



The Marylander

Volume 89 #4 December 2020

President, Erin Prangley

Susan Wierman, Editor

<http://aauw-md.aauw.net>

email: aauw-md@aauw.org

Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

**Save the date! Jan. 16: 10 am
AAUW MD Board Meeting
Branches should be represented
Members are welcome
See agenda on last page**

Seeking Nominations for State Offices

At the spring 2021 AAUW MD convention we will be electing the following officers:

Secretary Treasurer
Public Policy VP Membership VP

This year's Nominating Committee consists of representatives of four branches: **Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Frederick, Garrett County, and Howard County. Branch Presidents should either be selecting a person to serve on the Nominating Committee or plan to serve as the Committee member.** Bernadette Low (chair of 2020's nominating committee) and Kate Campbell Stevenson (Co-Past President of AAUW MD) are ex officio members this year.

The Committee will need ideas from all branches to identify those willing and able to serve. **Nominees may come from any branch or be members of AAUW MD without branch affiliation.**

President's Letter

Erin Prangley, President, AAUW Maryland



Dear AAUW Maryland,

I hope you all are doing well and taking stock of the many things we have to be thankful for as this year comes to an end. I want to thank all of you for your tremendous work to keep the spirit of AAUW MD alive during this trying year. I've heard so much great news about how AAUW MD members continue to advance our mission of helping women and girls even in these very dark times.

We've all heard "2020 was a terrible year"! It's hard to dispute that the pandemic has defined 2020 in the most horrific way with the loss of hundreds of thousands of Americans. So I won't. Our lives were forever changed. I know a lot of people would just like to forget this year ever happened. But there are some good things that happened in 2020 that should not be eclipsed completely by the pandemic.

5 things I want to remember about 2020:

1. Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris broke through the glass ceiling in political leadership by becoming the first woman, first Black American, and first Asian American to be elected vice president of the United States! It is impossible not to think of all the shoulders VP Elect Harris stood on to reach this goal. It is undeniable that her accomplishment has

forever changed the way people, young women in particular, will view women's role in leading our country. AAUW MD has always championed women in leadership and we should take pride in seeing history being made for women and take that pride into the next year.

2. We also recognized the 100th Anniversary of women's suffrage. Even though we could not meet as planned, this pause gave us time to reflect upon the many challenges women have overcome in the past to participate in democracy. Let's rededicate ourselves to exercise our right to vote and fight to keep this right free from discrimination of any kind.

3. AAUW MD's legislative agenda was extremely successful, but we missed getting together in person with our favorite legislators at events like our state convention and MLAW briefing. Next year, let's see if we can increase our membership attendance once these events are again made safe for all of us to come together in person.

4. Police brutality and killings continued to shake our country, but there were so many people who came together to stand against systemic racism and call for racial justice. Multitudes of people, including the organizers of the Women's March and AAUW members, marched in their hometowns and in Washington, DC, to show the world that the overwhelming majority of Americans believe in a just society free from systemic racism, sexism, ageism, and xenophobia. I know many of our AAUW MD members took part in these events in person and online. I look forward to seeing you on the front lines again next year.

5. The deadly pandemic put a fine point on the importance of looking out for one another and keeping our loved ones close (even if we have to "Zoom"). The pandemic reminded me of how little

time we have to really and truly live our best lives surrounded by people we love.

It's safe to say that we are entering the new year with a sense of optimism. We have vaccines beginning to be used to fight coronavirus. We have a new Congress and Administration to guide our national priorities. We're getting used to wearing masks. We're starting to think that maybe we'll keep working from home even after the virus because we like it. We are turning a page and looking forward to better things for 2021!

Be safe and enjoy the holidays and new year!



Important News from National

Submitted by Eileen Menton, AAUW Board Member

Dues will be raised by \$3 in June 2021 and \$5 in June 2022 and June 2023. All but \$3 of your annual dues remains tax deductible. This was a tough decision but grounded in the Board's responsibility for the fiscal health of AAUW. AAUW has set up a [weblink](#) for members to send comments and concerns about the dues increase.

