



MARYLAND COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

JULY 1, 2017 – JUNE 30, 2018

MARYLAND COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

JULY 2017 – JUNE 2018

COMMISSIONERS

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A. DIANE WILLIAMS, VICE CHAIR (RET. MARCH 2018)

WANDRA ASHLEY-WILLIAMS, SECRETARY (RET. MARCH 2018)

HOMAYARA HAQUE AZIZ

TAWANDA BAILEY

MARIANNE HYANG NAM BRACKNEY (RET. JULY 2018)

TAMMY BRESNAHAN

DEBORAH CARTEE

GLORIA CHANG

MAUREEN G. COLBURN (APPT. MARCH 2018)

AMANDA L. COSTLEY (APPT. MARCH 2018)

LORNA P. FORDE (RET. JULY 2018)

NICOLE INGRAM (RET. APRIL 2018)

VELVET JOHNSON (RET. MARCH 2018)

LAUREN LAMBERT (APPT. APRIL 2018)

BONNIE NELSON LUNA

ISHRAT MEMON (APPT. JUNE 2018)

MARION C. MANSKI (RET. JULY 2018)

BRENDA MCCHRISTON (APPT. MARCH 2018)

APRIL NYMAN

ROBERTA PARDO (APPT. MARCH 2018)

PATRISHA M. ROBINSON (APPT. APRIL 2018)

ANITA RILEY (RET. MARCH 2018)

CAROLE JAAR SEPE

CORINNA YI-YUAN KUO SHEN

EVELYNE S. STEWARD (APPT. MARCH 2018)

UMMU BRADLEY THOMAS

TAMARA ENGLAND WILSON

MARYLOU YAM

YUN JUNG YANG

STAFF

JUDITH VAUGHAN-PRATHER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TAMMY WISE

MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATE

VOLUNTEERS

PROGRAM ASSISTANT: BEV THOMS,

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT INTERNS: AMBER LEE, YAEL HANADARI LEVY, SYDNEY YI

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MARYLAND COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

The Maryland Commission for Women was first established in 1965 and was set in state law in 1971. An office in the Department of Human Services, the Commission is a 25-member advisory board whose duties outlined in its enabling legislation include:

- Study the status of women in our state
- Recommend methods of overcoming discrimination
- Recognize women's accomplishments and contributions
- Provide informed advice to the executive and legislative branches of government on the issues concerning the women of our state

Commissioners are appointed by the Governor to four-year terms, with confirmation by the Maryland State Senate, and serve without compensation.



Members of the Maryland Commission for Women at the March 15, 2018 Hall of Fame/Women of Tomorrow Ceremony. Pictured from left to right, first row: Carole Jaar Sepe, Lorna Forde, Vice Chair A. Diane Williams, Chair Lee Bachu, Marianne Brackney, Tawanda Bailey and Bonnie Nelson Luna. Second row, L-R: Corinna Shen, Brenda McChriston, Maureen Colburn, Tamara Wilson, Executive Director Judith Vaughan-Prather, Ummu Bradley Thomas, Homayara Haque Aziz, April Nyman, Yun Jung Yang, Deborah Cartee, and Gloria Chang.

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY



The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) is the state’s primary social services provider, serving over one million people annually. DHS, through its 24 local departments of social services, aggressively pursues opportunities to assist people in economic need, provides preventive services, and protects vulnerable children and adults in each of Maryland’s 23 counties and Baltimore City. We are also home to the Maryland Commission for Women.

The Commission for Women helps DHS achieve its goals by serving as a voice for over half the population of our state – and for some of our most vulnerable residents.

The Commission is an advocate for the women and girls of Maryland. It is a valued advisor on issues including domestic violence and sexual assault, human trafficking, mothers and poverty, work and family, equal access to opportunity, and much more.

From 2016-2017, the Commissioners diligently traveled around the state asking the women of each region to talk about their concerns, as women. Hundreds of Maryland’s women and girls participated, lending their voices to this important project. The Voices of Maryland Women Initiative garnered valuable information, and generated many recommendations from this amazing project. We look forward to continuing a discussion around how to implement these initiatives.

