

**Commission for Women
General Meeting Minutes /Virtual
July 10, 2025 / 7:00 – 7:27 p.m.**



“What you do makes a difference, you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

Jane Goodall

Attendees

Arlinda Clark, Chair

Betty Romero, 1st Vice Chair

Sheena Foster, 2nd Vice Chair

Michelle Buteau Georgia Coffey Jodi Danis Mital Gajjar Janet LaValle
Elizabeth Richards Shuaa Tajammul

CFW Team Members

Jodi Finkelstein, Executive Director

Carmen Kaarid, Program Manager

Absent

Kathy Estrada

LaDonna King

Lindsey Turnbull

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS / CHAIR CLARK

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA / CHAIR CLARK

Agenda accepted as presented

June minutes accepted as presented

3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE / CHAIR

Guests from Maryland Commission on Aging will visit during AUG's meeting

Vote on Montgomery County Bill 21-25

PALs recommended, Executive Committee approved support of bill

County Council voted this past Tuesday/8 JUL

Commission ratified support for the bill

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT / JODI FINKELSTEIN

3 summer interns

University of Maryland School of Social Work grad student to start in the fall

Re-entry project going exceptionally well; will share initial report

Got funding from past years/\$40K

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy and Legislation / Commissioner Richards

Anticipate Lobby Day: 11 DEC 25

Program Planning / Open

Budget / Chair Clark

Strategic Planning and Research Evaluation Committee/ Commissioner Foster

Emerging Leaders / Commissioner Turnbull

Public Relations / Commissioner Paylor & Commissioner Turnbull

Women's Legislative Briefing / Commissioner Romero

Save the Date: Saturday, 31 JAN 26

Theme: Stronger Together: Leading with Values, Voices

Fireside chat

Vision

Link for sponsorship going out soon

Sessions on voices, values

Next meeting: 6 AUG, 7pm (virtual); programming committee at 6pm

Nominations Committee/Commissioner Buteau

Chair – Sheena Foster

Vice Chair – Betty Romero

Member At Large –Janet LaValle, Mital Gajjar

From the Floor

Second Vice Chair – Janet LaValle, Mital Gajjar

Secretary – Shuaa Tajammul

Ballot will be created ahead of next meeting, vote during AUG's meeting
Individuals running for a position have a 1-minute speech

SOP / Chair Clark

7. LIAISON REPORTS

MLAW / Commissioner Foster

No report

Human Trafficking Prevention (HTP) / Executive Director, Jodi Finkelstein

No report

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) / Commissioner King

No report

Maryland Commission for Women/Executive Director, Jodi Finkelstein

No report

Choose Respect / Commissioner Gajjar

No report

Community Health Initiative / Commissioner LaValle

No report

CFW Scholarship /Commissioner Foster

No report

8. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT(S)

By-Laws / Chair Clark

By-laws sent to all commissioners ahead of meeting

9. OLD BUSINESS

None

10. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. Meeting Adjourned – 7:27 pm

Moved to special, closed strategic planning session