

Maryland Commission for Women

Annual Report 2009



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Message from the Governor and Lt. Governor



Maryland's Commission for Women has a long and proud history of advocacy on behalf of our State's women and girls, reflecting the important role women have played in determining the legacy and the strength of our State today.

As this 2009 Annual Report illustrates, the Commission continues its tradition of working hard to expand social, political and economic opportunities for women in Maryland, upholding our shared belief that diversity is truly our greatest strength.



On behalf of the O'Malley Brown Administration, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the exceptional honorees who were named to the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame, as well as the impressive young women who were named Women of Tomorrow.

I also want to thank the many people who have come together to make this report possible, and all those who volunteer their time on behalf of this important commission. Working together, we can build that better future for Maryland we all prefer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Martin O'Malley". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Martin O'Malley
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anthony Brown". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Anthony Brown
Lt. Governor

Message from the Interim Secretary



The Maryland Department of Human Resources' mission is to improve the lives of children, families and vulnerable citizens. Through the work and advocacy of the Maryland Women's Commission our work is advanced. The Commission is on the front lines helping Maryland's women and girls move forward by advocating for greater social, political and economic opportunities.

Those involved in this great work confirm the many accomplishments and contributions made by women across Maryland. The Department is proud to support the ongoing efforts of the Commission.

I look forward to a continuing connection with all the members and staff of the Maryland Women's Commission as we work together to put forward a proactive agenda that strengthens families and benefits our state.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Wilbon". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Brian Wilbon
Interim Secretary
Maryland Department of Human Resources

Message from the Chair - The Honorable Helen Holton



2009 has proved to be one of the most exciting and challenging years on record for our great State of Maryland, the United States and the world. America inaugurated its first African American President; our economy, led by the collapse of the housing industry, led us into the deepest recession since the great depression and the stock market tumbled causing even greater devastation in financial and banking markets. Through it all the Maryland Commission for Women (MCW) has continued to be a beacon of hope for women and girls in Maryland.

In this season of change and new beginnings, the Maryland Commission for Women (MCW) is turning the corner with a dynamic and diverse group of more than 20 new commissioners from around the state. We continue to make strides in carrying out the mission of the Commission. These are exciting and challenging times. But, as we strengthen our relationships and partnerships with local commissions around the State, the Maryland Women's Heritage Center, the Women Legislators of Maryland, the Department of Human Resources and the Friends of the MCW (the 501(c) 3 non-profit fundraising arm of the Commission) we will continue in our mission of advising government, advancing solutions and serving as a statewide resource to expand social, political and economic opportunities for all women, girls and families. Please take the opportunity to visit our updated website at www.marylandwomen.org. It has the most recent information about all of our programs and progress this year.

I am personally grateful for the constant support and collaborative partnerships and relationships the Maryland Commission for Women has cultivated and nurtured around the State. We will continue to strengthen our relationships around the State as we move forward with an ambitious agenda for 2010.

With high hopes and best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen L. Holton".

Helen L. Holton
Chair
Maryland Commission for Women

Maryland Commission for Women 2009 Membership

<i>Name</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Term</i>
Honorable Helen Holton, Chair	Baltimore City	1st
Melissa Techentin, Vice Chair	Baltimore City	1st
E. Susan Barber	Baltimore City	1st
Ossie G. Clay	Howard	2nd
Patricia E. Cornish	Montgomery	1st
Honorable Jean Cryor	Montgomery	1st
Susan Elgin, Esq	Baltimore City	1st
Lynn R. Fitrell	St. Mary's	1st
Susan Genn	Montgomery	1st
Honorable H. Victoria Goldsborough	Caroline	2nd
Honorable Classie Gillis Hoyle, Ph.D	Anne Arundel	1st
Erum Malik	Howard	1st
Dixie Miller	Calvert	1st
Chief Katherine Perez	Prince George's	1st
Deborah Risper	Baltimore	1st
Rabbi Elissa Sachs-Kohen	Baltimore	1st
Sandra Schrader	Howard	1st
Roseanna Vogt	Calvert	1st
Dr. Kathleen White	Baltimore	1st
A. Diane Williams	Prince George's	1st

