

President's Report
April 2017
Eileen Shelley Menton

Last June and July, AAUW Members from throughout the state met to develop a strategic plan for the state organization. I'm delighted that we have moved forward with several initiatives to change the climate for women and girls in Maryland:

- Increased member participation
- Increased AAUW-Maryland visibility in the Public Policy area
- Establishment of an on-line community that provides state-level membership for those who are not able to join individual branches.
- The celebration of our 75th anniversary

The Public Policy Team, led by Anita Rosen, Louise Chatlynne, and Sandra Smith has worked hard to increase AAUW Maryland's visibility in the public policy area. Fifteen members participated in Lobby Day I Annapolis on February 6. They – along with other AAUW Maryland members – have contacted legislators, written letters of support, made calls, and testified at hearings. AAUW Maryland has increased both member participation and its visibility during the legislative session, which ends on April 10.

For the past 9 months, Dr. Angela Mickalide, Membership Vice President, Dr. Judy Flood, Treasurer, and I have worked on the establishment of the AAUW Maryland On-Line Community. We have received AAUW board and IRS approval. The website is up and running (www.md-online@aauw.net) and members can join on-line through the AAUW Membership Services Database. As of March 10, the On-Line Community has 9 members.

Once again, AAUW Maryland will be a platinum sponsor of the Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony at the National Conference of Women Student Leaders. We are looking forward to honoring Cleopatra Campbell of the Frederick Branch for her leadership as a pioneering woman attorney and Orphans Court Judge. Thanks to Vice-President for Funds Bea Dane and to the branches and members from throughout the state who have supported this project, which requires that we raise \$20,000.

Bernadette Low, Vice President for Communications, kept us informed about State activities and events and has featured the accomplishments of our branches in the Marylander. Dr. Judy Flood, Treasurer has done an outstanding job accounting for our income and obligations and encouraging members to submit their expenses in a timely fashion for reimbursement. Mary Anne Williams, Secretary, has ensured that minutes were prepared after each board meeting.

Program Co-Vice Presidents Markonette Richardson and Kate Campbell Stevenson planned the July Leadership Training Conference and the October meeting, which featured three NCCWSL participants who shared their experiences and a member of the DC Younger Women's Task Force who discussed their WorkSmart Initiative with the DC Government. For the past nine months, they have worked with Easton Branch Host Committee and with Angela Mickalide, Dian Belanger and Terry Saylor to plan the State Convention and 75th Anniversary Celebration.

As State President, I have led four board meetings, visited four branches (Harford County, Howard County, Garrett County, and Hagerstown), sent emails every 4 -6 weeks to branch presidents to keep them up-to-date on state and national activities, continued to serve as web master and Facebook Administrator, and served as the state's "Governance Guru" at the request of National.

We are looking forward to strong AAUW Maryland participation at the AAUW National Convention in June in Washington, DC. As of March 10, 16 members have registered to attend. (Maryland is one of the top-ten states based on percentage of members attending.)

A special thanks to Dr. Judy Flood and Dr. Anita Rosen, who are completing their second terms as Treasurer and Co-Vice President for Public Policy and to Angela Mickalide, Membership Vice President, Mary Anne Williams, Secretary, and Louise Chatlynne and Sandra Smith, Co-Vice President for Public Policy, who are completing their first terms.

I would like to thank the Easton Branch Co-Presidents Mettah Kollmann and Linda Tebbs and their committee members for organizing our State Convention and 75th Anniversary Celebration.

In the coming year, I look forward to working with the continuing and incoming officers, and with branch leaders and members from throughout the state as we work to strengthen AAUW's presence in Maryland and change the climate for women and girls.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Shelley Menton