At the December board meeting, proposed changes to the membership requirements in the bylaws and public policy priorities were approved for member comment. The comment period will run from January 11 – February 5, 2021.

Nancy Grace Roman & Renewed STEM Focus for Women & Girls at AAUW

Courtesy of Kim Churches, Chief Executive Officer, AAUW

Known as the mother of the Hubble telescope and a longstanding and dedicated AAUW member, sadly Nancy Grace Roman passed away December 26, 2018. Last summer, AAUW National received a

generous bequest from Nancy's estate to ensure more girls and women select STEM careers (particularly engineering and physical sciences) before college, paying it forward for future generations. Her contribution is a wonderful testament to what she stood for and what she accomplished in her very impressive career.

Given the sheer volume of STEM efforts nationwide focused on women and girls, AAUW has been conducting an academic review of research and a landscape/environmental review of programs to scale. Why? Because in our efforts to fulfill Nancy's vision for her philanthropy, we wish to ensure we are focused on new interventions and new work, not duplicative efforts of other equity organizations working in STEM locally, regionally, and nationally. We are also emphasizing specific fields such as physical sciences and engineering, as in some areas of STEM, women have begun to increase involvement, but in others are stalled or declining in numbers. And we are highly focused on efforts to increase participation in STEM by women of color.

This autumn, AAUW will also be conducting a series of convenings for academics and STEM practitioners in the private and public sectors to discuss the findings from our reviews and some areas where we feel our research, advocacy and programs can make a difference for women and girls in STEM for their professional feedback. For example, one area we are pursuing is particularly around parental/guardian influence in higher educational choices for girls.

We are grateful to Nancy for her longstanding commitment to future generations of women and girls in STEM, and look forward to sharing more in the coming months.



Bylaws Committee Will Report January 16

Submitted by Diane Roca, Chair

Last spring, the Bylaws Committee started work on revising the AAUW Maryland bylaws, the first complete revision since 2002. The work has been finished and the proposed changes will be presented to the Board of Directors for comment at the Board Meeting January 16, 2021. Then, changes to the bylaws will be voted on by all members at the 2021 annual convention.

Proposed changes include a definition of what AAUW Maryland is (surprisingly, not previously specified); changing the Nominating Committee from four members to three, making it easier to assemble a committee; changes to conform with AAUW national standards and state law for non-profit organizations; and new bylaws that allow remote attendance and voting at meetings. Other changes resolve puzzles about the intent of some bylaws.

Having completed our initial task, the committee has moved on to a related one. The bylaws are just one section of the AAUW Maryland Handbook, a compilation of policies for the officers, including Position Descriptions listing each officer's responsibilities. We are updating all the Position Descriptions to remove outdated items and add new ones. The committee sincerely thanks all the current officers for taking time to analyze and update the description for their position. They are the ones who know best what the job entails. We also thank Dian Belanger who has thoroughly analyzed the bylaws and made the result better.

Members of the Bylaws Committee are Janet Crampton (Kensington-Rockville), Terri Massie-Burrell, Eileen Mention and Christine Schmitz (all members of Baltimore branch). For more information: dbroca at comcast dot net 410 964 3523.

Legislative Update

Submitted by Roxann King and Kashay Webb, Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy



December for us means getting ready for the 2021 General Assembly session which convenes on Wednesday, January 13. We began by attending the **Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) Fall Conference**. Kudos to co-VP for Public Policy, Kashay Webb, who suggested the theme and panelists for the opening session, which focused on COVID-19 and communities of color. Afterwards advocacy groups and legislative sponsors presented fourteen proposed bills for members of MLAW to consider for the 2021 Agenda. AAUW MD was among the platinum sponsors of the MLAW Fall Conference. A [video recording](#) of this excellent event is available.

Together with other advocacy groups for women and families in Maryland, AAUW Maryland focuses its legislative efforts on the MLAW agenda of usually ten or fewer bills. As we write, MLAW members are deciding which bills will be supported this session. AAUW MD will get busy with testimony for hearings and emails to committee members prior to hearings.

