

Connections



Southern Maryland
**WOMEN'S
LEAGUE**

*Linked by More
than Community*

JAN/FEB 2020 Newsletter | www.smwl.org | Follow us on Facebook



President's Message | Suzanne Wible

Happy 2020 SMWL!

At our January SMWL meeting, our members shared fond memories of the Holiday season. Many stories were heartfelt and there was a feeling of warmth as people shared their stories. What a great opportunity

to get to know our fellow members a little better. The Program Committee coordinated a fun filled evening with our annual Chinese Gift Exchange. I hope Linda Cox finally got a gift she could keep!

Recent SMWL highlights:

In the month of December, we gave \$3,500 towards Small Grant requests. In January, we held our hands on service project for 2020, a coat drive for LifeStyles.

The Membership Committee (Chairs: Linda Cox, Teresa Klopfer and Suzanne Wible) will begin having regularly scheduled committee meetings. We value our members and welcome any ideas and suggestions from all. Our Valentine February Meeting is scheduled for February 5th. I heard champagne, chocolate and games were part of the evening fun – I hope to see you all there!!

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Page 2 - January Meetings
- Page 3 - Bylaws & Birthdays!
- Page 4 - Foundation Report
- Page 5 - Calendar of Events

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.

Don't miss our next Meeting - Tonight @ The Charles!



Valentine February Meeting at The Charles in La Plata (Bay Room)

Wednesday, February 5, 2020 - 5:00 to 5:45 Check-In, Cocktails & Snacks

5:45 Meeting, 6:20 Buffet Dinner, Games after Dinner

Don't forget to bring items in support of our Service Project for Charlotte Hall Veterans Home residents.



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
 Fund Raiser: Pam Frank
 and Teresa Klopfer Co-chairs.

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 - Suzanne Wible

Foundation

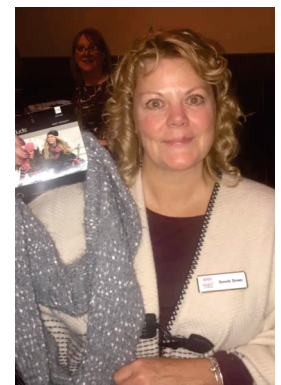
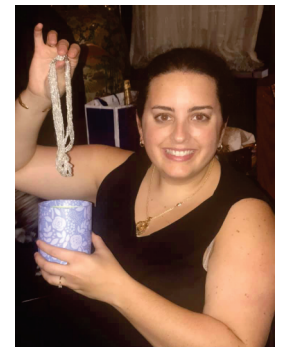
2006-2007 Candice Kelly
 2007-2008 Candice Kelly
 2008-2009 Mollie Gieseaman

January Meeting Chinese Gift Exchange

By Becky Hoffman

What better way to celebrate after the holidays then to have a "Chinese Gift Exchange"! Our host restaurant was Hunan Star in La Plata. Thanks Sue and Ben! We were welcomed with a complimentary cocktail (great Mia Tai), outstanding Chinese buffet, private room, and conversation about our favorite holiday memories. Each committee chair gave a brief report including the introduction of our Monthly Service Projects (see calendar of events for further details) and then we were ready for Heads or Tails. The winner of the beautiful prize, a bracelet and wrap from Centerpiece in La Plata, was one of our guests.

The group could not wait to get started with the Chinese Gift Exchange, we were a little shy at first, but not to worry these ladies have the competitive edge and wanted to find a way for the best gift to be theirs. Needless to say, there were lots of cheers, ooh's and aah's over all the gifts, and a commentary from the new Vanna White, Diana Rucci. Co-chair, Carole Lewis tried to keep the comments to a minimum, but its hard to quite this crowd down. All in all it was a fun time and very enjoyable way to start off the "2020" SMWL New Year!



Membership Committee

Save the Date!!!

New members March 13, 2020

Linda Cox's home (8930 Mitchell Drive La Plata, MD)
at 6pm-8pm; invite will be coming in the mail.

Treasurers Report

By Pam Frank

Please make sure you pay your invoices for missed meetings and the balance in the account, as of December 31 is \$5,348.88.



Care Committee

By Natalie McKinney

SMWL Sisters - Happy New Year!! I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday. It looks like 2020 will be the year of care so let's hit the ground running and check on our family and friends. Let's show our community that SMWL is a wonderfully caring organization with awesome members.

I want to send Birthday shout outs to our awesome sisters born in January so here goes.....

Happy Birthday...

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Beverly Brown - January 21

Tequila House - January 26

Melanie Harvey - January 29

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY

Terry Davis - February 12

I would love for you to email me if you know of a special event a SMWL sister is experiencing or if a SMWL sister just needs a little "pick me up". We care!

nsmckinney@verizon.net
Natalie

Bitesize Bylaws! By Candice Kelly, Vice President

SMWL is a long standing and reliable scholarship donor for the College of Southern Maryland. Not only is SMWL dedicated to CSM, member Brenda Lowe, serves as the Vice Chair of the CSM Foundation Board of Directors and over the years has served as the Chair of the SMWL Scholarship Committee.

In June, 2019, the membership formalized how we handle scholarships in the Foundation Bylaws as follows:

Section 6.2.2 Scholarship Committee – The Scholarship Committee shall consist a minimum of three (3) members. The Committee shall meet on a regular basis as needed.

The Scholarship Committee's purpose is to:

- A. Serve as liaison with the College of Southern Maryland to identify recipients of SMWL scholarships
- B. Review applications and select scholarship recipients consistent with SMWL Policies and Procedures.
- C. Present an Annual Report and periodic updates to the General Membership on the SMWL scholarship recipients.

