



FULL CIRCLE NEWS

December 2016 / January 2017

Giving Together

As AAWGT's tenth year winds to a close, we look back with gratitude at the more than \$800,000 our members gave to fund 71 grants over the past ten years. AAWGT also convened 46 education meetings over that time, helping all of us better understand some of the difficult and complex issues affecting women and families in Anne Arundel County.

AAWGT provides fertile ground to grow local philanthropists. We offer many ways to learn about and share our time and talents with organizations that strive each and every day to improve the quality of life for women and families locally. If you are interested in getting more involved with AAWGT, we have both short-term and long-term opportunities to get engaged. You can learn more about upcoming meetings, committees and activities in this newsletter and on our [website](#). If your contribution is solely treasure, that is perfectly fine. We always appreciate that commitment.

A recent [podcast](#) illustrates another way AAWGT aspires to strengthen our community: building social trust and social capital. Stronger social networks result in greater social trust, and greater social trust is correlated with better economic and social outcomes for the entire community. AAWGT has a role to play in building our community's social capital by creating and enriching relationships among our members, guests, and nonprofits. We try to always make time before and after our meetings for conversation. Please take these opportunities to talk to someone you have never met or don't know very well. This is why diversity in our membership and at our meetings is

so important. Creating and strengthening relationships across age, racial, and ethnic lines outside of our normal social circles is vitally important to strengthening our community.

We look forward to 2017 - giving together, learning together, and working together in the giving circle and in the broader community to make Anne Arundel County a good place for women and families.

[Mary Grace Folwell](#), President (member since 2011)
[Linda Eggbeer](#), Vice President/President-Elect (member since 2013)

Announcing AAWGT's 2017 Leadership Team

AAWGT is pleased to announce the 2017 leadership team. The slate of nominees was introduced at the November 9 General Meeting; online voting commenced the next day and closed on December 14. Nearly two-thirds of AAWGT's members cast a vote to elect the slate of officers, committee chairs and assistant chairs.

Officers

President: Linda Eggbeer
Vice President/President Elect: Betsy Chotin
Treasurer: Kathy Flynn
Assistant Treasurer: Jenny Kottler
Secretary: Ginger From
Assistant Secretary: Stealey Ashley

Committee Leadership

Education & Program

Cele Brown, Chair
Nancy Davis, Assistant Chair

Governance

Julie Schuelke, Chair

Grants

Sue Pitchford, Chair
Sheila Onuska, Assistant Chair

Grants Systems

Judy Coughlin, Chair
Barbara Haight, Assistant Chair

Leadership Development & Nominating

Dorothy Walsh D'Amato, Chair
Julie Crudele, Assistant Chair

Marketing & Communications

Barb Cooke, Chair
Barbara Goyette, Assistant Chair

Membership & Outreach

Kate Fritz, Chair
Tanya St. John, Assistant Chair

Post-Grants Evaluation

Susan Christensen, Chair
Linda "Petey" Cosby, Assistant Chair

"An amazing group of talented women will be serving as officers and committee leaders in 2017 and helping us to move ahead confidently -- and thoughtfully -- into our second decade," said incoming President Linda Eggbeer.

"I look forward to serving with Linda and this incredible group of women, with the added luxury next year of being able to focus my attention on a few key areas – such as membership and governance," said 2016 President Mary Grace Folwell, who will remain on the Steering Committee in 2017 as Immediate Past President.

2017 General Meeting Schedule

Mark your calendar with AAWGT's 2017 schedule of meetings. Six of these meetings are open to anyone interested; two meetings are reserved for members. Fully detailed notices will be sent a few weeks before each meeting.

DATE	TIME	EVENT
February 15	11:30 am - 1:30 pm	Education Topic
March 8	6:00 - 8:00 pm	Women & Leadership
April 12	6:00 - 8:00 pm	Spring Open House
May 10	6:00 - 8:00 pm	Grants Voting <i>(Members Only)</i>
June 14	6:00 - 8:00 pm	Education Topic
September 20	6:00 - 8:00 pm	Grants Showcase
October 11	11:30 am - 1:30 pm	Education Topic
November 8	6:00 - 8:00 pm	Members' Forum <i>(Members Only)</i>

Meeting dates and times are subject to change.

