

AAUW Maryland 79th State Convention and Annual Meeting

May 22 – 23, 2021

May 22 Program

Erin Prangley, President, AAUW Maryland, welcomed members and visitors to the state convention and annual meeting at 10:00 am.

Pat Stocker, Co-VP Program, introduced the first part of a program focusing on diversity issues as well as our delayed celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment. Pat introduced Lily Qi, member of the Maryland House of Delegates to speak on Chinese Americans and Maryland Politics. Her presentation was followed by a brief question and answer period.

In honor of our pandemic-delayed celebration of women's suffrage, Kate Campbell Stevenson presented sections of her previously recorded presentation, "Women Back to the Future" and "Amending America: How Women Won the Vote."

Minutes of AAUW Maryland Business Meeting, Part 1

May 22, 2021

1. **Call to Order:** After a short break following the program President Erin Prangley call the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.
2. **Declaration of Quorum:** Edith Allison, Secretary, reported that 10 of 13 branches were represented, which meets the requirement for quorum.
3. **Adopt Convention Rules:** Erin reported that the convention rules were provided to members before the meeting and asked for their approval. Susan Wierman so moved and they were adopted unanimously.
 - **Appoint Teller:** Edith Allison was appointed.
 - **Appoint Timekeeper:** Pat Stocker was appointed.
4. **Credentials Report:** Edith Allison reported attendance of: 10 branches; 28 branch delegates; 9 state board of directors, not counting branch presidents; 1 most-recent year's past president; and no national members, for a total delegate body of 37. For a 2/3 (two thirds) vote, 25 votes would be needed. For a majority vote, 19 votes would be needed.
5. **Accept Minutes of 2020 Convention:** Erin notes that the minutes of the 2020 convention were provided on the AAUW-MD website in advance of the meeting. Eileen Menton moved to approve the minutes. The motion was adopted.
6. **Appoint Readers for 2020 Convention Minutes:** Margery Sullivan and Dorothy Fraquelli were appointed.
7. **Consideration of Bylaws Revisions:** Diane Roca, bylaws chair thanked the committee members, Janet Crampton, Terri Massie-Burrell, Eileen Menton, and Christine Schmitz, and noted that copies of the current and proposed bylaws were provided to members in advance of this meeting.

Diane summarized the revisions and answered questions about the proposed changes. She explained that some changes were made to bring bylaws into conformity with AAUW national standards and state laws for non-profit organizations, and to provide guidance for meeting electronically, for remote participation in a meeting and for taking action without holding a meeting.

The nominating process was revised to accommodate the situation that AAUW Maryland has fewer branches from which to identify nominating committee members and reinforces that they are elected by the members, not appointed by the president.

Another new item requires timely notice to membership of positions open on the Board of Directors and of the slate of officers in advance of the annual convention. In addition, the Bylaws now state that the national AAUW member database is the authority to determine whether a branch or a member is active and in good standing. Also, Maryland Online is a branch.

Another new bylaw states that in the absence of the President, the Program Vice President shall assume the duties. Because of its importance to the operation of AAUW Maryland, this provision, already stated in the position descriptions, has been added to the bylaws.

In response to questions, Eileen explained that Maryland includes branch presidents in the state board based on longstanding agreement that they are deemed necessary. The new bylaws formalize this tradition.

8. **Approval of Revised Bylaws:** After the discussion was completed, Diane moved that the bylaws be approved. They were approved.
9. **Nominating Committee Report:** Erin thanked the committee members:
 - Pat Stocker- Bethesda-Chevy Chase Branch, chair.
 - Judy A. Carbone - Garret County Branch.
 - Beth Hayden – Howard County Branch.
 - Teri Bisceglia –Frederick Branch.
 - Bernadette Low – past-year chair and ad hoc member.
 - Kate Campbell Stevenson – as Co-Past President of AAUW MD

Pat Stocker presented the slate of officers and the nominating committee for 2021-22:

- Secretary: Edie Allison (incumbent).
- Co-Vice Presidents, Public Policy: Roxann King (incumbent) and Debby Chessin
- Vice President, Membership: Christine Schmitz.
- Vice President, Finance/Treasurer: Carol Mueller.

2022 Nominating committee:

- Pat Stocker-Bethesda-Chevy Chase Branch, past chair and ad hoc member.
- Jacki Gray-Baltimore Branch.
- Tracy Lantz-Anne Arundel Branch.
- Kate Campbell Stevenson-Kensington-Rockville Branch.

10. **Officer Elections:** Erin asked for nominations from the floor for each officer position. None were proposed. Erin then asked if there were any objections to considering the full slate. Given there were none, a call to elect the slate by acclamation was made and was unopposed.
11. **Continued delayed celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment:** The first day's meeting was closed with Kate's stirring rendition of "Standing on the Shoulders."
12. **Adjournment:** Pat moved to adjourn and without objection the meeting closed at 12:48 p.m.

Sunday, May 23, 2021

The annual convention reconvened with a diversity program at 2:00 p.m.

