

AAUW MARYLAND 82<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

April 20, 2024

Ingleside Cultural Arts Center

Ingleside at King Farm

Rockville, Maryland

**Annual Meeting** 12:00 – 12:10 PM

President Tracy Lantz (Anne Arundel and Kensington/Rockville Branches) called the meeting to order. The time was not recorded.

**Roll call of branches** was made by Secretary Diane Roca (Howard County Branch). Nine of 12 branches were represented.

**Credentials report** was presented by the Secretary. The total delegate body was 52; a 2/3 vote to approve motions was 34.

**Annual meeting rules** were not included in each attendee's registration packet. A motion was made by Susan Wierman (Baltimore Branch) that the meeting proceed without a copy of the Annual Meeting Rules. The motion was carried by voice vote.

Dian Belanger (Kensington/Rockville Branch) reminded attendees that the rules limit each speaker to two minutes and that an individual may not speak a second time until everyone has had an opportunity to speak.

**Tellers and Timekeepers Appointed:** Margery Sullivan (Kensington/Rockville Branch) and Dorothy Fraquelli (Baltimore Branch) were appointed Tellers and Jacki Gray (Baltimore Branch) was appointed Timekeeper.

**Nominating Committee Report** was given by Susan Wierman. In addition to Susan, the committee members were Kate Campbell Stevenson (Kensington/Rockville Branch), Beverlie Fallik (Howard County Branch) and Pat Stocker (Bethesda/Chevy Chase Branch.)

There was one vacancy in the slate. Susan said that a nomination could be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee, or a person could nominate herself. If there is no nominee, the Board is responsible to fill the position.

**Slate of Officers for 2024-2026**

- President: Heather Reichart (Gaithersburg Branch)
- Vice President AAUW Funds: Jeri Rhodes (Kensington/Rockville Branch)
- Co-Vice Presidents Communications: Lydia Alcock and Susana Hernandez Martin for a second two-year term. Susan Wierman was nominated for a one-year term. She has served two terms in the position and is term-limited. The Board approved her continuing in office for one additional year. All three candidates are members of the Baltimore Branch.
- VP Programs: No nominee
- Nominating Committee for 2025: Anita Rosen (Kensington/Rockville Branch); Edie Allison (Gaithersburg Branch); Beverlie Fallik (Howard County Branch); Susan Wierman as ex-officio member.

Tracy thanked the Nominating Committee for their work. Because this was an uncontested election, she asked for a standing vote for the entire slate. The slate was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:36 PM for lunch. During the lunch period, there were presentations from local branches reflecting on notable women in observance of International Women's Day.

**Annual Meeting Resumed** – Scheduled for 1:45 pm

**Meeting to order** by Tracy Lantz at 2:12 PM.

**Roll Call of Branches** by Diane Roca: 10 of 12 branches were represented.

**Second credentials report** given by Diane Roca. 38 people in the room; 6 participants on Zoom  
Total attendees: 44. 29 votes were needed to approve/deny a motion.

**Minutes of the Last Annual Meeting** were read by appointed Readers and sent out to attendees. Copies were provided on the tables.

**Readers of the Minutes of this Annual Meeting:** Margery Sullivan and Kate Campbell Stevenson were appointed.

**Officers and Committee Chairs Reports** Oral reports limited to two minutes.

Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Christine Schmitz (Baltimore Branch) and shown on screen.

- Balances as of April 16, 2024: Checking \$2,279.92; Money Market \$28,110.70; Total \$30,390.62.
- Payments were made for mini-grants, seed money for the Mid Atlantic Regional Conference and liability insurance.
- Payment of \$35.00 for the Ruthless Vote Getter (RVG) bus tour in legislative District 1 was made after the closing date of this report. AAUW Maryland's goal was to donate \$350.00 toward the \$1,000.00 needed for the tour. Individual members and friends donated \$315.00; the \$35 needed to reach \$350.00 was taken from the contingency fund.
- The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

President's Report: Tracy mentioned several activities and events from her written report.

- In July, Tracy and other AAUW MD members attended the ERA Centennial Celebration Summer Convention in Seneca Falls, New York.
- Visited Eastern Shore April 17, Easton Branch and RVG bus tour.
- Participated in the 100 Year March for the ERA on December 13, 2023.
- Attended DMV (District of Columbia-Maryland-Virginia) high school voter registration conference.
- Galentine project collaboration with Feminist Uprising, Baltimore and Anne Arundel branches. [Galentine's Day is observed on February 13 to celebrate women's friendships.]

Tracy announced that the Transition Board Meeting will be June 22 at the home of Christine Schmitz. She thanked Christine for hosting the meeting.

Membership Vice President Jeanne Blades (Harford County Branch) was not present. Tracy gave her report.

- AAUW Maryland has 464 members.
- Everyone should have received the ballot to vote for national officers. If anyone did not receive a ballot online or has difficulty voting, contact Jeanne.
- More than 17% of Maryland members have voted in the current election. An email reminder goes out every Monday to those who have not voted.

- 22 paper ballots were undeliverable. Requesting an address or phone number for those members.

