

Connections

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President's Message

Becky Hoffman

**"Act as if
what you do
makes a difference.
It does."**

WILLIAM JAMES

SMWL MISSION STATEMENT

To promote, strengthen and support women in our community through fellowship, education, service and mentor programs.

We are a dynamic group of women dedicated to helping each other grow and support our community through fund-raising, special events, volunteer efforts, shared experiences and more.

Serving Southern Maryland and its Communities.

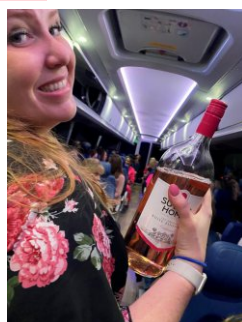
Greetings! Welcome to the fall edition of the SMWL quarterly newsletter. If you are like me, you may be enjoying the cooler weather and the beautiful colors that fall brings to our area. Can you believe that Thanksgiving is almost here? I hope that you have the opportunity to spend time with your family and enjoy the best feast of the season!

Speaking of the holiday season... our Annual SMWL Member Holiday Party is scheduled for Friday, December 8th. Please note the updated invitation on page 2 as we have changed the location to Laura Forbes-Bryant's beautiful home in La Plata and Rucci's will provide the catered food! We look forward to seeing everyone there soon!

We hope that you read through this entire newsletter as the information inside will help you see where we stand financially, learn about our small grant requests, Member Care updates, program and event overviews, membership information, our upcoming calendar of events and so much more.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I am always ready to listen. 301 751 1167. I am blessed to be able to serve as your president.

CHECK OUT EVENT PHOTOS INSIDE!



SMWL BOD 2023/2024

OFFICERS

President: Becky Hoffman

Vice President: Andrea Sanford
Chair, Programs & Communications,
Membership

Treasurer: Corporation: Pam Frank

Treasurer: Foundation: Ruth Mudd

Secretary: Brenda Lowe. Chair -
Scholarships Committee

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Chair, Grants Committee: Laura Bryant

Care: Candice Kelly

Membership: Helen Heier

Programs: Tequila House

PAST PRESIDENTS

League

2006-2007 Rona Kelley

2007-2008 Rona Kelley

2008-2009 Diana Rucci

2009-2010 Diane 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

2017-2018 Mia Allen-Anayanian

2018-2021 Suzanne Wible

2021-2023 Candice Kelly

Foundation

2006-2007 Candice Kelly

2007-2008 Candice Kelly

2008-2009 Millie Gieseman



Southern Maryland
WOMEN'S LEAGUE
Linked by More than Community

Holiday Merriment Member Party

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th, 2023
from 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm at

NOTE – NEW LOCATION!

Laura & Vic Bryant's Home
11549 Highland Farm Court
La Plata, Maryland 20646

COST: Members: Paid
(covered by payment of your annual dues)

Spouse/Significant Other/Guest:
\$75 by Check/Cash, \$79 (includes bank fee)
Use the QR Code Online: www.smwl.org. Type "Holiday Party"
in the "What's this payment for" drop down

REFRESHMENTS:
Rucci's Catered Appetizers, Dinner, Dessert
and Open Bar

ATTIRE: Festival Holiday

RSVP: Positive Response or Regrets to
asanford12@gmail.com



OCTOBER EVENT

DIY Craft Nite AT A|R[®] WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023 |

Thank you to SMWL Charter Member, Laura Forbes for hosting us at her A|R Workshop in La Plata for a wonderful evening of crafting and fun! Thank you to the Programs Committee for planning such a wonderful event.

36 Members and Guests gathered to craft a wide range of holiday and home decor signs. We made beautiful pumpkins, ghosts, reindeer, snowglobes, workout incentive quotes and so much more. Thank you to the awesome A|R Workshop staff for helping everyone create a masterpiece of their own - we really appreciate their patience and shared creativity!

Dinner included assorted artisan Subs and Chef Salads, Chips, Cupcakes and Cookies!

Heads & Tails Winners: Becky Hoffman - Halloween Centerpiece created and donated by Andy Sanford and Vickie Johnson - Halloween Tray donated by Laura Forbes, A|R Workshop.

To see all of the photos, visit our website at: www.smwl.org or our Facebook page!

Networking Nook

Buy local and help support your small SMWL businesses

VICKIE JOHNSON

Celebration of Spirits

Bar Catering, Full Bar Service and Bartenders for all your special occasions

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vjohnson7775@aol.com

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Century 21/New Millennium

301-751-3235

Vickie.Johnson@C21NM.com

9405 Chesapeake Street

La Plata, MD 20646

www.C21NM.com

CANDICE Q. KELLY, Esquire

Announcing the opening of The Law Office of Candice Q. Kelly
No problem is too big or too small.

204 Washington Avenue

La Plata | 301-848-8294

This is your SMWL Newsletter!

Please email me with your news... including special family announcements, business information and SMWL specials, charitable organizations or drives that are near and dear to your heart, By-the-ways and more!

