

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 20, 2024

5 p.m.

In-Person

Commissioners Attending:

Tawanda A. Bailey, Chair
Pier Blake (virtual)
Jonathon Carrington
Gloria Dent
Judith Emmel
Maggi Gaines (virtual)
Sarah Klein (virtual)
Lauren M. Lambert (virtual)
Patricia McHugh Lambert, 2nd Vice Chair
Christine Lee (virtual)
Brenda J. McChriston (virtual)
Maxine Griffin Somerville, 1st Vice Chair
Evelyne S. Steward (virtual)
LaShaune Stitt
Lenita Walker
Monica Watkins
Tamara Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

Essita Duncan
Kathryn Fiddler
Linda Han

Staff Attending:

Ariana Kelly, Executive Director
Tammy Wise, Management Associate

Guest Attendees:

Roslyn Jones, Women's Veterans/Inclusion
Programs

- I. **Call to Order/Approval of Agenda and Minutes..... Chair Bailey**
Once a quorum was established the meeting was called to order by Chair Bailey who welcomed the commissioners in attendance. She called for approval of May 16, 2024 minutes. First Vice Chair Somerville moved approval of the minutes, Second Vice Chair P. Lambert seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Chair Bailey called for approval of today's agenda. Second Vice Chair P. Lambert moved approval the agenda, First Vice Chair Somerville seconded, and it passed unanimously.
- II. **Unfinished Business.....Chair Bailey**
 - A. **Maryland Firemen's Association**
The Maryland Fireman's Association passed the requested name change to The Maryland Firefighter's Association.
- III. **Highlights: 2023 – 2024 Wrap-Up**
 - A. **PAL** Commissioners participated in the MLAW conference on November 4, 2023 and the Happy Hour Legislative Wrap-Up on May 8, 2024. During the Maryland General Assembly's

2024 session the Commission supported 7 bills. Six were introduced. Four of the six bills passed.

- B. ARC** The Women’s Hall of Fame and Young Women Leaders Award ceremony was wonderful and well attended. All of the prestigious honorees and high school students attended. Second Vice Chair P. Lambert noted that through this ceremony the MCW has strengthened its relationship with the Moore/Miller Administration and the First Lady’s office.
- C. ACE (Roundtable)** There was a lot of energy across the board in the Roundtable meeting, with high participation. The commissioners praised the new format and are looking forward to future Roundtable meetings.

III. New Business, Executive Director’s Report and Staff Report

A. Executive Reports.....Executive Director, Ariana Kelly

The Commission has kicked off an ambitious summer. With ACE Committee leadership, we held the annual Roundtable for local Commissions on May 30th with 14 local commissions participating.

In June the staff focused intensely on urgent Administrative and Communications goals. We worked overtime to get the office back up and running, launch our intern program, modernize our internal and external communications systems. They also began work to strengthen relationships with the community and increase the Commission's visibility.

Based on my preliminary conversations with Commissioners, the DHS Secretary, the Appointments Secretary and external stakeholders, ED Kelly developed a draft three-month plan with goals in six different areas (Administration, Communications, Commissioner Development, Outreach & Visibility, Research & Publications, and State Government) for Commission discussion and approval tonight.

ED Kelly briefly reviewed the proposed quarterly workplan, asking for input and approval from the commissioners. She will meet with each commissioner in the coming weeks to discuss ideas around the commission’s priorities. Suggestions included: Lambert: Build List of Women's Studies Departments under Outreach, Visibility, and Relationships. Gaines: Develop an early legislative/advocacy agenda that may not be tied to the MGA’s legislative session. Commissioners: Review Heart of Pandemic and SWIM Recommendations Action Steps in advance of October Planning. Steward: Include strategic planning, and long-term thinking and visioning into the plan. Emmel: suggested we work on strengthening the intern program with strategic partnerships with employers willing to donate time. The Commission agreed to work towards this for the January internship cycle. McChriston: Participate in a social gathering surrounded around getting-to-know the commissioners.

The three-month workplan was approved by a unanimous vote.

- Gloria Dent volunteered to hold a social event to have a get-to-know the commissioners gathering.
- Strategic Annual Planning Meeting Committee Sign-Up: Jonathon Carrington, Sarah Klein, Pat Lambert, Brenda McChriston, Evelyne Steward, LaShaune Stitt.

ED Kelly outlined the new MCW Newsletter and noted all of the commissioner recommendations and highlighted that the commissioners can contribute to each of these sections in partnership with the staff.

B. Communications Outreach.....Tammy Wise
Our social media presence has increased significantly in the last month. In June, the staff created an Instagram and a X profile. The Instagram has been linked to our existing Facebook profile for cross communication. We're up 63 Instagram followers. As of today, our Facebook page has over 2100 followers and our email distribution list has increased by 144 contacts. On Facebook, we have a normal impact in 10 major cities with Baltimore being the most impacted. We are in the process of creating a Listserv through Google Groups for the Local Commissions for Women (CFW) around the state which was suggested at the CFW Roundtable meeting.

IV. Elections

The commissioners elected new leadership starting immediately. The Chair and First Vice Chair were elected via a unanimous vote. The Second Vice Chair candidates outlined their qualifications, and Christine Lee won the majority vote by 11-5.

V. Announcements.....Bailey

A. **September Executive Committee Meeting:** Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. (Virtual)

B. **Commission Meeting – Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. (Virtual)**

VI. Adjournment

No further business being brought before the Commission, Chair Stitt thanked the Commissioners for all their work. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Ariana Kelly, Executive Director
Maryland Commission for Women