

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 18, 2024

5 p.m.

Virtual

Commissioners Attending:

Tawanda A. Bailey, Chair
Pier Blake
Jonathon Carrington
Gloria Dent
Essita Duncan
Judith Emmel
Maggi Gaines
Linda Han
Sarah Klein
Lauren M. Lambert
Patricia McHugh Lambert, 2nd Vice Chair
Christine Lee
Brenda J. McChriston
Maxine Griffin Somerville, 1st Vice Chair

Evelyne S. Steward
LaShaune Stitt
Lenita Walker
Monica Watkins
Tamara Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

Kathryn Fiddler

Staff Attending:

Tammy Wise, Management Associate

- I. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda and Minutes..... Chair Bailey**
The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Chair Bailey who welcomed the commissioners in attendance. Once a quorum was established, she called for approval of the agenda for tonight's meeting and the minutes of the November 16, 2023 meeting. Second Vice Chair P. Lambert moved approval of both. The motion was seconded by First Vice Chair Somerville and passed unanimously.
- II. Executive Committee Report.....Chair Bailey**
- A. Maryland State Libraries Speaker Request**
The state libraries provide a series of podcasts for the visually impaired and have invited a representative from the Commission to participate in an interview in February to be aired in March during Women's History Month. Unfortunately, the February slot is already taken. Chair Bailey reached out to them and is waiting on a response to see when they have availability.

III. Unfinished Business

A. Proposed Bylaws Amendments

Second Vice Chair P. Lambert and commissioners Dent and Klein volunteered to form a temporary “taskforce” to look over the current Bylaws and the previously proposed amendments and to consider if any other changes are needed. Commissioners received The Bylaws 30 days before voted on whether to accept the proposed changes. A clean draft of the current Bylaws with proposed amendments was provided to each commissioner in the packets for this evening’s meeting. Second Vice Chair P. Lambert moved to approve the Bylaws as amended and Commissioner Steward seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bailey called to ratify the vote to support the bills that will be introduced this year. Second Vice Chair P. Lambert so moved and First Vice Chair Somerville seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Taglines for 2024 Year of the Civil Rights

The Advocacy, Collaboration, and Engagement (ACE) Committee met and came up with two ideas for taglines: 1. Its name: Advocacy, Collaboration, and Engagement and 2. Lift as You Climb, meaning elevate women’s status in the state of Maryland and who can we collaborate with to accomplish this goal. If we choose, we could add the tagline to our email signatures as Commissioners, we can include a message on our website in support of the governor's 2024 initiative, we can encourage everyone to lift as they climb or advocate, and/or we could reach out to the local commissions to engage them in utilizing the same message. It could be announced at the March event in support of the governor. And if we want to go further, we could create some branded merchandise for upcoming events, either our events or women's groups events that we could perhaps either donate or sell with our tagline and the Commission logo. After some positive discussion, commissioner Blake called a motion to accept the taglines. Second Vice Chair P. Lambert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. New Business

A. Invitation from Freedom in Reproduction - Maryland (FIRM)Chair Bailey

FIRM is asking the MCW to join them as they launch a historic campaign on this year’s anniversary of Roe to support the constitutional ballot initiative on **Monday, January 22, at 1 PM on Lawyer’s Mall in Annapolis**. An email was sent earlier today with registration information.

B. Supporting the Governors 2024 initiative of a Year of Civil Rights...Steward/McChriston

ACE Committee: Collaborating around civil rights, they wish to reach out to the recent winners of the Young Women Leaders Awards program and invite them to participate in intergenerational circles of conversation and action with The Hall of Fame inductees, and perhaps some community advocates incorporating the SWIM reports and focusing on what challenges the young ladies face. Commissioner Wilson suggests, as the immediate past chair of the Commission on Civil Rights, that we focus on the 1964 Civil Rights Act for which the Governor’s initiative was centered around. Second Vice Chair P. Lambert suggests that we work on getting a CFW in the counties without one, as we’ve discussed in the past. Commissioner Lee asks that we consider a “lunch and learn” between the Hall of Fame inductees and the Young Women Leaders. Commissioner Klein reminds the commission that it's mid-January, and after this meeting we need to present to the Executive Committee and come back to the full commission to decide to move forward. Another challenge is how would it fit in with the schedule for the Hall of Fame event and we could be halfway through the Year of Civil Rights before we are able to get anything started. This is possibly an idea that has legs

for next year. After continued discussion it was decided that the ACE committee will present a full proposal to the Executive Committee and then to the full commission in February.

A. Committee Reports

A. Advocacy, Collaboration and Engagement (ACE) Committee.....Klein

The ACE committee outlined what they have been working on in Unfinished Business and New Business. They will continue to work on this new initiative and report back to the commission. Chair Bailey praised the committee on their work so far, highlighting that the taglines are impressive.

B. Policy and Legislation (PAL) Committee.....P. Lambert

1. Legislation

Maryland General Assembly Convened 1-10-2024

PAL Committee is monitoring 7 Bills

3 Bills Introduced and Hearings Scheduled:

- Prevention of Forced Infant Separation Act - Hearing 2/7 - File 2/5
- Human Trafficking - Hearing 1/31 - File 1/30
- Sexual Solicitation - Hearings 1/23 & 1/25

MLAW Legislative Briefing - Feb. 7th at 5 pm via Zoom. Commissioners can register themselves via the email that was sent out today.