2009 Commission Staff



Kenya Johnson,
Administrative Officer



Ellie Elgin,
Director of Outreach

Overview & History

History of the Commission

The Commission originated in 1965 as the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women. To solve pressing social problems and to foster human understanding, the Commission was reactivated in 1968 as the Maryland Commission on the Status of Women. Governor Agnew directed the Commission to review the previous Commission's recommendations on education, employment, and community and civic participation, and implement those most pertinent. The Commission also cooperated with State and local organizations to identify problems and improve opportunities for women to serve in a variety of fields.

In 1971, legislation was introduced by Rosalie S. Abrams during the General Assembly Session through SB 190 "calling for the creation of an independent state commission on the status of women." As a result of her efforts, the law creating the "Maryland Commission on the Status of Women" went into effect on July 1, 1971 and the commission became part of the Department of Human Resources. The Commission adopted its present name in 1976 (Chapter 119, Acts of 1976). (Maryland Manual, 1989-1990, pp. 315-315).

The Commission consists of 25 bi-partisan members (women and men); nine are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, the Senate President and House Speaker each appoint eight members. The Chair and Vice Chair of the commission are elected by its membership. The Executive Director of the Commission shall be a merit employee of the Department appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Human Resources (Chapter 9, Acts of 2006; Code 1957, Art. 49C, secs 1-8).

Mission

The Maryland Commission for Women works with Maryland State Government to advance solutions and serves as a statewide resource to expand social, political and economic opportunities for all women.

Goals

- To work with government to help serve as a voice for Maryland women, in the development of executive, legislative and judicial policies
- To promote solutions that addresses the needs of Maryland women
- To serve as a statewide resource center for Maryland women

Activities

- Houses the Maryland Women's Heritage Center
- Studies and reports on the status of Maryland women and girls
- Encourages women to become politically active
- Maintains a clearinghouse of information on services and programs for women
- Oversees the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow Ceremonies
- Houses a Legislative and Public Policy Committee to track legislation for women in Maryland
- Provides and maintains a referral and resource service for women in need of assistance
- Provides outreach to the community in the form of educational events on issues of importance to Maryland women and girls

Heritage Center Committee Report

Ellie Tryon Elgin, Outreach Director and Heritage Center Liaison



The Maryland Women's Heritage Center (MWHC), a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, will provide a place to learn about the contributions of Maryland women throughout our state's history. The Exciting News is that the Maryland Women's Heritage Center has secured a temporary start-up site in Baltimore.

David Hillman, CEO of the Southern Management Corp., has generously donated space in the historic downtown 39 W. Lexington Street building, the former Baltimore Gas and Electric Headquarters. Spring of 2010 heralded in the grand opening of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center.

The Maryland Women's Heritage Center (MWHC) Programs Committee has been meeting regularly to work on the exhibits and programs for the opening in 2010. In the meantime, the MWHC committee has been conducting an outreach campaign to provide public awareness regarding both the Maryland Women's Heritage Center and the Maryland Commission for Women. The Commissioners this past year have been active in promoting the MWHC through their outreach and support.

Public Relations Report

Melissa Techentin

The Public Relations Committee for the Maryland Commission for Women works hard to network with the state's many local Commissions. Our goal is to find out what projects they are working on, what issues most impact their communities, and what their visions are for the future of women in their respective counties.

The Public Relations Committee visited local Commissions and attended events, including conferences, held by them in 2009. We anticipate several of the local and state Commissioners will attend the National Convention held in DC in July 2010. It will be an excellent opportunity to continue networking with the local Commissioners we met over this past year as well as to make new contacts.

Through networking and advocacy, the Public Relations Committee worked on getting a tool called the lethality assessment questionnaire into use by law enforcement responding to domestic violence calls. Today it is used by law enforcement in all 23 counties in the state. The tool has already dramatically reduced the number of deaths caused by domestic violence. We are presently working on expanding its use to clergy and will work on expanding its use in schools and other appropriate settings.

