



Anne Arundel Women Giving Together **FULL CIRCLE NEWS**

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2014

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

As 2014 draws to a close, I am simply in awe and humbled by you, our members! Your passion, energy, dollars, and personal commitment have been the powerful fuel that has enabled AAWGT to accomplish so much! Thank you for all you have done, both individually and collectively – and thank you for the honor to serve as your president -- what a privilege it has been!

I'd like to say a special thanks to our Steering Committee....our 24 officers, chairs, assistant chairs, and committee leaders whose leadership has been OUTSTANDING! My heartfelt thanks to: Maureen Cavaiola, Jenny Kottler, Judy Coughlin, Cele Brown, Mary Ann Marbury, Sandy Sweeney, Kimberly laquinta, Mary Grace Folwell, Lois Kelberman, Judy Templeton, Prue Clendenning, Donna Stackhouse, Susan Nolte, Heidi Busch, Paula Abernethy, Julie Crudele, Carol Cronin, Deb Schilling, Diana Rode, Susan Amos, Noelle Richmond, Eve-Marie Lacroix, Bronwyn Belling, and Julie Schuelke. What a team!

And a special welcome to our incoming president Maureen Cavaiola and our *fabulous* 2015 leadership team! Here's to a great year ahead as together we keep "doing good"!

My best to each of you – and thank you again!

Karen Smith, President

HAVE YOU RENEWED YET?

THANKS to all who have renewed their membership this year!! If you're still waiting to renew, ACT NOW! ***We're down to the wire*** for 2014!! Remember, your membership dollars *this* year fuel our grant making ability *next* year.

And, if you've been considering joining, **now's a great time!** Your membership runs for a full 12 months ... and you'll be able to attend the New Member reception on December 4th!

JOIN or RENEW TODAY!

And thanks for being part of AAWGT!

LOOKING FOR A PLACE FOR YEAR-END GIVING?



Did you know that AAWGT has an Endowment Fund? This Fund offers an exciting

opportunity to expand our philanthropy and provide enduring support for our grantmaking. AAWGT's Endowment Fund was seeded with \$25,000 from a member who prefers to remain anonymous – and thanks to the incredible generosity of our members and friends, the fund currently stands at over \$75,000 and contributes 5% annually to the AAWGT

April 8

May 13

June 10

September 16

October 14

November 11

NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING



On Nov 12th, a large and enthusiastic group of AAWGT Members gathered at the historic Charles Carroll House for our final meeting of 2014.

The evening began with the presentation of an unsolicited \$2,500 corporate donation from the Baum Jackson Investment group!

Approval of bylaws amendments, recognition of this year's Steering Committee, and the presentation of next year's Leadership Slate quickly followed.

Sandy Sweeney, chair of the Grants Committee, then introduced our evening's discussion, "Participatory Philanthropy: How We Make Our Decisions" and provided an overview of AAWGT's grant review process and several key insights into lessons learned over the years. Members joined in small group discussions to explore together how we might continue to improve the grant process and our member interaction in it.

The meeting ended with AAWGT's annual Founder's Award presentation to members Eve-Marie Lacroix and Diana Rode for their tireless work behind the scenes with our technology. Members then adjourned to the historic 'kitchen' of the Charles Carroll House for warm cider and brownies to celebrate another successful year!! Read more about the exciting evening [here](#).

Grants Fund. Making a donation is easy -- click [here](#) to download form.

BE SURE TO VOTE!



It's that time of year... when we transition from one fabulous team of leaders to another! Again this year, an amazing group of new leaders has stepped up for 2015. The new slate was presented and approved without change at our November Membership meeting – so now it's **time for you to VOTE!** Click [here](#) to meet and vote for your new team! Voting will remain open through December 10th.

LIGHTHOUSE LUNCHMAKING

Looking for a fun and easy way to help others? Once a month, AAWGT members gather at a member's home to assemble lunches for Lighthouse. It's a worthwhile and fun way to spend a couple of hours with AAWGT friends new and old! For more information, contact Karen Davis at lunchmaking@givingtogether.org.

TWO MEMBERS HONORED WITH AAWGT'S FOUNDERS' AWARD

A big shout-out to Eve-Marie Lacroix and Diana Rode for receiving AAWGT's 2014 Founders' Award! These two outstanding members have built our technology infrastructure, taken our data functionality to a whole new level, assisted in building effective communications with our members, rebranded us with a new look, and raised our visibility in the community –

**AAWGT AWARDED A \$2,500
GRANT FROM BAUM JACKSON
INVESTMENT GROUP**



The Baum Jackson Investment Group, a women-owned investment group in Annapolis, believes that women and philanthropy are a cause worth supporting! AAWGT is honored to have been selected by this group to receive a \$2,500 donation in support of our work in the Anne Arundel communities. These dollars will be placed into our grant pool to be awarded next spring. Our sincerest thanks to Patti Baum and Margie Jackson for this outstanding recognition and contribution to AAWGT.



WOW!!

Congratulations, Eve-Marie and Diana, and thanks for all you do and are to AAWGT!

In Their Own Words! :



With our 2015 grant review process about to begin in January, we asked Sandy Sweeney, Chair of AAWGT's Grants Committee, to give her perspective on the review process and the ultimate voting by our Members:

AAWGT's grant review process and member decision-making are at the core of our collective philanthropy. For the grant review teams, AAWGT's mission and guidelines provide the most fundamental review criteria -- and the thoughtful discussion and findings that result from applicant site visits help us make decisions about which applications to

recommend to the general membership. As reviewers we get a unique look into the needs of the county as expressed through the grant applications -- our challenge then is to present the final ballot in an unbiased, neutral way. We work hard to communicate the complex needs, solutions, and impact of each applicant -- but it is ultimately up to our Members to look beyond mere numbers or familiar names to consider all measures of impact in making their decisions about where our money goes. And finally, it's up to them to cast their all-important vote!

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