



*When you can't
control what's
happening, challenge
yourself to control the
way you respond.*

*That's where your
power is.*

DreamsQuote

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE | By Becky Hoffman

This year has been a pretty amazing year for the Southern Maryland Women's League. I have had the privilege of being your president and working with an amazing board of directors. This president's message will be my last as we move into our 2024 -2025 fiscal year. According to the bylaws, Andy Sanford, vice president, will move into the president's position. I know you will give Andy the same support that I have enjoyed this past year. I will stay on the board as past president and advisor for the upcoming fiscal year. Please read the nominating committee information in this newsletter on page 3.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Board Members. I would like to thank Andy Sanford for her continual support as vice president and for bringing us outstanding monthly programs. Brenda Lowe, for her precise minutes and her devotion to scholarships. Pam Frank and Ruth Mudd for their professional management of our accounting processes. Laura Forbes for her gracious and compassionate handling of our grant requests. Candice Kelly, for keeping us on track - always following our bylaws and SOP's and her ability to reach out to our membership and make each of us feel special through the care committee. Tequila House for her willingness and generosity towards all things SMWL and our programs. And last but certainly not least, I would like to thank Helen Heier for her many, many years devoted to the Southern Maryland Woman's League and her commitment to membership.

I would also like to thank every member of the SWML for their involvement, participation and commitment to our League and the mission we serve.

We certainly are a dynamic group of women dedicated to helping each other succeed through the exchange of information, services, mentoring, charitable actions, shared experiences, friendship and motivational support.

We can't wait to see you on Wednesday...

Wait until you see the beautiful Purses, Bags & Gifts for our BINGO!
\$30 Members / \$35 Guests. Bring extra CHECKS/CASH for the
Extra Bingo Books (\$10 ea), Scratch-Off Cards (\$5 ea) and Cash Bar!



APRIL PROGRAMS: MINUTE TO WIN IT! | By Andy Sanford

Thank you to everyone for participating in the **SMWL Minute-To-Win-It Game Night!** It's safe to say that everyone had a blast and that we have some really talented "cookie face balancers," and "booty shakers"! (If you couldn't make it, trust me, you missed a very entertaining and interactive event!)

PHOTOS: Please go through your photo archives and email me any photos that you may have taken so I can add them to the website archives. (www.smwl.org-events) We can't wait to see the activities that you may have captured!

VOLUNTEER: We hope that you have enjoyed participating in our special programs meetings. We encourage you to join the *Programs Committee* to help plan, shop, host, and manage these very special events. Creating social opportunities for such an amazing group of women is really fun and quite an honor! Other Committees and Volunteer opportunities include Membership, Communications, Grants, Care, and Scholarships.

WITH GRATITUDE: Thank you to Programs Committee Members, Katie and her Grille 13 and Sugar Lips Cakery for catering the wings, salad, fruit, and delicious desserts; and Tequila who made it to pop in quickly (between kids' sports game and tax season) to take some photos to share. Thank you to our fabulous League President, Becky for managing the check-in and official Timekeeper & Sheriff skills. Thank you to League Secretary, Brenda for her excellent M&M counting and Judging duties. And, thank you to Darlene and Natonya for referring us to the Bayou Girls Drink Factory venue! I know the drinks were delicious and it was such a great spot to hold this very interactive meeting.



The Winning Team!

Jessica Brueckner, Lisa Wills, Candy Meyers, Natonya Thomas, and Darlene Breck show off their Princess Duck Trophies!



CELEBRATING US: Thank you all again for your membership in the SMWL. We *are* a dynamic group of women from all walks of life who enjoy spending time together to celebrate our success, raise funds to support our community... *and sometimes even play really silly games together!*

SMWL NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

By Becky Hoffman

Elections will be held during our **June 12th Member Appreciation Meeting**. Guests are NOT invited to attend this meeting as members will vote for the 2024 - 2025 Board of Directors.

Ballot information

The following 5 individuals do not need to be voted in again, as they are currently serving their second year of their two-year terms:

- Andy Sanford - President
- Brenda Lowe
- Laura Forbes
- Candice Kelly
- Ruth Mudd

Names added to the Ballot are:

- Tequila House
- Katie Pierce Rose
- Patrica Sommers
- Pam Frank, 4th Term special exemption by the BOD to ensure Treasurer consistency and experience.

Board of Directors voted for the following:

- Becky Hoffman will serve as Past President (Key Advisory Role/Non-voting Member)

Nominations from the floor, will be accepted before the election.

