

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 15, 2018

5 p.m.

Conference Call

Commissioners Attending:

Yun Jung Yang, Chair
Tawanda Bailey, First Vice Chair
Carole Jaar Sepe, Second Vice Chair
Lee Bachu
Tammy Bresnahan
Deborah Cartee
Gloria Chang
Maureen Colburn
Amanda Costley
Melissa Curtin
Eugenia Henry
Bonnie Luna
Brenda McChriston
Ishrat Memon
April Nyman

Roberta Pardo
Corinna Shen
Evelyne Steward
Ummu Bradley Thomas
Tamara England Wilson
Marylou Yam

Commissioners Absent:

Homayara Aziz
Lauren Lambert

Staff Attending:

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

I. Call to Order.....Chair Yang

Due to severe weather, today's meeting was changed to a conference call as permitted by the MCW Bylaws. Commission Chair Yang and Commissioner Shen joined the MCW staff at the MCW office to conduct the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by MCW Chair Yang who welcomed those in attendance and thanked the commissioners for their flexibility in the changing the meeting to a conference call. She called for approval of the agenda for tonight's meeting, stating that the "Chair's Report" section will be, hereafter, called the "Executive Committee Report" as it is really a report of the Executive Committee Meeting each month. Commissioner McChriston moved approval of the agenda with that amendment. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Chair Yang then called for approval of the minutes of the October 18 meeting. Commissioner Memon moved approval of the minutes as submitted. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Henry, passed unanimously.

II. Executive Committee Report.....Chair Yang

A. 2018 CFW Roundtable Meeting

The Commissions for Women Roundtable meeting will be held this Saturday, November 17, in conjunction with the annual fall conference of the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) on the campus of Notre Dame of Maryland University in Baltimore. The MCW invited each of the 15 county/city CFWs in the state to send a delegation of two commissioners, and the MCW will cover the cost of their attendance. So far, 11 of the county/city CFWs have accepted the invitation. Some are sending more than two delegates, at their own expense. Along with Chair Yang, Commissioners Bailey, Costley and Sepe will make presentations to the group about the Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow Awards, and the Listening Tour project and its findings. In addition, Mary Margaret Revell Goodwin, founder of the Museum of Maryland Women’s History initiative, Amanda Rodriguez of the Maryland SAFE Center for Victims of Human Trafficking will speak about their work and how county/city CFWs can help. In addition to the four Commissioners making presentations (Bailey, Costley, Sepe and Yang) during the meeting, Commissioners Bachu, Chang, Curtin, McChriston, Steward, Wilson, and Yam are all registered to attend.

B. Maryland Mother of the Year Award

In the time since the last meeting, the Governor’s Office informally asked the MCW for recommendations of potential nominees from Maryland for the Mother of the Year Award, an annual honor sponsored by American Mothers, Inc. The office forwarded the names of two Maryland women and the Governor selected Cheryl Whitaker to nominate. Ms. Whitaker is the mother of three sons, and when her oldest faced life-threatening kidney disease, she donated one of her own kidneys to save his life. Commissioners Pardo and Yang attended the Governor’s Citation Presentation Ceremony in the State House on November 2.

C. Women’s Bar Association Award

On November 13, Commission Chair Yang was presented the Rita C. Davidson Award by the Maryland Women’s Bar Association at a ceremony in Hanover. Also receiving the award was Michelle Siri, Executive Director of the Women’s Law Center of Maryland. Chair Yang thanked the commissioners who attended the event, saying that she believes the award honors the Commission for Women, not just her, for all its work, especially on the Voices of Maryland Women Listening Tour.

D. MCW Meeting Schedule

Chair Yang reminded the commissioners that there is no MCW meeting in December, but the committees, especially the ARC and the PAL Committees will be hard at work in the interim. The next MCW meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 17 at 5 p.m. in Annapolis.

E. Rosie the Riveter Bill

The MCW received a last-minute request on November 8 to support an effort to recognize American women who contributed to the World War II effort. On Tuesday, November 13 the Spirit of ’45 and American Rosie the Riveter Association planned to rally volunteers in Washington D.C. with “Rosie” Mae Krier. This Congressional year is the final opportunity to gain passage of the Gold Medal Act legislation before the 115th Congress adjourns on January 3, 2019. As the country is rapidly losing this older generation of women, they requested assistance with sharing this call for volunteers. The Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal Act was introduced in House of Representatives on February 2, 2018. This bill directs the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House

of Representatives to make appropriate arrangements for the award of a single Congressional Gold Medal to “Rosie the Riveters” (i.e., any female individual who held employment or volunteered in support of the war efforts during World War II), in recognition of their contributions to the nation and the inspiration they have provided to ensuing generations. The medal will be displayed at the National Museum of American History, which is urged to make the medal available for display at other locations associated with the Rosie the Riveters. After coordinating with the DHS Intergovernmental Affairs office, the MCW sent the request for support out to its distribution lists.

III. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was brought before the Commission.

IV. New Business

Commissioner Sepe, noting the importance of collaboration with the other Commissions for Women in our state, asked if we should invite them all to send us the minutes of their meetings so that we could stay informed of their activities and possibilities for partnerships. It was decided that the MCW office does not have the capacity to handle minutes from 15 different CFWs, on top of its own work. It was then suggested that the MCW consider asking each of the its commissioners to serve as a liaison between the MCW and the CFWs in their home communities. The subject was left open for further discussion.