MLAW released its Agenda (9 Bills) - 4 of our bills are a part of MLAW's Agenda

The nine bills selected are:

- **Sexual Crimes - Definition of Consent and Repeal of Force**
- **Sexual Solicitation of a Minor**
- Firearm Background Check Denial - Law Enforcement and Victim Notification
- **Joint resolution affirming the federal Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution**
- Home Care Worker Misclassification: Residential Service Agencies - Reimbursement - Personal Assistance Services
- **Dignity in Access to Healthcare Act**
- Criminal Injuries Compensation Board - Victims of Nonfatal Strangulation
- Wage Transparency
- Gender Affirming Care Protection Act

2. 2024 Women’s Legislative Briefing (WLB).....Klein

The event will be held at the Universities of Maryland at Shady Grove campus on Sunday, January 28. The Commission decided at its June 2023 planning meeting to sponsor the WLB at the “Opal” level which includes three admissions and an exhibit table. As a commission, we can pay for ten commissioners to attend in addition to the three admissions in the sponsorship. The Networking Breakfast is for leaders of women’s organizations and will begin at 10:00am. MCW Chair Bailey plans to attend the Networking Breakfast and the sessions. Commissioner Walker and Management Associate Wise will also be in attendance. The WLB will begin at 12:30pm. In between the Networking Breakfast and the keynote

speaker there will be time for registration, to mingle, and visiting the exhibit tables. After the keynote speaker there will be two sets of breakout sessions, including a session for emerging leaders. The briefing ends at 5:00pm.

C. ARC Committee..... Blake

HOF: We have received all of the biographies and confirmation that all of the inductees plan to be in attendance. Commissioner Walker will host each of the HOF inductees as they arrive.

MYWLA: We have received all of the biographies and quotes. Commissioner Dent will host each of the young ladies as they arrive.

Ceremony: We are on target with planning the ceremony. We're working with the First Lady's office to work out the logistics, hoping to get an extra half an hour. We are sure some, if not all of our dignitaries will want to speak. Chair Bailey led some discussion about how the ceremony went in previous years, highlighting the time constraint compared to when we held the ceremony in the Senate building before COVID.

VI. Liaison Reports

A. The Foundation for the Maryland Commission for Women (TFMCW)..... Klein

The key to fundraising will be based on what the commission's activities are going to be for the year. There will need to be some great initiatives in order to get people excited about donating to the Foundation, which is excited about the prospects.

B. Maryland Women's Heritage Center..... Chair Bailey

The Heritage Center is continuing to get their name out there by having a lot of different events, some centered on the arts among other things. The next meeting should be held in February.

C. Women Moving Forward Conference.....L. Lambert and Blake

No report.

D. Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholders Group.....Fiddler

No report.

E. UMD Safe Center..... First Vice Chair Somerville

They have been working on expanding their training to hospitality for human trafficking. So, they spend a great deal of time focusing on how they're training hospitality workers. Also, they typically will have bills that they are supporting in the legislature. I'm waiting to hear back from them on the bills that they are going to support because we could possibly sign on supporting their work.

F. Maryland Semiquincentennial (MD 250) Commission.....Emmel

The chairman of the commission is former Governor Paris Glendenning and the vice chair is Kitty O'Malley. There are about 35 members on the commission and our first meeting was an opportunity to get together and have a presentation from the American Association of State and Local History, who provided an overview of 250 Commission and what they were hoping to do to support it. At the meeting they broke the group down into three working groups and everyone was assigned to a group. I was assigned to the Civics working group and we had a very brief meeting at the end of December. We will look at Civics over the 250th 50 year history of Maryland and set up a call to action for civics in the future. There's a lot of work behind the scenes at the county level 250th anniversary organizations. So far, Howard and Anne Arundel counties are working on it and hopefully all the other counties will too. If anyone is interested in information, I will send a note out about your individual County. The next meeting of the full Commission is in April, but there will be monthly meetings for the working groups.

G. National Association of Commissions for Women..... Somerville
They have new leadership, and are planning on having their annual convention in Boston in July. There is no registration information for the conference yet, but that's what they've been focusing on for the last couple of months.

H. Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs.....Carrington
The Maryland Commission for LGBTQ Affairs had a meeting on January 8th. I was not able to attend but I have been in regular communication with Jeremy Browning, who is the point of contact person for this commission. He suggested that I look at the 2024 initiatives that they are proposing and working on as far as inclusion of the intersectional LGBTQ. As a commission, we may want to consider bringing him back in to talk about his work with the commission as it relates to our proposal of the Year of Civil Rights and inclusion. Possibly leveraging their resources in exchange for our resources in order to gain visibility and representation for our themes as they are. Chair Bailey is in support of having Mr. Browning brief the MCW. Second Vice Chair P. Lambert suggests him attending a virtual meeting for maximum attendance. It was decided that commissioner Carrington will reach out to Mr. Browning and invite him to our April meeting.

VII. Staff ReportBailey/Stitt

A. Transition Plans

Commissioners Stitt and Gaines will meet with six diverse applicants to narrow the prospects down to two or three candidates on January 30 and February 1. The final interviews will be held on February 12 with Chair Bailey, Angelique Salizan, and Secretary Lopez of DHS. Second Vice Chair P. Lambert suggests a social media background check to make sure the applicants align with our mission. Chair Bailey and commissioner Stitt agreed. Chair Bailey thanked commissioners Stitt, Gaines, and Steward, who provided some interview questions, for all of their input in the hiring of a new Executive Director.

VIII. Announcements

- A. February Executive Committee Meeting: Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. Virtual**
- B. February MCW Meeting: Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 5 p.m. VIRTUAL**

IX. Adjournment

No further business being brought before the Commission, Chair Bailey thanked the Commissioners for all their work. The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Drafted By: Tammy Wise, Management Associate

Submitted: February 9, 2024

Approved: February 15, 2024