



Southern Maryland
**WOMEN'S
LEAGUE**

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May-June 2022 Newsletter | www.smwl.org

Connections

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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.

Join us next
Wednesday!



New!
**We're Gathering
at the Grille!**

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

from 5:00 pm to 7:00pm

Nothing official... just please stop in to say hello to your SMWL sisters, have a drink and bite to eat – if you so choose!



President's Message

Candice Kelly

This letter is intended to update you on what has transpired in the last several weeks. This is a lot to read and there is no easy way around it. If you want to know what's going on, you will have to plow through this!

Bi-Annual Grant Recipient:

On May 11th the membership received presentations from Dream Queens, Poeima Movement and the Catherine Foundation. Grants Chairperson, Laura Forbes, informed those present that we had a tough decision to make and she was certainly correct. We heard from three remarkable groups, and the membership voted to select *The Dream Queen Foundation* as the SMWL Bi-Annual Grant recipient.

The Dream Queen Foundation will receive a total up to \$15,000 over two years, which makes it possible for the group to establish two new clubs in Charles County. *The Poeima Movement*, and the *Catherine Foundation* will each receive a \$500 donation. Thank you Laura for a job well done!

Also, SMWL is open to receiving Small Grant Applications any time throughout the year. The Small Grant Application is available on our website: www.smwl.org/small-grants. Please encourage groups to apply.

Applications should be sent to Laura for her Committee to review and forwarded to the Board for final approval. The Board can approve up to \$1,000 without membership approval. Amounts in excess of \$1,000 are presented to the membership for approval.

Program Committee:

Rona Kelly and her many helpers are working on an amazing program. She has included the tentative Calendar of Events here on page 8. We are working to plan a consistent schedule and hopefully COVID will bid us adieu. If you would like to help plan or volunteer for an upcoming event, or have a great idea - reach out to Rona directly at: rona@heatbyfire.com

Going forward our membership meetings will take place the **second Wednesday** rather than the first Wednesday because the first Wednesday often conflicts with holidays. The Board meeting will be held on the fourth Wednesday every other month (unless a lot of business must be conducted, where an additional meeting may be scheduled). We intend to send out copies of the Board meeting Minutes as soon as the Minutes are ratified.

– continued, page 2

SMWL BOD 2022

President: Candice Kelly

Vice President: Becky Hoffman,
Membership Committee Chair

Secretary: Brenda Lowe, Scholarship
Committee and Ad Hoc Committee Chair

Treasurer Foundation: Ruth Mudd

Treasurer Corporation: Pam Frank

Helen Heier: Reception Sub-Committee
of Membership

Tequilla House: Cheerleader in Chief!

Rona Kelly: Program Committee Chair

Natalie McKinney: Care Sub-committee
of Membership

Appointed Board Members:

Laura Forbes: Grants Committee Chair

Andy Sanford: Public Relations
Committee Chair

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

Foundation

2006-2007 Candice Kelly

2007-2008 Candice Kelly

2008-2009 Millie Gieseman

Nevertheless, and in spite of our efforts to maintain consistency, we have some changes for the summer.

Normally, we have our Annual Membership & Member Appreciation meeting in June and our pool party in August. We are usually off during the month of July.

This year, we are going to switch this around. There will be no official activity/meeting in the month of June. There will be a summer time activity in July and the Membership Annual Meeting will be in August.

Rona and her committee will be sending out details and dates soon. Special thanks to Rona and all of the members who participated in her Committee meeting on May 11th and throughout this past year. There is tremendous enthusiasm for new ideas and for our special, tried and true, events.

Thank goodness we have an in-house Party Starter – Tequilla House! We love you Tequilla – keep up the good work! I don't know the names of all of the participants on the Program Committee but wish to THANK each and every one of you.

Finally, in order to provide the programming that members have indicated they want and expect, the annual dues will be increased.

Membership Dues:

In order to fully fund the club's administrative costs and off-set program costs, the Board set the Annual Membership Dues for the upcoming fiscal year (2022/2023) Board at **\$250.00**.