V. Committee Reports

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

Last week, elections were held for all 171 members of the Maryland House of Delegates and 47 Senators. Of the 188 seats in the Maryland General Assembly, 71 will now be held by women (61 Democrats and 10 Republicans). That brings the representation of women to 38% - the highest in the Maryland legislature since 2005. At the federal level, both U.S. Senators and all eight Representatives are men, one is a person of color. The 2019 Maryland General Assembly will convene January 9. So far, no bills have been pre-filed. Commissioner Bresnahan will continue monitoring the activity. Chair Yang noted that the PAL Committee will be really busy after the New Year.

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

The committee has started laying the groundwork for the conference planning. Commissioner Shen is meeting with the Global Federation of Chinese Business Women, which has 18 chapters in the U.S., and the committee might want to consider making this a national conference.

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

The members of this committee include Commissioners Costley, Luna, Memon, Nyman, Shen, Thomas and Sepe. The plan is to hold the Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow Ceremony on Thursday, March 21, at the Miller Senate Office Building (MSOB). Senator Susan Lee has agreed to sponsor the MCW’s use of the MSOB but reservation requests may not be submitted until December 6, so the date cannot be confirmed until then. The ARC Committee proposes the theme of “The Voices of Visionary Women – Our Heritage and Our Future” for the 2019 event, combining the theme selected for the 2019 National Women’s History Month with the Voices of Maryland Women project that has been so important to the MCW’s work for the past three years. The Honorable Connie Morella, former U.S. Congresswoman and U.N. Ambassador, and inductee into the Maryland Women’s Hall of

Fame, has very graciously accepted the MCW's invitation to serve as Mistress of Ceremonies for the event.

The nomination period is now open. The Committee will work on developing the Selection Committees for the honorees – inviting the heads of state-wide women's organizations to serve as judges. Committee Chair Cartee invited all the commissioners to help secure sponsorship for the event. Commissioner Nyman, Secretary of the Maryland WAG Foundation, agreed to revise the Sponsorship packets and share them with the Commissioners.

VI. Liaison Reports

A. Maryland Women's Heritage Center.....Yang

The Board of Directors held a Strategic Planning Meeting last Saturday. It hired a professional facilitator to conduct the meeting. The Center has received some substantial donations and is focusing on its mission to develop its plan. It is still hoping to provide a board member to serve on the Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

B. 19th Amendment Commemoration Commission.....Bachu and Thomas

Commissioner Thomas reported that this board has a meeting scheduled for next week. Last month, the MCW wrote to the 19th Amendment Commission inviting it to sponsor the 2020 Women's Leadership Conference. The response was that it will talk about it in more depth at its next meeting. MCW staff found a list of Maryland women suffragists, three of whom are already in the Hall of Fame. It might be worth considering inducting the entire group into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in 2020. Commissioner Thomas will share that information and possibility with the 19th Amendment Commission.

C. MLAW.....Curtin

Commissioner Curtin was interviewed extensively for consideration for election by the MLAW Board to its membership. MLAW's annual fall conference is scheduled for Saturday, November 17 and Commissioner Curtin will attend the conference and the November 26 meeting of the MLAW Board.

D. 2019 Women's Legislative Briefing.....Colburn

Commissioner Colburn attended the November meeting of the WLB planning committee. Reaching out to speakers for seminars and the keynote address was discussed along with the logistics of the event.

E. Maryland WAG Foundation.....Shen

The WAG Board planned to meet earlier this afternoon but had to cancel the meeting due to the weather. The Board hopes to organize a fundraising event in 2019. Commissioner Shen thanked all the commissioners for their very generous support and their interest. She especially thanked Commissioner Cartee for her efforts at last month's meeting with the Maryland memorabilia fundraising initiative.

F. Women Moving Forward Conference.....Bailey

We had been advised by the MCIW warden that the WMF conference planning committee decided not to organize a WMF conference in 2019 at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women. However, we have since learned that the WMF steering committee is planning a conference for April 13, 2019 after all, but it will be a smaller conference than in previous years. The steering committee will hold its first meeting on December 5 at the MCIW.

G. Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholders Group

No report as Commissioner Aziz was not in attendance.

H. Museum of Maryland Women’s History.....Cartee

No report, except that the founder of the Museum project is to speak at the CFW Roundtable meeting this Saturday. Commissioner Cartee will be traveling to the Eastern Shore this weekend and will try to drop by the proposed location for the Museum.

I. UMD SAFE Center.....Costley

No report, except that the Amanda Rodriguez is to speak at the CFW Roundtable meeting this Saturday.

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

A. 2018 Annual Report

The report is still at the MCE print shop, but the MCW staff hopes to be able to pick it up tomorrow, so that it may be shared with the attendees of the CFW Roundtable Meeting.

B. New MCW Brochure

The brochure is complete and has been printed. MCW staff hopes to be able to pick it up in Jessup tomorrow, so that it may be shared with the attendees of the CFW Roundtable Meeting.

C. DLLR Grant Proposal – Women and Opioid Addictions

MCW staff met with the Deputy Assistant Secretary and the Director of Discretionary Grants in the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning at the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation (DLLR) in Baltimore on October 30 to discuss possibilities for collaboration between the Commission for Women and DLLR. DLLR greatly appreciates the letter of support the MCW sent for its grant from the US DOL Women’s Bureau for workforce preparation programs for women suffering from addictions. They were impressed to learn that we have 25 commissioners with impressive credentials and there may be other projects where the MCW can be involved.

VIII. Announcements

The Chair thanked all the Commissioners in attendance for their support, hard work and their time and very thoughtful deliberations in this meeting.

IX. Adjournment.....Yang

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director
Maryland Commission for Women

APPROVED: