



Maryland NOW's Annual State Conference

May 16, 2020 1—3 p.m.

Held via Zoom Virtual Meeting Software

Attached Materials

Welcome! From Maryland NOW's President Sandy Bell

Agenda

Resolution in Support of MD NOW's Virtual State Conference

Conference Rules

Approval—2019 Annual State Conference Minutes

Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-8)

“Looking Ahead in Uncertain Times—Can We Win?”

2020 Celebration—100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage

Maryland NOW Officers' Reports

- ◆ President's Report
- ◆ Executive Vice President
- ◆ Action Vice President
- ◆ Secretary
- ◆ Treasurer



Maryland NOW
P.O. Box 7716
Silver Spring, Maryland 20907
President Sandy Bell

Hello to NOW Members, Guests, and Visitors:

I am excited to be able to extend a warm welcome to each of you in attendance at Maryland NOW's First Virtual State Conference. While we despair at the circumstances that have made this a necessity, we have all climbed out of our comfort zone of in person meetings and are looking forward to learning new ways of doing things. We are so happy to see that we have so many people from all over the state.

We understand that everyone wants to hear Rep. Raskin's remarks on our way out of this 4-year nightmare. But we also hope that you have come to learn more about us, but most of all to help us grow our organization that will include you, your interests and abilities and your dreams for a better future for all women.

The sheet that follows is a "Table of Contents" of what is in this folder of PDF materials. We have some procedural things to take care of but we wanted to plan time for you to ask us about what we're doing, how we're doing it, and help us think of where we can go from here. This annual conference is required by our bylaws, as is the election of our officers. Unfortunately because this is all so new, our parent organization has not yet determined a way for us to pass resolutions or make decisions (or actually even vote electronically for our officers, which we'll be doing via U.S. Mail. Instead as we discern where your interests lie and what thoughts you have for this movement going forward, we hope to be able to use virtual meeting software to meet again. With the Zoom program, for example, we can have breakout groups or discussions among just a few people, we can share information through presentations such as webinars, and we can think of more ways to use this technology, not because of COVID-19 but because this is the future.

Our resident NOW parliamentarian has suggested – as has been done before in NOW – that we pass a short resolution that indicates we, as members, all affirm the decision of the State Council to meet this way, given the circumstances of the pandemic, even though our bylaws don't just yet specifically mention virtual conferences.

We know many of you are very familiar with Zoom, while at the same time some of you may have just downloaded the software on your computers. We know that not everyone has a video cam on their computer, and hope to be clear enough about what we're doing that you can easily follow us by phone.

So, I'm very happy to welcome each of you here today and even more, hope this won't be the last time we work together to advance women's rights.

For equality,



Maryland NOW 2020 State Conference Agenda
Saturday, May 16
Zoom Virtual Meeting
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

1:00 pm – Call to order (10)
Adopt Conference Rules
Adopt Conference Agenda
Report: Credentials Chair
Motion to Adopt Resolution Affirming the Conference

Business Meeting I

1:10 pm – Officer’s Annual Report (20)
(Reports written and pre-circulated. A motion to accept the reports as presented will be in order.
20 minutes Q & A to officers about projects and their work)
President, Sandy Bell
Executive Vice President, Barbara Hays
Action Vice President, Margie Kotzalas
Secretary, Jerry Blum
Treasurer, Linda Mahoney

Business Meeting I Adjourned for Guest Speaker’s Remarks

1:30 pm – Rep. Jamie Raskin – “Looking Ahead in Uncertain Times – Can We Win?”
Questions from attendees

Business Meeting II Begins

2:00 pm - Business Meeting (60)
Credentialing Report
Nominations Report
Nominations from the body
Nominations closed (registration will close at this point)
Candidate remarks in contested races
Explanation of ballot process

2:45 pm - Discussion of goals and projects for the coming year as time permits.

3:00 pm - Meeting adjourned

A PDF folder of Conference Materials will be sent to all registered participants. Among items included will be Conference Rules, Officer Reports, Balloting Process information, and other reports and materials. PLEASE REVIEW THESE in advance so the meeting can proceed on schedule. Please write to info@marylandnow.org if you have questions about the meeting or materials in your PDF folder.

Resolution in Support of Maryland NOW's Virtual 2020 State Conference

Several people familiar with NOW practice and parliamentary procedure have recommended that we pass a resolution in support of us using virtual meeting technology to fulfill our responsibilities to Maryland NOW, but also to recognize the times we are in and the uncharted territory we are facing in the coming months.

Most NOW chapters and states do not have explicit mention of virtual meeting technology and providing for its use in their bylaws. There we propose the following resolution from this body stating that we understand that fact, but acknowledge efforts made by Maryland NOW to comply with our bylaws in every other respect. We also know that NOW has used USPS mail ballots before and we are using them now in the absence of electronic means to have a vote count for our state officer positions.

All other votes taken today will be strictly procedural ones.

Ratifying Maryland NOW's Decision to Hold a State Meeting Using Zoom Virtual Meeting Software

Whereas, the Maryland NOW Bylaws do not specifically mention the option for the organization to meeting in online settings using virtual meeting technology to conduct business, and

Whereas, Maryland NOW has been taking votes for years over the phone and via email (which is specifically mentioned in our bylaws), and

Whereas, we are required as an organization by our bylaws to have an annual meeting of our membership, and

Whereas, in setting up this meeting we have followed every mandate in our own bylaws and in Robert's Rules to set a date, giving notice several ways and in some cases multiple times, researching and implementing video conferencing software in order that this meeting may take place., and

Whereas, in light of the current health crisis, given the counties in our state having local meeting ordinances, and our state-level laws and health safety recommendations currently in place, we do not believe we can, under these circumstances attempt to hold an in-person meeting; nor can we ignore the bylaws and rules under which we are to function responsibly to give our members the assurance that we value their rights to a voice in our organization's leadership.