This amount will be invoiced on **June 1st and due in full by July 1st, 2022**. If you have special circumstances that require a payment plan, please notify the Corporation Treasurer, Pam Frank. Any member requesting a payment plan must pay in full by September 1, 2022. Unless a member has an approved payment plan, failure to pay dues by July 1 will result in loss of membership privileges, or if an approved payment plan is not paid in full by September 1, membership privileges will be lost.

I apologize in advance if this sounds harsh but we must collect dues such that we have funds on hand to pay bills. Special thanks to Pam Frank for handling all of the invoices and payments. This is considerable work and it is appreciated.

Fundraiser & Foundation:

The membership was very clear that it wants to retain and maintain the SMWL Foundation. Members indicated that they want to work collectively to raise funds to meet the important needs of women (and children). However, everyone prefers that we NOT host a fundraiser this fiscal year (7/1/2022 – 6/30/23).

The SMWL Bylaws require every member to participate in a fundraiser and authorizes the Board to establish a monetary contribution in lieu of participation in a fundraiser. Upon the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Fundraising, the Board approved a **\$250 monetary contribution** to be made by every member to the Foundation, in lieu of participating in a fundraiser in this fiscal year. The club will resume fundraising in the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

– continued page 3

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This \$250 contribution to the SMWL Foundation will be invoiced on November 1, 2022 and due in full by December 1, 2022. Failure to make the contribution by December 1st results in loss of membership rights.

Special thanks to Brenda Lowe and her Ad-Hoc committee for calling each and every member to understand everyone's point of view and for a solid and well thought out recommendation to the Board. Also special thanks to Foundation Treasurer, Ruth Mudd for her willingness to invoice and track payments.

SMWL Board of Directors:

We elect the Board of Directors at the Annual Membership Meeting which as you read above, will be held in August. Our current Board is as follows:

Two Year Term: (ends June 30, 2023)

- Candice Kelly

- Helen Heier

- Brenda Lowe

- Ruth Mudd

One Year Term: (ends June 30, 2022 or at the next election - August, 2022)

- **Rona Kelley**
- **Becky Hoffman**
- **Natalie McKinney**
- **Pam Frank**

Per the Bylaws, the President serves as the Nominating Committee Chair. There are five members who were elected to one year terms last June and those seats are up for election. In order to complete my work before my surgery, I presented a Slate to the Board at the meeting held May 11, 2022.

The Slate is as follows:

- **Pam Frank**
- **Rona Kelley**
- **Becky Hoffman**
- **Natalie McKinney**
- **Tequila House**

All individuals have accepted nomination. Thank you Helen, Brenda and Ruth for your willingness to continue serving on the Board.

The membership will vote on this Slate at the August meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor.

In addition, **Andy Sanford** and **Laura Forbes** are officially non-voting members of the Board. Andy has done a tremendous job with our Communications and Newsletter as the Public Relation Chair, and Laura has an important role as Grants Committee Chair.

Public Relations:

We are very fortunate to have Andy Sanford as the Editor of our Newsletter. As you can easily see, she puts a lot into it. Please send her information and updates on what is happening in your life. So many of our members are doing great work (you know who you are – Lisa, Candy, Katie, Diana, Darlene, ... and the list goes on).

– continued page 4

Networking Nook

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your small SMWL businesses**

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Please let Andy know so she can let our members know. Post on Facebook. Send an email. The only thing I ask is that when you respond to email, respond only to that person and not to "all." You can reach her via email to: asanford12@gmail.com

Also, Committee Chairs and Board members are committed to providing reports and information to Andy for the Newsletter. We are all volunteers but will do our best to get reports to Andy timely.

You will have to watch for information coming to you in various different ways. Sometimes it will be an email from a Committee Chair or the Newsletter. Please check our Facebook page from time to time and feel free to post there, as well.

Finally, special thanks to Helen Heier for her vigilance in maintaining the Membership List and sending it to the membership consistently.

Membership:

Although we do not solicit members or market SMWL, we are fortunate that amazing women find us. Thanks to Becky Hoffman, prospective members are warmly welcomed. Moreover, thanks to Natalie McKinney, chair of the Care Subcommittee, current members are recognized and appreciated. If you know of a member who has lost a loved one, is sick or has a family member who is sick or has reached a milestone, please let Natalie know so that she can send some "love" via the USPS!