Kashay Webb, who is a member of the MLAW Board, encouraged everyone to become members of MLAW and vote on the selection of bills to be supported by MLAW. Watch MLAW's website for updates: <https://mdlegagendaforwomen.org/>.

AAUW MD Advocacy Day this year will be held on Thursday, February 4. We need your help with this day. The contact with legislators will be virtual, so there is no need to travel far. If you can help us, let Roxann know (roxann.king1 at gmail dot com). We

will ask you to contact specific legislators and give you talking points. It does not take long but goes a long way in making AAUW known in Annapolis.

The 2021 Women's Legislative Briefing, presented annually by the Montgomery County Commission for Women, will be held virtually on Sunday, January 31. Details and registration are at [Women's Legislative Briefing - CFW](#). The opening panel discussion will focus on women who are on the front lines fighting covid-19. The breakout sessions give us a chance to meet with the people writing the laws that protect and promote women and families.

Two MLAW bills passed both houses during the 2020 session but were vetoed by the Governor in early summer. Votes will be scheduled in late January for each of these with the hope of overriding the vetoes. **You can help right now and until the vote in late January by contacting your state legislators** (Go to [Members - Find My Representatives \(maryland.gov\)](#); click on Find My Members, then on Look Up.) All members of the combined legislature will be voting. The bills are these:

- **HB 4/SB 208 Public Safety – Rifles and Shotguns – Sales, Rentals, and Transfers** which would require background checks for all gun sales, even private sales.
- **SB 684 Correctional Services – Pre-release Unit for Women – Facilities and Services (Gender-Responsive Prerelease Act)** which would establish a pre-release center for incarcerated women. There are six now for men; none for women.

We encourage all our members to **sign up for alerts** to national AAUW issues at the [2-Minute Activist](#) and also to **join the MLAW email list** to contact committee members when MLAW bills are about to have hearings. (Simply send an email to mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com.)

AAUW MD Public Policy group met on Thursday, November 19, 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. Attendees: Bev Fallik, Howard County; Edie Allison, Gaithersburg; Pat Stocker, Programs, AAUW MD and Bethesda-Chevy Chase; Denise Fry, Hagerstown; Roxann King, Public Policy AAUW MD and Anne Arundel County.

Branch public policy leaders are encouraged to participate in Roxann and Kashay's monthly public policy Zoom calls. A call will be held Tuesday, December 29, 7:30 p.m. Contact Roxann for details. In general, future meetings will be on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Generosity Update



*Submitted by Dian Belanger,
AAUW MD Funds Vice President*

In this season of giving, I happily report that through 31 October, Maryland members and branches have thus far this year

donated more than **\$43,750** to AAUW. Thank you for your generosity! (More exact figures available on request.)

You have, by far, dedicated the bulk of your gifts, more than **\$38,000**, to AAUW's **Greatest Needs Fund**, established at a time of financial urgency to support our national ability to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities. Indeed, if you did not specify otherwise, your contribution went here. We have shown again how much we care about our organization, on the cusp of its 140th birthday.

Where we are currently falling short is in our donations to **NCCWSL**. For nearly a decade, AAUW Maryland's major philanthropic achievement has been the "Platinum" sponsorship of the **Women of Distinction** ceremony, which is the signature event of AAUW's annual **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders**. Earning this very visible recognition for our state and members requires a minimum contribution of **\$20,000**. We have yet to

raise **\$6,300**, even with the funds held over from the COVID-canceled NCCWSL 2020. Please contribute as you are moved and able, to transform the lives of many hundreds of young women. The deadline is 1 April 2021.

Donate to the MD Woman of Distinction Fund:

To donate by check: Make the check out to AAUW and indicate on it fund 4355 – *Maryland Women of Distinction (NCCWSL) Fund*. Mail to AAUW, 1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005.

To donate on-line: Go to the AAUW NCCWSL Donation page. (<https://ww2.aauw.org/donate-gift-new/?treatment=AAUW2504-STRATEGIC>)

Click on the button next to: Use my gift to support Maryland Women of Distinction (NCCWSL) Fund. Indicate whether you want monthly or a onetime donation and the amount. Then click Donate.