Melanie Teems Receives 2016 Founders' Award

Melanie Teems was recognized at the fall membership meeting for her outstanding service to AAWGT with the 2016 Founders' Award. The award acknowledges exemplary participation in the organization, length of service, specific initiatives and achievements and their impact, history of raising awareness and broadening the image of AAWGT, and ability to inspire members to work for the collective good. Melanie has done all that and more!

She was deeply involved in 2007 in developing criteria for nonprofits to apply for AAWGT grants and was active in the process of distributing the first grant applications. She has gone on to serve on the Grants Committee and as a reviewer and team leader. The individual who nominated her said it this way, "Her involvement with the Grants, Post-Grants and Grantee Connect Committees during AAWGT's formative and later years helped ground our organization's professionalism and image."

In addition, Melanie created a number of policies, documents and presentations designed to train applicants to understand the requirements of AAWGT funding and learn to write comprehensive, well-thought-out proposals. This preparation has been instrumental, particularly with smaller organizations, in helping them "up their game" when applying for funding from any source. She also developed a grant reviewer worksheet with a comprehensive list of questions for reviewers to use in evaluating applicants as well as a tutorial for reviewers on preparing for and completing an efficient, thorough, fact finding site visit.

Most recently, Melanie served on the 10th Anniversary Committee to plan events to commemorate AAWGT's first decade of service to Anne Arundel County. Again quoting from her nomination, "Melanie's selfless and steady involvement in AAWGT represents the bookends of the organization from its fledgling start in 2006 to its now robust state in 2016. Melanie inspires all to be and do their best."

Congratulations, Melanie!

[Founders' Award Committee](#) (member since 2103)
Linda Eggbeer, Chair

Here's to AAWGT's Next Ten Years

Remember when it all began at our March gathering at St. John's? We explored the "Emerging Face of 21st Century Philanthropy" and engaged with a fabulous panel of women philanthropists. We also unveiled a new [video](#) about AAWGT as told through the words of our own members. The video project was underwritten by Baum Jackson Investment Group and a number of AAWGT members.

As we moved through the year, we continued to celebrate our anniversary by building on all facets of AAWGT -- we launched a Lifetime Member Endowed Fund (currently at \$52,911.09), making it possible for membership dollars to contribute to the grants pool throughout one's lifetime . . . and beyond.

We also offered new and expanded volunteer opportunities for members to engage personally with the organizations we fund. And we looked at [AAWGT's cumulative accomplishments](#) in our community over the past 10 years, and how we can build on that in the future.

Special thanks to the 10th anniversary committee: Carole Alexander, Bronwyn Belling, Kathy Brooks, Maureen Cavaiola, Tara Clifford, Linda Eggbeer, Mary Grace Folwell, Lois Kelberman, Jenny Kottler, Marilyn Lyons, Lynn McReynolds, Gloria Pressman, Sharon Stewart, Susan Swayze, and Melanie Teems. I enjoyed working with this great team throughout two years of planning and delivery!

What a fabulous yearlong celebration for *all* members! Now it's onward and upward as we move into the next 10 years!

Karen Smith (member since 2011)
Chair, [10th Anniversary Committee](#)

Monthly Meetings:
What's Coming Up and
What's Already Happened

January 27 Preview: Giving Back to our Grantees Through Service

As part of our 10th Anniversary efforts, we reached out to all our grantees to ask about possible future service projects. Arundel Lodge staff asked if we could help paint - and we said yes! Plans are underway for 8-10 of us to paint a room there beginning at 9 AM on Friday, January 27. If you've painted before, or would like to learn, you can [register](#), but space is limited. Arundel Lodge will supply the paint and all supplies. Wear paint clothes, bring a brown bag lunch and lots of enthusiasm! Look for before and after photos in the next issue of *Full Circle News*.