Therefore, the membership gathered is holding this virtual conference on Saturday, May 16th from 1-3 pm using Zoom Videoconferencing software. We are using the USPS Postal first-class letter mail to conduct votes for our state officer positions for the 2020-2021 year. And lastly, we the gathered membership, support and agree with the MDNOW State Council's decision to use this process to meet our state's bylaw requirement in Article VI. State Conference, Secs A, B, C, and D.

Proposed Rules – Maryland NOW 2020 Online Virtual State Conference May 16, 2020

The conference rules for this year reflect the fact that we are meeting via virtual meeting software because of quarantines and local stay-at-home orders in our state resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

- I. Registration and Credentialing
 - a. Online conference registration will be open to all NOW members, guests, and visitors. All persons must register for the conference in order to participate in the virtual meeting.
 - b. Registration will be a two-step process. Step One will be that members register electronically using an online form through a link that has been publicized via email, in mailings, and available through Maryland NOW's website. Those whose membership predates 60 days (joined before March 17th) prior to the conference will be considered credentialed and eligible to vote. Step Two will be logging into the Zoom Virtual Meeting software at the appointed day and time to join the conference online.
Completion of both steps will be necessary to affirm a credentialed member's registration process and ability to vote in MD NOW elections.
 - i. The designation "attending the conference" will apply to anyone registered through our online form and who has joined the conference via the meeting software.
 - ii. There will be no charge to join the meeting.
 - iii. A member shall be defined as any person whose current dues have been paid to NOW. Members whose dues have not been received sixty (60) days prior to the conference may register and join the online meeting, but may not vote.
 - iv. A guest shall be defined as a person who is a NOW member, but not of Maryland NOW.
 - v. A visitor shall be defined as a person who is not a member of NOW.

- II. Maryland NOW Online Conference Business Sessions
 - a. Motions and debate
 - i. Motions in order at this conference may not involve the organization's finances or any motions involving committing MD NOW's financial resources to a particular issue, project or goal. No motions involving policy or changes in policy will be in order. The chair will only be able to entertain and call for votes on procedural motions involving accepting reports, moving the agenda, ending debate, or calling to order or adjourning sessions of the meeting. On any matter on which a member may wish further consideration, a request can be made that the issue be brought before the Maryland NOW State Council at their first meeting following the online conference for discussion.
 - ii. The agenda shall reflect times allotted for each part of the agenda, and if necessary, the chair may appoint a timekeeper and may indicate a specific period of time for each speaker to address the body.
 - iii. Any NOW member may speak having been recognized by the chair. Guests and visitors may participate after being recognized, and will be identified as a guest or visitor.

- iv. Participants agree to respect the times noted on the agenda. Persons recognized to speak are recognized to address the item under consideration, and no person may speak a second time until everyone has had an opportunity to speak.
- v. Speakers must give their name and city or chapter affiliation.
- vi. Using the virtual meeting software, Maryland NOW will record the meeting.

III. Elections for State Office

- a. The Nominating Committee Chair will report in Business Session II on names they have received prior to the conference for state office, and nominations may be made from the online body. The Nominations Chair will describe what is in order involving any candidate remarks.
- b. The Elections Chair will mail ballots following the conference to everyone who registered and logged into the Zoom meeting. The ballot will list all state officer/executive committee positions and the names of members nominated for those positions.
- c. The returned ballots will be counted by the Elections Chair and another member designated by the State President.
- d. As stipulated in Maryland NOW's bylaws, officers take responsibility for their positions upon announcement of election results. Any official transfers of records, including signatories on bank accounts, must occur within two weeks of the said announcement.

IV. Voting

- a. Members may vote on procedural motions by utilizing features of the software allowing them to indicate a "raised" hand.
- b. When the Nominating Committee Chair announces that no further nominations appear to be forthcoming, the Chair will make a motion that nominations be closed, which will be considered and voted on by the body. At that time, no member not previously registered and in attendance at the meeting can register, have their membership credentialed, and log into the online meeting for the purposes of being able to obtain mail-in ballot and participate in the voting for candidates for state office.
- c. Voting for state officers will be conducted through mailed ballots. Each duly registered and credentialed member will receive a numbered ballot listing the candidates, which will have been mailed to them at the address given by them at registration following the conclusion of the conference. The envelope containing the ballot will also contain a postage-paid reply envelope the member may use in returning the ballot to MD NOW. The ballot cannot be duplicated – the original must be used. The returned ballot must be postmarked by May 29, 2020.

V. Authority

The conference shall be governed by the Bylaws and official policies of the National Organization for Women, the Bylaws of Maryland NOW, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, and these conference rules.

Maryland NOW
P.O. Box 7716
Silver Spring, Maryland 20907

Maryland NOW Annual Conference,
Saturday May 18, 2019
Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis
333 Dubois Road
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Maryland State Conference was called to order by President Beth Corbin. She introduced the Conference co-chairs Sandy Bell, Barbara Hays, and Diana Olinger from the Anne Arundel Chapter of Maryland NOW.

Diana Olinger, Credentials Chair, delivered the following report:

As of 10:30 AM, 10 members in good standing were credentialed and eligible to vote.

Business Meeting I

Agenda: The proposed agenda (provided online and in conference packets) was adopted unanimously.

Conference Rules: The proposed conference rules (provided online and in conference packets) were adopted unanimously.

Beth Corbin, the outgoing MD NOW President and Nominations Committee Chair, delivered the following report.

The following nominations had been received and were presented to the members:

President - Sandy Bell
Action VP - Margie Kotzalas
Treasurer - Linda Mahoney

Jerry Blum nominated Barbara Hays for the position of Treasurer, and Barbara Hays nominated Jerry Blum for the position of Secretary.

Beth asked the body for unanimous consent for Sandy Bell as President, Margie Kotzala as Action Vice-President, and Jerry Blum as Secretary. The body voted to elect these candidates by unanimous consent. Both Linda Mahoney and Barbara Hays gave presentations as candidates for the Treasurer's position.

The morning panel on the topic "A Progressive Future NOW" was introduced by

conference co-chair Barbara Hays. Panel members included Allison Gallbraith, State Senator Sarah Elfreth, and State Representative Joseline Peña-Melnyk. Michelle Ngwafon, member of the Montgomery County Democratic Committee and president of the Montgomery County Young Democrats served as panel moderator and introduced questions for discussion, such as how we attract more millennials voters, the alienation of progressive candidates and challengers by the DCCC, and their experiences getting younger voters to support them in their races as well as supporting other progressive candidates.