We are inspired by the lives of the five extraordinary women who were inducted in the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame and the five exceptional young women who were honored with the “Women of Tomorrow Award” in March of this year. We commend the Commissioners’ work to recognize women’s contributions to our state’s history, and to champion young women who will lead us into the future.

DHS sincerely appreciates the hard work, expertise and time donated by the 25 volunteer members of the Commission to help make Maryland a place where women voices are heard. We are proud to have the Commission as our partner as we pursue our vision of a Maryland where women and families independently support themselves and are safe from abuse and neglect.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lourdes R. Padilla". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lourdes R. Padilla
Secretary, Maryland Department of Human Services

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

MYTHILI “LEE” BACHU



It has been my honor and my privilege to collaborate with 24 incredibly dedicated and caring commissioners over the past three years that I have served as chair of the Maryland Commission for Women. I am proud of all that we have accomplished, and I feel confident that the platform we have built of effective advocacy for the women and girls of our state is strong and will support the future work of the Commission.

The Commission’s signature projects, including the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame, the Women of Tomorrow Awards and our legislative advocacy in the Maryland General Assembly were remarkable successes in 2018. Our commissioners and our partners in the community all worked hard to ensure that women’s accomplishments are recognized and that women’s voices are heard in the halls of government.

The Commission for Women launched its Voices of Maryland Women project in July 2016 and continued its work on this initiative throughout this year. Altogether, we visited 19 jurisdictions from across the mountainous western panhandle to the lower Eastern Shore asking the women of Maryland to “talk to us” about the concerns they encounter in their lives. As we finish up this project, we realize that we have learned much. A report of the entire project will be published over the summer months, and a conference discussing its findings will be held in August. We look to our sister organizations across the state to collaborate with us in addressing the concerns raised.

As chair of the Commission for Women, I have also had the privilege to serve on the Board of Directors of the Maryland Women’s Heritage Center and the state’s Commission to Commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In 2020 – just 18 months from now – the nation will recognize the extraordinary and often forgotten campaign to gain the right to vote for American women. As we now struggle with more subtle and complex issues, we cannot forget the challenges the suffragists met and overcame in the struggle for this most basic of human rights. Elizabeth Cady Stanton once said:

“The happiest people I have known have been those who gave themselves no concern about their own souls, but did their uttermost to mitigate the miseries of others.”

I extend my deepest appreciation to A. Diane Williams and Wandra Ashley-Williams for their dedication as Vice Chair and Secretary over the past three years, to the chairs of our committees, and to all the commissioners who contributed their considerable time, talent and expertise to our work. Serving on the Commission for Women provides this opportunity – to advocate not for ourselves but for the women and girls of this state, to do everything we can to make their lives better. I hope that my time as Chair of this Commission has contributed to that effort.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JUDITH VAUGHAN-PRATHER



Fiscal Year 2018 was another year of challenges, changes and achievement for the Maryland Commission for Women. During the course of these twelve months, seven new commissioners (more than a quarter of all 25 positions) were appointed, and the same number completed their terms. Several of the retiring commissioners had served for many years and the contributions of all of them will be greatly missed. Meanwhile, the new talent and fields of expertise brought by our new commissioners is very much welcomed as we head into a new program year with much to do.

The Commission held its annual planning meeting on June 15, 2017 to set its agenda for the coming fiscal/program year. Its greatest investment of time and resources this past year was devoted to the completion of the Voices of Maryland Women Listening Tour and Survey project. The last of 19 public forums was held in November 2017, and the on-line survey was closed in December. Then the hard work of analyzing the data and developing a report of the project and its findings began.

The Commission's Legislation and Public Policy Committee again took on an ambitious legislative advocacy platform for the women of Maryland, engaging with state senators and delegates on thirteen legislative proposals of concern to the women of this state.

The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow Awards Ceremony, held on March 15, 2018 honored five extraordinary women and five outstanding girls, continuing a legacy that recognizes and memorializes women's achievements and contributions.