Other future plans for the Public Relations Commission are to update the brochure for the MD Commission for Women and also to present an updated Power Point Presentation for the web site. We will continue to seek helpful resources for women that can be posted on our web site.

We plan in 2010 to attend more meetings and events to support our local Commissions with the overall goal being to continue to foster positive networking opportunities that help empower the women in our great state of Maryland.

Legislative & Public Policy Committee

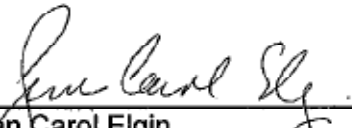
2009 Report

In the 2009 General Assembly, the Maryland Commission for Women (MCW) played a major role in the passage of hate crimes legislation. Susan Elgin, representing the MCW, testified in favor of House Bill 560 and the companion Senate Bill which added gender as a protected class under State hate crimes statutes. This legislation passed on the closing days and is now codified at §10-304 et seq of the Criminal Law, MD Code Ann.

The Maryland Commission for Women also participated as a member of the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW). Strides were made in the expansion of protection for victims of domestic violence. It is now mandatory, rather than discretionary, for a judge to order the surrender of firearms when issuing a protective order. Another change in the law authorizes a judge to extend the maximum duration of a final protective order from one year to two years in certain circumstances.

Also, the MCW was present to testify against certain bills which would be detrimental to women's or families' best interests such as expunging protective orders and the codification of joint physical and legal custody.

Final, the legislature Public Policy Committee monitored dozens of other bills throughout the General Assembly session.



Susan Carol Elgin
Chair, Legislative and Public Policy Committee
May, 2010

Girls Committee *Honorable H. Victoria Goldsborough, Chair*

The Women of Tomorrow Program

The committee focused its attention on The Women of Tomorrow Ceremony. This program sponsored by the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, is a competition for girls in grades 7-12 in all public, parochial and private schools, and those who are home schooled throughout the state of Maryland. The Women of Tomorrow honors young women who have had success in scholastic achievement and have made significant contributions to their communities. The criteria for these awards include volunteerism, community service, future goals and objectives, their leadership roles and academic excellence.

The Maryland Women of Tomorrow Program received nominations in 2009 from middle and high school administrators, counselors and teachers as well as adults in leadership roles in church and civic organizations throughout the state of Maryland. The young women are chosen as winner or honorable mention in three categories; grades 7-8; grades 9-10 and grades 11-12. The awards were presented to the following young ladies. Read the bios of these accomplished young women on the Maryland Commission for Women website. www.marylandwomen.org

Maryland Women of Tomorrow Honorees 2009



Grades 7-8 Honorees Winner

7-8 Grade Honoree

Kiauna Nickole Freeman

7-8 Grade Honorable Mention

Natalie Brosh

Grades 9-10 Honorees Winner

9-10 Grade Honoree

D'ymond Shantyl Danztler

9-10 Grade Honorable Mention

Kelly Ann Marx

Grades 11-12 Honorees Winner

11-12 Grade Honoree

Jasmine Adams

11-12 Grade Honorable Mention

Valerie Caplan

Education and Outreach Communities

Dr. Kathleen White, Chair

The Maryland Commission for Women (MCW) had a presence at “A Woman’s Journey” Seminar in Baltimore held annually each November. This year the MCW had the distinction of one of our staff being invited to moderate a workshop. This annual program provides the MCW with information on health issues that affect women. Topics range from diet and exercise to heart health, breast cancer, and aging. This information is conveyed to the Health and Wellness Committee.

Re-Entry into Society for Women

In 2009, the Maryland Commission for Women supported and worked on our second annual “Success In and Out” Conference. This is an effort to assist women with reentry into society after serving prison sentences. This past summer Commissioners worked with the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women in Jessup, MD to develop our second annual conference geared to women who would be leaving the correctional system within 9 months. One hundred and twenty-five women were identified to attend this seminar. The Maryland Commission held this one day conference on Saturday, October 3, 2009 that included a series of workshops on writing a resume, dressing for an interview and interviewing skills, in addition to developing survival skills for outside of the correctional system. The Commission also donated business like clothing to the MCIW clothes closet.