Beth Corbin called on Diana Olinger as Credentials Chair for a report. Diana announced that 13 credentialed delegates were eligible to vote. Diana explained voting rules to the body.

The conference business meeting adjourned for lunch and voting.

Voting, as stated on all conference literature and on the MD NOW website, was open from 12:00 to 1:30 pm.

Two workshops followed the lunch break: “Intersectionality” & “Health Care 2020” from 1:15 – 2:15. The Intersectionality workshop was presented by Allie Moore-Simmons who discussed her work in hosting monthly grassroots forums to discuss race. Health Care 2020’s presenter was Roxana Segovia-Beltran, from the group Healthcare-NOW, led a discussion about Medicare for All and how the various presidential candidates differ in their support of health care policies and alternatives to our current health care system.

Since the delivery of the conference lunches had been delayed, the following changes occurred in the agenda:

The session originally on the agenda as “Break Out Groups” (2:15 – 3:00) was merged into a continuation of the Conference’s Business Meeting II.

Paper ballots had been cast and were counted for the election on Treasurer. The results announced by the Elections Chair, Diana Olinger: Linda Mahoney was elected Treasurer by a vote of 7 to 6.

Officer reports were presented from the outgoing President, VP Action, Treasurer, & PAC chair. A full Legislative Report was included in the conference packets. Attendees discussed possible plans for the coming year.

The Conference officially adjourned at 4:00 pm., but discussion continued for approximately 30 minutes.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerald (Jerry) Blum, Secretary for 2019-2020



MARYLAND NOW
WELCOMES
OUR 8TH CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE
JAMIE RASKIN

*"Looking Ahead in Uncertain Times—
Can We Win?"*

Congressman Jamie Raskin is the U.S. Representative for Maryland's 8th Congressional District, which includes Montgomery, Carroll, and Frederick Counties. Congressman Raskin is a constitutional scholar and was a professor of constitutional law for more than a quarter-century at American University Washington College of Law before entering Congress.

He is currently serving his second term on the Judiciary, House Oversight, and House Administration Committees. He also serves on the Rules Committee and is a Member of the House Democratic Leadership Team. He was recently appointed to serve on the Select Committee on Coronavirus Oversight.

Prior to his time in Congress, Raskin was a three-term State Senator in Maryland, where he served as the Senate Majority Whip. He earned a reputation for building coalitions in Annapolis to deliver a series of landmark legislative accomplishments, including marriage equality, abolition of the death penalty, strong equal pay for equal work legislation, and introduction and passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Civil Rights Restoration Act of 2009. In Congress, he continues to fight for the Equal Rights Amendment, equal pay for equal work, paid family leave, access to collective bargaining, minimum wage increases, and reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

Congressman Raskin is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School. He and his wife Sarah Bloom Raskin, a former Governor of the Federal Reserve Board and the former Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Department under President Obama, live in Takoma Park with their dogs, Potter and Toby. They have three grown children: Tabitha, Tommy, and Hannah.



Women's Equality Day 2020

Celebration across Maryland

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY 2020 REPORT - Highlights

Women's Equality Day 2020 Celebration across Maryland (WED2020)

WED2020 – For details about this simultaneous, state-wide celebration of women's right to vote, visit:

➤ <https://www.facebook.com/WED2020MD/posts/232516484783491>

MD NOW – In June 2019, MD NOW signed on as a coalition partner, thank you!

Coalition Partners - WED2020 was developed and is supported by a diverse coalition of organizations (and not lead by any single group), including: Maryland NOW, 19th Amendment Anniversary Commission of Maryland, Business and Professional Women of Maryland, Maryland Commission for Women, Maryland Women's Heritage Center, Women's Law Center of Maryland, 100th Suffrage Committee of Worcester County, AAUW-Garrett Branch, Allegany County Women's Action Coalition, Baltimore NOW, and The DuBois Circle. (Others on hold due to the pandemic.)

Media Sponsors - The Daily Record, WYPR National Public Radio (others on hold due to the pandemic)

Event Locations – Our goal is to have WED2020 celebrations in at least half the counties across the state, from the Eastern Shore to the Western mountains of Maryland—that's at least 12 locations! To date, locations include:

- = Allegany County - confirmed, location pending
- = Baltimore City - Druid Hill Park (900 Druid Park Lake Dr; Baltimore, MD 21217)
- = Frederick County - On Hold
- = Garrett County - Sang Run State Park (3735 Sang Run Rd; McHenry, MD 21541)
- = Harford County - On Hold
- = Montgomery County - On Hold
- = Prince George's County - On Hold
- = Southern Maryland - confirmed, location pending
- = Worcester County - Stephen Decatur Park (130 Tripoli St; Berlin, MD 21811)

Date - Originally scheduled for August 22, 2020, however, due to the pandemic, we are in the process of deciding how to proceed. We have a ONE-question poll posted on the WED2020 social media pages, and we've asked coalition partners to post as well. Host organizations will make a decision by May 30 based on poll results and other feedback. Your input would be greatly appreciated; kindly take the ONE-question poll here:

➤ <https://doodle.com/poll/qq3q6nc3macwts53>

Woman's Suffrage Resource – Note that WED2020 is not only a state-wide celebration, our Facebook page has become a repository for all things about suffrage and Maryland suffrage: FAQs, suffragist bios, teaching materials, photos/graphics, songs, webinars, resources, and more. We hope you will visit and share this helpful resource and help increase awareness about the women who fought so hard for our rights and the suffrage movement in Maryland.

➤ facebook.com/WED2020MD

MD NOW Members – Please consider joining WED2020 as a coalition partner (non-financial support) and/or helping to coordinate a WED2020 event in your county. Additionally, we would greatly appreciate any contacts to local organizations you can provide, that might be interested in joining the coalition and helping coordinate an event in your area. Organizations signing on to host/co-host a local WED2020 event will be given a "toolkit" to ensure that the event is on brand and can be implemented as easily as possible. Why reinvent the wheel? Share knowledge and the workload! The toolkit includes numerous samples, checklists, and templates for planning, promoting, and implementing the event to ensure its success.