The Commission's Education and Outreach Committee published 55 "issue alerts" and supported the Women Moving Forward Conference at the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women. The Women's Health and Wellness Committee published 26 "health alerts" and developed new sections of the Commission's online Women's Health Information and Resource Directory. The Public Relations and Communications Committee continued the expansion of the MCW's social media presence and accessibility.

Reports for each of these committees follow, and the Commission engaged in a number of other important activities in its work to serve the women of Maryland:



- Commissioners Yang, Shen, Thomas and Nyman saw their work over the past year culminate in the incorporation, on June 16, 2017, of the newly established The Maryland WAG Foundation: The Fund for Maryland's Women and Girls. The Maryland WAG Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established to support the programs, initiatives and activities of the Maryland Commission for Women.



- Commission Chair Lee Bachu and Executive Director Judith Vaughan-Prather represented the Commission at the annual conference of the National Association of Commissions for Women in Buffalo, NY, July 12 – 16, 2017, where the MCW was honored with an Achievement Award for its Voices of Maryland Women Listening Tour project. MCW’s Executive Director served on the Board of Directors for the NACW throughout the year.
- Over the summer months of 2017, the Commission was fortunate to host two high school student interns, Sydney Yi of Sidwell Friends and Amber Lee of Centennial. In addition to their work on the Commission’s ongoing efforts, they also undertook a special research project for NACW, identifying and reaching out to every Commission for Women in the United States and gathering their most up-to-date contact information.

• The MCW Executive Director participated as a speaker at the orientation conference for the American Councils of International Education fellows on October 1, as part of a panel discussing citizen advocacy in public policy.

- The MCW was a “promotional partner” for the annual awards luncheon sponsored by the Maryland Women’s Business Center on October 4. Commissioner Forde represented the MCW at the event.
- The MCW supported the NAACP WIN (Women in the NAACP) event on Saturday, October 28 in Columbia. Commissioners Williams, Johnson, Thomas and Bachu represented the MCW.
- The Commission co-sponsored the annual Women’s Legislative Briefing held on January 28 at the Universities at Shady Grove. Chair Bachu, Vice Chair Williams, and the MCW staff represented the MCW and staffed the MCW’s exhibit at the event. Commissioners Bresnahan and Aziz participated as speakers in seminars at the event.
- Chair Bachu, Committee Co-Chair Yang and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather presented a briefing to the Women Legislators of Maryland on December 11, with a presentation on the Voices of Maryland Women Listening Tour.
- The MCW Executive Director served on the Maryland’s Legislature’s Family and Medical Leave Insurance Task Force until it completed its work and issued a report in December 2017.
- MCW sent a delegation to the February 8 MLAW Briefing and Reception, including Chair Bachu, Vice Chair Williams, Commissioner Riley and the MCW staff.
- Chair Bachu participated in an interview aired on the Comcast Newsmakers Show, discussing the MCW and its work. The Newsmakers show also conducted an interview with Leigh Ryan, who successfully nominated Emily Saunders Plummer for induction into the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame in March 2018. Segments of Comcast Newsmakers are broadcast to Comcast customers on Xfinity On Demand™, and to the general public at ComcastNewsmakers.com.
- MCW’s high school student intern, Yael Hanadari Levi, updated two of the MCW’s publications: “Who We Represent” and “STEM Resources for Girls” inserting current data and information on the women and girls of the state.
- On March 3, MCW Chair Bachu and Vice Chair Williams attended a ceremony organized by the Commission to Commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, where an historic marker was installed in Hyattsville at the location passed by the women’s suffrage march from New York to Washington D.C. in 1913.



