

## **Minutes of AAUW Maryland Summer Board Meeting, Saturday, July 26, 2025**

### **Morning Program, Tools to Strengthen Branches**

The board meeting was preceded by a morning session on “Tools to Strengthen Branches”, which started with a Keynote Presentation on “New Tools to Share AAUW Messages with Legislators: In district Meetings” by Meaghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy. This was followed by presentations and discussions on using the 5-Star Branch Survey, led by Heather Reichardt, Edie Allison and Dorothy Fraquelli. The morning ended with branch treasurer training presented by Christine Schmitz, AAUW Maryland Treasurer and AAUW National Board member. Zoom participation was 38.

### **AAUW Maryland Board Meeting**

1. Maryland president, Heather Reichardt, started the meeting at 12:58 pm, welcoming participants and thanking them for their patience in dealing with Zoom sign-in problems.
2. Roll Call of the Branches (establishing a quorum) – Edie Allison, Secretary Pro Tem, called the roll. All 10 branches and the online branch were represented. Participants are listed at the end of this report.
3. President Reichardt asked branch leaders to consider hosting the 2026 spring convention and provided a summary of recent annual-meeting hosts to inform their decisions: 2025: Gaithersburg, 2024: Kensington-Rockville, 2023: Howard, 2022: Anne Arundel, 2021: Online, 2020: online, 2019: Garrett (Wisp), 2018: Baltimore. President Reichardt suggested that two branches could co-host to ease the planning/volunteer burden. She will contact all branches to identify a host branch.
4. Report on Nominating Committee for 2026/2027: Jacqueline Gray (Baltimore), Kate Campbell Stevenson (Kensington-Rockville), Pat Stocker (Bethesda-Chevy Chase), with Anita Rosen (past chair, ex officio) (Kensington-Rockville) will serve on the committee. Kate has volunteered to be chair. Heather noted that some current officers are eligible to serve an additional term and stressed the importance of finding a regular/consistent secretary.
  - Offices up for election for 2026-2028 are:
    - i. President
    - ii. Vice President for Programs
    - iii. Vice President for Funds
    - iv. Co-Vice Presidents for Communications
    - v. Secretary (currently vacant; need volunteer)-a consistent sec would be welcome
5. Report on Annual Branch Survey – President Reichardt thanked all the branches for submitting the survey on time. AAUW National reported a 40 % increase in participation.
6. Bylaws updates – Eileen Mention, who took over the collection and submission of the 2024 mandatory bylaws when Diane Roca became sick, reported that Harford is still working on their update and she has also not received the bylaws from Anne Arundel, Kensington-Rockville and the online branches. Easton and Gaithersburg officers confirmed that they had sent their revisions to Eileen. The Hagerstown president said she had submitted the branch bylaws, but they may have gone to Diane Roca, so they will be resent to Eileen.
7. Proposed 2025-2026 Budget – Christine Schmitz, Treasurer described the major elements of her budget report, which is Attachment 1. The 7-2024-6-2025 actuals are expected to produce a loss of \$873.51, which seems reasonable based on past experience.
  - Projection for estimated next year income and expenses, “budget 7-2025-6-2026” column, may need \$6,407 from the money market account. FY expenses are estimated at \$13,907. The money market account has \$25,000, and the checking account holds about \$3000.

**Christine introduced the following items for discussion:**

- Do we want to increase state dues? Another participant noted that state dues are \$10, and an increase of a few dollars may be reasonable, in light of National dues increase to \$76 in July 2026.
- It was noted that honorary lifetime members do not pay any state dues.
- Do we want to put some of the funds currently in a money market account into a \$20,000, 8-month CD to increase earnings.
- Another person suggested that the amount allocated for public-policy mini-grants be reduced to \$500 as previously.

**After discussion three Motions were approved:**

- **Motion:** After a discussion of the state bylaws requirement for a 2/3 vote of the state board of directors after 30-day's notice to members to enact a dues increase, Teresa Freleig moved that the state board of directors notify the membership that the board will be voting in October to raise state dues to \$14 as of April 1, 2026. The motion was accepted.

Heather will prepare the announcement to go out in the next state newsletter and asks branch leaders to include the announcement in their branch newsletters.