And let's not forget AAUW's historic commitment to **Fellowships and Grants**, which since 1888 have provided \$115 million to help fund the higher-education goals of more than 13,000 women in the United States and around the world. AAUW Maryland has over the years endowed four fellowships, at \$100,000 each. Do invite a current or former fellow or grantee to your branch share her inspiring story and immense gratitude—for the financial support, of course, but even more for the faith we have placed in her. At our (virtual) holiday gathering my branch hosted Ashwag Alasmari from Saudi Arabia, a PhD candidate in Information Systems—Human Centered Computing, at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. She is sponsored by the Maryland State Division I and Dian Olson Belanger fellowships. (Thank you for the ⁿth, but not last, time for this high honor.)

Please keep your imaginative fundraising projects going. Or donate individually. It's easy to do online.

Or write a check. Or transfer securities. Or?
Tomorrow's women are grateful.

I'd be delighted to speak to your branch about
AAUW's giving history and needs.

Diversity & Inclusion Spotlight



*Submitted by Jacqueline Gray,
Chair – Diversity & Inclusion,
AAUW Maryland*

AAUW Kensington/Rockville Branch Hosts “Moving Forward with Black Lives Matter”

The Kensington/Rockville Branch hosted a Zoom presentation on Saturday, November 4, 2020 to engage its members and interested parties in conversation about events and revelations resulting from the killing of George Floyd, an event so horrific that it captured world-wide attention and sparked a huge movement in the fight for justice and equality for black and brown people in the United States. Featured panelists on the program included Arlinda J. Clark, Esq., member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated – Eta Pi Zeta Chapter, a community-conscious, action-oriented, non-profit organization; Rachel N. Bonaparte-Hagos, Interim Director of the Institute for Part-time Faculty Engagement and Support (IPTFES) at Montgomery College; and Lt. Monique Tompkins, Deputy Director of the Major Crimes Division of the Montgomery County Police Department. The Zoom presentation was very well attended, and participants asked thought provoking questions during the conversation. A follow-up Zoom meeting addressing this topic is planned for the Spring of 2021.

Special thanks to Anita Rosen, Pat Stocker, and Sylvia Crowder for coordinating this presentation.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Toolkit. AAUW has released an updated Diversity and Inclusion Toolkit.

It is available at

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/>.

AAUW sponsored a webinar discussing the toolkit on December 10. It is available on the AAUW website here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQ_K0j1yR5s

News Flash! NASDAQ will seek permission from the SEC to require listed companies to increase board diversity! Companies listed on the **National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations (NASDAQ)** will be required to augment their company boards by having a minimum of one woman and one person who self-reports as LGBTQ. In addition, listed firms will be required to make their board diversity reports public. Companies not adhering to the proposed requirements could risk expulsion from the NASDAQ. It will be interesting to see if other financial institutions and major corporations nationwide announce similar actions to achieve a more diverse workforce.

Resources Available to Maryland Branches. To Maryland Branches in need of assistance launching Diversity, Equity and Inclusions programs or Zoom Meetings, please feel free to reach out to me. I am happy to assist with your desired D&I events and activities. I can be reached at jgray90210 at aol dot com. Here's wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday!

Branch News!

Anne Arundel County Branch: A Virtual Book Sale, Zoom, and an Outdoor Lunch

Submitted by Laney Forge and Debby Chessin

Despite the restrictions we faced due to COVID-19, the Anne Arundel County Branch has had a busy and successful Fall 2020! We used Zoom conferencing to conduct both Board and general membership meetings, reworked our Book Sale

activities to limit in-person donations and sales, and enjoyed a few masked, socially-distance events. Before the weather got too cold, we met at a neighborhood park on the water with brown bag lunches, enjoyed catching up with AAUW friends, and making plans for future activities. Morning and Evening Book Clubs, Bridge, Great Decisions, Public Policy and Membership Committees will continue meeting through Zoom.