Care Committee

By Candace Kelly

Happy Birthday to our members celebrating their special days in May and June:

- Ann Rees - May 3
- Candy Meyers - May 26
- Linda Cox - May 27
- Robin Magoon - June 17

Please join us in sending our condolences and prayers to **Maranna Lanham** on the passing of her father, Colin Henry Lanham. We hope your warm memories help sustain you in this time of grief and sadness.

Scholarship Committee

By Brenda Lowe

Scholarship Committee Chairwoman, Brenda Lowe reported the **Scholarship Finder** opened March 1st where current and perspective/incoming **College of Southern Maryland (CSM)** students can apply for the **SMWL Scholarship** along with the Donna Ellis and Cox Family Scholarships.

Applications and essays will be reviewed in June; and in July the *SMWL Scholarship Committee* will vote on the recipients. \$2,000 of the \$3,000 Annual Commitment was paid by the **Chesapeake Charities Endowed Fund Distribution**. CSM will advertise SMWL as a Sponsor of their *Annual Golf Classic's Sip and Swing* in August. Spots will be available for SMWL members. More info to follow.

Scholarship Finder link: <https://www.csmd.edu/costs-aid/scholarships-financial-aid/scholarships/scholarship-finder.html>

Mark your calendars for December 3, 2024 – Giving Tuesday is the ONE day that donations made to CSM scholarships will be matched (up to \$1,500 by corporate donors). So your donation to the SMWL scholarships may go twice as far! Learn more here now:

<https://www.givecampus.com/xnp9bb>

Kind Words...

We recently received the following 'Thank You' card and message from **Krissia Arana Lopez**, a CSM Student...

"Thank you so much for your support of the Southern Maryland Women's League Scholarship. Your gift makes a huge difference in the lives of students like me who depend on scholarships. You are making an impact."



Foundation News | AN OVERVIEW OF GRANTS

Grants Committee Chair, Laura Bryant received the following Grant and Foundation support requests:



Grace Lutheran Church & School, Wine & Cheese Social in support of Grace's Scholarships and Leashes fo Valor - a non-profit organization that raises funds to secure a companion dog for a Veteran with PTSD. The BOD voted, and unanimously approved a \$1,000 donation for the cause. The SMWL received event signage, social media advertising, and 6 complimentary tickets. An email was sent inviting members to submit their names for a chance to win the sponsor tickets. The members who won the opportunity to represent the SMWL sponsrosHIP were Vickie Johnson, Natonya Thomas, Jessica Brueckner, Darlene Breck, Lisa Case and Tequila House.



Health Partners Kentucky Derby Fundraiser in support of Health Partners and their Dental Health Care programs for adults and children, and Breast Cancer care and support. The BOD voted, and unanimously approved a \$500 donation. The SMWL received recognition in the event signage and social media advertising and two complimentary tickets. Laura Bryant and Tracey Messick attended the event to represent our SMWL sponsorship.



Charles County Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament & Sip & Swing. The BOD unanimously approved a \$500 donation. The SMWL received recognition through their event signage and five tickets. Katie Rose (Chamber), Vickie Johnson, Tequila House, Ruth Mudd, Jessica Bruckener, and Helen Heier represented the SMWL.

2-YEAR GRANT UPDATE

Report from the Membership at Large Meeting held on March 6, 2024: Grants Chairwoman, Laura Bryant addressed the members with an update regarding the status of the former 2-Year Grant recipient, the **Dream Queens Foundation**, which had dissolved and is now **Life Atlas**.



ANOTHER BENEFIT OF YOUR SMWL MEMBERSHIP!
Representing the League at Special Events!

The dissolution and change in the organization's structure ended SMWL Foundation's two year grant commitment, as it is not the same organization the Membership voted for, and their philosophies and projects had also changed. The membership was given the opportunity to move forward with two of the other prior applicants, **The Catherine Foundation** and **The Poeima Movement**.

(continued next page)

TREASURER'S REPORTS

LEAGUE: The Board reviewed the Financial Report with Statements and Reconciliation for January and February 2024. At the end of February 2024, the balance was \$5,463.41. Treasurer, Pam Frank reported that dues are all up-to-date.

FOUNDATION: The Board reviewed the Financial Report with Statements and Reconciliation for January and February 2024. At the end of February 2024, the balance in the Foundation Account was \$15,494.33.

The balance in the CD was \$34,399.97 and the Chesapeake Charities Endowed Fund had \$49,879.00 on the last report received.

Renewal of the 14-Month Certificate of Deposit for SMWL Foundation: Maturity: 4/19/2024: Foundation Treasurer, Ruth Mudd shared the CD in WesBanco would have another 14 months term at 4.25%.