January 30 Preview: Lunchmaking for The Light House

AAWGT has been making lunches monthly for The Light House, a homeless prevention support center, for nine years. This effort is due to the generosity of member Karen Davis who initiated the idea and then spearheaded it for almost a decade. A big thank you to Karen for her efforts.

The [lunchmaking group](#) will continue the tradition of making 100 sandwiches once a month in our homes with a team of five or six people. The project takes about two hours, starts early and finishes before 10 am. The host picks the day and time and buys the supplies. The cost is divided by the number of participants and runs about \$30-35 per person. The bagged lunches are delivered to the shelter that day.

New members are encouraged to participate – these small group gatherings are a wonderful way to meet other members and learn about AAWGT. Send an email to lunchmaking@givingtogether.org if you have questions or want to be added to the notification group. [Register](#) for 2017's first lunchmaking on January 30 and run through the year. The

host's address and more information will be sent with your registration confirmation.

October 19 Recap: Heroin and Opioids: Suddenly a Big Problem

Heroin and opioid addiction was the topic for AAWGT's general education meeting on October 19 at the Mt. Olive Community Life Center. A first-class panel and performing arts group helped the 80 guests understand the depth and breadth of this escalating problem in Anne Arundel County and across the country.

The first speaker, Sandy Smolnicky, captured everyone's attention as she described her personal involvement with the topic by virtue of having two family members with serious, active substance use disorders. She works daily to help manage their illnesses. Since 2010, she has been with the Anne Arundel Department of Health providing technical assistance to communities and substance abuse prevention coalitions in Anne Arundel County. She gave the audience a sense of the scale and impact of heroin and opioid abuse with a few well-chosen slides that conveyed unsettling statistics. She talked about the origins of this drug problem, its escalation over the last few years, and efforts to combat it.

Next, Angel Traynor, founder and Executive Director of Serenity Sistas', told the story of her own addiction and recovery in raw, honest and vivid language. She described becoming a certified Peer Health Educator in Substance Abuse Education and shared knowledge about different treatment options, focusing on options she believes help addicts the most. Angel believes the power of addicts helping one another is essential for recovery.

The final part of the program featured a powerful and moving enactment about the seduction and dangers of drug addiction as seen through the eyes of students from the Annapolis High

School Performing and Visual Arts Magnet Program. Through creative movement and dramatic yet sparse dialogue, these talented students conveyed what it means to be a young person in the thrall of drug addiction. At the end, the audience gave them a standing ovation!



Sandy, Angel, and Education Chair Cele Brown encouraged those in attendance to learn as much possible about this epidemic and to get involved. Many individuals and organizations are taking up the fight to prevent young people from falling into a life of addiction and to make effective treatments available for those who seek help. Of the questions asked at the end of the program, many were directed to the high school group. The exchange at the end of the meeting attests to the interest AAWGT and community members have in doing more about this insidious problem.

October 25 Recap: Service Project with Arundel Lodge

As part of AAWGT's 10th Anniversary celebration, AAWGT offered all of our past grantees the opportunity to have our members participate in a one-time hands-on service project. The first project took place on October 25 at Arundel Lodge where nine of our members met with a number of Arundel Lodge clients at their socialization group. Many of

these ladies are partially integrated into the community and others are preparing for that opportunity.



Standing from left: Bronwyn Belling, Linda Eggbeer, Martha Schwieters, Karen Davis, Helen Chin, Nancy Greene. Seated: Betsy Chotin, Marilyn Lyons. Not pictured: Tanya St. John.

When asked what they would like to discuss, the ladies quickly said "men" and "money." They offered insights about both men and women (such as women are kinder and wiser—and men more logical) and the often challenging need to manage their money carefully. We discussed families, aging, working and the wish to give back to the community. Curiosity and appreciation were expressed as they asked about our AAWGT group of over 200 women joining together to improve lives for women and families in Anne Arundel County. It was a remarkable opportunity to learn about different life perspectives. We were all touched and hope to return as a group, periodically, and even perhaps at different smaller nutrition or budgeting

meetings they regularly attend where our members have special expertise.

