

# Maryland Commission for Women

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 17, 2019

5 p.m.

45 Calvert Street, Annapolis, MD

### Commissioners Attending:

Yun Jung Yang, Chair T/C  
Tawanda Bailey, First Vice Chair  
Carole Jaar Sepe, Second Vice Chair  
Tammy Bresnahan  
Deborah Cartee  
Gloria Chang T/C  
Kristi Halford  
Eugenia Henry  
Lauren Lambert  
Patricia M. Lambert  
Bonnie Luna  
Brenda McChriston  
Ishrat Memon  
April Nyman

Corinna Shen  
Evelyne Steward  
Ummu Bradley Thomas  
Marylou Yam T/C

### Commissioners Absent:

Maureen Colburn  
Amanda Costley  
Melissa Curtin  
Roberta Pardo  
Tamara England Wilson

### Staff Attending:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director

## I. Call to Order.....Bailey

### A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by MCW First Vice Chair Bailey.

### B. Approval of Agenda

First Vice Chair Bailey called for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Nyman moved approval of the agenda. MCW Second Vice Chair seconded the motion which passed unanimously

### C. Approval of Minutes

First Vice Chair Bailey called for approval of the minutes of the September 19 MCW meeting. Commissioner Nyman moved approval, seconded by Commissioner Steward. The motion passed unanimously.

### D. Introduction of New Commissioner

Governor Hogan recently appointed Kristi Halford of Harford County to fill the seat formerly held by Lee Bachu whose second term on the MCW was complete in June of this year. First Vice Chair Bailey welcomed Commissioner Halford and asked her to introduce herself, and those in attendance to introduce themselves to her.

**II. Executive Committee Report.....Bailey**

**A. Status of Women in Maryland (SWIM) Research Project**

On September 16, MCW Chair Yang and the Executive Director met with the president of Psychometric Solutions to develop a schedule of meetings and progress on the report, which is to be complete and published in time to present at the 2020 Summit. Psychometric Solutions has sent the draft concept proposal for MCW review. The next meeting with Dr. Payton is Wednesday, October 23 at 1 p.m. Commissioners Yang, Sepe and Shen will attend to discuss the plan for the research.

**B. January 2020 MCW Meeting Location**

For **January 16**, the MCW will meet at the **Department of Natural Resources** office in the **Tawes State Office Building at 580 Taylor Avenue in Annapolis**. Parking is available across Taylor Avenue at Gate 6 of the Navy Stadium parking lot. Commissioners were asked to make note of this change on their calendars.

**C. CFW Roundtable Meeting at the MLAW Conference**

MLAW will hold its annual Fall Conference on November 23 at the Chesapeake Arts Center, in Brooklyn. MCW has invited all the county and city Commissions for Women in the state to send up to two representatives to the CFW Roundtable Meeting as our guests at this conference, as it has for the past several years. Seven CFWs have already registered their representatives. Some have indicated that they will send additional commissioners at their own expense.

**III. Unfinished Business**

**A. Howard County CFW Invitation.....McChriston**

The Howard County CFW invited the MCW commissioners who live in that county to attend its December 10 meeting at 7 p.m. in Columbia. Commissioners McChriston, Curtin and Memon plan to attend. The MCW officers and Executive Director were also invited.

**IV. New Business**

**A. 2020 Events Calendar**

When MCW Chair Yang attended the board meeting of the Maryland Women’s Heritage Center, it was suggested that the MCW develop and maintain a calendar of all the known scheduled events related to the commemoration of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The MCW, after some discussion, decided that it will take on this task but with the following parameters for inclusion in the calendar:

- Include only events in the state sponsored by public or non-profit organizations
- No fund-raising events will be included
- Include only events focused specifically on the commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment
- Develop a structure for submitting and posting calendar items
- Develop and post a disclaimer regarding the events listed (Commissioner Sepe will help with this.)

**B. Governor’s Proclamation and Congressional Delegation**

The MCW will request a proclamation from the Governor for Women’s Equality Day August 26, 2020. The same will be asked of the Maryland Senate and House of Delegates.

It was also recommended that the entire Maryland delegation to the U.S. Congress be invited to the reception at the close of the 2020 Summit.

**V. Committee Reports**

**A. PAL (Policy and Legislation) Committee.....Bresnahan**

A conference call has been scheduled for this committee for November 5 at 4 p.m. to begin developing the MCW’s legislative agenda for the 2020 session of the Maryland General Assembly.

Commissioner Bresnahan noted the tragic passing of Maryland Congressman Elijah Cummings on October 17. He served 14 years in the Maryland House of Delegates and the past 23 years as a U.S. Congressman from Maryland’s Seventh District. He was a champion for our state and for his district which includes Baltimore City and parts of Baltimore and Howard Counties. Commissioner Cartee noted that Congressman Cummings was also a strong and effective advocate for health care, including dental health. He was a towering figure in Maryland and national politics and will be sorely missed.

Commissioner Bresnahan reported that the regular primary for his Congressional seat is scheduled for April 28, but under state law, the seat should not be vacant for that long, as the regular election is not until November, 2020. State law requires that within 10 days of the vacancy occurring, the governor must issue a proclamation declaring that a special primary election and a special general election will be held to fill the vacancy.