It is impossible to thank each of you, but please know how much you are valued and appreciated.

I notice that at meetings members break out into small groups – sometimes private conversations are taking place – but most importantly you all seem to enjoy special relationships with each other.

Generally, you will notice that a circle group develops as the night progresses. Not everyone wants to stay late but for those who do, there is always a chair in the circle - how does that song go "the circle will not be broken." So happy to have each of you in my "circle."

Blessings and peace.

Treasurers Reports

Submitted by Pam Frank (Corporation) and Ruth Mudd (Foundation)

Corporate: Balance as of June 8, 2022 is \$3,308.43

Foundation: Balance as of January 30, 2022 is \$8,239.86

**Community Foundation of Southern Maryland
(charitable/ended fund):**

Balance as of January 26, 2022 is \$49,879.22

Certificate fo Deposit: Balance as of March 21, 2022 is \$33,492.61



Our Latest Events | Submitted by Andrea Sanford



On Thursday, April 21st we gathered together to enjoy the very first Southern Maryland Women's League

Spring Fling

Thank you Candice and Ed for hosting us at your beautiful home. And, thank you to Committee Chair, Diana Rucci and her team for planning such a lovely evening event.

With 32 members and guests in attendance, everyone enjoyed the delicious fare catered by *Cream of the Crop*, lovely libations offered by *Celebration of Spirits* and the Gentlemen's Gathering with Ed Kelly!





Covid made it difficult to gather together in the past. A sunset champagne toast was shared and memorial lanterns were lit and released to pay our respect to SMWL members and their families who have recently passed.



Winners of the Derby Hat Contest:
Tequila, Laura, Andy and Lisa



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Twitter - @chesapeaketrvl
Instagram - Chesapeake Travel
www.beachboundandbeyond.com

This is *your* SMWL Newsletter!

Please email us to share 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 the information to share with our SMWL Sisters.

asanford12@gmail.com
smwl@gmail.com

2-Year Grant

Submitted by Laura Forbes

Hello League Sisters,

We had a very passionate evening. All three of our presenters really touched the hearts of the overall membership who were in attendance. The Decision was difficult for all of us, after tallying all the votes with the exception of three members who did not vote, **The Dream Queen Foundation** won by two votes over The Poiema Movement.

Congratulations to Dream Queens! Upon requests to the board, The Dream Queen Foundation can receive up to \$15,000 in funding for the next two years.

We will also award The Catherine Foundation, and The Poiema Movement a check for \$500.00 each.


The membership learned much regarding the volunteer opportunities and essential needs for these organizations, if you were unable to be in attendance last night, please reach out to me or another league sister to see what you can do to help support these worthy causes.

The Grants Committee is also accepting applications for Small Grant requests. Depending on the need most applications will be voted on a monthly basis.

Thank you all for your support and dedication to SMWL. Please let me know if you have any further questions, contact Laura via email: laura_forbes@comcast.net

Care Committee

Submitted by Natalie McKenney

Hello Beautiful SMWL Sisters 
We are celebrating two (2) birthdays in the month of June.

A thinking of you card was sent to Becky Humbert as she takes care of her husband while recovering from an illness and scheduling a future surgery – May 26

A get-well card was sent Candice Kelly – May 26, 2022

A thinking of you card was sent to Andy Sanford as she cares for her brother-in-law during his cancer treatment that has ended, and support with his palliative care – May 27, 2022

Here are Happy Birthday shout outs to our awesome sisters celebrating a birthday in June:

Robin Magoon – June 17
Sherrie Sanders – June 20 

As always, I would love for you to reach out to me if you know of a special event, a celebration or if a SMWL sister just needs a little “pick me up” so I can reach out to them.

