

Connections

APRIL 2020 Newsletter | www.smwl.org | Follow us on Facebook



President's Message | Suzanne Wible

Happy Easter! Remember the adage “April showers bring May flowers”? Well, this year it has been March showers bringing April flowers! The cheery tree in front of my house is beautiful and the forsythia is vibrant yellow. It is such a blessing to be surrounded with such beauty during this trying time.

These are unprecedented days for us as we face the COVID-19 pandemic, which has touched all of our lives one way or another. Whether it's loss of employment, a struggling business, depression, anger, anxiety, loss of a friend or loved one; remember that you belong to an organization of phenomenally strong women who care about you. We are all in this together and while we are unable to physically gather together, we remain in each others hearts and we are just a phone call, zoom or skype away. Please remember if you are in need of anything, please reach out to a fellow sister.

The Board of Directors and Committee Chairs are still in action and meeting virtually. In the attached pages of this newsletter, you will see updates from our Programs, Grants and Care Committees (Thank you Becky, Candice and Natalie).

The Nominating Committee (Suzanne Wible, Natalie McKinney and Kelly McCormack) will be reaching out to the membership via email in the next couple of weeks with details and guidelines for Board member candidates.

We will keep you all posted on future activities throughout the next few weeks.

I encourage you all to stay strong and have faith that God will bring us through these tough times.

Have a safe and Happy Easter!

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Page 2 - March Meeting
- Page 3 - Bylaws & Reports
- Page 4 - Bi-Annual Grant
- Page 5 - Care Committee

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.

We miss you! And, hope that everyone is doing well! If you are in need of food, friendship or friendly conversation, reach out to a SMWL sister! You are not alone. We are in this together and here for each other.



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
with Andrea Sanford
Fund Raiser: Pam Frank
and Teresa Klopfer Co-chairs
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-Anayanian
2018/19 - Suzanne Wible

Foundation

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

March Meeting with an Irish Flair | By Becky Hoffman



Thanks Katie and the staff at Grille No. 13 for their hospitality and support of the SMWL. The private meeting room was just the right spot for our March meeting/program! We had a great group of 19 members and 1 guest, a short meeting with lots of SMWL updates, a wonderful served meal with corned beef and cabbage, shepherd's pie, or grilled chicken with a great Irish dessert. Lots of members were missing from this meeting due to the realtor's event. We missed you ladies! Congratulations on your awards.

If you wore green you received an additional band for Heads or Tails. Becky Hoffman won the game. A beautiful green shaded wallet, earrings, and necklace was the prize. We played four games of Leprechaun Bingo! With prizes ranging from gift certificates, St. Patty's day décor, Irish coffee items, and St. Patty's day attire. Congratulations Suzanne, Mary Sue, and Helen.

At the end of the evening we took time to work with Natalie putting the service project together. We placed seed packets, free ice cream coupons from Chick fil A, and special note cards in envelopes to be distributed to the at risk students at Digg's Elementary School. We will plan a date for distribution as soon as we are able.

Messages from the Program Committee

Happy April. Even though we are facing social districting and other guidelines, The Program Committee misses the fun and excitement that comes along with our club. I hope everyone stays safe and we can get together soon for lots of fun and laughter. Natalie

Hello SMWL Sisters. I hope and pray that this email finds you all safe and healthy. From a person who loves to go out and who looks forward to seeing each and every one of you finds it difficult at this time along with everyone else I miss everyone and look forward to following some of you on FB. I am praying for everyone's good health and safety and hope to see you all soon. Hugs Donna

Dear SMWL! We miss all of you! Stay safe and stay home. We will be together again before you know it. Carole and Becky and the rest of the SMWL Program Committee – Tequila and Diana

Bitesize Bylaws! By Candice Kelly, Vice President

Members will elect members to the Board of Directors in June, assuming conditions have improved and we can meet again. Members can nominate fellow members or self-nominate. In addition, the Nominating Committee will solicit nominations. The Nominating Committee's goal is to present a slate of members with skills, talents, and interests that are complementary to each other and the remaining board members.

President Suzanne Wible formed a Nominating Committee in accordance with Article VII of the Bylaws. It is comprised of Suzanne, Natalie McKinney, and Kelly McCormack.

Article V of the Bylaws states that the Board shall consist of no less than seven and no more than nine members. Board members are elected for two year terms and the terms are staggered. Board members are limited to three consecutive terms, but this condition can be waived by the Board. In June, members will elect four board members. Members do not elect the officers, that is, the President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. Officers are elected by the Board of Directors at the first regular meeting of the board after the election, per Article VI of the Bylaws.

The following board members have completed their first two year terms, as follows: Pam Frank, Becky Hoffman, Candice Kelly (completing Ann Seely's term), Carole Lewis.

The Nominating Committee will likely contact the outgoing board members to see if they might accept nomination, and you will be hearing from the Nominating Committee as well, as they put together a slate for the Board. There are also nominations from the floor.

The Board of Directors is responsible for the managing, supervising and controlling the operations of the Corporation and Foundation. It establishes an annual budget and is responsible for the operation of all committees. The board establishes policies and procedures for the operations of the Corporation and Foundation. The Board of Directors meets monthly and each board member takes on additional responsibilities to ensure the smooth operation of the Corporation and Foundation.

If you would like more information on the Board of Directors or the Nominating process, please contact Suzanne Wible at fwible@hotmail.com.

Treasurers Report

By Pam Frank

Currently the checkbook balance is \$2,671.34. As a friendly reminder, please pay missed meeting invoices soonest.

