



Diana Rucci

President's Message

As we move in to our 10th Anniversary of the Southern Maryland Women's League I am very excited to be leading our group once again. SMWL was founded on the idea that a group of women when committed and joined together could do anything possible. I believe that the members of the club over the last ten years have accomplished amazing things and have done it all with class. Year after year I have watched as we have superseded our goals and overcame our challenges to become the respected well established club we are today. The success of our Women of Impact event was another example. So to each of you I say "Thank You" from myself and the ten other ladies that had a vision of creating something just a little different....and we have only just begun!

When I think of what I want this year to continue to look like and try to summarize it in one word I think of unity -- unity between the board, committees, and club members so that we can continue on our path of doing great things for one another and our community. We have a fun filled year planned with a new fundraiser and a Birthday Bash to celebrate our 10 years as the Southern Maryland Women's League so hold on to your hats and enjoy the ride!

Lastly I want to take a minute to recognize the women that worked for over a year in 2004 and 2005 to create such an amazing organization and non-profit. I can assure you there were many great memories made along the way and a lot of empty wine bottles.... Here's to you!

- Rona Kelley -- Candice Kelly -- Pam Roberts -- Diana Rucci -- Mary Sue Greisman
- Gail Manuel -- Elaine Lancaster -- Teresa Dearing -- Jeanne Dixon
- Tracey Messick -- Diane Mock.

Programs & Events | Laura Forbes-Brown, Vicki Johnson, Mia Allen-Ayanian



It's time for Minute-2-Win-It... we can't wait to see you to play!

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Doors open at 5:30, Dinner 6:45, Games begin at 7:20
\$25 Members, \$30 Guests. This is the perfect meeting to bring a friend to share in the fun!

RSVP to Laura today at laurabrown@wildblue.net

In this issue...

- President's Message ... 1
- WOI Success 2
- Foundation News 3
- Membership News..... 3
- 2-Year Grant/Calendar 4

"I've always believed that one woman's success can only help another woman's success."
■ Gloria Vanderbilt



We are...

An organization of women dedicated to promoting, strengthening and supporting women and issues of importance through fellowship, education, service and mentoring programs.

The **Southern Maryland Women's League** provides women with a wide range of opportunities to help each other succeed through the exchange of information, services, mentoring, charitable actions, shared experiences, friendship and motivational support.

We are a dynamic group of Southern Maryland business owners, entrepreneurs, managers, homemakers and people from all walks of life with a wide variety of life experiences.

We are dedicated to helping each other grow and support our community through fundraising, special events, volunteer efforts, shared experiences, and more.

SMWL First Annual Women of Impact Awards Ceremony Success

On Oct. 23, the Southern Maryland Women's League (SMWL) held its first annual Women of Impact Awards ceremony, dinner and auction at the Greater Waldorf Jaycees Community Center and it was a sold out event.



We honored 45 girls and women who truly make a difference in the lives of others. Six were recognized as winners in their categories, and all 45 nominees were celebrated and provided a crystal trophy to commemorate this amazing event. The winners in each category were:

- Young Girls Making a Difference — Nakyiah Nichols
- Young Woman Contributor — Taylor Luskey
- Woman Entrepreneur — Christine Parker
- Woman Corporate Contributor — Chrisie Mulcahey
- Woman Community Contributor — Maritza Davis
- First Responders & Healers — Susie Rice

The success of this event would not have been possible without the help of our sponsors, the Maryland Independent, the Greater Waldorf Jaycees, Old Line Bank, Zen Rocks Yoga, The Law Office of Hammad Matin, Property Solutions, Dan Ryan Builders, College of Southern Maryland and the CSM Foundation, Waldorf Ford & Dodge, DeHanas Real Estate Services - Laura Forbes, Rucci's Italian Deli & Doughboys, Davis Nails of La Plata & Waldorf, Cris Curtis - Realtor Century 21, Ardmore Auto Body - Donna & Stromie Ellis, Terri Davis Herbert - Realtor RE/MAX 100, Karl A. Smith, DDS, MS Periodontics, Bill Waugh - Allstate Insurance, Crown Trophy, Erin Cassidy, C&F Mortgage Corporation, Bella Cosmetic Surgery, Wilkerson Builders, Southern Maryland Floors, Lakeside Title and Waldorf Glass.