- Staff retrieved “archived” files on the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame/Women of Tomorrow from a storage facility at DSS headquarters, and created a master file on all of the honorees and programs since 1985. This has already proved valuable as a request was received for family contact information for a 2003 posthumous inductee for whom a building in New York may be named.
- Staff represented the MCW at the Maryland Crime Victims’ Rights Conference at the University of Maryland College Park on April 12.
- The Executive Director represented the MCW at the re-naming of the Bethesda Library in Montgomery County in honor of former Congresswoman, Maryland state delegate and senator, and U.N. Ambassador Connie Morella on April 14.
- MCW’s high school student intern, Yael Hanadari Levi, of Walter Johnson, developed a chronology of the MCW’s work since 1965 when it was first established.
- The MCW office hosted a Professional Fellow from Azerbaijan, Nargiz Aliyeva, from April 27 to May 24. The Professional Fellows Program is funded by the U.S. Department of State and is coordinated by the American Councils for International Education.
- Chair Bachu represented the MCW at the Women of the World Conference on April 28 on the campus of Notre Dame of Maryland University.
- At its May meeting, the MCW received a briefing by Jeanne Martin, Maryland Chair of the Million Women Mentors, an initiative of STEMconnector, a national movement that supports the engagement of STEM mentors to increase the number of girls and women from school age to work age to persist and succeed in STEM programs and careers.



- On May 10, the MCW participated in The Big Dig, sponsored by AARP Maryland and the AARP Foundation, in cooperation with Real School Gardens, this is a community service event creating an intergenerational outdoor learning center at James McHenry Elementary School in southwest Baltimore. The MCW staff, professional fellow joined Commissioner Bresnahan and dozens of volunteers from AARP’s Experience Corp, to turn a vacant lot into a beautiful outdoor classroom and community garden, in a single rainy day!

- The MCW was a community co-sponsor of the “Moving from Awareness to Action Human Trafficking Symposium” held Saturday, April 21 in Laurel. Commissioner Yam served on the planning committee and on the agenda. Chair Bachu, Commissioner Yam, and Management Associate Wise attended.
- Commissioner Chang and Management Associate Wise represented the MCW at the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence seminar on domestic violence in the Asian American/Pacific Islander communities, in Lanham.
- Executive Director Vaughan-Prather and Professional Fellow Aliyeva joined the Chair of the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) on Monday, May 7 to meet with staff at the Institute for Women’s Policy Research (IWPR), the director of the International Women’s Forum and Leadership Foundation, and staff at the National Women’s Law Center.



VOICES OF MARYLAND WOMEN | LISTENING TOUR AND SURVEY

CO-CHAIRS: YUN JUNG YANG AND NICOLE INGRAM

MEMBERS: TAWANDA BAILEY, MARIANNE BRACKNEY, DEBORAH CARTEE, BONNIE LUNA, APRIL NYMAN, CAROLE JAAR SEPE, CORINNA SHEN, UMMU THOMAS, DIANE WILLIAMS, TAMARA WILSON, MARYLOU YAM



The Commission launched its Voices of Maryland Women Listening Tour in July 2016 and traveled more than 3000 miles across the state over the next 18 months conducting a series of 19 public forums inviting women to “talk to us” about the challenges they face in their everyday lives. During this time, the Commission also conducted an on-line survey, in four languages (English, Spanish, Chinese and Korean), so that women who could not get to the forums could still lend their voices to the project.

The goals of this initiative have been to:

- Assess the needs of women across Maryland’s diverse regions
- Identify and define challenges facing the women of our state
- Strengthen collaboration with and among local women’s groups, service providers and county Commissions for Women
- Develop an action plan to address identified issues

Twelve listening sessions were conducted in the last fiscal year and seven more were held in fiscal year 2018. The listening sessions were organized in collaboration with the 14 county Commissions for Women across the state. Additional sessions were held at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women, the Women of the World Conference and with the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland. At each session, the participants identified challenges and listed steps they thought would help address those issues in their communities. For each session, a report was written identifying all the issues discussed and the “top five” issues for that community. Those reports are published on the MCW’s website.

