

Connections

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



President's Message | Suzanne Wible

Happy Memorial Day!

We had many April showers which brought beautiful May flowers. Hopefully the warmer weather and new growth of plants, trees and flowers bring you joy as we continue to brave the COVID- 19 pandemic. There is much to worry about: finances, boredom, lack of time with friends and loss of loved ones... but we can be grateful that with time, these worries will be resolved. Don't forget that you belong to an organization of phenomenal strong woman who care about you. Please remember if you are in need of anything, please reach out to a fellow sister.

We are now entering the unofficial kick-off to summer by celebrating Memorial Day. Memorial Day is a time for honoring, mourning and remembering military personnel who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. On this day, take time to remember those who have fallen and thank them for serving and protecting our great nation. Since most Memorial Day activities have been cancelled due to the pandemic, you can enjoy concerts, wreath laying ceremonies and parades virtually. If you plan on traveling, please continue to be safe.

A couple of members have enquired about having a virtual League meeting. At this time, the Board is only conducting essential SMWL business. If anyone is interested in setting up an unofficial virtual chat, happy hour, etc. – go for it! We will continue to keep you posted on future activities.

Again, I encourage you to stay strong and have faith that we will get through these tough times and be stronger for it.

Have a safe and Happy Memorial Day!

WHAT'S INSIDE

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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.

We will not forget

Thank you to the women and men who have served our great nation, and to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.



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

Congratulations Class of 2020



The end of the school year should be a happy time for high school and college seniors—one door is closing and another is opening, with a lot of fanfare in between. But we know this year is very different, and seniors are facing a lot of disappointing cancellations because of COVID-19. In-person commencements, graduation parties, senior nights, proms, and other special events just can't happen in the current environment.

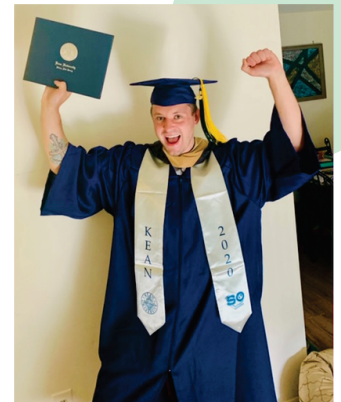
There isn't a lot we can say to make it better, because the situation just...stinks. But even though a lot of celebrations and ceremonies have been canceled or postponed, it's important to remember that nothing can take away all that you've accomplished over the past four years! Congratulations to the Class of 2020



Maryanna Lanham's
 Nephew, Alex Dimichele,
 LaPlata High School



Maryanna Lanham's
 Nephew, Evan Roper
 graduated from St Stephens
 High School



Michelle Kelly's son-in-law,
 Douglas Thum, Kean College, NJ
 - Bachelors of Science in
 Business Management
 with Honors



Laura Forbes son,
 Otway Zantzing, the Calverton
 School, will attend the University
 of Tennessee in the fall



Maryanna Lanham's
 Niece, Grace Murphy,
 Leonardtown High School



Carole Lewis - Granddaughter
 Avery "Jo Jo" Wetherill,
 Creede High School, CO, she
 will attend the University
 of Charleston in the fall



Andy Sanford's nephew,
 TJ Nease graduated from
 King George HS, he will
 attend George Mason
 University in the fall

Bitesize Bylaws! By Candice Kelly, Vice President

In the last three newsletters, I covered Grants, Nominations, and Board of Directors. This seemed like a good month to cover why we have Bylaws in the first place.

SMWL and SMWL Foundation are corporations. Corporations are born when Articles of Incorporation are signed and the Corporation legally exists when it is registered with the Maryland Secretary of State. Our corporations were filed and registered in 2007.

While the Articles of Corporation give birth, the Bylaws provide the roadmap for life!

"FIND A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO CHALLENGE AND INSPIRE YOU; SPEND A LOT OF TIME WITH THEM, AND IT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE."

- Amy Poehler

Bylaws tell us how we will operate and in our case can only be changed with a majority vote of members in good standing, after proper notice is given.

In addition, to Bylaws SMWL operates under a variety of Standard Operating Procedures. SOP's are generally prepared by various committees and submitted to the Board for approval. Some documents are available on our website, but if you would like to know more or have copies of anything, please email me or Suzanne Wible, and will be happy to send the information to you electronically.

SMWL succeeds because of the time and attention given to establishing Bylaws and SOP's and because of our diligence and consistency in following these important documents. Most importantly, SMWL succeeds because of YOU!

Greetings from the Programs Committee

By Becky Hoffman, Program Committee Co-Chairperson Committee Members: Carole Lewis, Diana Rucci, Donna Ellis, Natalie McKinney, and Tequila House

Hello SMWL!!!

The program committee hasn't been able to meet with all the restrictions during the COVID 19 pandemic. But you better believe we have lots up our sleeves (and under our masks...LOL) to wow, entertain, and educate our members. Stand by for all the details once we get the newest info and guidelines on opening and safety protocol. We miss all of you and can't wait till we can be together again! Until then stay safe and healthy.



