



Brenda Lowe

President's Message

Happy New Year to all of my dear sisters of the Southern Maryland Women's League! As we embark upon the second half of this fiscal year for SMWL, I hope that we can all take a moment and reflect on the sisterhood and camaraderie upon which SMWL was built and keep that reflection rooted in our hearts throughout this year. Unity in this fabulous group of sisters is essential.

I look forward to having some great times with all of you. Welcome to all the new members. You have joined a wonderful group of ladies with big hearts! We have some fun events planned...the infamous Scavenger Hunt in April and Minute to Win It in May. I can hardly wait to make the memories.

I anticipate making a major impact in the lives of women and children in our community; and with every woman in this group working together, we can change the world.

Love to you all! Let's make it a fantastic year! A Best Friend is a Sister That Destiny Forgot to Give You...

Programs & Events | Mary Lilly & Vickie Johnson

Program Committee News

Another Christmas Party, another New Year! We want to thank Tessa Echols for being such a gracious host and helping us adapt when a few glitches presented that festive night! The best laid plans... Tessa's home was so beautiful and peaceful as we shared in the love of the Christmas Season. For those member's that could not attend, we hope you too, were surrounded by the love and comfort of family and friends, and we wish you the All the Best in the New Year!

The Chinese Auction was held on Wednesday, January 7th at Martini's. We did announce a change in the menu from Chinese food to lobster - can you imagine? But go figure, Pete has always been gracious and thought that would be a real treat for us. The pasta with Alfredo, Caesar salad, asparagus, great mashed potatoes, strawberries and cannolis just put the meal over the top! We hope you enjoyed.

Heads 'n Tails was played and Pam Frank was the winner! She sure is lucky and was awarded a gift bag with a hot pink "bling" phone charger, and assorted koozies featuring miniature paired drinks-to-go!

There were very nice gifts brought to be shared all wrapped up in great bags, boxes and bows overflowing on the table with little candy canes for taking too. As the game progressed, we did have a few tense moments when members had something that they really wanted, to only have it stolen... but that's the object of the game. (Sea horse bag, gold earrings, infinity scarves, Christmas Blessings, calculators... just to name a few.) And how many gifts did Suzanne actually open? She really knew how to pick them which certainly helped others get a nice gift. Could you believe, though, that the last two gifts on the table were none other than bottles of wine... maybe it was a full moon? Perhaps everyone was 'wined' out from the Christmas, Hanukah and New Year's celebrations? Tessa just couldn't believe wine was on the table for the taking and no one was taking!!!

So the lingering question is - Tessa, did you eat the chocolates?



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I love to see a young girl go out and grab the world by the lapels. Life's a bitch. You've got to go out and kick ass.
— Maya Angelou



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.

Don't miss our upcoming events

Next meeting... Wednesday, February 4th

Martini's Lounge, Prime Rib Room

Check-in & Mingle 5:30-6:00 • Dinner at 6:00 • Open Bar

Bring your extra \$5 CASH for the Head's & Tales Raffle!!

Many thanks from your program chairs—Vicki Johnson & Mary Lilly



CARE COMMITTEE | Cindy Lantz



Hello SMWL Sisters! I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season! There was definitely fun to be had by all but would like to send a special "thinking of you" message to board member Mary Lilly who seems to have been under the weather for most of the holidays and we send her all the best wishes for her complete recovery.

With sadness we would also like to extend our deepest sympathies to Brenda Lowe for the loss of her Uncle and to Vickie Johnson who lost her cousin and brother very close together. We are all here for you while you grieve for your loved ones, so please don't hesitate to reach out to one of your Sisters for support.

Some happy news! Congratulations to Andy Sanford on the marriage of her daughter Jessica! Judging by the pictures, it looked like a beautiful wedding and there were happy faces all around!

There was a nice group of December birthdays and we hope you ladies had a chance to celebrate with family and friends. We have a couple of Sister Birthdays for January and February but come on March!! Warmer weather and lots of births to celebrate so keep the following ladies in mind as we shiver our way into spring.

January 30 - Rebecca Martin
February 12 - Terry Davis

March:
10 - Maria Salazar
20 - Brenda Lowe
21 - Tracey Stinnett
22 - Teresa Klopfer
27 - Pam Frank
27 - Kim Simonson

Please remember to email me if you know a Sister is in need, under the weather or just feeling down. As always, if you know something great that one of our sisters has accomplished, whether it be running a marathon, a new job, a new home purchase or any other special event, we want to know!!
clantz2@verizon.net

Mentoring in Support of The Angel's Watch

Submitted by Laura Brown

Terry and I have been meeting with the ladies on Thursday evenings since September. What an honor to say we have developed meaningful relationships built on trust and understanding with many of the residents in the shelter. Having the ability to bring the love of God; and sharing prayer, tears and stories of overcoming has been the basis of our time. Again, if any of you would like to spend an evening with the ladies and/or the children and provide a workshop or something to lift them up, please let us know :)

Through the spearheading of Terry, we were able to provide all furniture, home goods and necessary everyday needs to a young woman by the name of Rhonda and her five young boys. Rhonda is doing fabulous and keeping in touch with her girlfriends who are still living in the shelter. We will have another opportunity soon to help Yvette and her three-year-old daughter once she is cleared to move into a two bedroom town home. So if you have furniture, household items of any kind or would like to donate funds to purchase items, please let Terry or myself know. We are also currently looking for space to store these items to have and to hold as the ladies vacate the shelter.