In December, the Maryland Commission for Women hosted our first “Empowering Women” conference that dealt with how the economy is affecting women throughout the state of Maryland, but particularly in Prince George’s County. It is our goal to make this a biennial event in which we are working with all Local Women’s Commissions to highlight the issues affecting women in their localities.

Outreach – 2009

Eliner Tryon Elgin, Director of Outreach

The Outreach and Heritage Committees continued to develop partnerships with the local women’s commissions, which provided the Maryland Commission for Women (MCW) outreach opportunities throughout the state of Maryland. The Commissioners learned about many issues facing Maryland women and will be using this information in the MCW’s upcoming Status of Maryland Women.

It is also through our outreach initiatives that we continue to develop connections for the Heritage Center and resource links for the MCW. The Commissioners and Staff are continuously building relationships and partnerships with a wide diversity of agencies, private organizations and business groups. Over 100 events, forums, women’s fairs and local women’s commission meetings were attended by the Maryland Commission for Women in 2008.

Health & Wellness Report

By Diane Williams

The Health & Wellness Committee is taking an integrated approach in providing resources and information on women's health. The goal of the Committee is to provide resources to women about the importance of regular physician consultations, screenings and assessments for prevention-focused health and wellness.

The Committee began with an assessment of population health risks, social factors, medical care and costs, availability and legislation. The Committee gathered and analyzed data about health objectives of Maryland women and their families.

Tests and screenings are important elements for lifelong health and wellness. We continue to urge Maryland women to learn about their family histories for bone health and have regular dxa screening for osteoporosis. Check our website's news and publication page information about Osteoporosis. We also encourage regular screening tests, such as mammograms and Pap smears. Finding and detecting diseases early when they are easier to treat. Some women need certain screening tests earlier, or more often, than others.

In an effort to encourage regular screening we look at other factors that affect women's health and wellness. This past year we hosted a Cell Phone Collection kick-off at the House of Ruth with Verizon Wireless and attended Baltimore County's "In Plain Site Domestic Violence Conference." We had a table to provide information on abuse and sexual harassment. By providing resources and working with partners to identify abuse and abusers the MCW is hoping to bring awareness to a social behavior that has long term health ramifications for the victims of domestic and sexual abuse.

The Committee also attended conferences and symposia on Health Care legislation. With the new Health Care legislation going through at the Federal level we wanted to make sure that we were informed about the health care legislation and what its ramifications were for Maryland Women.

The Committee rounded out the year by attending "A Woman's Journey" hosted by Johns Hopkins Medicine. This one day comprehensive women's health care symposium covers a myriad health care issues that women face every day and throughout our lives. The Committee is looking forward to continuing programs and initiatives that will help keep Maryland women and families healthy.

2009 Hall of Inductees



Ilia Fehrer

Ilia Fehrer gave the citizens of Maryland many gifts – unspoiled Pocomoke River and Chincoteague Bay, millions of dollars worth of land conservation, legislation to protect wildlife and water quality, and the education of thousands. Her legacy includes Assateague Islands state and national parks, the designation of the Pocomoke as a “wild and scenic river,” the Nassawango Creek Preserve and the Worcester County rural legacy area. She battled offshore waste incineration, the building of an industrial park near Ocean City, the needless destruction of acres of wetlands and forests and the permitting of ill-planned communities.

Ilia Fehrer grew up on a family farm in central Maryland. In 1942, her family moved to Baltimore where she graduated from high school and attended Towson University. She taught elementary school in Baltimore, married Joe Fehrer Sr., and raised eight children. With their move to Snow Hill, her career as Worcester County’s environmental conscience began.

