



Brenda Lowe

## *President's Message*

My Dear SMWL Sisters...

It is with joy and a little sadness that I write my final message as outgoing President of Southern Maryland Women's League. Thank you for having the faith in me to lead you! It has been an honor to preside over such a wonderful group of amazing women. As Diana Rucci returns as your new President, please embrace her and her wonderful ideas and perspectives as she takes the helm. I know you will. Diana was before and will be again an engaged leader and will continue to maintain the camaraderie and fun in this wonderful organization.

I will share below the poem I wrote and read at the June 3, 2015 Membership Appreciation Meeting: Ode to SMWL Presidency. It pretty much sums up what occurred during my year as President.

Love and Hugs to All!

### **Ode to SMWL Presidency**

What a year to have been leader  
Mini Cooper Raffle Ticket Sales – Team 3 the beaters!  
Three single moms obtained college degrees  
Scholarships we gave so they could afford the fees.

Little Black Dress Mystery Night, National Golf Club, great meal  
Comedian/Musician and a ride on the Capital Wheel.  
Crab feast canceled then October but brought Spa Night and the Car Raffle Winner.  
Donna's name chosen at the Mini Cooper finalé dinner.

Almost 31 thousand dollars raised – the final tally.  
To fund Angel's Watch's Residential Counselor's salary.  
And Angel's Watch kids enjoyed an Ice Cream Party – so cool!  
And were given Gift Cards to buy things for Homecoming and buy needed shoes for school.

Other funds helped young, pregnant girls and post-abortive girls learn they were not alone  
And fund a young missionary woman far away from home.  
Gave Mike Davis Scholarships to deserving students of character again  
And fed hungry, homeless people through the Soup Kitchen.

With help from Chaney's, Angel's Watch enjoyed a generous Christmas Affair  
Chaney's offered three-year funding of a storage unit to house gently used household goods in there  
We had many great times like the Christmas Party at Tessa's beautiful home...  
And the fun summer social at Lisa Wills' that the storms tried to own.

January brought the Chinese Gift Exchange, and in essence,  
New Member Suzanne Wible opened almost half of all the presents!  
March brought Julia Childs to our group.

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*Successful women still have  
their feet on the ground...  
they just have better shoes!*



### **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.

# Don't miss our upcoming events

## SMWL SUMMER SOCIAL

### Aloweha Oasis

At the home of Brenda & Steve Lowe

**Today... Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>**, Cocktails

Begin flowing at 5:00 p.m.

Dinner provided by Bobby Rucci's Deli

And served at 7:00 p.m.

Bring your swimsuits, sundresses and Spouse/Guest and get ready to relax!

Members \$25, Guests \$30



### *Ode to SMWL Presidency continued from page one*

April's 'Minute to Win It' brought a lot of craziness and bloop!

Andy's Glass Painting class brought out creativity galore...

May Mystery Night at Ann Marie Gardens, Tiki Bar and Ruddy Duck brought on a Calvert County explore!

Probably the highlight of the year...rewarding eight years of fundraisers and hard work outside of what we do for a living...

We were recognized in November for all of our giving!

Gretchen and the Community Foundation of Southern Maryland by name

Inducted SMWL into the Philanthropy Hall of Fame!

'Women With Impact' was the title that was coined.

The Hall of Fame of Charitable Giving was what we joined.

None of this could have happened without each and every one of you.

I am eternally grateful to have been the leader of a bunch of ladies whose limits are few! It is no wonder that Bruce, now Caitlyn Jenner wanted to become one of us..

We are brilliant, amazing human beings and can accomplish anything without much of a fuss!

I can't close without mentioning how thrilled I am that my daughter, Paige, joined our gang. Even though she feels like she's the baby....she has fun and finds a way to hang.

Thank you ! Thank you! I am grateful to have had this opportunity.

Next year's President will be wonderful and will surely see...

That all of you are amazing and she will ponder with intrigue

About what great things to do with this amazing Women's League.

Thank you! Love to all! Brenda Lowe

CARE  
COMMITTEE |  
Mia Allen-Avanian

Hello League Sisters!

I'm Mia

A daughter, little (baby) sister, wife, mom, and one bad biker chic. I love adventure and taking on tasks full throttle. My dream one day is stand on stage and sing even though I can't carry a tune. I love hot cups of coffee, sleeping in late, reading a good book, texting with friends, shopping for bargains, helping others, donating my time, sharing my story, being open and honest, making people laugh and loving my pets.