At our October general membership meeting via Zoom, we greatly enjoyed a performance by award-winning actress, Mary Ann Jung as Mrs. Elizabeth Stanton in a dramatization of the history of women's right to vote. Additional information about Mrs. Jung and a schedule of her events can be found on her website www.HistoryAliveShows.com.

Since the decision was made to cancel our annual Book Sale, committee chairs organized another way to raise the money needed for our scholarship funds and operating expense by collecting books and selling them to the wholesaler. To keep everyone safe, they set up a schedule of appointments on designated collection days to control the flow of people and books. It has been amazingly successful!

Happy Holidays and New Year to all!

Baltimore Branch: Good News

Courtesy of Denise Gray, Janice Zimmerman, Susan Wierman, and the Branch Newsletters

Congratulations to Baltimore Branch member Terri Massey-Burrell, PhD, who was honored by the Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities with their 2020 Advocate Award! Recognized for her many years of steadfast advocacy for individuals with disabilities, Terri is the Director of Student Disability Services for the Johns Hopkins University Homewood Campus.

The Branch's annual Potluck Dinner was held via a Zoom meeting on September 17, 2020. Normally we have a delicious buffet, play trivia games, and participate in a meet and greet session prior to introducing a guest speaker for the evening. For this year's Zoom meeting, we asked the members in attendance questions on various subjects, which sparked interesting, informative, and sometimes humorous responses.

Tricia Bishop, Editorial Page Editor of The Baltimore Sun gave an engaging presentation at the Baltimore Branch's October 15 meeting. She encourages everyone to send letters to the editor via email, talkback@baltsun.com. She also encourages members to send op-ed submissions to Commentary@baltsun.com or amcdaniels@baltsun.com.

Catherine Hill, the Executive Director of the Maryland Women's Legislative Caucus, spoke at the Branch's meeting November 19 on "What the elections will mean for Maryland women and their families."

The Caucus is a bipartisan organization of legislators dedicated to improving the lives of women and their families through legislation. The [Caucus website](#) includes information about bills passed in 2020.

Dr. Hill noted the adoption of Ballot issue #1, providing authority for the legislature to move funds around among budget categories.

Dr. Hill encouraged everyone to know who your state delegates and senators are and to contact them via e-mail regarding legislation you favor or oppose. You can find out by going to "[Who are Your Elected Officials](#)"

Bethesda-Chevy Chase and Kensington-Rockville Branches: Don't let the light go out!

Submitted by Ruth Spivack

Don't let the light go out! This refrain from my favorite Chanukah Song, "Light One Candle" by Peter, Paul and Mary rings true as we approach the coming darkness of winter 2020-21.

Astronomically, the Winter Solstice will arrive on December 21 at which time the hours of daylight are the shortest of the year. Existentially, we have the prognosis of Dr. Fauci and other public health specialists who believe that we are in for a very dark winter due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, we need to continue to light our candles.

We in AAUW have many candle lighters. Several members of both the Kensington-Rockville and Bethesda-Chevy Chase branches serve as officers for the Maryland State AAUW who are in the forefront using technology to connect with members, carry on important initiatives like gender equity and systemic racism and work on legislative priorities for women as part of MLAW, a statewide coalition of women's groups.

The leadership of the Kensington-Rockville and Bethesda-Chevy Chase branches has provided a highly informative series of virtual programs: the Maryland legislative agenda; a public health perspective for older adults on the coronavirus and a panel discussion on Black Lives Matter. Next on the agenda as this is written, following the Holiday celebration on Sunday, December 13, will be a talk on post-election issues by Mark Medish, a former Clinton administration official.

Our branch interest groups continue to enlighten our members, going virtual with both English and French literature discussions and dialogues on current events in the Great Decisions Group.

The approximately 90 members of the two branches are all "stars" and can be described as one of the "thousand points of light," first conceived in 1989 by George H.W. Bush to foster the spirit of helping others. Individual branch members continue to support the goals of AAUW through advocacy, education, and philanthropy, as well as working with many other organizations and causes.

Finally, please light a candle for the future.

Easton Branch: Women in the News!