The Board agreed that the Foundation monies should continue to earn as much interest as possible until the funds are needed for donations.

FOUNDATION NEWS CONTINUED...

After discussion and answers to questions, the Membership at Large voted to move forward with **The Poeima Movement** as the new incoming grant recipient. And further, membership wanted to give the grant recipient the full two years of support, and agreed the Grant Selection process should be delayed a year until October 2026 going into January 2027.

Laura notified Tiffany Barber, the administrator for Poeima. She and her staff are ecstatic to be partnering with SMWL and would like to be active in any role regarding fundraising and upcoming SMWL events. Tiffany also plans to put together an event/meeting in the near future where members could learn more about their process and the movement. Dinner would be provided by Tiffany and her staff on a Thursday evening. More information and dates are to follow.

Tiffany is preparing a new grant application for the SMWL Foundation Grant Committee to review to understand their upcoming needs and ways that SMWL could support them. Laura's report pointed out that Federal and State funds had been awarded to Poeima with a \$600,000 grant to build a new facility that will house mothers and their children. This will be a great opportunity for SMWL as an organization to help and assist with this project.

NEW BUSINESS: In response to a question asked during our General Membership (March 6th) meeting in regards to the partnership with the College of Southern Maryland and our annual scholarship commitment, the Board discussed the history and intent of this partnership and the original Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), its benefits to the community and the League and our Foundation. It was unanimously agreed by the BOD to continue with the MOU/ partnership with the College of Southern Maryland Foundation as SMWL does see the impact the scholarships have made in several of the recipient's lives and through our community support, and League sponsorship recognition at all SMWL/CSM supported events.

The BOD also agreed, to encourage interested members to volunteer to be part of a *Scholarship Initiative Committee* to explore scholarships for Southern Maryland students who may plan to attend other institutions of higher learning. **Pam Frank** agreed to Chair the Committee, and **Tequila House** to serve as well.

Calendar of Events

Volunteer to Serve... Our Programs Committee works diligently to plan fun and interactive meetings and special events. Please consider volunteering your time and talents for this and other committees including, Care, Communications, Grants, Scholarships, Membership, special Ad-Hoc and the upcoming FUNDRAISER. We could really use your help and ideas.

Ideas and location, location, location... Have a great place or idea for an interactive meeting? If you have a great place or an interesting program that you think would be a great idea for one of our monthly meetings – and that can hold 40/50 guests, please send us a message and we'll share with our Programs Committee for a site visit or program overview.

Annual Fundraiser...
The Southern Maryland Women's League holds one large fundraiser or special event each year.

This large event (and your Membership) requires **all-hands-on-deck** to create, plan, host, clean-up, and archive this event which is normally held at a larger venue. Proceeds raised from a major fundraiser support the SMWL Foundation and our mission to help women and families within our community.

As this full membership year comes to a close, let's review all of the amazing experiences we've had and fun places we've gone over the past 16 months. We started with our *Annual Gift Exchange with a Twist*, and then heard tales of the *Legend of the Blue Dog* and sipped wine from custom Blue Dog Believer glasses. We enjoyed a *Wee Bit 'O Fun & Irish Cheer*, followed by a *Historical Women's History Month Celebration of our Right to Vote*, followed by the *Scavenger Hunt* highlighted by the many photos of your teams solving clues. We relaxed at the *Ladies Nite Sit, Sip & Swim Pool Party*, spouses joined us at the *Crabs, Knockers and Fun Social & Crab Feast*. We peeled & painted at the *DIY Craft Nite*, and the *Mystery Bus Trip* adventure brought us aboard the Titanic, and a Bobby McKeys sing along for everyone! Jolly old St. Nick and Mrs. Claus would be so jealous of our *amazing Holiday Party*, and we came full circle as we continued the Reindeer Games at the *Re-Gift Exchange*. The *Galentine Axe Throwing* had us learning new skills, and we were able to show them off at the *Minute to Win it Games!* Now, let's come together for the *Designer Purse & Gift Basket BINGO*, and watch your email for details on our *Member Appreciation Meeting & Elections* scheduled for Wednesday, June 12th. We thank you for your membership, your friendship, your participation, and for your support in the mission we serve! We are the amazing ladies of the SMWL!



designer & GIFT BASKET purse



Wednesday, May 15th, 2024

Check-in begins at 5:30, Dinner & Games to Follow
AIR Workshop in La Plata - 317 Charles Street

IMPORTANT!

\$30 Members / \$35 Guests. Bring Checks/CASH to Pay for Meeting and for Extra Bingo Packs (\$10 ea), Scratch-Off Cards (\$5 ea), and the Cash Bar!