

**Commission for Women  
General Meeting Minutes /Virtual  
January 9, 2025 / 7:00 – 7:42 p.m.**



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*“Feminism is for everybody.”*

*bell hooks*

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Attendees

Arlinda Clark, Chair

Betty Romero, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair

Sheena Foster, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair

Michelle Buteau Georgia Coffey Jodi Danis Ijeoma Enendu Mital Gajjar  
LaDonna King Janet LaValle Tonja Paylor Elizabeth Richards Shuaa Tajammul  
Lindsey Turnbull

CFW Team Members

Carmen Kaarid, Program Manager

Absent

Kathy Estrada

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS / CHAIR CLARK**

Welcome

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA / CHAIR CLARK**

Agenda accepted as presented

December minutes will be accepted with noted corrections

**3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE / CHAIR**

Thanks to all commissioners for coming out in-person last month

Thank you to all that supported the Community Bridges program last month

Thank you to everyone for making our guest feel welcome last month

Only comment was some minutes not on website because they were pending approval

Thanks to the CFW staff that keeps us on track!

#### **4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT / CARMEN KAARID**

Budget is with Regional Service Center and Community Clusters

5% reduction this year; no specific cuts to CFW

Budget goes to County Council; waiting to hear back

Public testimonies will be later this year

Fall Intern this past year from Howard University

Looking to recruit future students from Howard University

#### **4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### Policy and Legislation / Commissioner Richards

Maryland's General Assembly started its session yesterday

Runs through 8 APR

2025 Abortion Care Access Act

PALS Chair moved to adopt 2025 Abortion Care Access Bill as part of our legislative priorities this year

Commission voted to support the bill as part of our 2025 priorities

##### Program Planning / Commissioner Enendu

Finance Health & Well, Separation & Divorce, Career Series starting up

Women Making History

Applications judging – all hands on deck

##### Budget / Chair Clark

No Report

##### Strategic Planning and Research Evaluation Committee/ Commissioner Romero

Meeting next Tuesday, second Tuesday of the month

Will be open meeting

Evaluation of WLB survey

Sheena

##### Emerging Leaders / Commissioner Turnbull

Girl Power Contest in March

Will roll out prompt at WLB!

Public Relations / Commissioner Paylor & Commissioner Turnbull

Setting up meeting later this month

Bill champions please send the information so it can be included on social media

Women's Legislative Briefing / Commissioner Romero & Commissioner LaValle

Planning recognition for members that have been part of planning committee for the past 25 years

Stand for recognition; keep going until we are down to the last person standing for the 45 years we have been in the existence

Chair Clark will include in her part of the program

Found historical documents, including the program from the first WLB!

We have 44 sponsors; reaching out to past sponsors who we have not heard from yet  
82 tickets

Waiting to hear back from two speakers, but all other speakers are set

Working with facilitators to schedule pre-meetings

Contacting volunteers for Friday and Saturday prep

Biggest lift is registration and hostess

Invitation going out for breakfast, need to RSVP

All need to purchase [ticket](#) to WLB

Share [sponsorship](#) information with your networks

Get word out to emerging leaders (tickets \$10)

Will reach out to middle and high school leaders who submitted to last year's Girl

Power contest

Will send out the flyer

SOP / Commissioner LaValle

New committee, looking for more commissioners to joint

**7. LIAISON REPORTS**

MLAW / Commissioner Foster

MLAW had board meeting on Monday, voted on legislative priorities

Mirrors the priorities CFW established this year

MLAW legislative briefing on Wednesday, 5 FEB at 5pm

Human Trafficking Prevention (HTP) / Commissioner

No Report

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) / Commissioner King

Will have more to report next month

Maryland Commission for Women/Executive Director, Jodi Finkelstein

Jodi meeting with Ariana Kelly to discuss new projects

Choose Respect / Commissioner Gajjar

No Report

Community Health Initiative / Commissioner LaValle

Meeting schedule for Monday/6 JAN was cancelled, meeting next month

CFW Scholarship /Commissioner Foster

Will have updated budget after WLB

**8. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT(S)**

By-Laws / Chair Clark

Review the by-laws, submit any changes you would like to see

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**10. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Thank you to the CFW staff for all their work on the WLB!

**11. Meeting Adjourned – 7:42 pm**

CFW In Person Meetings Scheduled: 13 MAR 25, 12 JUN 25