



Women's Giving Circle of Harford County February 2024 Newsletter



A Message from the Chair

Happy Valentine's Day! We love and value our members!

I'm excited to announce our new membership levels, making membership more affordable for those at the lower and higher ends of the age spectrum. Thanks to all who took the time to complete the survey to gauge the impact of the change. And thanks to those who called into membership meeting and vote on our updated [Organizational Guidelines](#). Slides for the meeting are available [here](#).

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming 2024 events! Take care.

Donna Kreis, Chair

Changes to WGC Membership Levels & Renewal Deadline

On February 6th, we held a general membership meeting to discuss changes to the membership levels of the WGC. In response to comments from many members and prospective members that the membership structure was not aligned with their budgetary constraints, we are excited to announce that the membership approved the following revisions to our membership levels:

- Two new membership levels for members under 30 years and over 70 years of age with lower donation levels of \$150 and \$250, respectively
- Names for each membership level
- Extending the age limit for Next Generation membership (now called Connect) to 40 years of age

These changes make membership more inclusive and affordable for those at the lower and higher ends of the age spectrum, thus enabling more members to join early in life and continue their membership into their later years. This does not preclude a member from continuing with her existing donation amount even if her age allows for a donation of less than \$550. An administrative fee of \$50 will be assessed for each level regardless of the amount of donation provided by the member.

In addition, the membership renewal deadline has been changed from December 15 to December 1st, which allows us to close out the membership drive by the beginning of January, so please keep this in mind when planning for your renewal.

Membership Level	Age (at Time of Payment)	Annual Membership Donation
Inspire	Under 30 years	\$150
Connect	30-40 years	\$250
Empower	41-70 years	\$550
Sustain	Over 70 years	\$250

2024 ATHENA Awards

Congratulations to WGC member April Cheatham, who was selected as a finalist for the prestigious ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award. Additionally, Beacon Staffing Alternatives, Inc., founded by WGC member, Sheryl Davis Kohl, is a finalist for the new ATHENA Organizational Leadership Award. Each of us are leaders in our own way, and we are proud of the impact our members make on the community. In 2023, WGC Chair Donna Kreis had the opportunity to discuss how the WGC enhanced her leadership skills and encourages members and the non-profits we support to take on leadership roles. Watch the video of Donna [here](#).

Please consider joining other WGC members in cheering on the finalists at the [ATHENA Leadership Award Breakfast](#) on March 1st. The breakfast benefits the Harford Community College Foundation, Inc.

Grant Committee Update

The 2024 Grant Cycle is well underway! Please continue to spread the word to all non-profits in Harford County serving Women, Children and Families! (501(c)(3) status required). There is less than a month before applications are due!

If you are still interested in joining us for grant review, there is still time! Please email us at wgcharfordcogrants@gmail.com and let us know that you want to be part of the grant application process. It's a great way to learn more about local non-profits and the good work they do in Harford County!

Here are some upcoming dates to keep in mind:

- **March 11th: 12 p.m. applications are due!**
- March 14th: 10 a.m. technical review
- March 15th - April 19th: application review period, scores due by 12 p.m. on 4/19
- April 23rd: Grant Committee to meet and make recommendations for the Board

Hillary Smolenski, Grant Committee Chair

Membership & Outreach Committee Update

Hello from the Membership and Outreach Committee!

Welcome, welcome, welcome to our first new member of 2024, **Esta Cain!** We look forward to welcoming her in person at an upcoming event.

Speaking of events, the Membership and Outreach Committee is working hard planning our events for this year. We anticipate hosting several public events for members and potential members and we are also coordinating several volunteer opportunities with former grantees. Please make sure to keep an eye on our website, Facebook, and Newsletter for news on upcoming activities.

Additionally, as our event opportunities come up if you have friends, family, co-workers, etc. who you believe would be interested in the WGC and learning more about our organization, contact me and I'd be happy to send them an invite, along with information about the WGC.

The MOC meets the first Thursday of each month, alternating between zoom and (very) fun in person dinner meetings. If anyone is interested in joining this fun group of women, please contact me - we would love to have you!! Also, feel free to share any activity suggestions you have with me as well.

Donna Kahoe, Membership and Outreach Committee Chair

4th Annual Members' Choice Award

On Wednesday, January 17th, Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding was officially presented with the WGC Members' Choice Award by Membership and Outreach Chair Donna Kahoe and WGC member Jean Foulk, who nominated CTR for the award. CTR was grateful to the membership to be selected for the award and also to receive \$5991.61 to use in furtherance of its mission. Buttons, who was eager to participate in the ceremony and the photo shoot was also happy that CTR was nominated and selected! Congratulations to CTR!



Women's Giving Circle of Harford County / P.O. Box 94 / Bel Air, MD 21014