One day I hope to be an advocate for young women struggling with low self-esteem, depression and the thoughts of suicide in the hopes of bringing about change.

The best way in life is to take it one mile at a time.

**I am truly thankful for my Southern Maryland Women's League Sisters. We have wonderful committees in the league but the one that I want to highlight is The Care Committee. Our family lost both our parents this year. The Care Committee did just that, they CARED. The sent our family two condolence cards. Had it not been for my Sisters in the League I don't know how we would have gotten through this tragic event.**

**If it's you're birthday, you're getting married; have a new addition to your family; or are suffering from an illness or a death of a loved one, they are on it. You would be amazed that just a little card or a phone call can really brighten someone's day. Thank you again for caring about my family as we go through the grieving process.**

### JULY BIRTHDAYS!

**Helen Heier: July 13**

**Marcia Keeth: July 20**

**Ruth Mudd: July 25**

**Leslie Clair: July 31**





Hello SMWL Sisters: Well, the last board meeting with Brenda Lowe as President was held on Tuesday, June 16, 2015. Brenda was a great President and really cared about the league and tried to make it a better program under her leadership. So hats off to Brenda. It was also the end of the fiscal year meeting and final reports for the year were presented.

As far as the Foundation Treasurer's Report - The expenses for the year included the 2 year project grants for the Angel's Watch Homeless Shelter which totaled \$10,570.09, other small grants (9) totaled \$3,460.00, and 2 additional special grants totaling \$8,000 which went to Hospice and CSM. The fundraiser expenses were \$22,002.95, and administrative expenses totaled \$1,606.97. Total Fundraiser Revenue was \$52,572.85, which leaves a balance in the checking account of \$15,821.93. The CD balance is \$40,708.69, and the Community Foundation So. Md. Donor Advised Fund is \$38,024.24.

Starting in the new fiscal year, two expenses that will occur immediately will be the CSM special grant which is \$3,000.00 and the chair purchase for the Angels watch shelter which will be approximately \$500.00.

We will start the new fiscal year with a new President, Diana Rucci, who brings experience as President, since serving in this capacity previously. We have a great fund raiser coming up, and we have wonderful ladies that are part of the league to make it a success. I am very sad that Mary Lilly is leaving the league as she was dear and planned such great adventures for us to enjoy. Change is hard, but if we all embrace it positively it will be a great new year. Happy Fiscal New Year.

## Membership Report | Helen Heier

I have sent out 4 new membership applications recently. I have received one back and waiting on her dues to be an official member. An E-mail will go out to her and the Membership once her dues are paid. I expect the other 3 potential members to be sending in their application by the end of this month or the beginning of the new fiscal year. We still have some potential new members waiting to attend their third meeting before applying for membership.



Each month when we have an event, I E-mail the announcements of our meetings to a list of ladies who have expressed interest in our Organization to see if they would like to attend to learn about our Organization. I have also sent out information to several ladies on our Website who have requested information about our Organization. If you have someone you would like to be put on this running list, just e-mail me her name an e-mail address.

As a recap: For Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, we have had 3 rejoining members, 6 new members, and 12 deletions through the year with membership, and our final membership number as of today stands at 48. Our Rejoining Members are: Candice Quinn Kelly, Kim Simonson, Bernadette Cole. Our New Members are: Mia Allen Ayanian, Paige Blankenship, Darlene Breck, Pam Frank, Beth Gilliland, Suzanne Wible. And our new CSM representative is: Erika Abell

Badges and SMWL Binders are given to new members when they officially join. I still have a few more to give out who were not at our last meeting. Brenda Lowe will be handling this for the Membership Committee.

The Membership Committee is also in the planning process for the upcoming Divas Dos & Don'ts Event schedule tentatively for July 29, 2015. Diana Rucci, Mia Allen-Ayanian, and Brenda Lowe, and myself will be working on this. More details will be E-mailed to everyone as soon as the Committee has everything together.

I will be sending out the final end-of-year lists for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015, so if you have changes to your information please forward to Helen promptly. Please add these new lists to your Membership Binder. It is important that you use these current lists because this is how our SMWL information is disseminated to all our members.

