

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 17, 2022

5 p.m.

45 Calvert Street, Annapolis, MD

Commissioners Attending:

Tawanda Bailey
Deborah Cartee
Beth Anne Dorman (Langrell)
Essita Duncan (Virtual)
Kathryn M. Fiddler
Kristi S. Halford (Virtual)
Kaprece James
Lauren M. Lambert
Patricia McHugh Lambert
Christine Lee
Maria Menucci (Virtual)
Roberta Pardo
Carole Jaar Sepe (Virtual)
Maxine Griffin Somerville (Virtual)

Evelyne S. Steward
Lenita Walker
Yun Jung Yang

Commissioners Absent:

Andrea Bottner
Tammy Bresnahan
Judith Emmel
Eugenia B. Henry
Brenda J. McChriston
Jenny Peña Dias
Monica Watkins
Tamara E. Wilson

Staff Attending

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

I. Call to Order.....Chair Bailey

A quorum having been established; the meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m.

A. Approval of Agenda

Chair Bailey welcomed the commissioners and guest speaker. She called for approval of the agenda for tonight's meeting. Commissioner P. Lambert moved approval of the agenda as proposed. Commissioner Fiddler seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes of the October 20, 2022 MCW Meeting

The Chair called for any amendments to the minutes of the October MCW meeting. Commissioner P. Lambert moved approval of the minutes. Commissioner Yang seconded the motion which passed with one abstention.

C. Meeting Inspiration

Chair Bailey called the Commissioners’ attention to the quote at the top of the agenda, from Lt. Governor-Elect Aruna Miller: “(We) do not get to decide when we’re born, our race, our skin color, our gender, our sexual orientation, our socioeconomic background or our abilities, but what we do get to decide is how we live our lives so we can improve the lives of others.” She said she hoped that wisdom would serve as the perfect inspiration for this evening’s meeting.

II. Guest Presentation.....Kara Hunt, PH. D.

Chair Bailey introduced Dr. Kara Hunt, Education and Outreach Director for the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights. At the recommendation of the ACT Committee, Dr. Hunt was invited to conduct a session of diversity and inclusion training for the MCW.

At the conclusion of the 1.5-hour session, the commissioners thanked Dr. Hunt for the powerful and compelling training. Commissioner P. Lambert noted that training such as this should be conducted for the employees of all state government agencies. Dr. Hunt said that Del. Mary Wells introduced a bill in the Maryland General Assembly that would have provided mandatory implicit bias training for all state employees. The bill did not pass but is likely to be reintroduced this year.

III. Executive Committee Report..... Chair Bailey

A. 2022 Election Results

Last week’s election resulted in several firsts for the state of Maryland. Wes Moore is the first African American elected Governor in our state, and only the African American state governor in the nation’s history. Former Del. Aruna Miller is the first woman of color elected as the state’s lieutenant governor; U.S. Rep. Anthony Brown will become the state’s first Black attorney general; and Del. Brooke Lierman is the first woman elected comptroller.

“Maryland’s General Assembly, while considerably more diverse than most state legislatures, still does not reflect the diversity of the state. Women make up more than 50% of the stat’s population, but women will make up 30% of the state legislature.

B. Women’s Bureau Regional Conference

The U.S. D.O.L. Women’s Bureau conducted its first meeting for Region 2 CFWs on November 1. Chair Bailey presented a briefing about the MCW’s work. All CFW members in the eight-state region were invited to attend. Much information was shared among the commissioners participating.

C. Social Media Initiative.....Pardo, 2nd Vice Chair

Commissioner Pardo is developing a social media strategy for the MCW that will include an enhanced Facebook presence, and adding Instagram and Twitter accounts. The purpose of this initiative is to expand and improve the MCW’s outreach to a broader spectrum of the state’s population, including younger women.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Advocacy and Collaboration Taskforce (ACT)

No Report

B. Policy and Legislation (PAL) Committee..... Halford

1. MLAW Fall Conference

The Conference, *Shift to the States: Women Lead in Maryland*, was held November 12 in Silver Spring, with an attendance of 181 individuals. The MCW was a Platinum Sponsor of the conference. Commissioners Bailey, Dorman(Langrell), Duncan, Lee, Walker, Watkins and Yang attended, along with MCW staff Vaughan-Prather and Wise. In addition, nine commissioners from six county/city CFWs attended the conference as guests of the MCW. Fifteen bills were presented as possible items in the MLAW agenda. MLAW members vote to rank the bills by December 12; MLAW will set its 2023 agenda based on that balloting.

