



Co-Presidents' Report

Kate Campbell Stevenson and Susan S.G. Wierman

It has been our privilege this year to work with an outstanding group of state officers. Tracy Lantz and Pat Stocker have been superb in organizing programs. Likewise, Erin Pranglely and Kashay Webb have done a wonderful job in educating and organizing members to support proposed legislation in Annapolis. Bea Dane has once again helped raise substantial funds for AAUW. We also have had the luxury of relying on Christine Schmidt's excellent expertise as Treasurer. Edie Allison has kept timely and accurate minutes. Carol Mueller has begun to recruit members for the online branch. Eileen's timely arrangement to use Zoom has made the transition to online meetings much smoother than we could have imagined. She has done a great job with the Marylander, the website, and Facebook, while at the same time serving on the national AAUW Board of Directors.

We also appreciate the work of Committee Chairs who have served ably this past year: Jacqueline Gray (Diversity), Terri Backer-Miceli (College and University Coordinator), Diane Roca (Bylaws), Teri Bisceglia and Terry Saylor (Archivists).

As we look toward future years, we would like to offer encouragement to members considering serving on the AAUW Maryland Board. Each of us has time constraints. Both of us still work, travel to see family members, and have commitments that mean sometimes we can't spend as much time on AAUW as we think we should. But our work as your Co-Presidents has been both a source of satisfaction for us personally and has helped AAUW MD advance the cause of equity for women and girls in Maryland. Serving as a state officer provides the opportunity to be part of a great team: to utilize your talents, expand your reach, encourage collaboration, enhance diversity and inclusion, and promote the goals of AAUW.

As your Co-Presidents, we have recruited branches to host events and promoted coordination between the AAUW MD Program Committee and the branches. We have helped find willing volunteers for AAUW positions. We appointed effective leaders to be the new State Diversity Chair (Jacqueline Gray) and College and University Chair (Terri Backer-Miceli), and those efforts are ongoing. We have encouraged contributions of time and funds to support projects like NCCWSL, the Maryland Woman of Distinction, WorkSmart, and the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW). We have represented AAUW MD on the selection committees for the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow. Kate has testified in Annapolis to support legislative action.

It has been a very unusual year. We are in the midst of surviving the COVID-19 pandemic. As we write this report, over 2,000 people in Maryland have died of causes clearly attributable to COVID-19. (Epidemiologists looking back are likely to identify an even larger number of deaths in comparison to typical years.) It is a difficult time for many people, with jobs lost or changed, and schools and colleges online for at least the year. Residents and staff of nursing homes are at high risk. Despite the overall risks, the Governor is under pressure to allow more businesses to open as people tire of staying home. Many of us feel very thankful for the ability to work from home and for the housing and food security that we have taken for granted for such a long time, even as we feel

sad not to be able to connect in person with our families, friends, and colleagues. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to those whose lives, families, and friends have been suffering during this crisis.

It is important that AAUW remains a source of strength. Our members are resiliently continuing to connect with each other via phone, e-mail, social media, and meetings held online. Our incoming officers are a mix of experienced and new recruits, and as a group we have demonstrated and will increase the ability to continue to connect using modern technology. Times are changing, and AAUW will need to adapt.

We both will continue to serve on the State Board as immediate past presidents for the next year, and we look forward to continuing to stay in touch with you and meet new friends. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your Co-Presidents.