**President’s Report**

April 2023

Submitted by Tracy Lantz

Participated in the planning and execution of the Transition Board meeting in Howard County, the Summer Conference in Rockville with the Kensington-Rockville Branch, the Fall Conference in Gaithersburg with the Gaithersburg Branch, Winter Zoom Board meeting, the Spring Annual Convention and Friday Evening Dinner in Columbia with the Howard County Branch.

Visited seven branches:

Garrett County

Harford County

Howard County

Kensington-Rockville

Baltimore

Hagerstown

Anne Arundel (Book Sale)

Hosted state wide special meeting via zoom to discuss proposed changes to AAUW National Bylaws

First year implementing hybrid (in-person with zoom remote option) state meetings.

Chaired a multibranch (Baltimore, Howard and Anne Arundel) and community sponsored (Maryland Women’s Heritage Center and Dismantling Racism Committee) event in support of the Equal Rights Amendment: Artists4ERA exhibit and reception (Feb 27th-March 5th):

* Toured Venue
* Applied for and received AAUW Public Policy and Diversity Grant
* Created Budget with Budget Subcommittee
* Lead monthly and bi-monthly Steering Committee Meetings beginning fall of ‘22
* Finalized both venue and exhibit contracts, received security deposit refund for venue
* Coordinated publicity with both VoteEquality and event communications team
* Discussed and finalized panelist questions with cosponsors and communications team
* Discussed artwork, raffle and silent auction details with VoteEquality
* Partnered with 4 national organizations and a women’s equality author who spoke to our guests:
  + Maryland NOW,
  + Generation Ratify,
  + National Women’s Political Caucus and
  + VoteEquality
  + Kate Kelly, author of Ordinary Equality

Results:

* Over 130 reception attendees and 50 additional exhibit attendees
* Raised over $3400 in donations for VoteEquality
* Event included two panels of women (high school-post college age and mid-career women) who spoke on how gender equity had affected their scholastic and career opportunities.
* Reception audience was diverse (gender, age and race)
* Special guests included Jerome Stephens from Senator Ben Cardin’s office
* Sponsoring organizations recruited their members as volunteers to support exhibit and reception
* Auctioned 14 pieces of artwork and delivered to their new owners, raffled Chuck Sperry print and sold 9 Chuck Sperry posters
* Follow up thank you’s and convention invitations to speakers, panelists and registered guests

Participated in two AAUW CA webinars:

* The Kindness of Color with Janice Munemitsu
* DEI Chat: Accessibility and Belonging, Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity (JABEID)

Other meetings attended:

* Montgomery Co. Commission for Women, Women’s Legislative Briefing Networking Event 1/28/23
* Women’s Legislative Briefing Zoom Call 1/29/23

Suggested updates to AAUW MD state website

Suggested updates to the Maryland Handbook

Updated signatures on AAUW MD bank accounts to include treasurer and current state president

Monthly Budget/Finance calls with AAUW MD state treasurer

Pre-publication review of Marylander State Wide Newsletters

Upcoming activities:

Transition Board meeting tentatively via zoom in mid-July with exchange of records on July 29th.

Planning Summer conference in Harford County on July 29th

Planning Fall conference in Bethesda-Chevy Chase (tentatively last Saturday in September)

Plan to attend and organize AAUW Maryland members to participate in **ERA Centennial Convention** in Seneca Falls, NY, July 21-22 with possible caravanning in coordination with VoteEquality partners

Objectives for 2023-2024:

Continue to explore inequalities for women and girls

Support efforts to add the ERA to the constitution by partnering with other organizations including VoteEquality, Generation Ratify and Maryland NOW.

Follow up on ERA Centennial Action Plan

Visit remaining AAUW Maryland Branches