



Anne Arundel Women Giving Together Newsletter

August/September 2010

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[For a 2010 Membership-
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Happy End of Summer! We hope that it has been a time of enjoyment and rejuvenation. For AAWGT, your leadership has taken time to reflect, relax and start planning for the coming year.

We are listening: back in May, we asked each of you to complete a Member Survey. Thanks to Asst. Secretary Anne Potter, who compiled them, the results are now in. About 50% of our members responded, which points to a healthy and engaged group. Why do women belong to AAWGT? Overwhelmingly, you said it is to "participate in hand-on philanthropy" and "learn about the needs of women and families," followed by "social interaction/networking and "the opportunity to learn about philanthropy."

Also, AAWGT members told us they prefer morning or a mix of morning and evening meetings and suggested a long list of topics for upcoming programs. You also said that you prefer electronic communication. And, happily, more than 100 of you volunteered to be part of a committee or activity - thank you!

We are planning: some new initiatives in the coming year include roundtable discussion groups, suggested changes to our grants criteria and review process and the beginning of a strategic planning process. At the September 8 meeting, we will talk about these things in our "AAWGT at 5 Years: Looking Forward" presentation - so don't miss that important session - see you then!

PS - Stay in touch: please know that we are always happy to hear your ideas and thoughts - send an email or give one of us a call. We truly love to hear from our members!

Regards,
Lynne Davidson, President
Bronwyn Belling, Vice President

August 27

Cruise for the
Community

(www.cfaac.org)

September 8

General Meeting:
AAWGT at 5 Yrs -
*Looking Forward and
Grant Criteria Revision*

October 13

Reception - Fall Open
House with Grantees

November 10

General Meeting:
*Women & Leadership
Session*

**Welcome New
Members!**

Catherine Adelman
Barbara Alden
Beth Bloomfield
Jane Cooper
Nancy Davis
Anne Facto
Louise Raphael
Maureen Torgerson

Member Sponsorships
Now Available!

Sponsored in Part by
M&T Bank.

[Click Here](#) for more



→ Upcoming Meeting: September 8

AAWGT at Five Years: Looking Forward

Join us to celebrate the progress we have made over the past five years and to take a look at important new initiatives for moving forward. Also at this meeting, members will discuss and vote on proposed revisions to the AAWGT Grants Criteria for the coming year. Look for more information in an upcoming email.

Wednesday, September 8, 8:30am - 10:00am
State of Md. Judiciary Education & Conference Center
2011D Commerce Park Drive, Annapolis

→ Hold These Dates!

September 29 7:00 pm
What We're Reading: The Power of Half

October 13 6:00-8:00 pm
Membership Open House

October 15 7:30 - 9:00 am
AACC Nonprofit Symposium, with Pre-Session Breakfast
Sponsored by AAWGT

November 10 7:00 - 8:30 pm
General Meeting
Women & Leadership Session

→ Meeting Recap - June 9 Grants Showcase

At St. John's College on June 9, AAWGT proudly awarded \$65,300 to eight non-profit organizations that are improving the quality of life for Anne Arundel County women and families. Our giving for the past four grant cycles now totals \$226,000 to 25 non-profits!

information.



2010 AAWGT Grantees!

Anne Arundel County
Literacy Council
*Tutor Training
Workshops*

The Arc of the Central
Chesapeake Region
Family Support Services

Arundel Lodge
Latina Outreach Project

Eastport Girls' Club
After School Program

Food Link
*Wholesale Produce
Distribution*

Partners In Care
Maryland, Inc.
Repairs with Care

Robert A. Pascal Youth
& Family Services
Stop the Violence

St. Philip's Family Life
Center
*Extended Educational
Enrichment
Experience*



Congratulations to the 2010
AAWGT Grantees!



Thank you to our AAWGT Grant
Review Committee!

Thank You to

- **St. John's College** for the use of this lovely location
- **M&T Bank** for ongoing support, especially **Nick Lambrow** and AAWGT member **Mary Frances Isakov**
- **Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County**, especially Executive Director **Bess Langbein** and its Board of Directors, for hosting AAWGT as one of its funds.
- Grant Chair **Kathy Potter**, Asst. Chair **Lynda Salamon** and the hard-working team leaders and reviewers who expertly managed the AAWGT grants program this year.
- Post-Grants Chair **Julie Schuelke** and Asst. Chair **Marilyn Lyons** for connecting with our grantees during the coming program year
- Events Chair **Prue Clendenning** for managing food and decorations, E&P Chair **Laurie Sharp** for producing the program guide, Marketing Committee Chair **Julie Crudele** and Asst. Chair **Randi Hogan** and member **Amy Steindler** for invitation and pr support.
- Special thanks to **Bee Billups** for providing beautiful flower arrangements.