A huge thank you to AAWGT member Tanya St. John who arranged the morning. We left with lifted hearts.

[Marilyn Lyons](#) (member since 2007)

November 9 Recap: Members' Meeting and Forum: Collective Impact – Making Large Scale Change

The program for our November 9 membership meeting continued the theme of exploring impact—this time **Collective Impact**. Lauren Maddox, Due East Partners and AAWGT member, and Alli Holstrom, AACO Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families, presented an engaging and inspiring overview of this approach to making large-scale change. Lauren explained the key elements of Collective Impact, which include a common agenda, shared measurement systems, backbone support, continuous communications, and mutually reinforcing activities. What makes Collective Impact so different and so powerful is the alignment of multiple change efforts across a variety of sectors seeking impact at the population level. Creative thinking, finding common ground, engaging in reciprocal and collaborative working relationships, and using data to drive the work all contribute to the success of Collective Impact. Lauren encouraged anyone interested in learning more about collective impact to [read a 2011 article in Stanford Social Innovation Review by John Kania and Mark Kramer](#).

She then took us through a case study on improving education outcomes to illustrate how Collective Impact works on a national level. Lauren emphasized the critical importance of a backbone organization that guides vision, strategy, and activities, establishes shared measurement systems, builds public will, advances policies, and mobilizes funding.

Alli then explored the Results Scorecard and Results Based Accountability which are methods of setting goals, and then working backwards to develop data-driven, concrete actions to achieve those goals. She described the difference between population accountability which looks, for example at city, state, national outcomes and performance accountability which examines how a program, agency, or service system is functioning. One thing Alli underscored is that no one program, agency, or initiative can be directly responsible for population level outcomes. Population level outcomes require Collective Impact. Alli encouraged those interested in learning more about Results Based Accountability to read Mark Friedman's *Trying Hard is Not Good Enough*.

"Turning the Curve" is a term we all learned about during the evening. It refers to a process of delving deeper to better understand what the data is telling us and working with others to figure out what else might work and how to pursue it. Alli had us engage in an exercise that focused on the recent increase in the percentage of Anne Arundel County public school students eligible for free or reduced-price meals. We came up with a variety of reasons (the story behind the data) that might have accounted for the increase, brainstormed about a group of partners who could help address the issue, and thought of some new strategies (at least one low or no-cost) that might work to reduce these numbers.

More than fifty-five AAWGT members present at the meeting then got together in groups to discuss several questions about how the ideas shared in the presentation might be useful to AAWGT. The discussion was lively and each group reported back a few highlights to the whole.

What intrigues you about Collective Impact and Results-Based Accountability?

Members noted the maximization of impact; more effective use of public/private dollars; and increased efficiency/less duplication.

What might this mean for the Giving Circle, if anything?

Ideas ranged from looking at the timing of grant cycles within the county for better coordination; keeping county priorities in mind when funding; supporting a project in a geographical area outside Annapolis; thinking about funding more heavily in specific issue area(s) that would add to county-wide impact; and working to make sure all organizations AAWGT funds know about the other county organizations and agencies that fund in the same area or do the same things. Others expressed the opinion that the Community Foundation is better placed to organize collaboration and that AAWGT should steer away from such an intensive effort.

If we were to adopt a Collective Impact approach or try to “turn the curve” on a specific issue, what might AAWGT want to do or do differently?

A number of ideas came up in answer to this question, including focusing AAWGT funding on one problem; collaborating with other funders (e.g. a family fund or Next Gen); allocating more funding to North County; working to “turn the curve” on a specific issue; asking for specific outcomes in grant applications; layering in collaboration when funding larger grants; seeking a grant applicant whose job is to build connective tissue among organizations; and facilitating an approach for our grantees to meet with one another to plan for cooperative strategies.