Have a Happy Easter!

Foundation Treasurer

By Rona Kelley

Foundation Accounts Current
Balances:

Checkbook \$40,799.25

Community Foundation of So Md
Fund \$43,707.41

Certificate of Deposit \$32,563.48

Calendar of Events

Sadly, all special SMWL events have been postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We truly miss everyone and look forward to the day when we can all gather together for hugs, sisterhood and celebrations.

BOARD MEETINGS are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

All board meetings are on a conference call agenda till further notice.

- APRIL 21, 2020

- MAY 19, 2020

- JUNE 16, 2020

Bi-Annual Grant Update

| By Candice Kelly, Grant Committee Chairperson

Special thanks to the Grant Committee, Paige Gillentine, Rona Kelley, Carole Lewis, Brenda Lowe, Ruth Mudd, Katie Pierce, and Joan Rosier for their conscientious and attentive ranking of the applications, and creative recommendations. It was a pleasure working with you Ladies!

Because of YOUR DEDICATION AND SUPPORT of not one, but TWO, fundraisers, you will decide on a Bi-Annual Grant Recipient hopefully by the end of June.

Normally, we would have met our our Bi-Annual Grant Finalists and voted at our April meeting . . . but these are not normal times. Due to COVID-19, our April meeting was cancelled, and we will have to see what happens in May.

The Grant Committee submitted a Report to the Board and to the membership by email date March 17, 2020. Here are the highlights.

Finalists:

- **Catherine Foundation** - education and supplies for new mothers, including non-English speaking mothers, who may lack support system
- **Dream Queens** - re-structuring of Gals Lead Facilitator Training program for adult women to train teenage girls
- **Poiema Movement** - this is a transitional home for homeless women and the funding requested is for programming, mentoring and general care.

Recommendations from Committee:

\$3,000 contribution to the each of the two finalists not selected.

Additional Information on Applicants not selected as finalists:

- **Children's Miracle Network** - requested funding for equipment that will keep babies' brains cool during emergency helicopter transport, which is necessary to protect against brain damage.

Recommendation from Committee:

Invite CMN to a future meeting so that the membership can decide if it wishes to fund this equipment through a one-time special grant.

- **Sagepoint Senior Services Foundation** - requested scholarships for nursing student/employees.

Recommendation from Committee:

Fund a \$1,000 CSM scholarship over four years (total of \$4,000).

- **Jude House** - requested funding for a variety of projects to sooth clients. Although this project ranked high, it was not selected because JH was previously a recipient of the Bi-annual Grant and because we recently established a scholarship for JH clients.

- **Life's Journey Writer's Guild** - to support grant funds needed.

Recommendation for Jude House and Life's Journey:
\$1,000 contribution.

Finally, if you would like to review the application, here is a link to our Google Drive -
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Lfl0Q3hzPuHgYH2ULurcl0ph8bE3QfkU?usp=sharing>

Stay well and healthy everyone. We look forward to seeing all of you soon when Covid-19 takes its leave and we return to normal!



Care Committee

| By Natalie McKinney

Even though we are under a stay-at home order, stuck inside and practicing social distancing the Care Committee is still thinking about how we can help brighten our SMWL sisters day. If you can get out for a walk or if you have a balcony or patio you can sit on...enjoy! Please have at it. This will help provide you with a fresh outlook and the vitamin D you get from the sun will put a smile on your face. Also, be mindful that your mental health is just as important as your physical health and walking is a great way you can take care of both. Regardless of what you do, stay safe so you can help keep your family and community safe. We will get through this!

Here are the glamorous birthday shout outs for April and May

Happy Birthday!

April

Natalie S. McKinney - April 6
Suzanne Wible - April 14
Kadie Thames Moffitt - April 20
Katie Pierce - April 23
Lynne O'Meara - April 29

May

Ann Cipriano Rees - May 3
Joan Rosier - May 12
Michelle Jones - May 21
Linda Cox - May 27

Each of the beautiful ladies...Have a wonderful birthday...you rock!

Thank you all...

Dear SMWL SISTERS!

I can not fully express how touched I was over this past weekend. The outpouring of LOVE and support from so many of you, completely changed my focus for the weekend. I was really bummed about closing Grille 13 and the fact that my wedding was not really going to be able to occur that I was uncharacteristically sad. Even though of course I was happy to still be able to marry Royce... who doesn't want their family and friends to be there to witness???

But then you all stepped up!

It started Thursday, MY NAILS WERE TERRIBLE and I didn't even think about them through closing up Grille and whatnot. Pam Roberts got one of her gals Felicia to come in for me to do them ANNNNNNDDDD Rona Kelly called in and paid for them!

Then Friday Darlene Breck and Christie Burnett swing by and drop off a beautiful bird cage with cards from many of you and a cake!!!! People emailed me Amazon gift cards if they could not get the card in the cage too! I was sooooo touched... so amazing.

THENNNNNN on Saturday Pam had offered to still style my hair and Candice Kelly and Pam PAID for it to be done! Pam wouldn't even accept a tip. I was completely in awe.

Also, at the ceremony, Becky Hoffman and her husband were tailgating outside the church and had made signs of love and support!



Through out the entire weekend, you were there. I will forever be in awe and tremendously grateful.

God bless you all during this time and please know you COMPLETELY changed our wedding weekend for me. I am just so filled with gratitude.

Love to you all!
Katie

PS: You ain't never getting rid of me now!!! LOL