Program Co-Vice President Heather Reichart reported:

- The program committee has had a great year.
- Thanked Harford County Branch for hosting the Summer Conference last July. Heather noted the excellent presenters: singer Maureen Broy who sang her composition about the Equal Rights Amendment, Mary Ann Gorman's discussion about the history and status of the ERA, and Sharon Jackson Wilder on inclusion efforts at Montgomery College.
- Thanked Bethesda/Chevy Chase Branch for hosting the Fall Conference. She noted the speakers on the environmental theme: Bob Deans speaking about International Climate Issues and Almeta E. Cooper of Mom's Clean Air Force.
- Noted that today's theme was the ERA and voting issues.

AAUW Funds Vice President Bea Dane (Howard County Branch) participated by Zoom. To ensure that everyone could hear, Tracy read her report.

- NCCWSL (National Conference of College Women Student Leaders) will be held May 30 – June 1 at the University of Maryland, College Park. The Women of Distinction Ceremony will be Friday, May 31, at 7:30 PM. Any member who wants to attend may contact Bea.
- At the Summer Conference, members voted to continue to support the Women of Distinction evening by raising \$20,000.
- At the Fall Conference, Dian Belanger was chosen as the 2024 Maryland Woman of Distinction.
- The required \$20,000 has been raised.
- Tracy will introduce Dian at NCCWSL.

Diversity and Inclusion Vice President Carolyn Fisher (Gaithersburg Branch) reported

- Committee is looking for more members
- Held the first town hall. They learned about engagement and a project at Howard University.
- Hope to establish an annual Diversity and Inclusion program for AAUW.

Communications Co-Vice Presidents – Susan Wierman reported:

- Improved navigation on the state website, with appreciation to Co-VP Susana Hernandez Martin who programmed it.
- AAUW Maryland Handbook is on the website.
- At today's meeting, one user pointed out a glitch in the website which will be addressed.
- The *Marylander* newsletter now has functionality that allows readers to click on a title in the Contents and be taken directly to the article.
- Let Susan know of any member who needs a paper copy. She will mail one.
- When sending the *Marylander*, Susan uses the emails and addresses on the AAUW national database. Be sure that information is up to date.
- Deadline for articles for the summer issue of the *Marylander* is the end of May.

Bylaws Chair Diane Roca reported

- New bylaws were approved by the membership last spring (2023) that redefine the relationship of the branch to the national organization. Branches need to update their bylaws by removing the first seven articles and inserting the revised version.
- Thanked branches for the work they are doing to complete the revisions.

Public Policy Co-Vice Presidents – Roxann King (Anne Arundel Branch) reported some of their activities:

- Seven of the 12 bills that were on the AAUW Maryland legislative agenda were passed during the 2024 General Assembly session.
- AAUW Maryland was a co-sponsor of Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women Conference (MLAW) in November.
- Participated in a Rally for the ERA on February 19 in Annapolis followed by lobby training.
- An Advocacy Training session was held on January 9.
- Participated in Advocacy Day in Annapolis on January 16. Members visited offices of legislators requesting support for bills on our legislative agenda.
- Awarded Mini-Grants. The budget for 2023-2024 was \$1,000. A grant was awarded to Garrett County Branch for a community presentation. The Harford County Branch received two grants: one to help support the Resnik Brunch and the second for to help fund a television to a girl's school in Kenya.
- Next deadline for mini-grants is June 15, 2024. Applications are available on the branch website.
- Participated in the Women's Legislative Briefing in Montgomery County in January and had an AAUW membership table.
- Recorded Getting Out the Vote webinars. Voting is the committee's the number one priority. Second priority is tracking changes to Title IX related to sexual assault on campus, pregnant and parenting students and equity for trans students.
- Stated that our job is to educate the people we come in contact with.

Judy Carbone (Garrett County Branch), ERA Task Force Chair and Public Policy Co-Vice President, participated by Zoom. Tracy read her report:

- Members of the ERA Task Force are Judy, Karina Shipps (National and Maryland member) and Susan Crawford (Anne Arundel Branch.)
- Goals are to get out the word on the Eastern Shore to ask Representative Harris to support the ERA.
- The Ruthless Vote Getter (RVG) bus is touring the Eastern Shore April 17 – 29.
- Published information on social media.
- Task Force has been approved to present a workshop at NCCWSL on May 30 at 11:00 AM.
- Bill SJ001 was passed by the Maryland Senate – one of Task Force's main goals. Maryland is the seventh state to reaffirm the ERA as part of the US Constitution.

