

**Program Committee Report**  
**Program Year Summer 2021-Spring 2022**  
**Tracy Lantz and Pat Stocker**  
**Maryland Co-Vice Presidents for Programs**

We've had a busy program year with one virtual meeting and three in person gatherings. We are grateful for the technology and technical assistance to offer virtual meetings as needed due to public health concerns. We have requested that those attending in person meetings be vaccinated and wear masks when appropriate.

Summer Conference: July 10, 2021

Our Summer meeting was in person at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, hosted by the BCC Branch. Our speaker, Bob Deans discussed Climate Change: Challenges Affecting Our Future. Bob Deans is the Director, Strategic Engagement, Natural Resources Defense Council. The mission of NRDC is to safeguard the Earth: its people, its plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends. The Council combines the power of its more than 2 million members with the expertise of more than 500 scientists, lawyers and policy advocates across the globe to ensure the rights of all people to the air, the water and the wild. He is also the author of many books and appears regularly on television interview shows. Previously, he was White House Correspondent for Cox Newspapers and was President of the White House Correspondents' Association.

Issues of climate and energy affect all of us. Decisive and immediate action must be taken to save lives. According to scientific reports, climate-fueled tragedies aren't only going to get worse, they're getting worse much faster than previously predicted. The presentation was well received and generated numerous questions from the audience. Small group breakout sessions encouraged members to envision how they could make change at the local and national level.

Fall Conference: September 18, 2021

The Baltimore branch hosted AAUW Maryland via zoom due to ongoing pandemic concerns.

Our speaker was Dr. Leshell Hatley, Director of STEM Programs for AAUW. She addressed: STEM: How AAUW is Working to Close the Gender Gap. Leshell Hatley, Ph.D. is the first Director of STEM Programs at AAUW. She is a passionate computer engineer, educator, and researcher who continuously combines these three attributes to create innovative approaches to teaching STEM concepts to students between the ages of 3 and 73. With over 20 years of teaching experience, she led teams of enthusiastic students, dedicated volunteer instructors, and teams of engineers with nationally recognized success.

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields will account for some of the fastest growing — and highest paying — jobs of the future. Yet girls and women are still not on par with boys and men in preparing for these fields. Women make up only 28% of the STEM workforce. We will explore some of the causes for this gap and some actions that can be taken to encourage women to pursue careers in STEM fields, careers that are generally among the highest paid

### AAUW Maryland Woman of Distinction Tea: March 6, 2022

The Program committee assisted in the planning of this event held at the home of Anita Rosen. All AAUW Maryland members were invited to attend the tea in honor of this year's Woman of Distinction, Pat Stocker. We took this opportunity to also invite many of Pat's friends who are not yet members of AAUW. Dian Belanger shared information on the philanthropic activities of AAUW as well as information about NCCSWL and our work to raise \$20,000 to support the Women of Distinction Event at the virtual conference to be held at the end of May. A lovely afternoon as enjoyed by all and significant funds were raised towards our goal to support this event.

### Maryland State Convention, March 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>

The convention will be held in person on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> in Annapolis at the Unitarian Universalist Church with preconvention activities in Annapolis beginning on Friday afternoon. The convention theme "Title IX: 50 Years of Progress" will focus on the impacts of Title IX and how we may improve on its provisions in the future as well as celebrate its successes in educational institutions throughout the country. Our speakers for the day include: Gloria Blackwell, CEO, AAUW; Sara Collina, J.D., an expert on sex and gender public policy from Georgetown University who will speak on "Title IX, Where We've Been, Where We're Going"; and Nancy Hogshead-Makar, Olympic Gold Medalist and Founder of Champion Women who will address "Leveling the Playing Field."

We look forward to working closely with the in-coming program vice president as we plan the summer conference. Proposed conference date: Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The new Co-Vice Presidents for Programs will present this program with our assistance.

Submitted by Tracy Lantz and Pat Stocker, March 15, 2022