

# Maryland Commission for Women

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 21, 2019

5 p.m.

45 Calvert Street, Annapolis, MD

### Commissioners Attending:

Yun Jung Yang, Chair  
Tawanda Bailey, First Vice Chair  
Carole Jaar Sepe, Second Vice Chair  
Lee Bachu TC  
Deborah Cartee  
Gloria Chang  
Maureen Colburn  
Amanda Costley  
Melissa Curtin TC  
Eugenia Henry  
Lauren Lambert  
Bonnie Luna TC  
Brenda McChriston  
Ishrat Memon  
Roberta Pardo

Corinna Shen  
Evelyne Steward  
Ummu Bradley Thomas  
Marylou Yam

### Commissioners Absent:

Homayara Aziz  
Tammy Bresnahan  
April Nyman  
Tamara England Wilson

### Staff Attending:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director  
Tammy Wise, Management Associate

## I. Call to Order.....Yang

### A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by MCW Chair Yang. She called for approval of the agenda for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Thomas moved approval of the agenda. Commissioner Colburn seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

### B. Approval of Minutes of the January 17, 2019 MCW Meeting

Commissioner Lambert moved approval of the minutes as submitted. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, passed unanimously.

## II. Executive Committee Report.....Yang

### A. Ratify Email Vote on Status of Women in Maryland (SWIM) Project Proposal

On January 31, Chair Yang, First Vice Chair Bailey and Second Vice Chair Sepe met over lunch and discussed a possible new project for the Commission for Women – a research project to examine the status of women in the state analyzing statistics in existing data bases such as the Census, police reports, etc. Their plan was to develop a proposal to present to the Commission for its consideration. If funding could be found, a research firm would be hired to conduct the data analysis and write the report with a goal to release the findings and

recommendations at the 2020 Women’s Leadership Conference in August of that year. A few days later, the Chair met staff from the Governor’s office at an unrelated event. She mentioned the proposed project and was asked to send a brief outline of the proposal, immediately as budget decisions are already being made for the coming year. A proposal was drafted and submitted to the full Commission for a vote via email. Thirteen commissioners responded, and the vote was unanimous approval for the project.

Commissioner Colburn moved ratification of that vote. Commissioners Steward seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**B. Ratify Email Vote on Policy and Legislation (PAL) Committee Proposed  
Legislative Agenda**

The Maryland General Assembly (MGA) is in session each year from mid-January to mid-April and considers thousands of bills in that time. It is always a very fast-moving process. On February 12, once it could be known which bills would be considered this year, the PAL Committee sent the Commission a list of seven bills (all but one cross filed in both the Senate and the House) that it recommended the Commission support this year, asking for a vote via email to approve this list as the Commission’s legislative agenda for 2019. By a vote of 18 – 1, the agenda was approved. Commissioner Sepe moved that the Commission ratify this vote. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Colburn, passed unanimously. Letters in support of all 13 bills have been written. Commissioner Bresnahan, chair of the PAL Committee, will deliver the hard copies of the testimony to each MGA committee when hearings are held on the legislation.

Chair Yang thanked Commissioner Bresnahan and the PAL Committee for all their hard work in developing the proposed legislative agenda and testimony.

**C. Commissioner Confirmation Hearings**

Commissioners Curtin, Henry, Lambert and Memon were appointed during the recess between the 2018 and 2019 sessions of the Maryland General Assembly. Since the Governor’s appointments must be confirmed by the Senate, they have been scheduled for confirmation hearing in the Senate Executive Nominations Committee. Commissioners Henry, Lambert and Memon attended their hearing on February 18. Commissioner Curtin is scheduled for a hearing on March 4.

**III. Unfinished Business**

**A. Emily Saunders Plummer Event.....Bailey and Thomas**

Emily Saunders Plummer, a woman enslaved on the Three Sisters plantation in Lanham in the 1800s, was inducted in the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame last year. A reception in her honor and celebrating her inclusion was held on Sunday, February 10 at the Riversdale Mansion, highlighted by a lecture by Professor Leigh Ryan who submitted her nomination for the Hall of Fame. Commissioners Bailey and Thomas represented the Commission at the event.

**IV. New Business**

**A. MCW Representation at University of Maryland at Baltimore Exhibit.....Cartee**

Commissioner Cartee has been invited to a reception featuring the paintings of Maryland First Lady Yumi Hogan on Monday March 25 at the Weise Gallery in Baltimore. Commissioner

Cartee offered to represent the MCW at the reception, and by the consensus of the MCW, she was authorized to do so.

**B. NOW/MWHC Conference.....Commissioners Bailey and Sepe**

The Maryland chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and the Maryland Women’s Heritage Center (MWHC) are planning a Women’s History Conference: “The Power of Women: Past, Present & Future” on Sunday, March 31 in Frederick.

Commissioners Bailey and Sepe have been invited to participate as speakers in the panel discussion, representing the MCW. By consensus, the MCW approved their participation as members of the MCW. Commissioners Lambert and Memon will also attend.

**V. Committee Reports**

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

No further report other than the discussion under item II B.