Our commitment to provide scholarships to worthy students is bolstered by an endowment that SMWL established almost 10 years ago. The rationale was that by establishing an endowment through the Community Foundation of Southern Maryland, we could fund a minimum scholarship in perpetuity, using the interest earned, never touching the corpus of our funds.

Initially, we earmarked the scholarships for women returning to the school, or single mothers, or women in need. Although a noble sentiment, we stepped out of our comfort levels this year, when we granted a scholarship to a very worthy young man, single father, and dedicated student.

We wish him success in his studies and life and look forward to hearing about his progress.

SMWL Foundation, Inc. - Grant Committee Report

By Candice Kelly, Vice President & Grant Committee Chair

The Grant Committee consists of at least two Board members, including the Treasurer, and at least three members who are not board members. The Grant Committee members are: Erica Abell, Buffy Giddens, Rona Kelley, Carole Lewis, Brenda Lowe, Joan Rosier. Candice Kelly serves as a non-voting member, responsible for the administrative details.

SMALL GRANTS

The Board is authorized to approve all requests for Small Grants of \$1,000 or less. Requests greater than \$1,000 require approval by a majority of the membership.

- The Grant Committee received, reviewed, and presented to the Board, and the Board approved the following Small Grants during the month of December:
- The Jude House, Inc. - \$1,000.00 – Christmas Gifts for client's children - Sponsors: Terry Davis and Candice Kelly. (Note: Candice Kelly serves on the Board of Jude House and recused herself from voting on this matter).
- Grace Lutheran Church – Nanjemoy Moms - \$1,000.00 – Christmas gifts for Nanjemoy Mothers in need – Sponsor: Ann Rees. (Note: Becky Hoffman is employed by Grace Lutheran and recused herself from voting on this matter).
- Children's Miracle Network - \$1,000.00 – Mamma-roos for premature babies – Sponsor: Laura Forbes.
- Hospice of Charles County - \$500.00 – to provide essentials for Hospice patients in need. Sponsor: Rona Kelley.

The Small Grant application is available on the SMWL website. Please encourage organizations that are designated by the IRS as 501(c)(3) to apply if their program meets our mission, and be sure to advise them to include your name as a sponsor.

BI-ANNUAL GRANT

Our Two Year Grant was renamed “Bi-Annual Grant” when our new Bylaws were approved last year. It will take a bit of getting used to, but this is a better description of the grant.

2018 – 2020 Bi-Annual Grant: The Center for Children was selected in 2018 and their grant is now concluded.

To date, SMWL contributed \$17,035.00 to the Center for Children as follows:

- 11/27/18 - \$2,735 - Child Abuse Victims Teen Group - journals
- 4/25/19 - \$1,500 - Sponsorship for Center for Children event
- 4/2019 - \$1,800 - Child Trauma Care support

At the January 21, 2020 the Board of Directors approved a final disbursement to the Center for Children for \$11,000 to support teens who have been victims of sexual abuse, to match a teen advocacy grant, and for additional journals.

At this same meeting, the Board approved updates to the Bi-Annual Grant Policies and Procedures.

2020 – 2022 Bi-Annual Grant

Applications were due January 31, 2020. The Grant Committee will review all applications and select three finalists, which will be announced by mid-March. The three finalists will be presented to the membership for a vote at the April 1st meeting.

SMWL Calendar of Events

SMWL CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2020

GENERAL MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS ARE THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED
*There is a cost for members and guest. Additional information will be shared as we get closer to each month's event.
Watch your emails for special invitations & announcements.*

FEBRUARY: 2/5/20

The Charles, LaPlata - General Meeting and Valentine Celebration. Service Project - Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home – Valentines will be available to sign during the meeting for our Veteran's and bring electric razors, sweatpants, sweatshirts, body wash, and deodorant.

MARCH: 3/4/20

Grille 13 - General Meeting with an Irish flair!
Service Project - School children at a school TBD - Packets of seeds with SMWL logo with mission statement and ice cream coupon from Texas Ribs (waiting for reply from contact).

APRIL: 4/1/20

Kaow Thai Restaurant - General Meeting – Two Year Grant selection
Service Project - Charles County Nursing Home - treats and candy to put in little gift bags for the seniors with Easter theme.

MAY: 5/6/20

SMWL Scavenger Hunt or New Event TBD – Very mysterious!
Service Project - U.S. Marines Chemical Biological Incident Response Force stationed at Indian Head - coffee, snacks, signed cards, and gift cards collected and sent to the Marines at Indian Head.

JUNE: 6/3/20

Member Appreciation Night/ Election of Officers/ Committee member sign up. – Rucci's Italian Deli Service Project - Angel's Watch and LifeStyles - Juice boxes, healthy snacks and summer fun books (puzzles, math fun books) for school aged children. MEMBERS ONLY

BOARD MEETINGS (3RD TUESDAY)

JANUARY 21, 2020
FEBRUARY 18, 2020
MARCH 17, 2020
APRIL 21, 2020
MAY 19, 2020
JUNE 16, 2020



**THE MOST ADORABLE COOKIES
WERE SHARED AT THE
JANUARY MEETING! WERE YOU
ABLE TO TASTE ONE?**

Calendar subject to change.

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 Lynette Ashton: davelynette@comcast.net:

Special thanks to
*Lynette Ashton
& Andy Sanford*