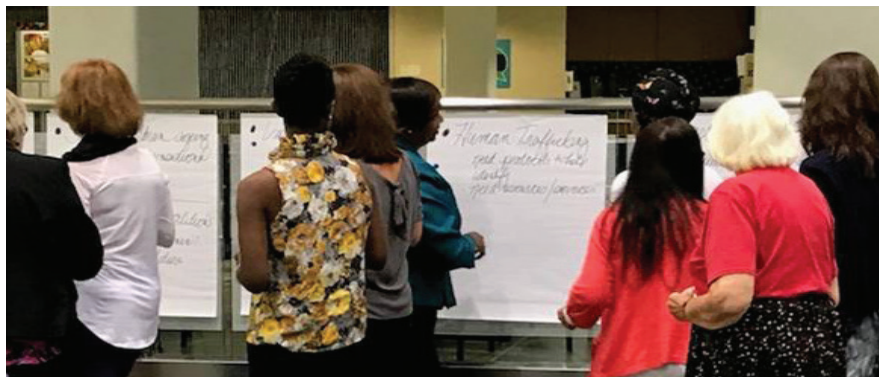
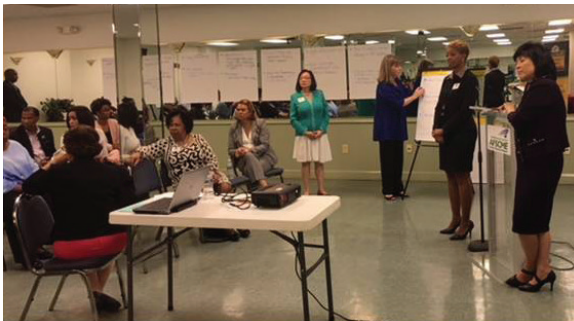
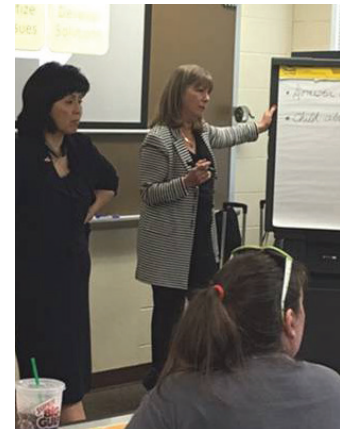
The destinations that completed the Listening Tour during the first half of this fiscal year were:

July 11, 2017	Harford County	Abingdon Library, Abingdon
August 9, 2017	Allegany County	Allegany College, Cumberland
September 28, 2017	St. Mary’s County	Chesapeake Building, Leonardtown
October 17, 2017	Worcester County & Lower Shore	Worcester County Board of Education
October 23, 2017	Baltimore City	AFSCME Building, Baltimore City
October 24, 2017	Mid and Upper Eastern Shore	Chesapeake College, Wye Mills
November 6, 2017	Girl Scouts of Central Maryland	McDaniel College, Westminster

Altogether, more than 1400 women and men lent their voices to this initiative. The forums attracted 723 Maryland residents and another 684 completed online surveys. In a wonderful and unanticipated development, the session hosted by the Baltimore City Council Vice President Sharon Green Middleton resulted in the immediate re-establishment of the Commission for Women in Baltimore City.

With the forums completed and the on-line survey closed in December, 2017, work began on analyzing the data and determining the top five issues for women across the state. The MCW was fortunate to be able to contract with a Ph.D. Sociologist to help with the data analysis and report writing.

A conference is scheduled for August 18, 2018 to release the report to the public and to discuss further how county Commissions for Women and others may address the challenges identified.



LEGISLATION AND PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

CHAIR: COMMISSIONER TAMMY BRESNAHAN

MEMBERS: WANDRA ASHLEY-WILLIAMS, ANITA RILEY, CAROLE SEPE, DIANE WILLIAMS, TAMARA WILSON



The Maryland Commission for Women's enabling legislation charges it with the responsibility to "inform the executive and legislative branches of government on issues concerning women, including offering testimony on these issues before legislative and administrative bodies." To carry out that duty, the Commission identified 13 bills that impact women and were considered by the Maryland General Assembly.