What are you doing for #WED2020?

facebook.com/WED2020MD

twitter.com/WED2020MD

instagram/WED2020MD/

WED2020@yahoo.com

WOMEN



Women's Equality Day 2020

Celebration across Maryland

19TH AMENDMENT ANNIVERSARY COMMISSION – Benchmarks

Maryland Commission on the Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment of the United States Constitution (Commission)

July 2013 – The Maryland General Assembly authorized the Commission (Chapter 603, Acts of 2013) with the following commissioners: Katherine A. Klausmeier and Karen S. Montgomery, Maryland State Senate; Ariana B. Kelly and Susan K. McComas; Maryland House of Delegates; and commissioner slots from: Maryland Commission for Women, Maryland Historical Trust; Tourism, Film and the Arts, Maryland Historical Society, Maryland State Archives, League of Women Voters, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Maryland Democratic Party Women's Diversity Leadership Council, Maryland Federation of Republican Women. (Maryland Women's Heritage Center was later added.) **NOTE: MD NOW was NOT given a commissioner slot.**

April 2019 - MD NOW approved member Christine R. Valeriann to represent MD NOW at Commission meetings.

May 2019 – MD NOW delivered a letter to Commission Chair Major (Dr.) General Linda L. Singh, informing the Commission that MD NOW would be represented at meetings by Christine R. Valeriann and expressing regret that MD NOW was not considered for a commissioner slot at the inception of the Commission. The intent of the letter was also to have documentation on file so that MDNOW would be recognized and considered for relevant commissions in future; and thus, be at the table early on and able to fully participate in future endeavors affecting women in Maryland.

September 1919 - Gen. Singh announced she would retire her military post at the end of the month, but fortunately, would continue to serve as chair. It was noted that much of the Commission's administrative work is done by Singh's staff in her former military capacity, so the situation presented some resource problems.

October 1919 – The Commission signs on as a coalition partner of the Women's Equality Day 2020 Celebration across Maryland.

March 2020 – The culminating Commission event was to be held March 7, 2020 in Baltimore, as part of the annual WOW—Women of the World Festival hosted by Notre Dame. **Due to the governor's stay-at-home order, the event was cancelled three days before it was scheduled to occur.**

April 2020 – Financials were not yet available regarding the cancellation of the Commission's celebration event; i.e., it was not known whether there was any money available after contract payouts to go towards a replacement event. Tentative plans were made about a virtual event this summer. Details are pending the May 12 meeting.



Women's Equality Day 2020

Celebration across Maryland

WHAT

Simultaneous, State-Wide Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote
A FREE, non-partisan, family-friendly celebration for all Maryland women featuring:

- = **Food** - Bring your own/potluck or purchase from a food truck
- = **Music, Sisterhood, and Fun!**
- = **2020Connect Exhibition** - Networking plus informational exhibits on everything from art/culture to political engagement so social services to Zumba!

WHERE

Public Parks in 12+ Locations: Allegany Co., Baltimore City, Garrett Co., Worcester Co., More
= Baltimore City at Druid Hill Park; Garrett Co. at Sang Run State Park; Worcester Co. at Stephen Decatur Park; Allegany Co. Pending; Other Locations Announced Soon!

WHEN

Saturday, August 22, 2020* from 11am to 2pm or 5pm to 8pm* (*depending on location)

WHY

Honor the Suffragists, Celebrate the Power of Women's Voices, Continue the Fight For Equality
= **Energize** - Become excited about how far women have come, what we can do today, and the limitless promise of tomorrow!

- = **Engage** - Get info and get involved at any level: learning, doing, funding—whatever!
- = **Enjoy** - Simply enjoy the celebration, sisterhood, and fun with no strings attached!

WHO

Women's Equality Day 2020 Celebration Coalition (Diverse Groups at State & Local Level)

19th Amendment Commission, MD Women's Heritage Center, Maryland NOW, Women's Law Center of MD, MD Commission for Women, AAUW-Garrett Co., DuBois Circle, 100SA Worcester Co.

> Contact WED2020@yahoo.com or [facebook.com/WED2020MD](https://www.facebook.com/WED2020MD) for more information

BACKGROUND

- = Women's Equality Day 2020 across Maryland (WED2020) is a celebration of suffragists, sisterhood, and next steps. The goal is to get the widest, most diverse range of women state-wide *aware of* and *engaged in* the centennial celebration (and beyond)—especially, those outside the usual “activist/feminist” circles.
- = Our target is to have WED2020 events in a minimum of 50% of Maryland counties (at least 12 locations).
- = The event is intended to complement and balance, NOT replace or compete with any other Suffrage Celebration events. We encourage and support all celebration events and hope for many more.

WED2020 is the *only* Suffrage Centennial celebration that is:

- ☼ **FREE. Non-Partisan. Family-Friendly—so that husbands/sons can hear the message, too**
- ☼ **Held in parks across the state—so that all women have access to an event, wherever they live**
- ☼ **A display of the power of women's votes and voices—from the Eastern Shore to the Western mountains of Maryland**

COALITION PARTNERS

WED2020 is supported by a diverse group of coalition partners at the state and local level, with no one organization in the lead. Coalition partners agree to provide nonfinancial support at one of four levels. Benefits include wide exposure to a diverse audience for the year leading up the event, announcement/signage at each event, program listing, “Coalition Partner” name tags, and more.

SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship is financial support and separate from coalition partnership. Donations at any level are welcome and several sponsorship opportunities are available. Sponsors may designate an event to sponsor and/or customize a financial contribution level. For example, The Maryland Daily Record is our first confirmed media sponsor, in the amount of \$5,000 gratis promotion.

