

**Commission for Women  
General Meeting Minutes /Virtual  
May 8, 2025 / 7:00 – 7:57 p.m.**



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*“Motherhood is tough. If you want a wonderful little creature to love, you can get a puppy.”*

*Barbara Walters*

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Attendees

Arlinda Clark, Chair

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

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

CFW Team Members

Jodi Finkelstein, Executive Director

Absent

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

Lindsey Turnbull

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

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

Sandy Walter

Laura Giraldo

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

Agenda accepted as presented

April's minutes accepted as presented

**3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE / CHAIR**

Need individuals for Nominations Committee

FY 25 – In-Person Meetings: SEP, DEC, MAR, JUN

Strategic Planning Meeting

Look at calendars

Considering going to JUN  
Jodi Finkelstein's JUN weekends are booked  
12 JUL – Commissioner King, LaValle, Estrada unavailable  
2 AUG as a potential date  
Commissioner Foster not available  
Decision: Break into two sessions (JUN/JUL meetings)

Speaking Engagement – AAUW, 17 MAY

#### 4. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT / JODI FINKELSTEIN**

3 interns this summer  
Vacancy notifications out; deadline 30 MAY  
Please share within your network  
Election Committee  
In JUN form needs to go out  
Draft of FY 2024 report out for review

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

##### Policy and Legislation / Commissioner Richards

No report

##### Program Planning / Commissioner Enendu

No report  
Commissioner Enedu's term is ending next month; Need new Committee Chair  
Sign up to proctor [here](#)

##### Budget / Chair Clark

Budget passed by consent yesterday  
Public hearings around the tax increases

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

Dates for strategic planning set (JUN/JUL meeting dates)  
Meeting next Tuesday

##### Emerging Leaders / Commissioner Turnbull

Virtual Inputs: Girl Power Contest Reception at 12 JUN at 6pm

##### Public Relations / Commissioner Paylor & Commissioner Turnbull

No report

Women's Legislative Briefing / Chair Clark

Next meeting: 5 JUN

Saturday, 24 JAN 26

Survey for theme

Nominations Committee/Commissioner Buteau

Met with Commissioner Enendu, discussed forms

Can run from the floor during the JUL meeting (virtual)

Voting in AUG

SOP / Chair Clark

No report

**7. LIAISON REPORTS**

MLAW / Commissioner Foster

Please join MLAW on **Thursday, May 15th @ 5:30pm** for our virtual **2025 Legislative Wrap Up Happy Hour** which will take place on Zoom. We invite you to grab your favorite beverage to toast our 2025 successes! We will report on each of the bills from the 2025 Agenda and let you know what's next for this legislation. Register using this zoom link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/IAbE3JOcRiWvF6LhmtaS6A#/registration>

Commissioner Foster will be highlighting all the bills during the event!

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

No report

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) / Commissioner King

Attended meeting this evening

Will send out info as it becomes available

Maryland Commission for Women/Executive Director, Jodi Finkelstein

No report

Choose Respect / Commissioner Gajjar

Debriefing at end of APR

One of main topics to have event indoors or outdoors, amount of food

No decisions at this time

Community Health Initiative / Commissioner LaValle

Met 5 MAY

2-30 MAY grant submissions open

CFW Scholarship /Commissioner Foster

Commissioner Foster, Commissioner Tajammul, and Executive Director Finkelstein attended luncheon

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

By-Laws / Chair Clark

Proposed change of election date

Move from voting in AUG to JUN (will be for 2026)

Proposed change adding Member-at-Large position to the by-laws

Vote on proposed changes during JUN meeting

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

Statements approval went fast!

**10. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Gajjar went to conference this weekend and discussed bills that passed!

Commissioner Coffey on MD Advisory Committee on Civil Rights

Where can we find synergy

Position for Chair will be open and up for elections

Thank you Chair Clark for your leadership!

**11. Meeting Adjourned – 7:57 pm**

CFW In Person Meetings Scheduled: 12 JUN 25