In 1972, she opposed the rezoning of 3200 acres in central Worcester County, and appealed the County’s decision to Maryland’s highest court, curtailing damage to some of Worcester’s prime farmland. From this effort came the Worcester Environmental Trust that today holds easements protecting ecological habitat within County subdivisions. For the next three decades she “watch-dogged” state agencies commenting on applications and attending hearings for wetland disturbances, reported soil & erosion control violations, called for hearings on water and sewer permits and opposed the hardening of our shorelines while championing soft shoreline protections.

Ilia and her husband Joe canoed the Pocomoke inventorying the river’s environmental and wildlife assets. In the 1980s, they spearheaded the effort to established a water quality-monitoring program, prevented the damming of Nassawango Creek and convinced the Nature Conservancy to preserve the creek and upland forest that has grown to 10,000 acres and founded the Nassawango Creek Stewardship Committee that oversees the protection of this area. In 2003, the Chesapeake Bay Trust recognized Ilia for her efforts on behalf of the environment with the Ellen Fraites Wagner Award, she and her husband also received the Feinstone Environmental Award at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in 1987.

During the 1990s, she help established the MD Coastal Bays Program. She served a 5-year term on the Worcester County Planning Commission, and was one of the first citizen stakeholders to serve on the habitat restoration subcommittee that advanced the coastal bays rural legacy area. In 2002, Ilia and her husband received that Program’s first Osprey Award for their efforts in protecting Maryland’s coastal bays.

As a member of the Committee to Preserve Assateague, known now as the Assateague Coastal Trust, she testified before Congress to save the Island. Every New Year’s Day Ilia led a nature walk on the Island that now bears her name in remembrance. ■



Dr. Diane E. Griffin

Dr. Diane E. Griffin is Professor and Alfred and Jill Sommer Chair of the W. Harry Feinstone Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology and Director of the Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She earned a biology degree from Augustana College in 1962, followed by M.D. (1968) and Ph.D. (1970) degrees from Stanford University School of Medicine. She was a resident in Internal Medicine at Stanford University Hospital between 1968 and 1970, before beginning her career at Johns Hopkins as a postdoctoral fellow in Virology and Infectious Disease. After completing her post-doctoral work, she was named an assistant professor of Medicine and Neurology. Since then, she has held the positions of Associate Professor, Professor, and now Professor and Chair. She served as an Investigator at Howard Hughes Medical Institute from 1973-1979.

Dr. Griffin's research interests include alpha-viruses, acute encephalitis and measles. Alpha-viruses are transmitted by mosquitoes and cause encephalitis in mammals and birds. She has identified determinants of virus virulence and mechanisms of non-cytolytic clearance of virus from infected neurons. Studies of measles are focused on identification of the mechanisms of virus-induced immuno-suppression in the context of virus clearance. Vaccine studies are defining the basis for atypical measles and a new vaccine that can induce protective immunity in infants under the age of 6 months is under development using a rhesus macaque model.

Dr. Griffin is the principal investigator on a variety of grants from the National Institutes of Health, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Dana Foundation. She is the author or co-author of more than 300 scholarly papers and articles and is the past president of the American Society for Virology, the Association of Medical School Microbiology Chairs and the American Society for Microbiology. She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Microbiology and the Institute of Medicine. ■



Harriet Legum - Nominated by Edward D. Miller, MD

Harriet Legum's personal crusade began more than twenty years ago when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. After successful treatment at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, her illness became a catalyst that would affect her life and change lives in the community. Using her newfound voice, she became a powerful advocate for breast cancer research and education. As the chair of the Johns Hopkins Oncology Breast Cancer Research Chair and Fellowship Campaign she raised \$2.1 million, endowing the first chair and fellowship of its type in the country. Harriet recently chaired a fund raising event for the Johns Hopkins Avon Breast Center.

Harriet's developing interest in women's health issues helped spur the creation of "A Woman's Journey." Currently she serves as a co-chair of the multidisciplinary educational program. The annual symposium features Johns Hopkins professors who address a variety of current women's health topics. The program which began in 1995 is open to the public and attracts nearly 1,000 women each year.

