

Program Committee Report

Program Year Summer 2022 - Spring 2023

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Maryland Co-Vice Presidents for Programs

Below are highlights of the major AAUW Maryland programs that were held from Summer 2022 through Spring 2023. The Programs presented by AAUW Maryland were timely, thoroughly researched, and well received by the State Branches.

Summer Conference – August 20, 2022

AAUW Maryland's Summer Conference was held on Saturday, August 20, 2022 at the Cultural Arts Center, located at Ingleside at King Farm, Gaithersburg, MD. The conference theme centered on "Inequalities in Health Care Affecting Women and Girls."

Guest speakers who presented on this topic included Dr. Modupe Agueh, MD, Director, Bureau of Clinical Services, Baltimore County Department of Health and Human Services; Dr. Khara Simpson, Associate Program Director for the Fellowship in Minimally Invasive Gynecology at Johns Hopkins Hospital; and Dr. Jenny Robinson, MD, MPH, PhD, Asst. Professor, Div. of Family Planning, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Dr. Agueh's topic centered on "Representation and Inclusion: Understanding the Impact of Social Determinants of Health." Dr. Simpson's topic focused on "Racial and Ethnic Inequities in Gynecological Care," and Dr. Robinson's discussion centered on "Inequities in Reproductive Health Services."

The Summer 2022 conference was well attended in person and was also broadcast via zoom to registered participants. The conference was hosted by the AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch.

Fall Conference – October 15, 2022

AAUW Maryland held its Fall Conference on Saturday, October 15, 2022 at the Casey Community Center in Gaithersburg MD. The theme of the conference was a "Focus on Voter Participation." The guest speaker at the fall conference was Karla Silvestre, Director of Community Engagement at Montgomery College. Ms. Silvestre discussed ways to engage younger voters as well as provide information on the success of allowing 16-year-olds to vote in local elections.

Following Ms. Silvestre's discussion, the participants broke into groups to discuss how members of AAUW could contribute to efforts to get younger people to vote. Also, during the fall conference, activities were held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Gaithersburg, Maryland branch. The fall conference was hosted by the Gaithersburg Branch.

Artists4ERA Art Exhibit and Reception – March 4, 2023

On March 4, 2023, AAUW Maryland co-hosted the Artist4ERA art exhibit and reception at the Baltimore County Arts Guild Clubhouse in Catonsville, MD. This event highlighted the continuing need to add the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Working with VoteEquality.us, a national organization whose mission is to advocate for the ERA to be certified by the National Archivist, AAUW MD and three local AAUW branches along with other community organizations hosted the event.

Guest speakers at the Artists4ERAevent discussed the history of and next steps for moving the ERA forward. The program also included two panel discussions on gender equality. The reception included a silent auction of 14 posters created by various artists as well as a raffle for the chance to win an original piece of artwork. The silent auction raised \$1,800, and the raffle generated over \$800, with total donations to Vote Equality of over \$3,300. AAUW co-hosted the event with AAUW Branches from Baltimore, Howard County, and Garrett County.

AAUW Maryland State Convention – April 14th - 15th 2023

AAUW Maryland’s annual State Convention will be held in person and via Zoom on April 14th and April 15th 2023 in Columbia, MD. Festivities will kick off on Friday evening, April 14th with a dinner and tribute to Eileen Menton, at the Union Jack Restaurant located in Columbia, MD.

The formal convention program will be held on Saturday, April 15th at Howard Community College in Columbia, MD. The main topic of discussion during the State convention program will feature a continued discussion of "Inequalities in Health Care Affecting Women and Girls," and will focus specifically on the Fourth Trimester, the crucial period after the birth of a child. Dr. Jamila Barlow and Dr. Nicole Kumi, two qualified healthcare experts, will be present to discuss the Fourth Trimester. The Howard County branch will be hosting the State Convention.