



The NEWSCASTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF MARYLAND, INC.

Annual Conference Issue

2020-2021



Business and Professional Women
of Maryland

BPW/MD 2021 Annual Conference

**WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE and
EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT ADVOCACY EVENT**

Saturday, June 26, 2021 • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

VIRTUAL!!! ON ZOOM

BPW/MD is thrilled to announce our 2021 Annual Conference, scheduled for June 26, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with the theme **"ERA Now!"** The conference will be virtual out of an abundance of caution for public health, but is already scheduled to feature one of our most exciting recent lineups, starting with our continued focus on adding the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution!

The BPW/MD conference, FREE for members, and \$10 for nonmembers, is open to the public.



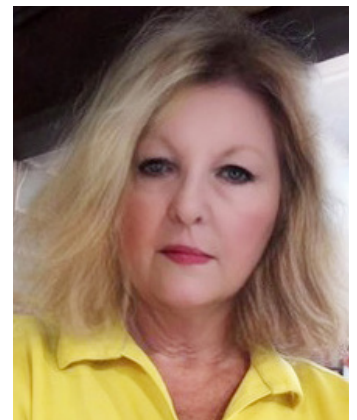
BPW/MD 2021

Virtual Conference



Our keynote speaker will be women's rights advocate **Dr. Maya Rockey Moore Cummings** (left) who will continue the discussion on the fight to enshrine the Equal Rights Amendment in the U.S. Constitution and what we can do to make equality for women and men happen now!

Another conference highlight is the **DISC Professional Development Workshop** with **Dr. Trish Knight** (right). Through this presentation, attendees will increase their emotional intelligence, learn to be better communicators, and understand how to create more positive interactions in their workplaces, friendships, and families.



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONFERENCE

- **Memorial service**
- **Business session**
- **Election of 2021-2022 Officers**
- **Special ERA activities!**

See page 5 for full schedule.

For more information, contact Conference Chair **Rebecca Wise** at luxvelveteen@gmail.com. All members are encouraged to attend! Invite colleagues, family, and friends to join us for our wonderful speakers and professional development workshop. **We hope to see you on June 26 as we renew friendships, meet new members, and advocate for ratification of the ERA!**

Conference Registration Due by June 16 to receive printed conference materials. Attendees will receive digital materials via email unless otherwise requested. See page 4 for details. For information, contact Registration Chair **Melissa McKenna** at melmckenna@utexas.edu or 240-793-1287.

"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

BPW/MD stands in solidarity with all those working to end systemic racism, racial terror, violence, and police brutality.



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ADVERTISING INFORMATION

The Newscaster is published two times a year with a circulation of approximately 300 copies. News/articles may be submitted by mail, fax, or E-mail to The Newscaster Editorial Manager; photographs are encouraged. Advertising rates are based on same-size, camera-ready copy or plain text; additional charge applies for design, layout, and photographs (if required). Make checks payable to BPWF/MD and send with ad copy to The Newscaster Acting Business Manager.

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Ad size	Single issue	Multiple issues	
Full Page	\$100	\$80	Local Organizations may promote major events, candidates, or candidate acknowledgments in a single issue at multiple issue rates.
Half Page	60	50	
Quarter Page	35	30	
Eighth Page	20	16	

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Susan Horst

2020-2021
BPW/MD President

To Our BPW/MD Members and Friends,

While women faced many challenges this past year, there were some highlights:

- We elected our very first female **U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris**, a woman of color and Asian descent.
- **Amanda Gorman** became the youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history when she recited her poem “The Hill We Climb” at President Joe Biden’s swearing-in ceremony.
- The House of Representatives voted on March 17, 2021, to lift the arbitrary timeline on the ratification of the **Equal Rights Amendment**. Now on to the Senate for an uphill fight.

BPW/MD women continued to be **resilient** throughout the year, dealing with the demands of our daily lives while taking precautions to stay well in the **COVID-19** environment. We took care of our families and friends and gave generously to those in need. Our BPW/MD **Executive Committee** continued to meet regularly via **Zoom and Conference call**, and I am grateful to our Leadership Team for their flexibility and support as we adapted to new schedules and technology.