Much to think about and address as AAWGT goes forward into its next 10 years!

[View the Powerpoint presentation from this meeting.](#)

Membership News

As of the end of November, AAWGT has 217 members. In the last two months, 24 members have renewed, including five as Lifetime Members. The thirteen women below joined as new members in the past two months, including one as a Lifetime Member.

* Jane Amsbaugh * Marion Brenner * Natalie Canavor *
* Eileen Cortese * Debbie Deschamps * Jane Lawrence *
* Barbara Klotz * Nancy Lindley* Cherie Loustaunau * Angela
Ponatoski * Karin Rees * Elizabeth Sammis * Susy Smith *

Click [HERE](#) to Join or Renew

December 7 Recap: New Member Wine & Cheese Reception

More than 30 New Members and Steering Committee members gathered for a Wine and Cheese event at Lynn McReynold's home on December 7th. Guests were paired up for interviews and had fun getting to know each other and reporting on each other's professional backgrounds, what drew them to Anne Arundel Women Giving Together, what they hoped to gain from the group in the next year, and what motivated them every day. Things got really fun when ladies reported on the final question, "What is one thing interesting about yourself." We found out that we have several ladies who were motorcycle riders at one point in their lives, Bev Macgowan is blessed with seven children; Karin Rees used to lived in Geneva for 12 years; Donna DeCosta ran 2.5 marathons after age 40; Debbie Deschamps met and talked to Donald Trump at a golf tournament; Eileen Cortese has visited six of the seven continents. It was a wonderful evening -- AAWGT style.

[Membership & Outreach Committee](#)

Sarah Morse, Chair (member since 2015)

Tanya St. John, Assistant Chair (member since 2014)

Your Dollars at Work:

Services from the Heart's Backpack Buddies Program

Services from the Heart, Inc. is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization providing nutritious meals, snacks, and beverages to children attending Title I Schools within Anne Arundel County. Backpack Buddies serves children who are at risk of experiencing a food shortage over weekends, holidays, and extended school breaks. Services from the Heart's mission is to reduce the impact of poverty by providing weekly backpacks of food to children in need and to create volunteer opportunities within the community.

Backpack Buddies serves children who access Free and Reduced-Price Meals (the FARM program) at school. The students benefitting from the Backpack Buddies Program are identified by the school's Principal and Professional Counselor or Program Coordinator.

Services from the Heart's Backpack Buddies Program began operating in March 2013. In the current academic year, the program is serving 75 children who attend Eastport (Annapolis), Hilltop (Glen Burnie), and Belle Grove (Brooklyn Park) Elementary Schools. Every Friday, participants of the program receive a food backpack containing six meals, three healthy snacks, two beverages and two pieces of fresh fruit. Also, over extended holidays and breaks (an average of ten days), the children are provided approximately 17 meal servings, 20 snacks, ten breakfast items, two beverages and fresh fruit.

AAWGT is supporting Services from the Heart's Backpack Buddies Program this year with a grant of \$15,000.

[Donna Wilson-Johnston](#), MSW, LGSW
President & Founder

Launching the 2017 Grant Cycle!

While prospective grant applicants heard about our 2017 grants cycle for the first time on December 1, through an announcement by the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County, the Grants Committee has been diligently working on the upcoming cycle for a number of months! Immediately following last year's grants review, reviewers made recommendations on how to improve the review process. The Grants Committee spent the summer and fall addressing those suggestions.

A high priority suggestion was to try to decrease the time spent by reviewers reading applications. Therefore, the application has been shortened and executive summaries will now be used so that reviewers and particularly team leaders can quickly review all applications. The evaluation form that reviewers use will also be automatically populated with information from the online application. Beyond the reviewers' suggestions, our members recommended in the 2014 and 2015 members surveys that AAWGT increase its funding awards. As a result, this year's applicants can request grants from \$5,000 up to \$20,000 (up from a \$15,000 maximum).