Won't you help us make history in Maryland? #WED2020 #HardWonNotDone

WED2020@yahoo.com ☼ [facebook.com/WED2020MD](https://www.facebook.com/WED2020MD) ☼ twitter.com/WED2020MD ☼ [instagram.com/WED2020MD](https://www.instagram.com/WED2020MD) ☼ #WED2020

What are YOU doing for Women's Equality Day 2020? How are you planning to celebrate the Suffrage Centennial?



WSPU poster by Hilda Dallas 1909

Women's Equality Day 2020 (WED2020) Celebration across Maryland



The ONLY Suffrage Centennial celebration that is:

- ✓ FREE, Non-partisan & Family-friendly (bring your husbands and sons, too)
- ✓ Held in multiple locations across the state (so that all women can celebrate, no matter where they live)
- ✓ About Sisterhood, Fun & Finding your passion and power in 2020 (whether it's art/culture, the environment, health, or STEM careers)

WED2020@yahoo.com

facebook.com/WED2020MD

[#WED2020](https://twitter.com/WED2020)

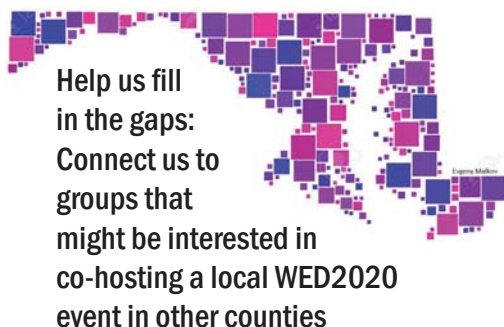
Women's Equality Day 2020 (WED2020) Celebration across Maryland Yesterday's Progress - Today's Power - Tomorrow's Potential

1. Save the Date & Celebrate

Join us on August 22 at your local WED2020 event:

- * Allegany County
- * Baltimore City
- * Garrett County
- * Worcester County
- * Others TBA (see #2)

2. Help us Connect & Coordinate



Help us fill in the gaps:
Connect us to groups that might be interested in co-hosting a local WED2020 event in other counties

3. Spread the Word & Support

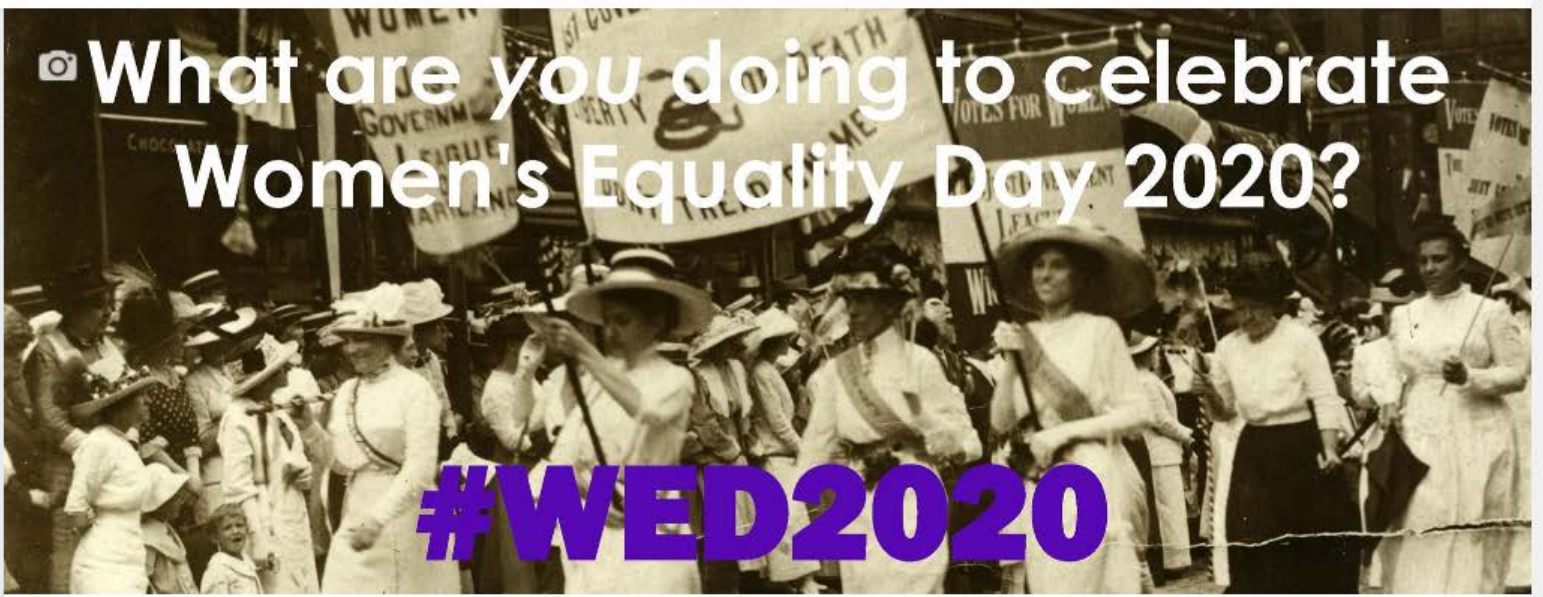
Help spread the word: Follow/Like/Share "WED2020MD" on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

>>> Please also consider: Join our coalition (non-financial), become a sponsor, or make a donation (no matter how small)

THANK YOU to our SPONSORS: Maryland NOW, The Daily Record; and our COALITION PARTNERS: 19th Amendment Commission, Maryland Commission for Women, Maryland Women's Heritage Center, Women's Law Center of Maryland; AAUW-Garrett Branch, DuBois Circle, WAC-Greater Allegany, 100SA-Worcester County, & Growing!



Women's Equality Day 2020 Celebration Across Maryland @WED2020MD



Following Share Edit Page Info ... Send Message

Job Descriptions of Maryland NOW Officers

All of the officers of Maryland NOW we will be electing today have their duties listed in the bylaws in [Article VIII. Officers](#). These officers also make up the Executive Committee as described in [Article IX. Executive Committee](#).

Terms of office are described in [Article XI. Eligibility, Elections, and Terms of Office](#).