2. MCW 2023 Legislative Platform

The PAL Committee met earlier this week, reviewed the 15 bills discussed at the MLAW Conference. Two are bills the MCW supported last year but that did not pass, so they will be on the MCW agenda for this year. Two others address recommendations from the Women and COVID report, so those will also be included on the MCW's own legislative agenda. The PAL Committee members will rank order the MLAW proposals and send that ranking back to MLAW. When MLAW determines its agenda for the 2023 legislature, that will be presented to the full Commission for a vote on whether to sign onto the agenda. The Commission may have additional bills it will support in 2023, as well.

C. ARC Committee.....L. Lambert

The Call for Nominations for both the Hall of Fame and the Young Women Leaders Awards was first issued on October 3 with a closing date of November 4. The MCW received 25 nominations for the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame and moved three nominees from the 2022 class into this year's class for a total of 28 nominations to be considered by this year's Selection Committee. Nominations were received from nine counties including nine nominations from the Baltimore area, four from Anne Arundel County and five each from Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. The MCW received 38 nominations for the Maryland Young Women Leaders Awards from 12 counties, with the most coming from Anne Arundel County (14) and Montgomery County (7). Every nominator has been sent a message thanking them for submitting the nomination.

The Hall of Fame Selection Committee Members for this year are:

- Dr. Traki Taylor, Provost & VP at Frostburg State University
- Anna Sholl, Esq., Executive Director, Maryland State Bar Association
- Dr. Kara French, Professor of Women's Studies, Salisbury State University
- MCW Commissioner Lenita Walker

The Young Women Leaders Selection Committee Members are:

- Judy Carbone, Board of Directors, AAUW MD
- Carol Ann Smith, Esq. President Women's Bar Association of Maryland
- Sarah David, Esq., Board of Directors, Women's Law Center of Maryland
- Magdalena Navarro, Commissioner, Maryland Commission on Civil Rights
- MCW Commissioner Christine Lee

Selection Committee members have been provided a rating sheet with criteria and a point system for evaluating each nominee. The Selection Committees are scheduled to meet December 2 to make final decisions.

Due to the construction and renovations currently going on in Annapolis, finding a venue for an in-person event has been very difficult. The ARC Committee has decided that it will create a website for 2023, using the model employed the past two years, to recognize the honorees. It also proposes that the MCW request a reception at the Governor's mansion for the honorees and guests.

V. Announcements

- A. Women's Caucus Invitation.....Chair Bailey**
The new chair of the Caucus of Maryland Women Legislators is Del. Lesley Lopez, of Montgomery County. Chair Bailey and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather talked with her at the MLAW Conference and learned that she is interested in developing a stronger relationship between the Caucus and the MCW. Since then, she wrote inviting the MCW to present a briefing on the Women and COVID report to the Caucus at its meeting on December 9. She has also invited the Commission to send representatives to the Caucus' 50th anniversary celebration on Sunday, December 4. The MCW will sponsor the celebration event and will have a table for 10 at the event. Commissioners Bailey, Somerville, Pardo, Yang and possibly L. Lambert will plan to attend. Those not at tonight's meeting will be invited as well.

- B. BPW MD Woman of Achievement Award**
The Business and Professional Women of Maryland are honoring MCW's Commissioner Beth Anne Dorman(Langrell with its Woman of Achievement Award this evening. The Commissioners all extended their warmest congratulations to Commissioner Dorman(Langrell).

- C. NOTE: NO MCW MEETING IN DECEMBER**

- D. Executive Committee Meeting:** Thursday, January 12, 2023 @ 4:30 p.m.

- E. MCW Meeting:** **Thursday, January 19, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m. (VIRTUAL)**

VI. Adjournment

No further business being brought before the Commission, Chair Bailey wished the Commissioners all the best for Thanksgiving and a safe and happy holiday season. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: January 12, 2023
By: Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director

Approved: January 19, 2023