## **Announcements**

- Tracy invited all to come to the Atlantic Regional Conference on September 27-29 in Glen Allen, Virginia. A major goal of Tracy's term in office has been to create this event.
  - AAUW members in Atlantic seaboard states are invited.
  - Tracy and Carol Mueller (Online Branch) are on the Program Committee. Dian Belanger is on the Planning Committee. Dian will present a history of AAUW, Heather Reichart will present on Ranked Choice Voting and Mary Ann Gorman (Anne Arundel and Easton Branches) will talk about the ERA.
  - It was suggested to invite Maureen Broy, who performed at the Summer Conference.
- ERA Centennial Convention Follow Up was presented by Tracy.
  - Last summer the ERA Centennial Convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York, on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ERA.
  - About ten people from Maryland attended.
  - 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary March for the ERA was held December 13.
  - ERA Rally in Annapolis was held on February 19. Sixteen AAUW Maryland members participated.
  - RVG Tour on the Eastern Shore. As voted by members at the Summer Conference, our AAUW logo is now displayed on the back of the bus.
  - Event at Washington College, Chestertown.
- Transition Board Meeting will be on June 22 at 1:00 PM at Christine Schmitz' home. Heather will present her vision for her Presidency.
- Summer Conference will be on July 20 in Baltimore hosted by the Baltimore Branch.
- There will not be a regular Fall Conference. Instead, members are invited to the regional conference on September 27 – 29 in Richmond, Virginia.
- A host is needed for the 2025 annual meeting.
- Susan Crawford (Anne Arundel Branch) showed an example of the ERA umbrella that she created. She took pre-orders from members present. Price is \$15.00 including tax. Members participating online can place an order through Tracy or Susan. Susan will send a photo to show what the umbrella looks like.
- Carolyn Fisher said that there is one AAUW Fellow who is studying Diversity. Carolyn hopes to arrange for her to speak to us.
- Thank yous and appreciation:
  - Tracy thanked all the officers and gave each a gift.
  - Dian thanked Tracy for her service and gave her a gift.
  - Dian expressed her appreciation to the Local Arrangements Committee and gave them gifts.

## **New Business**

### **Atlantic Regional Conference**

- Tracy expressed her desire to encourage more than one AAUW Maryland member from each branch to attend the Atlantic Regional Conference. Her suggestion was to offer financial support, similar to a successful program that was done at the Mid-West Regional Conference in St. Louis.
- Terms of the program: If two members from a branch attend the conference, AAUW Maryland would reimburse the branch \$300. If one member attends, the reimbursement would be \$100. The branch can distribute the funds as they want. For instance, in the

example, with two members attending, the branch would receive \$300 and could give each attendee \$150 rebate on their conference expenses. Reimbursement would be given only if the members actually attended the conference. The proposal was received favorably.

- There was discussion about how to fund the reimbursements.
  - Christine said that the reimbursement would be in the 2024-2025 budget. There are funds in the current budget that will not be used. For example, funds in the Contingency budget amount to \$715 and can be carried over into next fiscal year. There are also funds available in the Money Market funds.
  - Dorothy Fraquelli (Baltimore Branch) said, if three members attend from each of the ten Maryland branches, the total required could be as much as \$3,600.00.
  - Tracy said that the organizers need 100 people to attend in order to put on the conference. She expects 20 members from Maryland to attend. If the conference generates sufficient income, AAUW Maryland will get back the \$500 seed money sent last year.
  - Tracy gave the following details about the conference: Registration fee: \$209 including most meals. The Friday evening dinner is not included. It will be \$65 and include entertainment. The hotel costs \$129.00 per night. Saturday dinner is on your own.
  - Susan Wierman suggested that the Treasurer prepare our 2024-2025 budget to cover the proposed reimbursement and have it ready for the Transition Board Meeting. Christine Schmitz said the budget will be decided at the Summer Conference. No business is transacted at the Transition Board Meeting.
  - Carolyn Fisher noted that some individuals might choose to donate toward the reimbursements.
  - Eileen Menton said that the reimbursement is insufficient for a person who might have difficulty paying for the conference.
- Installation of Officers – Beth Hayden (Howard County Branch) presided.
  - The meeting moved to the Installation of Officers while a motion was written out for the Secretary.
  - Beth thanked the officers who are continuing in office, those who have completed their terms, the committee chairs and the branch presidents.
  - Beth described each newly elected officer's duties and asked the candidates if they would agree to perform them. Each one said she would.
    - Heather Reichardt – President
    - Jeri Rhodes – AAUW Funds Vice President
    - Susan Wierman – Communications Co-Vice President for one year.
    - Lydia Alcock and Susana Hernandez Martin - Communications Co-Vice Presidents for two years. (Not present)
- Resuming Atlantic Regional Conference discussion
  - Motion made by Margery Sullivan (Kensington/Rockville Branch): I move that budget overage for 2023-2024 be applied to the subsidies for the 2024 regional conference and have a line item in the 2024-2025 budget for additional funds, which would total no more than \$3,600.00.
  - The motion was approved by voice vote.

- Tracy reminded everyone to vote in the online national election for national officers and Open Membership bylaw. Voting ends on May 15.
- AAUW Membership Webinar Follow Up presented by Heather and Dian.
  - Excellent presentation by other AAUW branches gave good projects to gain members.
  - Propose having a Zoom meeting for branch Membership Vice Presidents to watch it and then create good ideas for us.
- Final Credentials Report – Secretary Diane Roca reported 30 in attendance in the room.
- Adjournment : Dorothy Fraquelli made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Approved.
- Tracy adjourned the meeting at 3:55 PM.

Minutes written by Diane Roca April 25, 2024

Approved by Readers May 6, 2024

Edit on June 5, 2024