The special primary election would then be held on a Tuesday that is at least 65 days after the date of the proclamation, and the special general election would be held on a Tuesday at least 65 days after the primary.

**B. 2019 ARC (Achievement & Recognition Ceremony) Committee.....Cartee**

The ARC Committee, which plans the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow Awards program, will continue meeting via conference call on the second Tuesday of each month until the ceremony in March 2020. At the suggestion of the Caucus of Maryland Women Legislators, the committee tried to move the ceremony from a Thursday to a Monday evening to make it easier for legislators to attend. However, the MSOB is not available for any Monday during the Maryland General Assembly, so the date will be Thursday, March 19, 2020; program at 4 – 6 p.m. and reception at 6 – 7:30 p.m. The theme for this year will be “Valiant Women: Their Legacy/Our Future. Opening date for nominations was September 30. Closing date for submission for nominations is November 1. Three commissioners are needed to serve on the Selection Committee for the Women of Tomorrow Awards. Commissioners L. Lambert, Memon and Pardo have volunteered for this task.

**C. 2020 Women’s Centennial Summit.....Henry**  
Commissioner Henry thanked Commissioner Steward for all her hard work and numerous site visits to the Westin Hotel Annapolis where it is hoped the Summit will be held on Wednesday, August 26, 2020.

Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, Adrienne Jones, has accepted our invitation to deliver the keynote address at the Summit: From the Right to Vote to the Right to Lead. She is the first woman and the first African American in the history of this state to serve as Speaker of the House.

Dr. Linda Singh, chair of Maryland’s 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Commission will bring greetings and conduct of the two planned seminars for the young women’s leadership seminar. Ignite National has also agreed to conduct the other. Commissioner Steward and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather have scheduled a meeting with the Ignite National staff to discuss the seminar.

DHS Secretary Lourdes Padilla has agreed to appropriate \$10,000 to the MCW budget to help support the Summit.

**VI. Liaison Reports**

**A. The Foundation for the MCW.....Shen**  
The Foundation board met earlier today and has almost completed the extensive process of transitioning from the Maryland WAG Foundation to The Foundation for the Maryland Commission for Women. It has finalized its plans for the fundraising /sponsorship campaign for the Summit and hope Commissioners will want to support this work.

**B. Maryland Women’s Heritage Center.....Yang**  
Commission Chair Yang attended the meeting of the Center’s Board on October 5 where it was suggested that the MCW collect and publish a calendar of events commemorating the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment anniversary. The Center is sponsoring a performance on October 19 celebrating the achievements of WWII spy Virginia Hall who was inducted in the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame in March 2019. MCW staff was asked to resend the invitation for this event.

**C. 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Commemoration Commission .....Thomas and Steward**  
An historic marker will be placed in Oakland and another in St. Mary’s County. The Commission is partnering with Notre Dame of Maryland University to sponsor the 2020 Women of the World (WOW) Festival on March 7 at the Institute of Maritime and Environmental Technology (IMET) at the harbor in Baltimore.

**D. MLAW.....Curtin**  
As reported earlier, MLAW’s annual Fall Conference is planned for November 23 at the Chesapeake Arts Center. Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, Adrienne Jones will be a featured speaker. At this conference, proposals for legislation the MLAW will support will be presented in the morning and the MCW will hold its CFW Roundtable meeting in the afternoon.

**E. 2020 Women Moving Forward Conference.....First Vice Chair Bailey**  
The WMF Conference is planned for April 11, 2020, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women. Commissioners Bailey and Curtin hope to attend the October 30 planning meeting at 6 p.m. and will keep the MCW informed as plans develop.

**F. Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholders Group.....Costley**  
No report as Commissioner Costley is ill and unable to attend tonight's meeting.

**G. Museum of Maryland Women's History.....Luna**  
No report this evening but Commissioner Luna will let the Commission know of any developments.

**H. UMD SAFE Center.....Costley**  
No report.

**I. Women's Legislative Briefing (WLB).....Colburn**  
No report as Commissioner Colburn was out of town and unable to attend tonight's meeting.

**VII. Staff Report.....Vaughan-Prather**

**A. National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW)**

One of the MCW volunteers continues work finding contact information for all the CFWs in the country so that NACW can reach out and invite their participation in the national survey – the Voices of Women in America. Well over 1000 women have completed the on-line survey so far. Commissioners were asked to take the survey this evening if they haven't already and to help with outreach to the many and various communities they represent.

**B. MCW Annual Report**

The report covering July 2018 – June 2019 has been printed and posted on the MCW website. MCW Chair Yang and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather provided a briefing on the annual report to DHS Secretary Lourdes Padilla and her staff on October 7. Copies will be brought to the MCW meeting in November.

**VIII. Announcements**

**A. Next Meeting Dates**

- Executive Committee: Conference call on November 14 at 4 p.m.
- **MCW Meeting: November 21 at 5 p.m. at 45 Calvert Street in Annapolis**
- No Meeting in December

**IX. Adjournment.....Yang**  
The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted*

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director  
Maryland Commission for Women

**APPROVED: November 21, 2019**