Submitted by Pat Crane

On October 14, the Easton Star Democrat published "'Women Who Make a Difference' Honored," sharing the news that AAUW's Easton Branch had honored ten "Leaders of the March" at their September 28 online meeting. To initiate this celebration, the branch requested nominations from mid-shore nonprofit agencies and had originally scheduled a March luncheon to honor recipients and share information about all the nonprofits represented. AAUW's press release for the event lauded all ten women for their "selfless commitment and dedication to others."

One of the honorees, Dr. Sharron Cassavant of AAUW's Easton Branch, also received recognition in the Dorchester Star in January for organizing a program at the Talbot County Free Library to commemorate the 19th Amendment. The event highlighted the lengthy struggle that led to the Amendment. As the Dorchester Star quoted Cassavant, "After the program, many people said, 'Wow. I had no idea it took so long.' Every time you heard about an event, a referendum that was defeated, another vote that fell short, you are reminded of the hundreds of women who had worked on that measure and to think that it happened over and over across the nation is remarkable."

Congratulations Dr. Cassavant and the Easton Branch!

Gaithersburg Branch: Research on Title IX Compliance in Montgomery County

Submitted by Edie Allison

Gaithersburg branch does not have a public policy chair, but Edie Allison is representing the branch on the state Public Policy team led by Roxann King and Kashay Webb. Gaithersburg branch pre-election activities included our sponsorship of and publicizing the Board of Education candidate forum in addition to helping the organizers and other sponsoring organizations prepare questions.

At AAUW MD's November Public Policy Zoom meeting, Bev Fallik asked the group's suggestions on finding information on Title IX compliance in her county. Pat Stocker and Edie Allison agreed to help by seeking Title IX data for Montgomery County, where their branches are located.

In reply to our email asking for data, the Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) District instructed us to submit a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request.

Assuming there had to be faster ways, Edie searched and discovered that the U.S. Education Department maintains the Office of Civil Rights database (<https://ocrdata.ed.gov/search/school>), containing the biennial report by every US school district and school of about 200 items, including sports participation, incidents of sexual assault and harassment, and students eligible for free and reduced price lunch.

Montgomery County Public Schools, which enrolled 162,021 students in 2017, reported 146 allegations of harassment or bullying, 59 on the basis of sex, 35 on the basis of race or national origin, 24 on the basis of disability, 25 on the basis on sexual orientation and 3 on the basis of religion.

This seems quite low given the extensive program the district has implemented to assist students subjected to bullying and harassment. This data is also inconsistent with the AAUW report "Crossing the Line," which reports that 48 percent of almost 2000 middle and high school girls surveyed reported an incident of sexual harassment during the 2010-2011 school year.

We encourage other branches to look at the Office of Civil Rights database referenced above.

Howard County Branch: Virtual Meetings Well Attended

Submitted by Beth Hayden

Over the past few months, our branch has held three virtual meetings with presentations:

September 15th – "Voting Options in Maryland for the Presidential Election During the Pandemic" presented by Cynthia Williams, President of the HoCo League of Women Voters.

October 20th – "The Electoral College" presented by Lucie Geinzer, AAUW.

November 17th – "Human Trafficking in Howard County and How it is Being Addressed."

Virtual meetings have made it possible for more of our Branch members to tune into meetings without having to drive at night or physically be there, so we have had fairly good turnouts of about 20-25 participants. It also allows securing speakers from outside of the local area. We miss personal interactions but are glad that many can join in our Branch meetings.

We contributed \$5,000 to Howard Community College Educational Foundation for scholarships during 2021 to help non-traditional women students complete their college education. A plaque recognizing our Branch for its scholarship

contributions over the years is being finalized to hang outside one of the laboratories at HCC.

We are planning a virtual Book Bash February 9th, sharing books that have helped us escape the pandemic. Our Diversity Committee is focusing activities over the coming year on race relations. Also, we are working with MLAW to support women-related legislation to be discussed in the next MD General Assembly session.

We're looking for new ways to raise funds.

WISHING EVERYONE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY!

Looking for Program Ideas? Look at the AAUW Five Star Recognition Program

AAUW encourages states and branches to hold mission-related programs that are open to the public.