We'd love to include your information to share with our SMWL Sisters.

asanford12@gmail.com

smwl@gmail.com

SMWL Scholarship Report | Submitted by Brenda Lowe

The SMWL CSM Scholarship Committee reviewed student applicants' essays at the end of July. The committee met virtually over several emails and they reviewed each person's choices and all scores were in by 7/31/23.

The Committee voted on the following students to receive \$1,000.00 each for the School year that began September 2023:

Corinne D. - \$1,000.00

Megan W. - \$1,000.00

Briana R. - \$1,000.00

Anela Y. - \$1,000.00

(There was a balance of \$4,015.59 available to award for the SMWL Scholarship for the 2023-24 academic year...from the \$3,000 MOU and contributions from Giving Tuesday).

Donna J Ellis Scholarship:

Brenda passed ten Donna J Ellis Scholarship applicants' essays along to Dana Ellis Bellofatto (Donna's Daughter) for review and scoring. Dana chose the recipient:

Kristi B. who was awarded \$2,200 for the 2023-2024 academic year.

TREASURERS REPORTS | Submitted by Pam Frank (Corporation) and Ruth Mudd (Foundation)

Corporate: Balance as of October 2023 - \$8,600.83

SMWL Foundation (Budget attached PDFs)

Balance as of May 22, 2023 = \$14,146.71

Transfer from Certificate of Deposit = \$33,808.56

Total: **\$47,955.27**

Community Foundation of Southern Maryland (charitable/endowed fund):

Balance as of June, 2023 is \$49,879.22





WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023 | Whew... What a fun night! Everyone enjoyed the journey of the Titanic The Exhibition and the incredible interactive show by Bobby McKey's Dueling Piano Bar's performers at National Harbor!

We know a Mystery Trip involves a lot of trust -- as you are paying blindly for an event. We appreciate your trust in us, and we hope that everyone enjoyed the entire experience. We truly appreciate your membership in the SMWL, and the 36 members and guests who reserved seats to join in the fun! For those who were sick or on fabulous vacations around the world -- we really missed you! Just think... on any normal Wednesday night, you'd be in your jammies by 8:00 pm watching the Masked Singer. And, last night you were out drinking wine on a brand new luxury Bus, traveling back to 1912, and singing "Girls' Just Wanna Have Fun" on the top of your lungs!

Special thanks go out to Katie Pierce for shopping for/ making/ prepping the delicious turkey wraps and dark chocolate-covered pretzels. And, to Becky Hoffman and Tequila House for stuffing the bags, set-up, check-in, and packing up; to Darlene Breck for inviting us to use her place of business to set up and meet. And, congrats to Founding Member, Rona Kelley for winning the Heads or Tails Prize -- bringing her great fortune and fame!

As the League President, Becky Hoffman shared last night, we love to get together to have fun, and we also love our commitment to supporting our community. Over the past 17 years, we have raised funds and shared over \$325,000 through SMWL-sponsored scholarships and grants for numerous local non-profits. It is through your continued support and commitment to SMWL that we can enjoy such an amazing history of success. If you were a guest and would like to consider joining, please view our website www.smwl.org to learn more. *We really are a dynamic group of women doing extraordinary things!*

To view all of the event photos, please visit the website and Facebook page!

Networking Nook

Buy local and help support
your small SMWL businesses

A|R Workshop of La Plata

AR Workshop is your destination for all things DIY! Our charming boutique studio offers hands-on craft classes, group activities, private parties, and a curated selection of gifts and on-trend home decor. Sign up for an individual craft, a DIY Craft To Go, or bring your party/group to us!
317 Charles Street, La Plata
301-804-9357
laplata@arworkshop.com

Andrea Sanford Design

Logo Design, Marketing, Newsletters, Social Media Coaching, Special Event and Parties, Wine Glass Painting Parties, Custom Resin Gifts, Wreaths and more!
301-399-0583
asanford12@gmail.com

AD YOUR BUSINESS INFORMATION HERE!

Email me your business name, contact info, services and an SMWL Member discount/special offer if desired!

We love to shop, support, and use services offered by our SMWL Members and their families.

asanford12@gmail.com

CARE COMMITTEE | Submitted by Candice Kelly

Happy Birthday to our many SMWL sisters that have celebrated their birthdays in October and for those who have and will celebrate in November and December.

- Rona Kelley - October 14
- Maryann Lanham - October 21
- Fran Hrapsky - November 1
- Kelly Spears - November 6
- Jessica Bruckner - November 8
- Buffy Giddens - November 13
- Chrisie Mulcahey - November 16
- Tracey Messick - November 27
- Andrea Sanford - December 25
- Becky Humbert - December 27
- Lisa Wills - December 27

Happy 
Birthday!



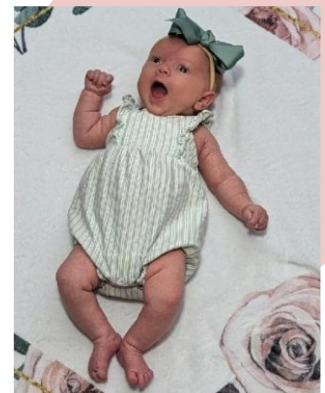
Care Committee News: We're here, because we care... and it's up to you, if you'd like to share. If you have a special celebration (anniversary, grandchild, promotion, etc.) or are having any difficulties, have experienced a loss, have special circumstances, or needs, please reach out to our Care Committee Chair, Candice Kelly via email: candiceqk@gmail.com



New Grand Babies!