Thank you to all of the businesses who purchased advertisements in our Commemorative Program Booklet, and to all of the people who contributed and donated wonderful goods and services to our silent and live auctions. We could not have held this event had it not been for the generosity of so many local businesses, friends and families.

A huge thank you to all of the work of the fundraising committee chaired by Rona Kelley, Andrea Sanford and Pamela Roberts, all of the ladies of Southern Maryland Women's League who chaired subcommittees and all who worked tirelessly to make this event successful.

Thanks go out to all of the people who took the time to nominate candidates for these categories of awards and all of the people who attended in support. SMWL is an organization created by women for women. Our goal is to promote, strengthen and support women in our community through fellowship, education, service and mentoring programs. **We are proud to report we have donated over \$191,000 to over 45 local charitable organizations in our nine years of existence.**

Care Committee



Over the course of this year the CARE Committee has been very busy. With your help we have been able to deliver meals, send flowers, visit with our sisters in need, send birthday cards, get well cards and sometimes just a card to cheer a member up a bit! The CARE Committee is ALL ABOUT US. Please let anyone of us know if you could use a little lift, prayers or a shoulder. We've got you covered!

Sincerely,
Diana Rucci, Teresa Klopfer, Ruth Mudd, Sherrie Sanders, Suzanne Wible

Treasurers Report Lyn Bell



This has been a great year for the league treasurer. Except we still have a small problem with reservations made/no shows without cancellations. This really can be a problem in that we pay the restaurant for your meal based on your reservation. When you don't cancel, the league has to honor your word. We all would be quite upset if someone promised us to pay for something, but did not, nor communicate their situation and left us holding the bill. This is what you do to the league whenever you say you are coming to a general meeting and don't show or cancel.

Let's begin the New Year by honoring our commitments and paying for missed meals. Our bank balance as of November 18th is \$7,732.44.



Foundation Report | Tammy Semega

Happy New Year everyone! I sure hope this newsletter finds you happy, healthy and thawed-out from the Blizzard2016. As you know the SMWL has had a very busy year and we are truly blessed to have the opportunity to count our blessings and our financial revenue from our very successful Women of Impact event and fundraiser.

To date, we have deposited \$36,649.00 with expenses at \$14,059.26, with fundraiser profits at \$\$22,589.74. We have approximately \$1,000.00 outstanding to add to the proceeds. This was an amazing event and to have raised the funds the we did, in addition to creating a community wide program to recognize young ladies and women who have made a difference is just wonderful. I am proud to be a part of the SMWL community.

There have been several small grants that have been made since August, which are to the Susan G. Komen 3-day, Indian Head Center for the Arts, Charles County 4-H Volunteer Association, Mike Davis Foundation, Hope for Life, and two others that are in the approval process. Of course, we continue to fund the residential counselor at the Angel Watch Shelter, provide funding for scholarships at CSM, and fulfill our commitment to Hospice.

I hope that everyone will come out to the planned Minute-to-Win it event at our meeting next week. I know the Programs Committee has worked hard and this is always a very fun and well-attended event!



Membership Report | Helen Heier

The best relationships are the ones you never saw coming. We hope you have been enjoying the mix & mingle the Membership Committee has been presenting these past few meetings. With a large group it's hard to get to know everyone and we hope this new format is helping you learn more about each other.

The Membership Committee is getting in gear for the 2016 Divas Do's & Don'ts meeting. This is a meeting for our new SMWL Sisters that have joined since July 2015. This is no ordinary meeting, this one you have to be invited. Ask your girlfriends to join us for three consecutive meetings, once they join SMWL they will be a part of the DDD. What happens at DDD, stays at DDD! We Leave No Diva Behind!

The latest Membership Directory, Membership Birthday List, and Membership E-mail lists dated November 30, 2015 were E-mailed to everyone on November 30, 2015. If you have changes to your information, please forward to Helen promptly. Please add these new lists to your Membership Binder, since using a current list is how SMWL information is disseminated to our members. Our total membership number as of today, January 19, 2016, is 45. Our most current new members are: **Anne Wood** (07/01/15), **Larisa Pfeiffer** (9/01/15), **Kadie Moffitt** (01/06/16); Rejoining: **Becky Humbert** (07/01/15)

I have sent out two membership applications, waiting on their return to process for membership. We also have some potential new members waiting to attend their third meeting before applying for membership. And, each month we received a few emails and Facebook messages from ladies interested – we send them information and invitations to attend. If you have someone you would like to add to this running list, just e-mail me her name an e-mail address.