In their duties as Maryland NOW's elected officers, these individuals also work through the Maryland NOW Council to implement various required actions of the organization's structure, working to ensure smooth operation of the state council and working with various committees and task forces to implement the organization's goals (as in our resolution directives).

Our bylaws are a "living document" and are updated as various situations arise that show a need for change. One example might be Section C under State Conference, which directs a financial review to be presented at the State Conference. After several experiences where this proved to not be a good idea, the council informally agreed that the Treasurer would only present general information at the state conference and that an in-depth review of our financial records would be conducted at our April State Council Meeting. (Note: [Article VII. State Council Sec A](#) gives the council the responsibility to manage the finances and property of the organization. A member should talk with their chapter's representative on the council regarding any specific questions they have about the organization's finances.)

Because everyone involved with the organization serves as a volunteer, we try to work together to share duties across the lines of our job descriptions. [Article VIII. Officers. Sec. G](#) is included for that reason.

Two additional points:

We are bound by Robert's Rules of Order ([Article XV. Rules of Order](#)) in any case where our bylaws are silent on a question or issue involving our structure and government. One example would be (in Robert's) Chapter XVII Bylaws (§56) > Content of Bylaw Articles > Article IV: Officers, which states that officers rank in the order in which they are listed in the organization's bylaws, which applies to any task where the officer responsible cannot perform the duty. An example of this might be in chairing meetings or responsibilities representing the organization in public, etc.

Also, the officers of Maryland NOW frequently have responsibilities that are outlined in other sections of the bylaws. The state treasurer's obligations are listed throughout the bylaws, including general oversight of a budget committee which is mentioned three times in various of the bylaw's sections.

So, if you are interested in declaring your intention or interest in one of the Executive Committee positions, please read beyond the job description in the bylaws (found on Maryland NOW's Website) in [Article VIII. Officers](#).

Maryland NOW's 2020 Virtual State Conference
Report of the State President

May 16, 2020

Sandy Bell, President

After years of being Action Vice President and working on Maryland NOW's outreach in Annapolis, I decided to run to be president. Most of the things involved with the position were very much out of my comfort zone, but with everything that has happened, it's been a great year for learning and growing and I'm very much hoping to be elected for a second term.

Organizational Outreach

I have been a board member of Progressive Maryland for many years and continued to work with their leaders; they are an important ally for Maryland NOW on many shared issues. We hope to do more to share their work in the area of criminal justice reform. Other meetings and receptions I attended in my official capacity included Maryland NARAL's "Evening of Chocolate," Emerge Maryland (a reception for Adrienne Jones, the first woman and person of color to serve as Speaker of the House of Delegates), a Maryland Women of Color Network Conference I attended with our Action Vice President, and several MLAW events, including their annual legislative briefing and reception. In January Maryland NOW cosponsored an annual "Women's Legislative Briefing" event in Rockville where I represented us in meetings with the leaders of other organizations and networking with women from around the state.

I spoke at a Rally in Annapolis in January at the beginning of the legislative session with leaders of other groups and members of the State Senate and House of Delegates on bills under consideration for the session.

NOW Internal Projects and Responsibilities

I have chaired multiple meetings of the Maryland NOW State Council. We began our year with traditional meetings but current events have forced us to explore new meeting formats and new ways of addressing Maryland NOW's state business.

We had our first state council meeting via Zoom, which will undoubtedly be followed by many more.

I attended the National NOW Conference in Minneapolis where I met with other state presidents from around the country to share ideas and strategies for our work. The group also meets weekly via Zoom and has been exploring ideas that we all can use to stay active and meet our bylaws requirements for meetings during the legal and safety restrictions in place during the pandemic. I was able to attend a State President's training at the National Action Center in September, again sharing ideas and making connections around the country.

I am working with Barbara Hays, our Executive Vice President on some chapter growth projects as I promote chapter development everywhere I go around the state. Last June the two of us attended a

meeting in Easton with women from all over the Eastern Shore to discuss ways to better network and support women candidates and actions.

Maryland NOW's Budget and Financial Work

I wanted the Maryland NOW State Council to play a greater role in the oversight and planning for Maryland NOW's finances. For starters, we had a financial advisor come to help us better understand what our spending as a 501(c)(4) organization should be, so we could better plan our activities and carefully consider any grants we might give to other (c)(4) and (c)(3) groups. We met several times to review areas of our spending and hopefully we all are better able now to fulfill our state-level "advise and consent" role in the management of Maryland NOW's finances.

Media Work

I started working out of my comfort zone quite a bit on this: I was asked to do an interview by Stephanie Gaines Bryant at Bowie Community TV for her show, "Sisters4Fitness," which can be viewed on YouTube. She is also a reporter for WTOP, a Maryland-based Washington Metropolitan Area radio station, and they used clips from the interview on the radio.

Maryland NOW's Political Action Committee

Our PAC enjoyed a really good year in 2018 reaching out around the state to endorse feminist candidates. We upgraded our system of sending out candidate questionnaires using SurveyMonkey which worked very well. For 2019, the MD NOW State Council supported the PAC in work in Virginia to elect pro-ERA candidates to their state legislature and I went to Virginia to work on a campaign. We recommended that the National NOW PAC endorse one of the women running for the Congressional seat that became vacant with the death of Elijah Cummings, and did GOTV work in the 7th District for the special election.

Working as an Activist

I very much enjoy my personal activist opportunities – I am an active member of the Calvert County Democratic Women's Club, and I take every chance I can get to remind my Congressman Steny Hoyer of the existence of NOW. NOW's President Toni Van Pelt invited me to attend a special event at the Kennedy Center, "What the Constitution Means to Me" preceded by a reception hosted by the ERA Coalition with the playwright, Heidi Schreck. I have phone-banked, knocked on doors for the ERA, and attended a pro-Impeachment Rally while on vacation in Florida. I agreed to be an area source, during the pandemic, of EC kits provided free by NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland Fund.