· Special thanks to "honorary member" **Dave Roberts**, husband of former Grants Chair Roylene Roberts, for his photography

· And all other volunteers who served with registration, as greeters, food servers and on clean up crew - thanks so much!

To all who attended: we thank you for that spirit of generosity, which we have multiplied one hundredfold and more. Together, we are effecting real and powerful improvements for women and families in Anne Arundel County.

July Retreat Highlights

On Saturday, July 10, the AAWGT Steering Committee and a few guests met in a day-long "retreat/advance" to discuss accomplishments and challenges for the organization and create a "Road Map to Success" for AAWGT. We are grateful to our incredible facilitator, Terry Edwards, who energized the group with her creative and interactive facilitation style. Thanks also to those who provided food and worked hard to prepare reports for discussion.

During the Retreat, we talked about our hopes and goals and identified our greatest concerns and issues. We learned about national trends in giving circles and also learned about our personal work and leadership styles! The day concluded by creating our 2011 Program Calendar.

Some initiatives for 2011:

1. Offer new, small-group settings for discussion of issues
2. Continue to offer hands-on volunteer and site visits
3. Expand our involvement with AAWGT grantee groups
4. Adapt committees to suit busy lifestyles
5. Continue to strive for increased membership diversity
6. Continue moving toward electronic communications without losing "the personal touch."
7. Continue to offer activities and programs that interest our members
8. Initiate a Strategic Planning process.
9. Make sure to have lots of fun!

Thanks again to all who participated and shared vision and good ideas.



Facilitator Terry Edwards leads retreat

→ Leadership Development and Nominating Hosts a Successful New Members Reception

A generous thank you goes to Kathy Brooks and Therese Gardner for hosting a convivial and very enjoyable reception at Kathy's home on June 29. Attended by many of our newest AAWGT members and Steering Committee representatives, we all had a chance to learn more about one another. Thanks again to Kathy and Therese!

→ Member Sponsorships Now Available!

Funded in part by M&T Bank

We now have \$2,000 in funds available to support women interested in receiving financial assistance for part or all of their annual membership fee - the only requirement is that they have an interest in being an active member and helping to improve our organization. For information on this new program and opportunity, see www.givingtogether.org or email giving@givingtogether.org

→ 2010 Member Survey Highlights

For the fourth year we surveyed members on their experiences with AAWGT. Some highlights from the 69 responses:

How and why you joined AAWGT? The vast majority of members (63 of 69) report being introduced to AAWGT by a member or friend, with just 3 by CFAAC and 2 by newspaper.

How satisfied are you with AAWGT? 17 rate their experiences a 5 (exceeds their expectations), 31 rate it a 4 and 12 give a score of 3, with no lower ratings. Asked how well our organization meets their expectations, 25 rate it a 5 (exceeds expectations), 25 give it a 4 and 6 said 3, with no lower ratings.



AAWGT delivers lunches to
Creating Communities!

Feedback on AAWGT meetings, attendance and timing? 36 members said they generally attend meetings, 39 said they sometimes have conflicting obligations, 28 said the times do not work for them; 4 said they lack interest in the topic; 4 sometimes have travel conflicts and 4 prefer to just contribute funds. As far as meeting times, 27 prefer morning meetings; 31 prefer evenings and 28 prefer a mix of times.

How about AAWGT committee and program participation? 31 are satisfied or very satisfied with their participation. 34 find educational sessions informative and suggested these future topics (in order of preference): trends in aging; transportation; immigration; housing; developmental disabilities; business; food and nutrition; disabilities; teen pregnancy prevention; support for young mothers. 37 said they would participate in one-time roundtables; 21 would participate in a book group.

Participation in AAWGT volunteer activities? 21 participate in AAWGT volunteer activities; 22 said no, timing was not good. Suggested future activities are hands-on activities with grantees; Opportunity Builders; new volunteer education; Boys' & Girls Club; younger members' activity; Stanton Center; collect clothing and other items to distribute to grantees; activities involving members' own children/grandchildren.

What was your favorite experience this year? 9 cited Therapeutic Riding visit as their favorite; 5 the Women and Leadership program; 2 the Grants Committee, 2 Girl Scouts visit, 2 the AAWGT Book Group.

Suggestions for improvement? More strategic planning; mentors for new members; a welcome network; continued networking with other women's giving circles; video clips/virtual tours of grantees on our website; presentation/synopsis of data on past grantees; more site visits and contact with grantees; volunteer events; list of members who are on each committee; strengthening of member leadership; reduce number and duration of meetings; learn about issues in schools that we can help with.