Jacki Gray introduced the speaker, Dr. Ida Jones, author and University Archivist at Morgan State University, to give the keynote address, A Complicated Story of Women's Suffrage in Black and White. Her presentation was followed by small-group discussions about diversity in AAUW branches using Zoom breakout rooms, and closed with observations and recommendations from the breakouts.

Roxann King introduced our second speaker, Maryland Senator, Susan Lee, who spoke on "Women's Perspectives: A View from the 2021 Legislative Session." Senator Lee, a member of the Kensington-Rockville branch, acknowledged AAUW's support for important bills. She also reported that her bill requiring background checks for private long-gun sales passed.

Second Part of Business Meeting

May 23, 2021

13. **Meeting reconvened:** President Erin Prangley called the second half of the annual meeting to order at 3:58 p.m.
14. **Declaration of Quorum:** Edith Allison, Secretary, reported that 10 of 13 branches were represented, which meets the requirement for quorum
15. **Officer Installation:** Past presidents, Susan Wierman and Kate Stevenson thanked the current officers and formally installed the incoming state officers. Each officer agreed to fulfill the duties of their position and other meeting attendants agreed to the request to support and assist the board.
16. **Officers' Reports:** (Note, many of these are posted in the "Convention Notebook" on the AAUW-Maryland website, <https://aauw-md.aauw.net/about/2021-aauw-maryland-convention-and-annual-meeting/>):
 - **Fundraising Report by Dian Belanger** – Dian reported many successes this year: 1) In spite of pandemic-related challenges, AAUW Maryland raised \$20,000 for platinum sponsorship of NCCWSL, where the Maryland Woman of Distinction, Dr. A. Yvette Myrick of the Baltimore Branch, will be recognized and speak. Over 700 attendees are expected at NCCWSL this year. 2) Maryland donations to AAUW Greatest Need and other funds, were greater than \$58,000 last year, and donations already exceed \$7,000 for this year. 3) Maryland added new members to the Legacy Circle. 4) Fellowship and grants for the coming

year support 270 scholars with almost \$5 million, a significant increase. Finally, Dian proposed that we review our fundraising approach at the summer planning meeting.

- **Treasurer's Report by Christine Schmitz** - Christine reported that on April 30, 2021, our actual income (\$2,063.55) was below budget (\$14,250), and expenses (\$5,304.43) were also below budget (\$14,250). In addition, more than \$600 income has been received since the report. The Treasurer's report was filed for audit.
- **Public Policy Co-Vice Presidents' Report:** Roxann reviewed the 2 MLAW bills that were passed overriding the Governor's 2020 veto, and 4 MLAW- and AAUW-Maryland-supported bills that passed the General Assembly this year. She closed by stating that she is looking forward to working with her new Public Policy Co-VP, Debby Chessin, Co-President of Anne Arundel branch.
- **Membership Vice-President's Report:** Carol Mueller reported that membership has decreased in most branches, which averaged 88% retention of members. Garrett branch was the exception, slightly increasing membership.
- **Diversity Report:** Jacki Gray described the numerous diversity activities of the past year, which are listed in her report. Looking forward, she highlighted the May 25 Women of Distinction ceremony, at the 2021 National Conference of College Women Student Leaders, NCCWSL, in which Maryland's Woman of Distinction, Dr. A. Yvette Myrick of the Baltimore Branch, will be recognized and speak. In the future Jacki will be working with program VPs to develop additional programs, perhaps including a panel discussion of leaders of other minority-focused women's organizations about working together.
- **Co-Program VPs Report,** Tracy Lantz described the past year's programs, which are also listed in the Co-VPs report. In addition to the programs offered with the Fall and Winter meetings and this annual meeting, two special Zoom programs were offered. In coordination with Jacki Gray, a September program viewed and discussed "Rigged: The Voter Suppression Handbook." Another Zoom program featured Lisa Maatz, former head of government relations for AAUW, talking about Washington happenings and voter rights. Tracy reiterated how valuable it is to have others bring program ideas to program team. Erin thanked the program team in organizing this weekend's the program and the business meetings.

17. **Additional questions and discussion:**

- Jacki, asked if we can get the list of MLAW-supported bills that passed the General Assembly in 2021 in the next Marylander.
- Eileen reported that AAUW Mission in Action describes two new programs, "STEMed" for Girls," and for entry to mid-level women, "Social Change Ambassador" certification. Branches could sponsor participants. In addition, LAF has added a 6th case and successfully completed another. This information will be in the next Marylander.
- The Communication Co-VPs request branch reports on plans for the fall. Send material for Marylander by very early June.

- Christine Schmitz asked that the minutes include an alert that the new treasurer, Carol Mueller, and Erin Prangle, who was not added earlier, need to be added as signatories for the state checking accounts. Christine will help assure this happens.
 - In response to a question about getting access to the Marylander, Eileen explained it is sent by email, and by mail for those without an AAUW-listed email. In addition, current and past Marylanders are on the website, <https://aauw-md.aauw.net/>.
18. **Closing Remarks:** Kate Stevenson thanked all for an exceptional convention, and finished with “Standing on the Shoulders.”
19. **Adjournment:** Erin thanked speakers and presenters and reiterated that she misses seeing us in person. She adjourned the meeting at 4:53 p.m.

Submitted, Edith Allison, secretary