

**Commission for Women
General Meeting Minutes /In-Person
June 12, 2025 / 7:04 – 7:54 p.m.**



“Every woman’s success should be an inspiration to another. We’re strongest when we cheer each other on.”

Serena Williams

Attendees

Arlinda Clark, Chair
Betty Romero, 1st Vice Chair
Sheena Foster, 2nd Vice Chair

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

CFW Team Members

Jodi Finkelstein, Executive Director
Carmen Kaarid, Program Manager

Absent

Jodi Danis

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS / CHAIR CLARK

Guests:

Adaolisa Okwu
Shannon Owens Harden
Ynggrid Lindores

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA / CHAIR CLARK

Agenda accepted as presented
May’s minutes accepted as presented

3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE / CHAIR

Special closed session following tonight’s open meeting
MLAW vote on priorities expected later this month

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT / JODI FINKELSTEIN

Girl Power contest winners honored before this evening's meeting
Spring intern's last day was yesterday
New interns will start at the end of the month; unknown if we will have a grad student this summer or not
Please send email for any reimbursements before the end of the month

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy and Legislation / Commissioner Richards

Potential Lobby Day Date: 11 DEC 25 (virtual; 9am-12pm)
Anticipate advocating for three bills that did not pass during the 2025 General Assembly:
 Stop Silencing Survivors
 Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act
 The Monica Cooper Prerelease Act

Program Planning / Commissioner Enendu

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 / Chair Clark

Met last week, agreed on theme: Stronger Together, Strength, Vision, Voice, & Value
Keynote format will be a fireside chat; NRP host and looking for a non-political speaker
Agreed to keep ticket prices the same
WLB 2026 will be on 31 JAN 26
Next planning meeting will be 26 JUN 25

Nominations Committee/Commissioner Buteau

Nominations form sent

SOP / Chair Clark

7. LIAISON REPORTS

MLAW / Commissioner Foster

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

Proposed bylaw: Change Election Date – moved to last month of FY (i.e., JUN) bringing in 2026

Moved to accept by Commissioner Romero, Second by Commissioner Buteau to accept proposal as presented

Motion passes

Proposed bylaw: Add Member at Large

Moved to accept by Commissioner Buteau, Second by Commissioner Romero

Discussed history of Member at Large position – past President becomes Member at Large, if President is not available, position becomes Member at Large

Want to codify the Member at Large position – filled by immediate past president; IF immediate past president not available, the body will vote for a Member at Large

Move to add “Member at Large position is the immediate past president; in the absence of immediate past president the body will vote on the Member at Large”

Discussed the Member at Large position is meant to provide institutional knowledge and continuity on the Executive Committee

Commissioner Turnbull motions to accept, Commissioner Enendu seconds to amend this proposal by adding Member at Large position is the immediate past president; in the absence of immediate past president the body will vote on the Member at large”

Discussion about removing the first right of refusal for Member at Large position;

Discussion about needing Member at Large to keep Executive Committee an odd number of individuals

Commissioner Coffey moves to accept the proposal as presented “the Executive Committee will now consist of a Chair, a 1st Vice Chair, a 2nd Vice Chair, a Secretary, and a Member at Large,” to Executive Committee to have 5 members, including Mbr at Large

Amendment on the floor for vote: “Member at large position is the immediate past president; in the absence of immediate past president the Member at large will be elected by the body”

Motion to amend the proposal failed

Vote on the original, proposed bylaw amendment: “the Executive Committee will now consist of a Chair, a 1st Vice Chair, a 2nd Vice Chair, a Secretary, and a Member at Large,”

Passed as presented

Proposed bylaw change: Codify the Duties for Member at Large

Commissioner Romero moved to vote on the motion, Commissioner Richards seconds
Motion passes

9. OLD BUSINESS

None

10. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Farewell Commissioner Ijeoma Enendu – on commission for 6 years

Farewell Commissioner Tonja Paylor – on commission for 2 years

Farewell Chair Arlinda Clark – on commission for 6 years

11. Meeting Adjourned – 7:54 pm

Moved to special, closed strategic planning session