November's meeting members were asked to bring in and donate items to the shelter. Terry and I dropped off paper goods to include: cleaning supplies, diapers, wipes, tampons etc. A few of our moms were very thankful for the diapers as their children were wearing diapers too big to fit their babies or toddlers and the shelter was completely out. I truly like to thank all who were able to give this time.....and trust me, if you missed out in November these are items that are needed on an ongoing basis.

In December, I asked the board for \$250.00 to help provide for additional cleaning supplies, feminine sanitary supplies and a few minor Christmas decorations. With the wonderful help and donations of Tammy Semega and Pam Roberts we did a mighty fine job of decorating the cafeteria area to make it fun and festive for the residents. Tammy and I got a few ladies involved and made the chain rings made of construction paper and covered what seemed like miles on the walls!!!!:)))

We also partnered with Chaney Enterprises and their staff and helped put together an amazing Christmas Dinner and Party lavished with food and gifts from Chaney's. I would say it was a magical night for the residents. All residents were given a "wish list" and incredibly the different departments of Chaney Enterprises made sure each and every item was purchased. We had one of two ladies who arrived at the shelter after the wish list had been collected and they were given gift cards in the amount of \$175.00 plus make up, lotions and many extras. One of our favorite people in the shelter is a lady by the name of Rochelle. Her children love to read books, but so badly wanted a game boy and to their surprise they sure got it!!!! Each of them!!!!!! I really think the 11 staff members from Chaney Enterprises were more blessed than the residents who received the gifts. Chaney Enterprises is looking to forge a better relationship and offered to help with a few excursions in the spring for the families.

So in the upcoming year for 2015, Terry and I are looking forward to all the new possibilities that come our way with our friends at the Angel's Watch Shelter. There is plenty of room for each of you to be a part of the ongoing work. I am encouraged by the response we have received and the life changing decisions that these ladies are making for their futures and overall families. It takes a village....and together we all did it!

Foundation News

This report is for the month of December and January and will provide the small grants that have been approved and paid, those that still need to be paid, and the current balance in the Foundation account:



In November, small grant in the amount of \$500 was provided to SLS Ministries for the healing journey for post abortive women, and another in the amount of \$500 to Bethany International for Evelyn Annika Young.

In December, the 4th payment of the (4th installment) was made to Catholic Charities for the Angel's Watch Shelter in the amount of \$2,860.00. In addition, the board approved a \$250.00 small grant to purchase personal hygiene and cleaning items and diapers for the Ange'sl Watch Shelter. A payment in the amount of \$5,000 is scheduled to release to Hospice for our SMWL sponsored room.

To date, the foundation currently has a balance of \$30,482.93, we have \$40,636.93 in the CD, and \$38,611.76 in the Community Foundation of Southern MD.

Of course, if you have any questions regarding any of the information provided, please feel free to contact me. Happy New Year!



TREASURERS REPORT | Lyn Bell

Happy New Year! Hoping your holidays were great. Speaking of holiday parties, January is the month to pay for guests that attended the December party. Please remit your guest costs promptly. Blessings as we move forward in fifteen.

Membership Report | Helen Heier

The last membership Directory, Membership Birthday List, and Membership E-mail lists were updated and sent out to everyone on December 31, 2014. If you have changes to your information please forward to Helen promptly.



Please add these new lists to your Membership Binder. It is important that you use these Current lists because changes have been made to some addresses and phone numbers, etc.

As of today, we have 49 members. We have two new members, one rejoining member, Bernadette Cole, and Beth Gilliland. We have one membership application in process. We still have many prospective members needing to attend their 3rd meeting before sending them an application to join. We also have several interested ladies who will be attending meetings for the first time as we go through this year. Each month we have our meetings, I have a list of names with e-mails that I send out the meeting announcements to. If you have someone you would like me to send the announcements to also, please give me the name and e-mail address.

I have ordered and received SMWL name badges for our newest members and I am also in the process of putting together SMWL binders for each of these new members. If anyone needs a membership application, let me know and I will e-mail one to you.

I look forward to even more growth of the membership in this following year. Thanks go out to all the membership for their active role in getting new members.



2014/2015 SMWL Board of Directors

President: **Brenda Lowe** (2014/15)
ahloweha@aol.com

Vice President: **Rona Kelley** (2014/15)
rona@heatbyfire.com

Secretary: **Laura Brown** (2014-15)
laura_forbes@comcast.net

Foundation Treasurer: **Tammy Semega** (2014/15) t.a.semega@gmail.com

League Treasurer: **Lyn Bell** (2014-15)
lbell@slsministriesinc.org

Past President: **Laura Brown** (2014/15)
Laura_forbes@comcast.net

Program/Event Chairs
Vickie Johnson (2011/15)
vjohnson7775@aol.com
Mary Lilly (2013/15)
maryagneslilly@mris.com

Membership Chair: **Helen Heier** (2011/14), heier2@comcast.net

Care Committee
Cindy Lantz (2014/15)
Clantz2@verizon.net

Special Event Coordinator
Pam Roberts (2013/15)
pe_roberts1@yahoo.com

Media/Public Relations/Newsletter
Andy Sanford (2011/14)
asanford12@gmail.com

Foundation Grant Liaison
Laura Brown

PAST PRESIDENTS

Laura Brown, 2012/2014
Terry Davis, 2010/2012
Doris Folineo, 2008/2010
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Rona Kelley, 2004/2006
Candice Quinn Kelley: Foundation