Other general comments? Many were impressed with how

welcoming AAWGT members and leaders in particular have been, adding, "It made me feel that my membership is important." Also: "The whole program gets better and better; it is a pleasure serving with so many bright and talented women; I feel confident in AAWGT's leadership and activities."

Thanks to all who responded. Your input is very valuable as we build an ever better organization.

→ Habitat for Humanity - Volunteer Activity

In stifling heat, AAWGT members dug deep as part in the August 11 Women Build event for Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake. Swinging a hammer for seven hours in 90 degree heat was a challenge, but our team still managed to build 16 interior walls for Habitat homes. The walls will be used to construct 10 homes for needy families on Clay Street in Annapolis.

AAWGT ended up with a great group of gals who really put their heart into their work: thanks to Darlene Duchene, Diana Rode, Barbara Firebaugh, Madelyn Schaefer, and Kristy Weight for their hard labor and to Gloria Pressman and Bronwyn Belling for delicious lunches during break. "We impressed ourselves with how much we got done," said team member Kristy Weight. "It was great working with these strong hard-working women...and it will be great to see the finished project and think, Hey! I built that wall!"

Volunteers can register online at <http://HabitatChesapeake.VolunteerHub.com> or by calling 410-366-1250 to work on Tuesdays- Saturdays throughout the year.



Visit to Habitat Women Build

→ Business and Committee Updates

Education & Programs Committee

Do you have a passion to learn more about specific issues that affect women and families? Have you read a book or article that

you would like to share and discuss with other members? The Education & Programs Committee welcomes all members who would like to contribute their ideas and energy to develop discussion groups, special interest forums, educational sessions and other learning opportunities. To learn more, contact Laurie Sharp at lsharp1000@msn.com.

Grants Committee

At the September general meeting, the Grants Committee will present a revised version of the Grants Criteria for approval by the AAWGT membership. Look for an email containing information and recommendations. Members may email any questions or comments to Kathy Potter at pottercako@comcast.net or to Lynda Salamon at lyndasalamon@hotmail.com.

Governance Committee

We would appreciate it if some members would look over the bylaws and see if they have any suggestions for changes or updates. Send them to Susan Nolte at csnolte@verizon.net or to Bev Nash at bsnash@comcast.net.

The Maryland Chapter of the National Association of Parliamentarians

One-day class on Saturday, October 23, Chartwell Country Club, Severna Park. Cost: \$25 including lunch. For further information contact Susan Nolte at csnolte@verizon.net or 410-647-2525.

This is a great opportunity to get some very good pointers on how to run a meeting - so, pass this information on to friends who are committee leaders and also any interested high school or college students

Leadership Development & Nominating

Plans are underway for the Nov 10 Women & Leadership Session. If you would like to help plan the event or have ideas of fabulous women to be part of the session, please contact Therese Gardner at tgardner@cbmove.com

Marketing & Communications

In July, the Marketing & Communications group met to assess its progress, consider some new AAWGT logo graphics and map out the plan for 2011. We are always looking for interested and creative folks to join our committee! Contact Julie Crudele at Julie.crudele@comcast.net for more information

Membership & Outreach Committee

At last count our membership has grown to 146 and we encourage any member who has not taken the time to renew to please renew before Sept. 1 or at the Sept. Meeting. As an outreach project, AAWGT members participated in the Habitat Women's Build house on Clay St. on August 11 - thanks to all who participated in building or preparing lunches!

Our other ongoing outreach endeavor - making lunches for the

Lighthouse Shelter - has continued with Karen Davis hosting in June and Bee Billups hosting in July. True Rowan will host the August session. Contact Karen Davis at kluciadavis@hotmail.com if you wish to be added to the email volunteer list.

The Welcome Network for new members is in full swing with experienced members pairing up with a new member to encourage more involvement in AAWGT. Our committee is already planning the October Open House and we will have a late September meeting to finalize plans

Post-Grants Evaluation Committee

The Post-Grants Evaluation Committee has busy with its important work of finalizing end-of-year reports for former grantees and connecting with our new upcoming grantees. For more information, contact Julie Schuelke at jschuelke@studley.com

Book Discussion Group

What We're Reading

The Power of Half by Kevin Salwen and Hannah Salwen

The Power of Half explores the idea of living well by giving rather than taking. In their case, the Salwen family decided to sell their luxurious mansion and give half the proceeds to the Hunger Project in Africa. While the authors recognize their choice was extreme, they argue that we all have an excessive amount of something -- whether it's time, talent, or treasure - and that by giving away half we not only help others, we enrich our own lives.

AAWGT members and guests plan to discuss *The Power of Half* on Wednesday, **September 29 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm**. If you would like to join the group for this book, contact Laurie Sharp at lsharp100@msn.com