Becky Hoffman's
New Great Grandson
Wyatt Michael
Allosada

Becky Hoffman's
New Granddaughter
Reese Vanlear
Hoffman



Andrea Sanford's
New Grandson
Maxwell Hunter Sanford

SEND YOUR PHOTOS
TO ASANFORD12@GMAIL.COM



MEMBERS ARE INVITED BY MEMBERS.

After attending 3 Meetings, prospective members may submit an Application and Bio to their Sponsor. The Sponsor will share with the Membership Committee for review and a full membership vote.

Once/if approved by the membership the prospective member will be notified. Membership materials will be shared once membership fees are complete.

Over the past 14 years, the Southern Maryland Women's League has donated over \$335,000 in support of programs to benefit women and children within our community. It is through our annual fundraisers, special events, and activities that we are able to raise these funds. We encourage local business owners, residents, and other women of impact to join us in our mission and support the SMWL by participating in these events and through direct donations to our SMWL Foundation. We thank you in advance for your support.

YOUR SMWL FOUNDATION SUPPORT

FOUNDATION SUPPORT: For the League to provide donations in support of our charitable obligations (2-Year Program Support, CSM Scholarships, and a variety of Grants), all members historically, have come together to host an annual fundraiser through our 501c3 non-profit SMWL FOUNDATION. Your participation in this annual fundraiser is a requirement of membership. Due to the past covid-related guidelines that discourage large group gatherings, all members were contacted individually by the AD-Hoc Committee to review options and find a resolution. Through these conversations, League members opted NOT to hold an annual fundraiser in 2022/23 and agreed collectively to provide a personal donation of \$250 in support of the SMWL Foundation. As planning large successful fundraisers is still a difficult task, the Board voted to continue the \$250 Foundation for the 2023/24 year. However, an Ad-Hoc Committee will be developed to survey membership before the end of this fiscal year. To make your \$250 SMWL Foundation Donation, visit the website www.smwl.org and use the QR Code. Be sure to type "SMWL Foundation Donation" in the "What is this payment for" drop down box.

PAST EVENT TASKS & REWARDS: Participation in our Annual Fundraiser normally includes the overall event theme development, serving on a committee, attending committee planning and implementation meetings and workshops, silent auction item donations, event ticket, and raffle ticket sales, marketing of the event, gathering sponsorships, individual sponsorships, inviting the participation of friends, family, co-workers, attendance at the event, and of course set-up and take-down. Through these outstanding efforts from our cherished members like you, over the past 14 years, we have donated well over \$335,000 back to our community in support of women (and a few single fathers) and children in need.

THANK YOU: Your commitment to the SMWL and tax-deductible donation of \$250 (or more) ensures we can continue our mission of service and excellence. Check with your accountant for individual tax-deductible needs.

We are grateful for your SMWL membership and outstanding Foundation support.



SMWL CALENDAR of EVENTS



We cannot express how important it is to RSVP in a timely fashion! In order to hold these special events we must sign contracts, shop for food, drinks, make the personalized gifts and so much more. Please reply with a Yes - I am coming or NO - I cannot make it as soon as possible!

PROGRAMS: *SECOND Wednesday of each month (unless a special event is planned)*

2023

- NOVEMBER 15, Wednesday: MYSTERY TRIP
- DECEMBER: Holiday Party at Laura Forbes-Bryant

2024

- JANUARY: Wednesday the 10th - After-Holiday Gift Exchange, Location: Hunan Star
- FEBRUARY: Wednesday the 14th* - Axe Throwing (Date may change due to Valentines Day)
- MARCH: Wednesday the 13th – Minute to Win-It!
- APRIL: Wednesday the 10th – Yoga on the Roof Top
- MAY: Wednesday the 8th – Join the programs committee to help plan this!
- JUNE: Wednesday the 12th – Join the programs committee to help plan this!
- JULY: Wednesday the 10 – Join the programs committee to help plan this!

BOARD MEETINGS: *THIRD Tuesday of every other month (unless a special meeting is planned).*

- JULY 12 – Wednesday: A/R Workshop
- SEPTEMBER 19, Tuesday: A/R Workshop
- NOVEMBER 21, Tuesday: ZOOM Meeting
- JANUARY 16, Tuesday: A/R Workshop
- MARCH 19, Tuesday: A/R Workshop
- MAY 21, Tuesday: A/R Workshop
- JULY 16, Tuesday: A/R Workshop

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHING: *FIRST Tuesday of every other non-board meeting month.*

Please send in your submissions one week prior.

- August 23 ** *Special date as Andy out of town for work event*
- November 20 ** *Special date*
- February 6, Tuesday
- April 2, Tuesday
- June 4, Tuesday