Since 2004, Harriet also serves as a member of the Johns Hopkins Medicine Board of Advisors, a member of the Oncology Advisory Committee and the Wilmer Advisory Board. Harriet and her husband Jeffrey have endowed a Professorship in Acute Neurological Medicine at Johns Hopkins Medicine. Harriet's community involvement extends to the Kennedy Krieger Institute where she serves on its Board of Trustees. She assisted in the creation of a revolutionary music therapy program for children at the Kennedy Krieger School. In 2000 Harriet chaired the Festival of Trees for Kennedy Krieger and successfully raised \$600,000 for the event. She also has held volunteer leadership positions at The Park School and The Baltimore Museum of Art. Harriet has served as a board member of the Susan G. Komen Foundation and was a founding member of the "Race for the Cure" in Baltimore. Harriet also served as a chair of the auction of Baltimore Crabs Event to benefit Baltimore City Schools.

Harriet continues to serve as a resource for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients, offering support and personal insight into treating and surviving the disease. ■



Allyson R. Solomon

*Nominated by Brigadier General James A. Adkins,
Adjutant General of Maryland*

Allyson R. Solomon was born in Trinidad and Tobago, and moved to Maryland with her family in 1971. She is a 1986 graduate of Loyola College of Maryland with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration. She holds a Master of Arts Degree in Public Administration from Auburn University.

General Solomon began her military career by enlisting in the Maryland Air National Guard (MDANG) in 1979, and was later selected to attend the ANG Academy of Military Science. In November 1986, she was commissioned as a second lieutenant. General Solomon worked her way through the ranks, commanding at two different levels. She is the first woman and first African-American to be appointed as a senior commander in the MDANG. In January 2003, she was the first woman to be promoted to Colonel in MDANG history. She became the Commander of the 175 Mission Support Group in March 2003, and was responsible for over 585 personnel. General Solomon has also been assigned as the MDANG Executive Support Staff Officer, supporting the Assistant Adjutant General-Air and The Adjutant General, as well as the Maryland National Guard Equal Employment Officer.

In 2006, General Solomon was selected to serve as the Chief of the General Officer Management Office at the National Guard Bureau (NGB), Washington, DC. Reporting directly to the Chief, NGB, her office was responsible for managing the careers and training of over 350 general officers nationwide. General Solomon was asked to return to Maryland in June 2008, and was appointed by the Governor as the Assistant Adjutant General for Air. As the senior ANG general officer, she also commands the entire MDANG, which is an organization of approximately 1600 personnel that performs dual state and federal missions in support of the Governor and the United States Air Force. In addition, General Solomon serves as a Special Assistant to the Chief, NGB. She is an active member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. ■



**Anne St. Clair Wright*

Nominated by Carrie Kiewitt

Anne St. Clair Wright was a founder of Historic Annapolis, Inc., today the Historic Annapolis Foundation. She served four terms as president, and later as Chair and Chair Emeritus of the Board, and Chair of the William Paca Garden Restoration Committee. The National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded her the Louise duPont Crowninshield Award (highest award conferred by the National Trust for Historic Preservation) for her vision, leadership and contributions that preserved and restored Annapolis' historic buildings, townscape and gardens.

Her unremitting intelligence was dedicated service to Annapolis' preservation and was instrumental in preserving and using Annapolis landmarks to the advantage of the contemporary environment. As a result of her works downtown Annapolis was the designated as a Historic District, and Registered National Landmark by Stuart Udall, Secretary of the Interior, in 1965.

Mrs. Wright held many civic volunteer offices, including: Advisor for Maryland, National Trust for Historic Preservation; Commissioner, Maryland Commission on the Capital City; Director, Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities; Chairman of the Board, Preservation Action; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Advisory Committee of the U.S. National Park Service; Member, Committee of Twenty to establish goals and programs for the National Trust for Historic Preservation; Director, Nature Conservancy; Trustee, Maryland Environmental Trust; Director, Southern Garden History Society; Member at Large, Garden Club of America; Member, Governor's Maryland Scenic Beauty Commission.