During the 2018 Legislative Session, the Commission supported with testimony on the following legislation:

- **HB 1/SB 2 – the Rape Survivor Family Protection Act**
This legislation was passed and signed by the Governor. It will permit a court to terminate the parental rights of rapists when a child is conceived as a result of the assault.
- **HB 1109 - Discrimination in Employment – Conditions Related to Childbirth**
The bill did not pass, but it would have clarified Maryland's pregnancy accommodation law to ensure that pregnant and new mothers with a medical need for workplace accommodations are provided reasonable accommodations and would have prohibited employers from forcing them to use leave if they can be reasonably accommodated.
- **HB 908/SB 271 – Health Insurance Coverage of Fertility Preservation Procedures for Iatrogenic Infertility**
The legislation was passed and signed by the Governor. It requires that insurers provide coverage for certain fertility preservation procedures necessary for cancer patients.
- **HB 1303/SB 491 – Final Permanent Protective Order**
The bill passed and was signed by the Governor. It expands the circumstances under which the court must issue permanent protective orders.
- **HB 353/SB 298 and HB 301/SB270 – Repeat Sexual Predator Prevention Act**
The legislation failed but as proposed would have permitted prosecutors to introduce evidence of a pattern of predatory behavior to rebut defenses in child sex assault cases.
- **HB 797/SB 598 – Correctional Services – Inmates – Menstrual Hygiene Products**
The legislation was passed and signed by the Governor. It mandates that correctional facilities have written policies and procedures that require the provision, at no cost, of feminine hygiene products to incarcerated women.

In addition to this work, the Commission also participated in the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) although it did not sign onto the MLAW legislative platform this year. A delegation of commissioners and staff attended the MLAW Annual Fall Conference in Columbia and its legislative wrap-up session in the spring in Annapolis. Commission Chair Lee Bachu and Secretary Wandra Ashley-Williams both served as members of the MLAW Board of Directors.

The Commission was also an active sponsor of the annual Women's Legislative Briefing in January in Rockville, contributing a financial sponsorship, hosting an exhibit table, and providing Commissioners Tammy Bresnahan and Dr. Homayara Aziz as speakers for this large conference of women from all across the state.

2018 MARYLAND WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

CHAIR: MARIANNE BRACKNEY

MEMBERS: DEBORAH CARTEE, BONNIE LUNA, APRIL NYMAN, CORINNA SHEN, DIANE WILLIAMS, YUN JUNG YANG

2018 MARYLAND WOMEN OF TOMORROW

CO-CHAIRS: LORNA FORDE AND CAROLE JAAR SEPE

MEMBERS: MARIANNE BRACKNEY, UMMU BRADLEY THOMAS, DIANE WILLIAMS, YUN JUNG YANG

On March 15, 2018, a crowd of nearly 300 attended the ceremony celebrating the accomplishments of Maryland women and young girls. The Maryland Commission for Women along with the Women Legislators of the Maryland General Assembly inducted five women into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame at a program in the Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis. The ceremony included the introduction of five middle and high school students who won the Women of Tomorrow Award. Senator Susan Lee guided the program as Mistress of Ceremonies. Maryland's First Lady Yumi Hogan presented a proclamation of Women's History Month in this state and presented each of the honorees with a citation from Governor Larry Hogan.

The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame was established in 1985 as a joint initiative of the Commission for Women and the Women Legislators to recognize and honor Maryland women whose accomplishments are of historic significance to the state and to provide an archive of their biographies. Since 1985, more than 175 Maryland

women have been inducted into the Hall of Fame including Rachel Carson, Harriet Tubman, Clara Barton, Billie Holiday, Henrietta Lacks and Former Congresswoman and Ambassador Connie Morella. The Maryland Women's Heritage Center maintains a physical exhibit of the Hall of Fame:

www.mdwomensheritagecenter.org. The biographies of all the inductees are posted on the website of the Maryland State Archives: <http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/educ/exhibits/womenshall/html/whflist.html>.