Treasurers Report

By Pam Frank

Currently the checkbook balance is \$2,433.30

Congratulations to all Graduates, and have a safe Memorial Day weekend to all SMWL ladies and your families.

Foundation Treasurer

By Rona Kelley

April 30th Statement Balance - \$40,799.25

The following checks were written and had not cleared the bank as of 4/30/20 statement.

\$1000 - So Md Food Bank of Catholic Charities

The following donations were made in memory of an immediate family member:

\$100 - Center for Abused Person Grant submitted by Ruth Mudd

\$100 - Cox Family Memorial Scholarship at CSM Grant submitted by Lisa Case

\$100 - Art Beyond Sight Grant submitted by Michelle Kelly

\$100 - SMWL CSM Scholarship Fund Grant submitted by Helen Heier

Covid-19 Policies | By Candice Kelly, Vice President



Annual Membership Dues Suspended

The Board recognizes that in these uncertain times, we could all use a little help. We don't know what lies ahead and we don't want to add extra financial stress to your life. **Therefore, Membership Dues are suspended until further notice.**

The Board calculates that, based on some profits derived from the cancellation of membership meetings, we are capable of paying essential bills such as insurance, bank fees, etc. for a few months, without income from membership dues. Once we have a better sense of the future, we will assess manageable membership dues with a flexible payment scheme.

Annual Meeting & Election Postponed

Section 4.5 of the SMWL Corporation Bylaws requires that the Annual Meeting be held "at the last meeting of the fiscal year" (June 3, 2020). Likewise, **Section 4.5.1 SMWL Corporation Bylaws** requires that the Nominating Committee send the Nomination and Election Policies and Procedures to the membership 30 days before the Annual Meeting, or by May 4, 2020.

Because of government restrictions limiting groups of 10 or more from assembling, it is unlikely that the June 3, 2020 Annual Meeting will take place. An electronic annual meeting/election is neither permitted or restricted by the SMWL Bylaws, but an electronic Annual Meeting and Election is not

feasible given the logistics and ability to ensure transparency.

Furthermore, the Nominating Committee cannot develop Policies and Procedures necessary to conduct an electronic meeting by the May 4, 2020 deadline.

Because of Covid-19 in general, and MD State Executive Order limitations and restrictions, it is impossible for the Board to comply with Section 4.5 of the SMWL Corporation Bylaws.

For these reasons, Board voted as follows:

1. The June 3, 2020 Annual Meeting and Election is postponed until the restrictions are lifted and it is feasible to conduct a safe Annual Meeting and Election.
2. The current board will continue to conduct only essential SMWL business electronically until such time as we can safely resume normal operations and conduct an Annual Meeting and Election.
3. The Board intends that the nomination and election process will commence as soon as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted and meeting is permitted and feasible.
4. The Board will communicate this decision to the membership



SMWL Board Meeting Via Zoom!

We miss all of our SMWL Sisters and hope that everyone is safe and well. Reach out if you'd like to chat or are in need any kind of assistance. We can get through this together. #smwlsisterscare



Care Committee

| By Natalie McKinney

Well, welcome spring showers, May flowers and beautiful weather. The Care Committee is still here for you and we are looking for all things celebration as well as somber moments and high school, college, technical school graduations.

I wanted to reach out to everyone to remind you that we care about you and what is taking place in your backyard. This is a new situation and we must find that new normal; so, stay healthy, stay safe and stay connected to family and friends. We all need someone, and it is great to know that people are thinking about you.

Unfortunately, we have lost a few family members in the wake of this pandemic; our hearts and prayers are with each of you.



Well, it's that time.... time to wish these wonderful sisters a happy birthday.

Mary Sue Greisman – June 11
Robin Magoon – June 17
Sherrie Sanders – June 20
Donna Ellis – June 23

A Special Gift... Continued Support

PRESENTATION OF 'JACKI' JACKETS

in Honor of Tessa Echols

OCTOBER 9, 2018 - 1:00 pm at the
Charles Regional Medical Center Lobby



Through our \$1,000 donation, the Southern Maryland Women's League will present the University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center with 'Jacki' Jackets that benefit breast cancer patients in their journey.

The SMWL Mission Statement is to promote, strengthen and support women in our community. The donation of these "Jacki" jackets will support and benefit cancer patients for many years to come.

*A
Special
Gift*

A big thank you to our sisters at SMWL! My sister, Patsy had breast cancer surgery on March 31, 2020. Since then, with the help of Carole Lewis, Charles Regional Medical Center, and the donation from SMWL as a memorial to our dear friend and sister Tessa Echols, my sister was able to acquire a Jacki Jacket. The jacket has made the recovery from surgery and continued chemo 'a little easier and softer', as my sister put it.

I am so very grateful to be part of a caring organization. Every time I see my sister in that jacket, I think of Tessa and the worrier spirit that she instilled in all of those that knew and loved her.

Becky Hoffman