Thanking My Team

None of this work could be accomplished with the help of our state council. Our Executive Vice President, Barbara Hays, has been an invaluable source of aid in more ways than I can list, she is definitely my right hand. Margie Kotzalas, our Action Vice President, along with Linda Mahoney, our Treasurer, traveled the state representing us at various meetings and events providing great visibility for

Maryland NOW. Linda also, of course, took care of paying our bills, and she too did some PAC work in Virginia to help get a legislature elected that would ratify the ERA. Our secretary, Jerry Blum, recorded our meetings and did the minutes but he also did a lot of research for us on ways to invest our money that would garner us a better return, and on the ins and outs of Zoom meetings to help facilitate this conference. I'm also grateful for the input from our council representatives from our local chapters, past president, Beth Corbin; Linda Fihelly, my carpool buddy, and Jennierose D'Elia-Dufour who is our Nominations and Elections Chair for this conference. A huge thank you to all of you for your work and camaraderie.

I'd like to close by saying it's an honor to have represented NOW in our state and I look forward to doing more in the future.

Executive Vice President's Report 2020 MD NOW Annual State Conference

During the past year I have

- 1) Worked to improve and update our Social Media presence.
 - a. I worked with a web developer, and also with David Choy, whose firm hosts our website, **to redesign our website**. We posted new photos, updated content and consolidated the scope of what we would have on the site. The site had not been updated for several years and we are enjoying many compliments.
 - b. I have analyzed our use of **our MailChimp subscription** to send messages to our membership. We are now using a new list of strictly NOW members so that our statistics tell us exactly how our messages are being received by the people who matter most. We have easily surpassed the open and click rates posted for mail in past years. We have sent notices for actions, meetings, and done GOTV work using tagging.
- 2) Proposed for this year a project that was to be held in conjunction with the Anne Arundel County Democratic Central Committee. This would have been a **political forum** using a town hall format, held in Annapolis, and would have targeted the colleges and high schools in Annapolis, giving younger voters more of an opportunity to question candidates on issues. It was to have been held in early April. Although news about this project was extremely well-received, we had to cancel it due to the quarantine orders throughout our state. We hope to be able to revisit this, perhaps in 2022.
- 3) Proposed and received council funding for a **Membership Retention Project** designed to welcome new members, increase renewals of supporters and encourage better name association with our non-chapter affiliated supporters. This project will also target lapsed supporters and attempt to bring them back to Maryland NOW.
 - a. Messaging for these contacts has been challenging in the initial months of the year. People have been distracted, depressed, and very concerned about the future. We have done a welcome letter, using a newly designed bookmark for inclusion in the letters along with messaging asking them to affiliate with chapters and state-wide projects. We hope to send more mail in the next several months to encourage retention of these important names. Since an option listed on the reply card invites the person to select a chapter with which to affiliate, and/or indicate an interest on which they would like to work with the state, we hope to encourage more participation from this group of supporters.
- 4) Worked with a graphic designer who is also a long-time NOW member, Jeannette Feldner, on some of the logo and design work involved in the above-referenced project. We hope to start work on a new **Maryland NOW brochure** in the next few months.
- 5) **Chapter Outreach Work** was planned but projects will need to be designed for at least the coming year given the uncertainty of meeting rules, and personal comfort levels with such gatherings in the coming months. With limited ability to meet face to face with new activists we are asking new contacts about their comfort level with Zoom and hope to use it to get acquainted with these members. We are targeting work in Frederick and Charles County. Other projects, done by other state members, involve

reorganization work in Baltimore and Southern Prince George's County, which will be a part of their reports.

- 6) **Maryland NOW's Political Action Committee** now enjoys its own page on our newly-designed website, and we have set up a PayPal account for the PAC which can be accessed on our new page. We have a monthly sustainer (!) and are working to encourage more people to give this way. I put our PAC financial accounting records into the State Board of Elections' CRIS system and filed our PAC Annual Report using that system this past January. During the last election cycle we used Survey Monkey to solicit responses to questions from candidates. That company has changed their format somewhat and we are looking at whether another program might be better and cheaper for our needs.
- 7) I worked with other council members on efforts to try **to redesign MD NOW's budget format** so that we could better track our expenses in specific areas like communications, and chapter and membership work, as well as to better identify our spending on (c)(3) and (c)(4) projects. Knowledge of our work from this angle is very important when new donors and supporters investigate us as worthy of their hard-earned dollars.
- 8) Sandy Bell worked tirelessly as your president. I tried **to assist her in every way I could**, setting up meetings, taking care of administrative work, and making sure things got done as needed and on-time. I have known Sandy for decades in Maryland NOW and it is a joy to work with her in this way. I believe Maryland NOW benefits from our experience, but also from the fact that we are open to change and want membership growth directed at younger activists.

Lastly, I would like say how much I have enjoyed working with and learning from **all** the leaders and members here in our state and look forward to whatever the next year may bring, and for their support. NOW may be over 50 years old at this point, but our message and what we have to offer young women cannot be underestimated and both fortunately and unfortunately, is timeless. There is and always will be much work to do.

For equality,
Barbara Hays
Executive Vice President

The State of Maryland 2020 legislative session was an unusual one. Because of the COVID19 pandemic, the session abruptly ended in March. But, before the pandemic, we actively worked with women's advocacy groups such as MCASA, NARAL, and the Prince Georges County Family Justice Center to learn about their legislative issues and bills that they are promoting. We attended the MLAW legislative briefing in November, the MD Legislative Coalition Legislative Summit in Western Maryland on December 8 where we talked about the Women's Suffrage Event in August 2020, and on December 15 at the University of Maryland Baltimore Campus, where we introduced Delegate Pena-Melnyk and provided her the opportunity to discuss her legislative priorities. We also used this opportunity to promote the Women's Suffrage Event.

To prepare for the legislative session, we attended the Emerge Maryland cocktail party on October 3 to honor Adrienne Jones, the first African American female Speaker of the House of Delegates. While there, we engaged Delegate Queen and the Women's Law Center about issues and their priorities in the upcoming legislative session.