- **Motion:** Pat Stocker moved to authorize the state treasurer to invest up to \$20,000 in a CD. The motion was accepted.
- **Budget question/discussion:** Tracy Lantz reported that the next regional conference in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in September 2026 will probably be more costly to attend than the 2024 conference and suggested that more money be allocated in this year's budget to provide for scholarships. Others proposed to delay a scholarship set-aside until 2026 because this would reduce the amount in a CD. There was general agreement to annotate the budget with a note about considering increasing the scholarship amount next year. Tracy noted that decisions to attend the conference may need to be made in April 2026.
- **Motion:** Christine moved to approve budget as modified. The motion was approved.

8. **Funds** – Jeri Rhodes, Funds Vice President, noted that the 5-star program recognizes contributions to two new funds, Defend Higher Education and Public Policy Funds, in addition to the Greatest Needs Fund. She would like the state to encourage contributions to all three funds, for example through recognition of contributions at meetings and in newsletters. Dian Belanger suggested that, recognizing the success of the NCCWSL Women of Distinction support with a fixed \$20,000 goal, we should set a specific dollar goal for the Public Policy Fund. Jeri suggested \$10,000. Another suggestion was to have a fund-raising event at the annual meeting.
9. **Membership** – Jeanne Blades, VP Membership, reminded everyone about Shape the Future value for getting new members. She also reminded everyone of how to update email addresses, either online or by contacting AAUW through the Virtual Office Hours for member leader inquiries. Jeanne requests that branch leaders report on what is unusual or special to each branch, a way to encourage membership.
10. **Public Policy** – Barb Carter and Deb Daniels, Co-Vice Presidents, thanked Roxann King for her past and continuing public policy leadership; the State public policy committee will continue. Also, AAUW Maryland plans to lobby in person in Annapolis, at MLAW and the MD Commission for Women. Both state and national AAUW issues will be covered. This effort is expected to work like AAUW National Lobby Corps.

Deb described a new program, My MGA Tracking, which describes, and tracks Maryland General Assembly bills and allows lobbying via phone. Interested people should ask Deb (dhd018-work@outlook.com ) for individual training. A group training session was suggested but Deb said that she considers individual training to be more effective than group training.

**11. Closing Comments:**

- Christine asked that whoever submitted the MLAW sponsorship use the expense voucher on the AAUW-MD website or contact her to be reimbursed.
- Anita notes that many members attend MLAW and AAUW-MD will have a booth at WLB.
- Barb Carter, would like to develop a list of state representatives of each Maryland member list.

**12. Announcements/Updates/Other Business,** Referenced but not discussed in the meeting due to schedule overruns:

- Outgoing officers: please be sure to exchange your records for your successor and archive other records with Terry Saylor, [saylerterry2@gmail.com](mailto:saylerterry2@gmail.com)
- Regional Conference updates – Tracy Lantz next information n – announcement for meeting and hotel room registrations September 2025. Encourage branches to support student participation, perhaps by fundraising (swap shops style). April 1 deadline for proposals. Add blurb in Fall newsletter by August 15.
- Update on ERA – Tracy Lantz – asks Hesitater to send a slide with other announcements. There is a link for signing a petition at [sign4ERA.org](http://sign4ERA.org). Will continue to encourage congress to sign onto a resolution to recognize the validity of the amendment.
- **Fall Meeting** will be in person, hosted by Anne Arundel. Date is October 18. Location is the Woods Presbyterian Church in Severna Park. Program and registration information will be in the Summer Marylander.
- The Fall Marylander deadline is August 15, 2025. Send items to Roxann.
- Online branch update – Heather wants to get organized.
- Announcements from officers and branches (as time allows) – Send to Roxann to put in Marylander

**Meeting Adjourned at 2:45 pm**

**These minutes were read by Jeanne Blades and Charlotte Trout.**

- Their suggested additions have been incorporated and approved in this version: August 18, 2025