Among her accomplishments and awards in preservation and activism, are an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Public Service from the University of Maryland, 1985; Society of American Travel Writers for Conservation, Preservation and Beautification, 1985; Garden Club of America Historic Preservation Medal, 1983; Citation from the Maryland House of Delegates for Outstanding Service in the Field of Preservation, 1979; Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Towson State University, 1975; Calvert Award from the Maryland Historical Trust, 1975; "Woman of the Year" Award from Maryland Colonial Society, 1975; Historic Annapolis, Inc. Athenian Award, 1972; Federated Garden Clubs of America Award, 1970; Louise duPont Crowninshield Award, 1968; American Institute of Architects, Chesapeake Bay Chapter, Award for Distinguished Work in Historic Preservation, 1968; Certificate of Distinguished Citizenship, Maryland, 1965.

Mrs. Wright was born in Newport News, Virginia, in 1910. She studied at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia, and the Maryland Institute of Fine Arts in Baltimore. She came to Annapolis as the daughter of a naval officer and later, the wife of U.S. Navy Captain Joseph M. P. Wright. The Wrights raised three sons, two who became naval officers and one who is a professor of anthropology. At the time of her death in 1993, she was still active in preservation issues.

*deceased ■

Maryland Commission for Women Strategic Plan: 2009

The Maryland Commission for Women continues to work on goals and objectives as outlined by its strategic plan. We continue to reach out to the community by engaging individuals and organizations in partnership in pursuit of our mission. People interested in the improvement of the status of women are encouraged to apply for an appointment to the Commission by sending a letter of interest to the Governor, the Speaker of the House or the President of the Senate.

Goal 1: To advise government, as a voice for Maryland women, in the development of executive, legislative, and judicial policies

Objectives: Support MLAW's legislative agenda items during the 2010 legislative session

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with the Governor's Office through the Legislative Office in DHR• Work with Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women• Advocacy (Job Placements/Training)• Public education – public education and awareness• Stronger coalitions (local women's commissions, non-profit organizations that serve women) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communications with organizations (quarterly newsletter, outreach at key local events, MCW website); work with DHR/ Office of Communications• Research feasibility of developing a quarterly publication for MCW• Develop public service announcements• Ongoing efforts to ensure MCW is the leading comprehensive and coordinated force for women's issues in Maryland |
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Responsible Committees: Legislative and Public Policy Committee; Education and Outreach Committee

Goal 2: To promote solutions which address the needs of Maryland women

Objectives

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|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocate for expansion of resources in area of abuse and neglect for mother and families• Address women's health issues (postpartum depression, affordable health care) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Address rural and semi-rural poverty• Pay disparities among men and women• Education disparities |
|--|--|

Strategies

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate • Partner • Include in legislative agenda • Look at other state models • Support education on women and heart disease • Include in legislative initiatives Include in legislative initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with other state agencies, groups, and others who advance issues relevant to women in prisons • Explore availability of college education for women in prison • Partner with state agencies re: gender separation in vocational education in math and science
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Responsible Committees: Legislation and Public Policy Committee; Partner with other groups; Education Committee

Goal 3: To serve as a statewide resource center for Maryland women. To Increase availability and usage of a statewide database

Objectives:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine effectiveness of research on status of women in Maryland • Determine effectiveness of resource database 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in establishing a Women's Heritage Center • Recognize Women of Achievement
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Strategies: Establish baseline

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue developing a comprehensive statewide database of women's organizations and resources • Continue to improve the MCW website to make the website usable and accessible • Continue to inform women about resources available through MCW and its database • Continue to develop other ways for reaching women who cannot access the database through website (i.e. phone, mail, referrals) • Acquire intern to assist with research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile and/or conduct research on status of women • Evaluate how research data is being used • Develop on-line survey • Develop community outreach and education programs • Engage committees in fundraising activities • Conduct Women's Hall of Fame • Conduct Women of Tomorrow awards • Explore feasibility of Junior Women's Commission pilot (Harford, Howard Counties)
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Responsible Committees Outreach and Education Committees; Girl's Committee; Heritage Center Committee

