house in Port Tobacco**

**MAY: 5/1/18 @ 5:00 check-in, meeting place TBD / MYSTERY NIGHT**

**5/19/19 Board Meeting at Babe's Boys, Waldorf**

**JUNE: 6/5/19 @ 5:00 check-in, Rucci's / Member Appreciation Night/ Election of Officers/ Committee member sign up.**

**6/18/19 Board Meeting at Babe's Boys, Waldorf**

**JULY - BREAK - New committee begins**



Congratulations to Michelle Jones on the wedding of her daughter Haley. Such a beautiful bride!



Ceremonial check presentation at the Comedy Club Fundraiser to our 2-year grant recipient, the Center for Children (CFC) with Board members from both SMWL and CFC.

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Brenda Lowe - March 20  
Tracey Stinnett - March 21  
Teresa Klopfer - March 22  
Pam Frank - March 27  
Jillian Short - March 30

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Natalie McKinney - April 6  
Suzanne Wible - April 14  
Katie Moffitt - April 20  
Katie Pierce - April 23

*The Center for Children is dedicated to the promotion of positive mental health for children, youth and families and the prevention and treatment of child abuse in Southern Maryland. Through therapy, education and advocacy, we provide hope and healing.*