



**Baltimore County Commission for Women  
Minutes of the Meeting  
Thursday, November 16, 2017**

**Present:** Bella Owens, Vonzella Perry, Carmen Christiana, Jennie Fernandez, Kimberly Bowen, Cheryl Brooks, Kelly Carter, Linda Forsyth, Emily Hunter, Jacqui Lampell, Renee McGuirk-Spence, Phyllis Hall, Ruth Howard, Sabrina Jones, Nitsa Zdziera

**Excused Absences:** Theresa Barrett, Sheila Derman, Cecelia Myrick, Frances Smith, Lynda Stahl, Helene Waranch, Nancy Surosky

**Unexcused Absences:** Dorothy Foos

**Call to Order:** 6:03 p.m. by President Bella Owens

**Minutes of October Meeting:** Minutes approved with revision.

**Treasurer's Report:** Beginning balance, \$9,523.90; Expenses, \$22.00, Ending balance, \$9,501.90

**President's Report:** Announcements: Bella reminded commissioners of the upcoming MLAW Conference taking place on Saturday, November 18, 2017. Bella provided copies of the 2017-2018 official calendar and discussed its contents during the individual committee reports.

### **Committee Reports**

**Woman of the Year:** Date set for March 27, 2018. Emily discussed both the Call for Nominations and the Nomination form. Website will go live on November 17, 2017.

**Women's Health:** Sabrina reported that another Family Funfest is in the works.

Phyllis provided the following handouts:

- Open Enrollment ending December 15, 2017
- Dental Care information for those residing in 21221 and 21244 zip code areas. United Way provided grant money, Phyllis asked the commissioners to get the word out.
- World Aids Day 2017 – Free HIV testing at various locations throughout the month of December.
- Safe Keeping of prescription meds and drug drop box information.

**Women's Equality/Diversity:** Bella suggested hosting the Diversity Dimension event at other areas of the county including the east side (February) and the south side (April). Kelly commented that what made the event a success was the team work between her and Ruth. Kelly also contributed the success towards having a good sponsor base and securing grant money from area businesses. She said a good budget would be \$2,000.

**Public Policy Agenda:** Linda discussed the MLAW conference and reported that they are currently recruiting legislators for proposed bills. She reported that HB-1 (Paid Sick Leave) was approved by legislation but vetoed by the Governor. They are trying to gain votes to override the veto in January. Del. Szeliga sent letters asking for support in not overriding the bill but rather creating a new revised bill. The presented list should be available in January.

**Human Trafficking:** Kimberly reported on the Human Trafficking Task Force proposal letter that was submitted to the County Executive. Within the next few weeks Nancy (and possibly Carmen) will meet with Don Mohler and Kevin Loeb to further discuss.

**Domestic Violence:** No report

**Old Business/New Business:** There was discussion of the presentation of an annual report and upcoming board elections.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 6:37 p.m.