Maryland Commission for Women Key Accomplishments

- Continuous outreach to community groups and local commissions with an increase in communications with local commissions
- First Biennial "Empowering Women" Conference –
- Second Annual "Success In & Out" Conference – The Education and Outreach Committee worked in partnership with the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women to develop a conference and provided a re-entry into Society Survival Manual for women getting ready to leave the prison system giving them life skills tools for outside the prison.
- Presented the 2009 Hall of Fame Award Ceremony at the Miller Senate Office Building in collaboration with the Maryland Women Legislators
- Presented the 2009 Women of Tomorrow Award Ceremony at the Miller Senate Office Building

2009 Recommendations

In compliance with the statute that created the Commission, the following recommendations are to be presented to the Governor and Legislature.

1. According to the MCW's "Women in Prison, Report on Maryland's Women in Prison" found that nearly half of the women in prison had been previously sentenced to incarceration or on probation two or more times. Decreasing recidivism is partially based on effective transitioning to the community.

The National Association of Women Judges, the Maryland Commission for Women and various other groups worked together in the development of a one day conference that include a series of interactive sessions covering the availability of housing, jobs, health care, education and counseling in the areas of addiction treatment and personal finance.

It is the intention of the MCW to continue that goal by providing mentorship and support for incarcerated women who are within one year or less of release. The purpose is to provide women prisoners with information about resources available to them upon their release so they can be confident about their successful transition into society. This first event was held at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women on October 4, 2008. It is recommended that this event be an annual workshop in partnership with the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women.

2. According to statistics released in 2008 by the United States Census Bureau, women are paid, on average, 77 cents for every dollar their male counterparts are paid – a gap of 23 cents. Here in Maryland, working women do a little better than the national average, about 80 cents on the dollar

compared to men. This amounts to a loss of thousands of dollars per year and hundreds of thousands of dollars over a working life.

The Maryland Commission for Women is joining together with several women's groups in support of a bill which would authorize the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to develop and implement a consistent and comprehensive data collection system to study pay disparity issues in Maryland. Pay inequity penalizes families, especially during times of economic hardship. The MCW serves as a voice for approximately 3 million women and girls in Maryland. Of that number, 2.3 million, 16 years and older, are in the workforce today and we want to ensure they are paid fairly. In Maryland, 24% of single female households with children under 5 are living below the poverty level. Closing this wage gap will help bring families out of poverty and decrease reliance on state programs and encourage self-sufficiency.

3. According to the Center for Women and Information Technology (CWIT) at the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus, there is a decline of women participating in Information Technology programs at both the high school and college levels. We need to provide awareness to this issue and encourage girls to become more interested in Information Technology through research and events.

The Maryland Commission for Women will continue to work with the Maryland Task Force for Women and Information Technology in expanding programs to the larger community. If Maryland is expected to continue to advance its status as a leader in information technology (IT) nationally, it must ensure that the brightest minds are developed to support and advance our technology industry.

The Maryland Commission for Women in light of the issues and facts provided in the above recommendation has begun researching, collecting, compiling and analyzing data for the 2010 Status of Women Report. This report should be available by the end of 2011. This report is every decade on the status of women in the State of Maryland. The aim of the report is not only show the improvements, but also what issues and problems that need to be addressed for women to obtain full equality.

4. A museum for women that is solely dedicated to the history and accomplishments of women in Maryland has been a dream for many women in this state. The vision is to have a museum, a learning center, archives, a showcase for women artists and performers, and a gathering place for discussions on women's issues. The name of the museum would be the Maryland Women's Heritage Center (MWHC).

The Maryland Commission for Women will work with the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Women's Heritage Center Board in building community awareness. The MCW will meet regularly to define the mission, services and programs for the MWHC. These regular meetings will address the program development and ways to collaborate with local school systems, universities, libraries and other museums in the area. This work is an ongoing project for the women of Maryland.

A listing of the local Women's Commission is on-line at www.marylandwomen.org

Resources – on line at www.marylandwomen.org

The Status of Women in Maryland 2010 is in process for publication

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