Brenda is getting the new binder and name badges together. Brianna has been sending out the voting after new member sends in their application to

I would like to thank the Membership Committee with all their help and participation with our Women of Impact event. If anyone would like a membership application, I have some with me or I can E-mail one to you. I look forward to even more growth of the membership in the following year.

SMWL 2-Year Grant Project Deadline Extended due to Blizzard

The Southern Maryland Women's League Foundation, Inc. has extended the deadline for accepting applications from 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organizations to apply for their Two-Year Project Grant Funds to February 7, 2016. Those organizations who choose to apply should visit: www.smwl.org and click on the link for the Project Grant Application or get information from the Facebook Page 'Southern Maryland Women's League'.

All Applications must be post marked or emailed/dated no later than **February 7, 2016** Mail to the following address:
Southern Maryland Women's League
c/o Lyn Bell, 5402 Topsmelt Court, Waldorf, MD 20603.
Or, email to: smwltreasurer@gmail.com

By-the-Way submitted by Becky Hoffman

I hope everyone will join me at the **Charles Regional Medical Center Foundation's (CRMC) Celebration Gala** at Swan Point on **Saturday, March 5, 2016**. The proceeds benefit Comprehensive Rehabilitation Programs. This year we will be honoring Healthcare Champion Guillermo Sanchez, MD. Dr. Sanchez has touched the lives of so many in our community over his four decades of distinguished service to Southern Maryland. Join me as we honor him and celebrate the 30th anniversary of the CRMC Foundation.

Tickets are going fast. Transportation provided. See all the details below. As this year's chair of the CRMC foundation, It would be a great honor to see my fellow SMWL sisters at this event. For more info call 301-609-4132 or click here: http://charlesregional.org/foundation/event-details.cfm?eID=1&utm_source=EmailBlast&utm_medium=EmailBlast_Emma&utm_content=consumer&utm_campaign=CelebrationGala

SMWL UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 3	Minute to Win It – Prime Street Grill
February 16	BOD Meeting – Wells Fargo
March 2	Membership Social & Committee Updates - Prime Street Grill
March 15	BOD Meeting – Wells Fargo
April 6	Interactive Night, Guest Speaker DBD
April 19	BOD Meeting – Wells Fargo
May 4	Birthday Bash Celebration – <i>Shhh...It's A Secret!!!!</i>
May 17	BOD Meeting - Wells Fargo
June 1	Annual Business Meeting and Membership Appreciation I
June 14	BOD Meeting: Transitional Meeting w/current/new BODs



2014/2015 SMWL Board of Directors

President: **Diana Rucci** (2015/16)
dianarucci@gmail.com

Vice President: **Rona Kelley** (2015/16)
rona@heatbyfire.com

Secretary: **Mia Allen-Ayanian** (2015/16)
miallenayanian@gmail.com

Foundation Treasurer: **Tammy Semega** (2015/16)
t.a.semega@gmail.com

League Treasurer: **Lyn Bell** (2015-16)
lbell@slsministriesinc.org

Past President: **Brenda Lowe** (2015/16)
ahloweha@aol.com

Program/Event Chairs
Laura Forbes Brown (2015/16)
laurabrown@wildblue.net

Vickie Johnson (2015/16)
vjohnson7775@aol.com

Membership Chair: **Helen Heier** (2011/16), heier2@comcast.net

Care Committee
Diana Rucci (2015/16)
dianarucci@gmail.com

Special Event Coordinator
Pam Roberts (2015/16)
pe_roberts1@yahoo.com

Media/Public Relations/Newsletter
Andy Sanford (2011/16)
asanford12@gmail.com

PAST PRESIDENTS

Brenda Lowe, 2014/2015

Laura Brown, 2012/2014

Terry Davis, 2010/2012

Doris Folineo, 2008/2010

Diana Rucci, 2006/2008

Rona Kelley, 2004/2006

Candice Quinn Kelley: Foundation

Mollie Gieseeman: Foundation