Equally important to the grants process is the ability of our applicants to write good applications so this coming year our grants process will include more support to our applicants. To start, we will post our review criteria to ensure that all applicants are aware of what AAWGT considers key elements of a good application.

Additionally, we will offer feedback or debriefings, upon request, to any applicant not selected for a grant award. We have learned from past grantees that this type of support helps them learn to write better applications to AAWGT and also to other funders.

And, as in past years, we will continue to offer an Applicant Workshop in January to inform applicants and new reviewers about AAWGT's funding criteria and provide them an opportunity to ask questions about our process.

While the Grants Committee worked the last five months on process improvements, the Committee is now working to build a robust roster of 2017 Grants reviewers. Every AAWGT member is both eligible and encouraged to become a reviewer! Reviewers have the option of joining the Grants Committee but they are not *required* to.

Being a reviewer involves participating in training sessions, reviewing six to eight grant applications, discussing these applications as a team for recommendations to fund, conducting site visits to applicants, and submitting final recommendations of applicants to be placed on the voting ballot. All these activities occur from February to April.

There is no better way to learn about our grantees than participating in the review process. All opinions are welcome!

Diverse opinions help identify the very best projects to fund. If you are interested in becoming a grants reviewer, please send an [email](#).

[Grants Committee](#)

Caroline Purdy, Chair (member since 2010)

Sue Pitchford, Assistant Chair (member since 2012)

Governance Committee

The Governance Committee is putting finishing touches on an updated Conflict of Interest Policy that is signed by Steering,

Grants and Post Grants Evaluation Committee members. The Governance Committee will next focus on ways to insure fairness in our managerial practices with grantees and applicants, including timing of articles in the newsletter and venue selection for meetings. The committee charters will also be updated in the new year. Discussion about AAWGT's operating practices is both lively and enlightening. With a substantial workload, Governance would be happy to welcome new members!

[Governance Committee](#)

Martha Schwieters, Chair (member since 2008)
Julie Schuelke, Assistant Chair (member since 2007)

What Our Members are Reading

I hope you find something challenging or interesting from among a number of articles and books that have been shared in various discussions this month.

The New York Times recently published an [article](#) exploring the ways millennials, those born between 1980 and 2000, give and how it is different from other generations. It is an interesting read, and food for thought for AAWGT's future direction.

The Washington Post has been running a series of articles on women in power. You can access the entire series of articles [here](#). Particularly interesting, was the [article](#) about women in the Obama Whitehouse, seeking to be heard. These women "devised a strategy called 'amplification' to hammer across one another's points during meetings. After one woman offered an idea, if it wasn't acknowledged, another woman would repeat it and give her colleague credit for suggesting it."

If you missed it, I highly recommend this [podcast](#) on trust in our society. The link will allow you to listen and/or read a transcript of the show. It is only 28 minutes, and gives a lot of

food for thought on how we can make our society stronger through building connections.

“Societies where people trust one another are healthier and wealthier. In the U.S. (and the U.K. and elsewhere), social trust has been falling for decades — in part because our populations are more diverse. What can we do to fix it?”

[Mary Grace Folwell](#) (member since 2011)

Upcoming Events

January 4, Wednesday, 8:00 AM [Education Committee Meeting](#)

January 4, Wednesday, 9:30 AM [AAWGT Grant Applicants' Workshop](#)

January 4, Wednesday, 11:00 AM [AAWGT Applicants' Software Tutorial \(Optional\)](#)

January 26, Thursday, 5:30 PM [Anne Arundel Women GETTING Together](#)

January 27, Friday, 9:00 AM [Grantee Service Project: Arundel Lodge](#)

January 30, Monday, 8:30 AM [Light House Lunchmaking](#)

Full Circle News Feedback

The Full Circle News is published bi-monthly throughout the year. Suggestions, feedback and questions are welcome and can be sent to marketing@givingtogether.org.

[Marketing & Communications](#)

Jenny Kottler, Chair (member since 2011)

Deb Schilling, Assistant Chair (member since 2013)