**B. 2020 Women’s Leadership Conference.....Henry**

The committee met after last month’s MCW meeting. It is tentatively decided to schedule the conference for Wednesday, August 19, and to make it a one-day event whose target audience of about 200 women of Maryland. A registration fee will be charged with a significant discount for students. The goal will be to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, to recognize accomplished women in our state and to provide leadership training, so the theme will be along the lines of “Celebrate, Commemorate and Educate.” The Committee discussed offering seminars on Women’s Leadership in Law, Health, Science, Business, International Trade and Youth. Another Committee meeting will be scheduled before the next MCW meeting.

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

The ARC Committee met on February 11 and developed a list of “day of” responsibilities, inviting each of the commissioners to take these on. This year, the Commission will handle the Hall of Fame honoree interviews and all photography and videography will be handled by DHS staff. Commissioner Lambert suggested sending the interview questions to the honorees in advance. Commissioners Pardo and Thomas have volunteered to create a combined photo and video slide show that can be posted on the MCW’s website, with clips from the honoree interviews interspersed with photos from the ceremony. Commissioner Cartee reviewed the biographies of the women to be inducted, and much discussion followed regarding the structure of the ceremony and reception. Chair Yang encouraged all the Commissioners to act as hosts for this event.

**VI. Liaison Reports**

**A. Maryland Women’s Heritage Center.....Yang**

The MWHC Board met earlier this month and has a few events planned for Women’s History Month in March. The Board held a very serious discussion about the future of the Center and has some very important decisions to make as it moves forward. Right now, the Center has no physical location. The panels for the Hall of Fame are being stored in various locations. Staff will inquire if it is possible to get digital copies of those panels to see if we could turn them into a presentation of some kind that might be more mobile.

- B. 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Commemoration Commission.....Bachu and Thomas**  
 This commission met last week. It has submitted a budget proposal of \$50,000 for an event to be held in March of 2020, and hopes to hold a tea with stakeholders in the near future. It is scheduled to meet again in March.
- C. MLAW.....Curtin**  
 The MLAW legislative briefing and reception was held on February 20 and despite inclement weather, had a good sized attendance. The briefing was very informative, and MLAW is now implementing its agenda – tracking the bills, organizing supporters and submitting testimony at the hearings.
- D. 2019 Women’s Legislative Briefing.....Colburn**  
 The Briefing was held Sunday, January 27 at the Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville. This is the largest annual women’s conference in the state with an attendance of 500 – 700. Commissioner Bresnahan and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather participated as panelists. Commission Chair Yang attended the President’s Networking Session and Management Associate Tammy Wise created and staffed the MCW exhibit, with assistance from high school student Sidney Yi. The MCW was a community co-sponsor of the Briefing. The keynote speaker was one of the founders of the “Time’s Up Movement.”
- E. Maryland WAG Foundation.....Shen**  
 The WAG Foundation Board of Directors met this evening. Commissioner Steward presented a draft strategic plan for fundraising which was well received by the Board. 2019 will be the second year that the WAG Foundation will sponsor the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame/Women of Tomorrow Ceremony.
- F. Women Moving Forward Conference.....Curtin**  
 A three-hour conference is planned at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women on Saturday, April 13. To be consistent with the Warden’s priorities, it will feature round-table discussions with professional facilitators focusing on mental health issues. The next planning meeting is March 12.
- G. Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholders Group**  
 No report as Commissioner Aziz was not in attendance.
- H. Museum of Maryland Women’s History.....Cartee**  
 Efforts to establish the museum are underway. The foundation held its first fundraising event earlier this month. It is establishing a new award program, the Pathfinders Award, recognizing prominent women.
- I. Health Information Exchange (HIE) Policy Board**  
 Commissioner Wilson is the MCW’s liaison to this new board. Although she was unable to attend tonight’s meeting, she reported that the meeting originally scheduled for February 26 has been moved to March. She hopes to have something to report at the next MCW meeting.
- J. UMD SAFE Center.....Costley**  
 The Center is developing training for attorneys dealing with victims of human trafficking and hopes the MCW will help publicize the program when it is ready.

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

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

NACW is planning a “mini conference” in Chicago this summer and will hold its larger conference in Loudon County, Virginia in the summer of 2020.

**B. Filipino Delegation Visit**

The MCW was invited by the World Trade Center Institute in Baltimore to meet with a delegation of women from the Philippines on Friday, March 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the MCW office. Commissioner yang will attend. All commissioners are invited to participate.

**VIII. Announcements**

**A. Hall of Fame Inductee Deaths**

Sadly, the MCW learned of the passing of two members of the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame. Bunny Sandler, inducted in 2010, and widely considered to be the “Godmother of Title IX, passed away on January 5. Dr. Rita Robinson, who was just inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2018, passed away on January 8. Both had long histories of advocacy for women’s rights, and both will be missed.

**B. Next Meeting Dates:**

Executive Committee: March 14 at 4 p.m. and April 11 at 4 p.m. via conference calls  
Hall of Fame/Women of Tomorrow Ceremony: Thursday, March 21 at 5:30 p.m.  
MCW Meeting: April 18 at 5 p.m.

**IX. Adjournment.....Yang**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted*

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director  
Maryland Commission for Women

**APPROVED: April 18, 2019**