Respectively submitted, Edith Allison, Secretary Pro tem

Board Meeting Participants:

|           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| Edith     | Allison            |
| Dian      | Belanger           |
| Jeanne    | Blades             |
| Kate      | Campbell-Stevenson |
| Barbara   | Carter             |
| Patricia  | Crane              |
| Susan     | Crawford           |
| Beatrice  | Dane               |
| Deborah H | Daniel             |
| Carolyn   | Fisher             |
| Dorothy   | Fraquelli          |
| Theresa   | Freligh            |
| Beth      | Hayden             |
| Roxann    | King               |
| Tracy     | Lantz              |
| Kendall   | Ludwig             |
| Eileen    | Menton             |
| Joyce     | Moyer              |
| Narcisa   | Polonio            |
| Heather   | Reichardt          |
| JERI      | Rhodes             |
| Anita     | Rosen              |
| Terry     | Saylor             |
| Christine | Schmitz            |
| Suzanne   | Soules             |
| Pat       | Stocker            |
| Charlotte | Trout              |
| Susan     | Wierman            |

Appendix 1: AAUW Maryland Budget Presented by Christine Schmitz

|                                         |                                           |           |  |  |  |               |               |               |               |               |           |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| AAUW Maryland                           |                                           | 6 30 2025 |  |  |  |               |               |               |               |               |           |
| Budget vs. Actual                       |                                           |           |  |  |  | Budget        | Actual        | Budget        | Actual        | Budget        | Actual    |
|                                         |                                           |           |  |  |  | 7 2023-6 2024 | 7 2023 6 2024 | 7 2024-6 2025 | 7 2024-6 2025 | 7 2025-6 2026 |           |
| Income:                                 |                                           |           |  |  |  |               |               |               |               |               |           |
| Dues (collected during fiscal year)     |                                           |           |  |  |  | 4,000.00      | 3,530.00      | 4,000.00      | 3,225.00      | 3,500.00      |           |
| Conferences                             |                                           |           |  |  |  |               |               |               |               |               |           |
|                                         | Summer                                    |           |  |  |  | 750.00        | 1,785.00      | 1,200.00      | 1,335.00      | -             |           |
|                                         | Fall                                      |           |  |  |  | 1,000.00      | 960.00        | -             |               | 1,000.00      |           |
|                                         | Winter                                    |           |  |  |  | -             | -             | -             |               | -             |           |
|                                         | Spring                                    |           |  |  |  | 3,000.00      | 3,603.00      | 3,000.00      | 2,273.00      | 3,000.00      |           |
| Interest Income                         |                                           |           |  |  |  |               | 2.95          |               | 4.16          |               |           |
| Umbrella fundraiser                     |                                           |           |  |  |  |               | 695.90        | -             | 727.17        | -             |           |
| Transfer of funds from money market     |                                           |           |  |  |  | 9,150.00      | 2,500.00      | 7,975.00      | 2,500.00      | 6,407.00      | (discuss) |
| Total Income:                           |                                           |           |  |  |  | 17,900.00     | 13,076.85     | 16,175.00     | 10,064.33     | 13,907.00     |           |
| Expenses:                               |                                           |           |  |  |  |               |               |               |               |               |           |
| Officers                                |                                           |           |  |  |  |               |               |               |               |               |           |
|                                         | President                                 |           |  |  |  | 700.00        | 395.44        | 500.00        |               | 300.00        |           |
|                                         | Program VP                                |           |  |  |  | 2,000.00      | 547.80        | 750.00        |               | 500.00        |           |
|                                         | Membership VP                             |           |  |  |  | 300.00        |               | 300.00        |               | 150.00        |           |
|                                         | Public Policy VP                          |           |  |  |  | 1,500.00      | 1,440.23      | 1,500.00      | 722.69        | 1,500.00      |           |
|                                         | Communications VP                         |           |  |  |  | 1,750.00      | 1,539.87      | 1,750.00      | 1,035.96      | 1,750.00      |           |
|                                         | Secretary                                 |           |  |  |  | 50.00         |               | 50.00         |               | 50.00         |           |
|                                         | Treasurer                                 |           |  |  |  | 150.00        | 79.13         | 150.00        |               | 150.00        |           |
| Mini-Grants                             |                                           |           |  |  |  | 1,000.00      | 1,000.00      | 1,000.00      | 300.00        | 1,300.00      |           |
| Donations:                              |                                           |           |  |  |  |               |               |               |               |               |           |
|                                         | Women of Distinction Fund                 |           |  |  |  | 250.00        | 250.00        | 250.00        |               | -             |           |
|                                         | Scholarships NCCWSL                       |           |  |  |  | 1,000.00      | 1,000.00      | 1,000.00      | 1,000.00      | 1,000.00      |           |
|                                         | LAF, Greatest Needs, Other AAUW Funds     |           |  |  |  | 500.00        | 500.00        | 500.00        | 500.00        | 500.00        |           |
| Conferences:                            |                                           |           |  |  |  |               |               |               |               |               |           |
|                                         | Summer(including IT and raffle donations) |           |  |  |  | 750.00        | 1,662.30      | 500.00        | 850.01        | -             |           |
|                                         | Fall (including IT support)               |           |  |  |  | 1,000.00      | 941.53        | -             |               | 1,000.00      |           |
|                                         | Winter                                    |           |  |  |  |               |               | -             |               | -             |           |
|                                         | Spring (including IT support)             |           |  |  |  | 3,000.00      | 2,607.29      | 3,000.00      | 2,262.93      | 3,000.00      |           |
| Transportation Reimbursement - Officers |                                           |           |  |  |  | 700.00        | 345.31        | 500.00        |               | 350.00        |           |