Additionally, we attended several training classes to learn more about the current issues surrounding sexual assault and domestic violence. We attended the MCASA trauma-informed sexual assault training at Chesapeake College on November 6. We also attended the conference of the Women of Color Network at Bowie State University on November 8, 2019. While there, we spoke with representatives from House of Ruth and Lisae Jordan from MCASA about domestic violence and sexual assault issues. During other events (i.e., MD and South Prince Georges County Business and Professional Women events) around this time period, we spoke with Jennifer Jones of the Prince Georges County Family Justice Center about the work of their organization and made a large donation of toiletries for the clients on behalf of MD NOW.

Even though the 2020 Legislative Session was abbreviated, some progressive bills were passed. The information below is from the MLAW webpage:

BILLS THAT PASSED

HB 768/SB 759 Health – Prescription Drug Affordability Board

This bill creates a Prescription Drug Affordability Board in Maryland, an independent body with the authority to evaluate high cost drugs and set fair rates for Marylanders to pay.

OUTCOME: Bill PASSED both chambers and is awaiting signature by the Governor.

HB 814/SB 802 Maryland Easy Enrollment Health Insurance Program [formerly Maryland Health Insurance Option (Protect Maryland Health Care Act of 2019)]

This bill establishes the Maryland Easy Enrollment Health Insurance Program to improve data collection on uninsured individuals and to maximize enrollment of eligible uninsured individuals in affordable insurance programs. It also requires the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange to establish a Maryland Easy Enrollment Health Insurance Program Advisory Workgroup, and requires the Comptroller to include a checkoff to indicate whether an individual is interested in obtaining minimum essential health coverage on certain State income tax forms.

OUTCOME: Bill PASSED both chambers and is awaiting signature by the Governor.

HB 1249/SB 657 Pilot Program – Alleged Rape, Sexual Offense, or Child Sexual Abuse-HIV Postexposure Prophylaxis

This bill establishes a pilot program to prevent HIV infection for victims of an alleged rape or sexual offense or victims of alleged child sexual abuse.

OUTCOME: Bill PASSED both chambers and is awaiting signature by the Governor.

BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS

HB 122/SB 209 Protective Orders – Relief Eligibility – Rape and Sexual Offenses

This bill would have amended the definition of persons eligible for relief in a protective order to include a victim of rape or sexual offense or attempted rape or sexual offense in any degree and removing it from the peace order.

OUTCOME: Bill passed both chambers amended. Conference committee appointed to reconcile differences but agreement reached was not passed by both the House and Senate before General Assembly ended.

HB 341/SB 500 Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program -Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2019)

Building on 2018's successful state employees parental leave legislation and the 2016-2017 Maryland Task Force to Study Family and Medical Leave Insurance, this bill would have established a private sector family and medical leave insurance fund to provide partial wage replacement for employees who take unpaid leave to care for a new child or a family member with a serious health condition, their own serious medical condition, a family member's military deployment.

OUTCOME: Bills did not receive a vote in committees.

HB 634/SB 738 Labor and Employment – Wage History and Wage Range

This bill would have ensured that women are not forced to carry lower earnings and pay discrimination with them from job to job by prohibiting employers from seeking and relying on job applicants' salary history and by requiring employers to provide the salary range for a position upon a job applicant's request.

OUTCOME: Bills did not receive a vote in committees.

HB 782/SB 691 Criminal Procedure – Motion to Vacate Judgment – Human Trafficking (True Freedom Act of 2019)

This bill would have expanded Maryland's current "vacating convictions" law to allow criminalized survivors of human trafficking to remove crimes other than prostitution from their criminal records, which would significantly increase the ability of these survivors to access employment and stable housing, as well as heal from the trauma of their trafficking experience.

OUTCOME: House version passed but did not receive a vote in the Senate Committee.

HB 937 Family Law – Child Support – Eligibility of a Child Who Has Attained the Age of 18 Years and SB 264 General Provisions – Age of Majority – Right to Parental Support and Maintenance

These bills would have allowed the court to retain jurisdiction for child support until age 21 for those enrolled in post-secondary college education or a vocational training program.

OUTCOME: Bills received unfavorable votes in committee; HB 937 was withdrawn.

HB 1107/SB 518 Discrimination in Employment – Pregnancy and Childbirth

This bill would have expanded existing pregnancy discrimination laws to include not just women with pregnancy-related disabilities, but also women with healthy pregnancies who also need reasonable accommodations.

OUTCOME: Bills did not receive a vote in committees.

Submitted by
Margie Koztalas

May 16, 2020

Secretary's Report to the 2020 MD NOW state conference

This was my first term as secretary for MD NOW, but since the 2018-2019 secretary was not able to attend the 2019 state conference, I prepared minutes for that conference.

I prepared and distributed minutes for the meetings of the MD NOW state council meetings that occurred subsequent to the 2019 state conference. I have been using audio recordings of the meetings to ensure that the minutes accurately relate the proceedings of the meetings.

I will be taking minutes during this conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Blum



Maryland NOW Annual Treasurer's Report -- May 18, 2020
 by Linda Mahoney

| Maryland NOW Assets- | | 4/30/2020 actuals |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| CASH ON HAND | | |
| main bank account | | \$14,848.84 |
| founding mothers | | \$ 1,902.28 |
| PayPal | | \$ 101.35 |
| Cash on Hand w/o estate funds | | \$16,852.47 |
| Nita Alicia Farrell Estate | | \$188,103.33 |
| total | | \$221,808.27 |
| ESTIMATED INCOME | | |
| Rebates | | \$6,000 |

| Maryland NOW Budget Summary as of 4/30/2020 | Projected 2020 |
|---|---------------------|
| I. INCOME | |
| TOTAL Projected INCOME/ASSETS - including transfer from beneficiary account | \$ 51,836.55 |
| EXPENSES | |
| II TOTAL GOVERNANCE | \$ 7,046.00 |
| III ACTION ITEMS | |
| TOTAL REGULAR PROJECTS | \$ 5,600.00 |
| SPECIAL/NEW PROJECTS | \$ 24,500.00 |
| TOTAL ALL ACTIONS/PROJECTS | \$ 30,100.00 |
| Total Estimated Expenses | \$ 37,146.00 |