The Calls for Nominations for both the Hall of Fame and the Women of Tomorrow Awards were issued in October, 2017. For the Hall of Fame, the Commission received 17 nominations of extraordinary women from all walks of life and from all across the state. An independent, all-volunteer selection committee was formed to review the submissions and make the difficult decision of whom to induct into the Hall of Fame in 2018. The Selection



Lee Bachu, MCW Chair and First Lady Yumi Hogan



Marianne Brackney

Committee members included:

- Theresa Foster, President, Business and Professional Women of Maryland
- Linda Mahoney, Maryland Women's Heritage Center
- Eileen Menton, President, American Association of University Women (AAUW Maryland)
- Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, Maryland General Assembly
- Sheila Woodard, Board of Directors, Maryland Women's Business Center

The individuals inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in 2018 are:

- **Sandra I. Barnes, Esq.**, Assistant Maryland Attorney General
- **Sandra Williams Ortega, Ph.D.**, Maryland's First African American Woman Commissioned U.S. Air Force Officer
- **Emily Saunders Plummer** (posthumous), Courageous Enslaved Woman, Inspiring Mother
- **Rita L. Robinson, Ph.D.**, Educator, Community Leader
- **Hattie N. Washington, Ph.D.**, Educator, Founder of Aunt Hattie's Place



Carole Jaar Sepe and Lorna Forde

The Women of Tomorrow Award was established by the Commission for Women in 1997 to recognize and commend extraordinary young women who have demonstrated a commitment to leadership, community service and academic excellence. Nominations are received from educators, civic, community and religious leaders across the state.

This year, 79 students were nominated, representing 20 of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City, and 56 different schools. An all-volunteer selection committee reviewed the nominations, and met in Annapolis to make the final decision.

The members of the 2018 Women of Tomorrow Selection Committee were:

- Violet M. Apple, CEO, Girl Scouts of Central Maryland
- Dr. Debra Franklin, Dean of the School of Arts, Sciences and Business at Notre Dame of Maryland University
- Shelly M. Gross-Wade, Board of Directors, Maryland Women's Business Center
- Delegate Marice Morales, Maryland General Assembly
- Michelle Siri, Esq., Executive Director, Women's Law Center of Maryland

From that large pool of outstanding students, the five honorees selected were:

- **Amelia Claire Smith, 8th Grade**, Walkersville Middle School, Frederick County
- **Vivian Flanagan, 11th Grade**, Severna Park High School, Anne Arundel County
- **Faith Kean, 12th Grade**, Winston Churchill High School, Montgomery County
- **Chelsea Mikal, 11th Grade**, Mt. Hebron High School, Howard County
- **Sarah Ronayne, 12th Grade**, Kent Island High School, Queen Anne's County

This year, for the first time, the Commission for Women partnered with the newly-established Maryland WAG Foundation – The Fund for Maryland's Women and Girls to develop financial support for the ceremony. Generous support was donated by Platinum Sponsor FIRMA Clinical Research and an anonymous donor, Gold Sponsors: PNC Bank and DS Federal, and Silver Sponsors AARP Maryland and every member of the WAG Foundation's Board of Directors. In addition, the Prince George's County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc., Martha D. Blaxall, Chiling Tong and Carol Trawick were all Bronze Sponsors. The Maryland State Conference of the NAACP was a Supporter of the event, and Friends included Leadership Prince George's, Inc., Tara Balfe Clifford, Maureen Colburn, Melissa Hough Curtin, Linda Mahoney and Carole Jaar Sepe. Their donations, plus a number of smaller donations from attendees were all deposited to the Maryland WAG Foundation.



2018 Maryland Women's Hall of Fame Inductees (L-R): Dr. Rita L. Robinson, Dr. Leigh Ryan (nominator for Emily Saunders Plummer), Sandra I. Barnes, Esq., Dr. Sandra Williams Ortega, Maryland First Lady Yumi Hogan, Dr. Hattie N. Washington, and Commissioner Marianne Brackney



2018 Maryland Women of Tomorrow (L-R): Commissioner Lorna Forde, Amelia Claire Smith, Vivian Flanagan, Chelsea Mikal, Faith Kean, Sarah Ronayne, Commissioner Carole Jaar Sepe, with Maryland First Lady Yumi Hogan.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRS: TAWANDA BAILEY AND REV. DR. TAMARA ENGLAND WILSON

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: LORNA FORDE, VELVET JOHNSON, DIANE WILLIAMS, YUN JUNG YANG



Tamara Wilson

The Education and Outreach Committee is a standing committee of the Commission for Women. Its charge is to identify, develop and disseminate educational messages on issues of concern to the women of Maryland. Its responsibilities include developing “issue alerts” sent to a substantial e-mail distribution list and supporting the Women Moving Forward Conference at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women.