If anyone needs a membership application I have some here with me, or I can E-mail one to you. I look forward to even more growth of the membership in the following year.



## Treasurers Report Lyn Bell

SMWL Sisters, its membership renewal time! Look for another invoice via email and by snail mail. Dues are due in July and we are hoping to get everyone's payment by July 31st. Those that paid and got their discount, thanks!

Unfortunately there are some left over missed reservations that are still outstanding, please pay promptly with your dues or before. Remember the league has paid for those meals on your behalf to the vendor. Thanks all for expediting this matter.

Ladies our question to you... What did you think about programs this past year? I think Brenda's poem summed it up very eloquently. Mary and I had a great time planning and managing the events. Looking back... the Chinese gift exchange is always a lot of fun. One of my favorites is Minute To Win It. My grandchildren and I mastered the art of carrying all kinds of items with our toes. We practiced for weeks, but little did I know that you ladies also have that art mastered! Our visit from Julia Child was so interesting and it was great audience participation. The fun addition of our Head's & Tails game adds a new dimension (and programs funds) to our meetings. I hope everyone enjoyed the surprises or art, tiki drinks and dinner during Mystery Nite. Our end of the year meeting at Babes Boys reminded us that we are all amazing Women of Impact and that our strength is in working together. We're looking forward to the pool party at Brenda's, it is so gracious when our fellow sisters open their homes to SMWL. Mary and I had a great time this year, and we're honored to work together for our cherished members.

Best Regards, Vickie Johnson



**2014/2015 SMWL Board of Directors**

President: **Brenda Lowe** (2014/15)  
[ahloweha@aol.com](mailto:ahloweha@aol.com)

Vice President: **Rona Kelley** (2014/15)  
[rona@heatbyfire.com](mailto:rona@heatbyfire.com)

Secretary: **Laura Brown** (2014-15)  
[laura\\_forbes@comcast.net](mailto:laura_forbes@comcast.net)

Foundation Treasurer: **Tammy Semega**  
 (2014/15) [t.a.semega@gmail.com](mailto:t.a.semega@gmail.com)

League Treasurer: **Lyn Bell** (2014-15)  
[lbell@sministriesinc.org](mailto:lbell@sministriesinc.org)

Past President: **Laura Brown** (2014/15)  
[Laura\\_forbes@comcast.net](mailto:Laura_forbes@comcast.net)

Program/Event Chairs  
**Vickie Johnson** (2011/15)  
[vjohnson7775@aol.com](mailto:vjohnson7775@aol.com)  
**Mary Lilly** (2013/15)  
[maryagneslilly@mris.com](mailto:maryagneslilly@mris.com)

Membership Chair: **Helen Heier**  
 (2011/14), [heier2@comcast.net](mailto:heier2@comcast.net)

Care Committee  
**Cindy Lantz** (2014/15)  
[Clantz2@verizon.net](mailto:Clantz2@verizon.net)

Special Event Coordinator  
**Pam Roberts** (2013/15)  
[pe\\_roberts1@yahoo.com](mailto:pe_roberts1@yahoo.com)

Media/Public Relations/Newsletter  
**Andy Sanford** (2011/14)  
[asanford12@gmail.com](mailto:asanford12@gmail.com)

**PAST PRESIDENTS**

- 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 Giese**: Foundation



Our NEXT planning meeting for our new SMWL Women of Impact Awards Ceremony and Dinner event is **MONDAY, JULY 20, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.** at the home of Pam Roberts. Please email Andy Sanford at [asanford12@gmail.com](mailto:asanford12@gmail.com) for directions. All members who wish to participate are invited.

**OUR NEXT DIVA'S DO'S & DON'T MEETING** is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 29** at the home of Rona Kelley. Please contact Diana Rucci for details.

**STORAGE UNIT for ANGEL'S WATCH DONATIONS:** We have a storage unit (donated by Chaney Enterprises) to help ladies move out of the shelter when they receive their vouchers and we are excepting only gently used furniture and household goods..... To donate your household goods, please contact **Laura Brown** or **Terry Davis**.

Congratulations to our very own SMWL sister – **Connie Fuksa** and her **Blink Solutions, LLC!** She is this years' **Leading Edge Charles County Technology Company of the Year** Award winner! Way to go Connie!!!