|                                                                         |                                              |           |  |           |            |           |            |           |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------|--|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|--|
| Activities, Publications and Fees:                                      |                                              |           |  |           |            |           |            |           |  |
|                                                                         | Regional Conference scholarships branches    |           |  | 500.00    | 500.00     | 3,300.00  | 600.00     | -         |  |
|                                                                         | Director & Officers Indemnification          |           |  | 350.00    | 348.00     | 350.00    | 348.00     | 350.00    |  |
|                                                                         | College Univ Rep                             |           |  | 50.00     |            | 50.00     | 0.00       | 50.00     |  |
|                                                                         | Contingency Fund - Reg Conference 2026       |           |  | 750.00    |            | -         | 0.00       | 500.00    |  |
|                                                                         | Diversity                                    |           |  | 250.00    |            | 250.00    | 0.00       | 250.00    |  |
|                                                                         | Handbook                                     |           |  | 100.00    |            | -         | 0.00       | -         |  |
|                                                                         | Liability Insurance (including crime policy) |           |  | 850.00    | 832.00     | 375.00    | 375.00     | 1,207.00  |  |
|                                                                         | Marketing Resources                          |           |  | 300.00    |            | -         | 0.00       | -         |  |
|                                                                         | Transition Board                             |           |  | 100.00    | 95.56      | 100.00    | 0.00       | -         |  |
|                                                                         | Bank service charges                         |           |  |           |            | -         | 0.00       | -         |  |
|                                                                         | Umbrella expenses                            |           |  |           | 539.97     | -         | 443.25     | -         |  |
| Total Expenses:                                                         |                                              |           |  | 17,900.00 | 14,624.43  | 16,175.00 | 8,437.84   | 13,907.00 |  |
| Subtotal                                                                |                                              |           |  |           | (1,547.58) |           | 1,626.49   |           |  |
| LESS TRANSFER NOTED IN INCOME                                           |                                              |           |  |           | (2,500.00) |           | (2,500.00) |           |  |
| Net Income (Loss):                                                      |                                              |           |  | -         | (4,047.58) |           | (873.51)   |           |  |
|                                                                         |                                              |           |  |           |            |           |            |           |  |
|                                                                         |                                              |           |  |           |            |           |            |           |  |
|                                                                         |                                              |           |  |           |            |           |            |           |  |
|                                                                         | checking less outstanding check              | 3,227.39  |  |           |            |           |            |           |  |
|                                                                         | money market                                 | 25,114.12 |  |           |            |           |            |           |  |
|                                                                         |                                              | 28,341.51 |  |           |            |           |            |           |  |
| Christine Schmitz, CPA, Treasurer                                       |                                              |           |  |           |            |           |            |           |  |
| Notes:                                                                  |                                              |           |  |           |            |           |            |           |  |
| \$300. paid as a deposit toward the October meeting (pd 6/23/25)        |                                              |           |  |           |            |           |            |           |  |
| Umbrella proceeds do not need to be paid to Regional Conference.        |                                              |           |  |           |            |           |            |           |  |
| Crime policy renews Nov. 2025                                           |                                              |           |  |           |            |           |            |           |  |
| Summer newsletter paid early July 2025 (will be reflected in next year) |                                              |           |  |           |            |           |            |           |  |