Program development resources on AAUW's website include

- Work Smart Online - <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/salary/>
- Operation Equity: Reading for Results - <https://www3.aauw.org/resource/operation-equity/>
- Career Center - <https://www.aauw.org/resources/career/boost-your-career/>
- Community Resource Mapping - <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/community-resource-mapping/>
- Fellowships and Grants - <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/>
- NCCWSL - <https://www.nccwsl.org/about/administrators/>

The five areas that the Five Star program emphasizes include programs, communications, public policy and research, advancement, and governance and sustainability.

Congratulations to the Baltimore Branch for earning 3 stars: Programs; Advancement; and Communications & External Relations!

It's easy for Branch Presidents, Program VPs, Membership VPs, or Finance VPs to give your branch credit and report your progress on the AAUW Five-Star Program website at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/>

In Memory of Members Past

Dr. Denise Decker

Submitted by Anna Palmisano

Dr. Denise Decker, who was a longtime leader in AAUW, passed away on November 4. Below is a link to her obituary. There is a nice quote from AAUW. Many of us knew Denise as an amazing activist for women and for people with disabilities. Despite being blind from birth, she got a Ph.D. from the Sorbonne, spoke four languages, and traveled all over the world with her seeing eye dogs. She always credited AAUW for a fellowship they gave her for grad school—after many other organizations had turned her down because of her blindness. She often said that knowing AAUW believed in her made all the difference. We have lost a great advocate for women and for people who have disabilities. Her obituary is here: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?n=denise-decker&pid=197122357>

Carolyn Ruth Waller

Submitted by Margery Sullivan and Ruth Spivack

Carolyn Ruth Waller of Bethesda, Maryland passed away peacefully at home with family on November 28, 2020 after a long illness. A very impressive woman and career. Her obituary is here: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?n=carolyn-waller&pid=197216186&fhid=2167>

Draft Agenda

AAUW Maryland Winter Board Meeting

Via Zoom

January 16, 2021, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

10:00 – 10:05 Welcome – Erin Prangle, President

Program

10:05 – 10:30

Issue: Should AAUW National Bylaws be changed to eliminate any educational requirement for members?

Presenters will advocate for each side of this issue.

This is for informational purposes only and AAUW Maryland will NOT take a position on the issue.

This issue will be voted on in 2021 by all AAUW members.

10:30 – 10:45

Group Discussion on this issue

Business Meeting

10:45 – 12:00

Call to Order (Erin Prangle, President)

Confirm attendance & quorum (Edie Alison, Secretary)

Identify readers for minutes of this meeting

Approve minutes of previous meetings (Edie Alison, Secretary)

Accept Treasurer's report (Christine Schmitz, Treasurer)

Officer Reports

- Bylaws Chair Report (Diane Roca)
- Funds VP Report (Dian Belanger)
- Program Co-VP Report (Tracy Lantz and Pat Stocker)
- Public Policy Co-VP Report (Kashay Webb and Roxann King)
- Diversity Chair Report (Jacqueline Gray)
- Membership VP Report (Carol Mueller)
- Nominations Committee Report (Bethesda/Chevy Chase, Frederick, Garrett, & Howard County Branches)
- Communications Co-VP Report (Eileen Menton and Susan Wierman)

Other issues



The Marylander
AAUW Maryland
1343 Andre Street
Baltimore, MD 21230

Our Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Our Vision: Equity for all.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status

2021 Calendar

January 16 AAUW Maryland Board of Directors virtual meeting—officers, branch presidents, and committee chairs are all Board members and should attend. Other members also welcome.

January 31 Women’s Legislative Briefing, presented annually by the Montgomery County Commission for Women, will be held virtually

February 4 AAUW MD Advocacy Day – see Public Policy article and contact legislators!

April 25 Submit articles for the next issue of the Marylander to aauw-md@aauw.net

May 22 AAUW MD Spring Meeting (tentative)
Check the calendar for ongoing updates at <https://aauw-md.aauw.net/calendar/> and send activities for posting to aauw-md@aauw.net

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