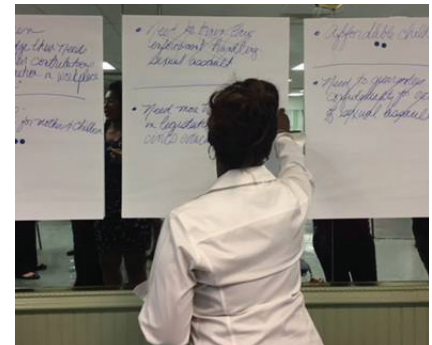


Tawanda Bailey

During the course of fiscal year 2018, a total of 55 e-mail issue alerts were developed and sent to a distribution list of over 1,250 and to Commissions for Women around the state. The alerts covered a wide range of issues and events including announcements of programs of special interest to women, the Governor’s STEM Initiative, Equal Pay Day, International Women’s Day, Black History Month, Women’s History Month, and much more.

The Women Moving Forward Conference at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women was held April 14, 2018 at the prison. About 150 MCIW residents attended the conference which is designed to help incarcerated women who are within 9 to 18 months of release, prepare for their return to community and family. The Commission for Women contributed a \$200 sponsorship to support the conference. Commissioners Bailey and Johnson served on the planning committee.

The Education and Outreach Committee provided substantial support to the Voices of Maryland Women initiative this year, with its members helping to publicize the forums, serving as co-facilitators and helping to staff the forums. The Committee also began plans for a conference scheduled for August 18 to release the report of the Voices project.



WOMEN'S HEALTH AND WELLNESS

CHAIR: DR. MARYLOU YAM

MEMBERS: MARIANNE BRACKNEY, DEBORAH CARTEE, GLORIA CHANG, DIANE WILLIAMS



The Health and Wellness Committee developed and distributed a total of 26 “health alerts” to our distribution lists that now total more than 1,250 recipients. They covered:

- Heart Health
- Thyroid Awareness
- Cervical Health
- Human Trafficking
- Holiday Stress
- Cancer Screening
- Violence Against Women
- Sexual Assault
- Child Abuse Prevention
- Endometriosis
- Nutrition
- Teen Dating Violence
- Senior Health
- Elder Abuse
- Alzheimer's & Brain Health
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention
- Osteoporosis
- National Women's Health Week
- Physical Fitness & sports
- Skin Cancer
- Ovarian Cancer
- Breastfeeding
- Breast Cancer

The committee also created a comprehensive document on the issue of Human Trafficking in Maryland, listing information and resources for individuals, advocates and service providers. This fact sheet is now posted on the Commission's website in the online Women's Health Information and Resource Directory. Work also began on the development of an in-depth fact sheet on women and drug abuse and addiction. Once this work is completed, the document will be published on the Commission's website in the Women's Health Information and Resource Directory, as well.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

CHAIR: HOMAYARA HAQUE AZIZ, MD

MEMBERS: TAWANDA BAILEY, NICOLE INGRAM, DIANE WILLIAMS



The Communications and Public Relations Committee focused on enhancing the Commission's social media presence. A new more attractive format for issue and health alerts was developed and instituted aimed at reaching a wider audience, including young media-savvy women.

The Commission's webpage received a total of 3571 page views, with an average time on page of over two minutes each. The most popular pages were the biographies of the Commissioners, and the Hall of Fame/Women of Tomorrow programs. The Commission published 62 posts, announcing news of its projects and activities on Facebook and its “followers” on Facebook increased by nearly 20% over the past year.



Maryland National Guard Adjutant General Linda Singh, with MCW Chair Lee Bachu and MCW Vice Chair Diane Williams at the March 3 Ceremony.



Maryland Commission for Women
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