Natalie 
nsmckinney@verizon.net

SMWL Calendar of Events

Submitted by Rona Kelley

Proposed Calendar: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Wednesday, July 13, 2022

Event in the works (husbands/guests invited)

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

Annual Membership Meeting, Prime Street Grille, White Plains

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

Crab/Seafood - location TBD (husbands/guests invited)

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

Program in the works

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

Program in Works, Black Box Theater - Indian Head, MD.
Chairs: Pam Frank and Andy Sanford

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

White House Tour to view the Holiday Decorations and Dinner Downtown. Bus Trip, Chair Tracy Messick

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Chinese Gift Exchange, Location TBD, Chair Tequila House

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Port Tobacco History, Legend of the Blue Dog
Blue Dog Restaurant, Chair: Becky Hoffman

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 - program in the works

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 - program in the works

Wednesday, May 10, 2023, Scavenger Hunt

Chair Rona Kelley, Andy Sanford and others!

Wednesday, June 14, 2023 - Annual Membership Meeting

Sept/October 2023 - 20th Anniversary Gala, Chairs Candice Kelly and Becky Hoffman

Please contact Rona if you have a great event idea, or would like to help plan, donate to, or share your talents in support of a league event. We look forward to working together and we really need you!

Dates are tentatively set for Wednesdays, but may change to ensure venue/outing/support.

Membership Committee

Submitted by Becky Hoffman - Committee Chair, Helen Heier, Natalie McKenney, Pam Frank, Committee Members.

As the hot summer months arrive, the Membership Committee continues to meet and discuss business.

We currently have 40 members in good standing.

Jessica Brueckner (sponsored by Anne Rees) has completed the three meeting/event requirement and Helen will be sending out her bio and requesting a vote, when the information is received. **Laura Blunk** (sponsored by Becky Hoffman), hopefully you have had the opportunity to meet Laura at one of our meetings/events, has attended two events and hopefully will become a member in the very near future.

The New Member Orientation AKA "Diva's Do's and Don'ts" will be scheduled in the fall. Details to follow.

Andy Sanford has been asked to join our membership committee to review and update the SMWL business/greeting cards and membership brochure she created in the past along with new member interest reply information/ invitation, and a special ribbon or name tag for the guests to help everyone notice them, say hello and introduce themselves. Thank you, Andy for your continued support and shared creativity!

All members, please help us grow our League and feel free to invite your friends as prospective members to our upcoming meetings or events.

Please remember to pay your upcoming membership dues and foundation donation in order to continue our league and the amazing things we are able to do to support each other and programs to support families within our community.



Scholarship Committee

Submitted by Brenda Lowe, Chairperson

The College of Southern Maryland Foundation's Scholarship Finder opened on March 1, 2022 and closed on May 31, 2022. SMWL Scholarship had 142 applicants and the Donna Ellis Memorial Scholarship had 30 applicants. Applications will be reviewed and recipients will be chosen in July, 2022. To continue to support the SMWL sponsored scholarships, send checks to:

CSM Foundation – Attn: Kelly Porter
P.O. Box 910
La Plata, MD 20646



Ad-Hoc Committee

Submitted by Brenda Lowe, Co-Chairperson

Candice Kelly and the Board of Directors charged Brenda Lowe with the task to form an ad-hoc committee with the goal of exploring some alternatives for fundraising for the Foundation...and to report back to the Board and the Club by June 30, 2022...the "sunshine date".

Diana Rucci agreed to co-chair this ad-hoc committee with Brenda and they chose members: Candy Meyers, Lisa Wills, Darlene Breck, Cindy Bouet, Tracey Messick, Ruth Mudd, Laura Forbes, Andy Sanford and Candice Kelly who graciously agreed to help.

Members of the Fundraising Exploration Ad-Hoc Committee called and asked the same five questions to all members of the Southern Maryland Women's League and recorded answers. Then the committee met via zoom and discussed the results. After that, they provided their recommendation for fundraising at a Board Meeting on April 27th based on all members' responses. The committee's recommendation was in the form of a motion and it was voted in unanimously at the 4/27/2022 meeting.

Results:

The membership was very clear that it wants to retain and maintain the SMWL Foundation. Members indicated that they want to work collectively to raise funds to meet the important needs of women (and children). However, everyone prefers that we NOT host a fundraiser this fiscal year (7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023).

The SMWL By-Laws require every member to participate in a fundraiser and authorized the Board to establish a monetary contribution in lieu of participation in a fundraiser.

