



**Baltimore County Commission for Women
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, May 18, 2017**

Present: Bella Owens, Vonzella Perry, Carmen Christiana, Linda Forsyth, Theresa Barrett, Kimberly Bowen, Jennie Fernandez, Sheila Derman, Emily Hunter, Sabrina Jones, Jacqui Lampell, Renee McGuirk-Spence, Cecelia Myrick, Frances Smith, Helene Waranch, Nancy Surosky

Excused Absences: Cheryl Brooks, Phyllis Hall, Ruth Howard, Lynda Stahl, Nitsa Zdziera

Unexcused Absences: Kelly Carter, Dorothy Foos

Call to Order: 6:02 p.m. by President Bella Owens

Minutes: Minutes of April 20, 2017 minutes accepted with revisions.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance \$5,687.72; Expenses \$15.50; Ending balance \$5,672.22 (until June 30, 2017)

President's Report:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- MCASA event – The POWER of YOU: *Women Taking the Lead and Changing the World*, May 19-20, 2017, Sheraton BWI, Linthicum, MD
- SAVE THE DATE: NACW Conference, July 12-16, Buffalo, NY
- The NAACP Convention: "Empowering Women and Girls in Today's Society", July 22-26, 2017, Hyatt Regency Baltimore Inner Harbor.
- African American Festival, September 16, 2017, Towson, MD
- FallFest 2017 to benefit the United Way of Central MD, October 20, 2017, Towson, MD

Committee Reports

Women's Health: Bella distributed a "Save the Date" handout for the Cancer Updates and Issues: *Cancer Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment*, June 22, 2017, Best Western Plus Hotel & Conf. Ctr., Baltimore, MD. This event is sponsored by the Baltimore County's Dept. of Health and co-sponsored by the Baltimore County Commission for Women. Bella also reminded the commissioners that that May 14-20, 2017 is National Women's Health Week. Sabrina had no report. Carmen talked about Laura Clary, GBMC's Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) program's nurse being named Prevention Magazine's and The Doctors "America's Most Amazing Nurse".

Women's Equality/Diversity: Bella talked about the "Breaking Barriers – *Shattering the Steps for Success*" event scheduled for Thursday, September 14, 2017, Baltimore County Public Library-Owings Mills branch, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Public Policy Agenda: Linda Forsyth reported no new news. Bella extended an invitation received from Sen. Zirkin to attend a discussion of the current rape bill, May 31, 2017, Stevenson University, 6:30 p.m.

Human Trafficking: Frances Smith reported that the Human Trafficking Panel which took place on April 24th at Goucher College was very well attended and a success. Sheila commented that the topic is still very “elusive”. The audience consisted of mainly Goucher students. It was noted that the students were not as happy with Dr. Branch’s presentation – seemed out of touch. Cecilia reported that she had a recent conversation with Police Chief Sheridan and asked for his support on the human trafficking occurring along York Rd.

Domestic Violence: Nitsa absent. The group discussed ordering laminated Human Trafficking information cards to hand out at events.

Old Business/New Business: Theresa provided the commissioners with the Baltimore County Commission for Women 2017-2018 Slate of Candidates:

President – Bella Owens – appointed by County Executive at Large & Linda Forsyth – Council District 4

Vice President – Sabrina Jones - appointed by County Executive at Large & Vonzella Perry - appointed by County Executive at Large

Treasurer – Lynda Stahl - appointed by County Executive at Large

Secretary – Carmen Christiana - appointed by County Executive at Large

Parliamentarian – Ruth Howard - appointed by County Executive at Large & Sheila Derman - Council District 2. Nancy will e-mail the ballot to the commissioners.

Bella requested the commission order a red table cloth imprinted with the Women’s Commission logo for use at events, 200 larger red bags, and the Human Trafficking laminated cards.

Helene distributed a handout of the Baltimore County Public Library’s “Voices of Our Community” panel event taking place the first Monday of the following months: May 1, June 5, July 3rd, and August 7th.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:55 p.m.