Upon the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Fundraising, the Board approved a \$250.00 minimum monetary contribution to be made by every member to the Foundation, in lieu of participating in a fundraiser in this fiscal year. The club will resume fundraising in the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

The \$250.00 Contribution to the SMWL Foundation will be invoiced on November 1, 2022 and due in full by December 1, 2022. Members who indicated they could afford to donate more than the \$250.00 are encouraged to give as they are able to. This would be most appreciated.



To support the Dream Queen Foundation and check out their calendar of events, visit: www.dreamqueenfoundation.org



Don't forget to pay your SMWL Membership Dues:



2022/2023 Membership dues are \$250. This amount will be invoiced on June 1st and due in full by July 1st, 2022. If you have special circumstances that require a payment plan, please notify the Corporation Treasurer, Pam Frank. Any member requesting a payment plan must pay in full by September 1, 2022. Unless a member has an approved payment plan, failure to pay dues by July 1 will result in loss of membership privileges, or if an approved payment plan is not paid in full by September 1, membership privileges will be lost.

Send payments via check (with your name in the subject line) to SMWL P.O. Box 2511, Waldorf, MD or contact Pam Frank directly. pam@phfservices.net

Good News and Shared Blessings!



Paige's adorable daughter, Aubrey at 3 months! We know she is well-loved, happy and healthy! Look at that face!!



Brenda will be a Gigi again in August! Her son, John Blankenship and fiancé Brittany Gilroy are expecting a little girl in mid August, 2022.



Candice not long after her surgery with Megan and granddaughters... in her happy place.



Andy Sanford's baby is having a baby! Becky and her husband, Justin are planning to welcome the arrival of a baby girl in November!



Becky Hoffman's grandson, Noah at his PreK graduation at Grace Lutheran School



Congratulations to Grace Lutheran Middle School Salutatorian, Julia. Your grandmom - Becky Hoffman is so proud of you!



It was a true family affair at Becky's Hoffman's granddaughter Stephanie's wedding with her husband Aaron, grandson Cayson. Maid of Honor, granddaughter Alyssa, bridesmaid granddaughter Miranda, and groomsman grandson Jordan on Saturday, May 21 at Robin Hill Farm.



By-the-Ways

Beverly Brown is hosting a

FRIDAY WINE DOWN

at Running Hare Vineyard, July 8, 2022
for the **University of Maryland Alumni
Southern Maryland Network**, family,
friends, and fans! To join here, please
visit

<https://alumni.umd.edu/somdhh22>
or email to
beverly.brown@travelleaders.com

Do You Want to Learn More About SMWL
2-Year Grant Recipient, **The Dream
Queen Foundation**? How can you get
involved? Want to mentor teen girls?
Join us for the information call on July 12,
2022 at 6:00pm.

https://dreamqueenfoundation.org/event/gals-lead-program-review-virtual-meeting/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=june-6-2022-community-calendar_15

It's a **JAZZ BRUNCH** at **GRILLE NO. 13**

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POEM SHARED AT THE SPRING FLING HONOR CEREMONY
WRITTEN BY TERRY DAVIS

To My True Friend – Donna

In life we meet a lot of people and some we call our "friends"

But we use the term too loosely but on this the word depends.

Is that person loyal, honest, kind and true?

Do they have the courage to stand right up to you?

Even when you don't deserve it, do they always have your back?

Are they the first to defend you when you are under attack?

Do they tell you that they're grateful to be your closest friend?

Do you know they are in your corner and on them you can depend?

Donna was the kind of friend who was there when times were hard.

She never played the "I just can't make it" card.

Even though she hated waking early, she was with me every year.

Helping with early registration and handing out the MDF gear.

She was there to help with Thanksgiving when my

sisters wouldn't show.

She made her famous stuffing for more guests than you could know.

There is no way to put into words this unique, stylish and caring soul.

But anyone who really knew her, knows it was a foolish goal.

If you have a friend like Donna, don't do what I have done.

Don't take your friend for granted, thinking they won't be gone.

I miss you every day my dolled and dressed up friend.

I pray that you still look out for me until we meet again.





HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
to all of our Dads, Husbands and Sons

A father is someone
you look up to no matter
how tall you grow.