We celebrated significant milestones and many firsts this year:

- Many of us participated in, and planned, celebrations all over Maryland honoring the persistence, strength and determination of the suffragists who achieved victory in winning the right to vote with the ratification of the **19th Amendment**.
- BPW/MD held its first ever **virtual Annual Conference** in September 2020, with a full agenda including guest speakers and a celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

- BPW/MD co-sponsored the **virtual 2021 Women’s Legislative Briefing (WLB)** in January, as well as a **virtual Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women Briefing (MLAW)**. We continued our membership in MLAW and the **Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues** and our partnership with the **National Women’s History Alliance**. At the request of the **Maryland Commission for Women**, we served on the selection committees for the **Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow Awards**.
- With Zoom, we were able to make a number of LO programs accessible to all state members.
- BPW/MD was a host for **Marylanders Rise Up for ERA! A Call to Action to Make Equal Rights Happen Now!**—a collaborative event on March 29 to engage, inspire, and empower women and men with determination to move our agenda forward to enshrine the **Equal Rights Amendment** in the Constitution of the United States of America!

I look forward to seeing all of you at our **virtual Annual Conference on June 26**. We are delighted to have **Dr. Maya Rockey Moore Cummings** as our keynote speaker, and **Dr. Trish Knight**, who will facilitate a professional development workshop focusing on the **DISC Model of Human Behavior**—learning to communicate effectively and build outstanding teams! All members and guests are invited!

I encourage all of you to take a leap of faith and volunteer to serve as an officer or committee chair. One of the greatest benefits of serving BPW/MD is the great connections I have made around the state, as well as the country, with other women’s organizations in which we find shared issues and collective voices. It is a positive and enriching experience—try it!

Thank you all for your participation and support of BPW/MD this year. Now that vaccines for COVID-19 have been developed and millions of people have been vaccinated, we can look forward to seeing some semblance of normal life returning. Let’s stay safe and well and keep communicating with one another as we continue to improve the lives of women everywhere.

Susan

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES – Have you moved or changed your email?

Please send all changes to your contact information to **Marlene Spielman**, lynnmar@myactv.net or 301-733-3226.

Always have a Membership Application and Membership Brochure with you to share with your members and guests. The Membership Application and Membership Brochure are available at www.bpwmaryland.org. The BPW/MD 2020-2021 Fact Sheet also provides a summary of BPW and our initiatives. Please contact any of the Executive Committee for copies of these documents.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

We are delighted to welcome new members who have joined BPW/MD since September 2020:

- **Amy Steinhoff** – Frederick BPW
- **Bel Leong Hong** – E-Member
- **Cynthia Long** – E-Member
- **Anca Rizescu** – Montgomery County BPW
- **Dianne Williams** – Southern Prince George’s BPW



Business and Professional Women of Maryland

BPW/MD 2021 Annual Conference
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
and
EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT ADVOCACY EVENT

SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 2021
9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

VIRTUAL!!! ON ZOOM



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DUE BY JUNE 19, 2021

Register Online at www.bpwmaryland.org

Register by June 16 to have conference materials physically copied and mailed

FREE

Register by June 19 to have conference materials emailed

FREE

Table with columns: COST, BPW Member, Nonmember, Total. Includes note: (if attending workshop)

Memorial Service, Business Session, Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Maya Rockey Moore Cummings, ERA Advocacy

FREE

FREE

Professional Development Workshop presented by Dr. Trish Knight

The DISC Model of Human Behavior - Learning to Communicate Effectively and Build Outstanding Teams!

FREE

\$10

\$

YES! I WOULD LIKE TO BE A SPONSOR OF THE BPW/MD ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Platinum Friend - \$100 Gold Friend - \$75 Silver Friend - \$50 BPW Friend - \$25

I cannot attend, but would like to make a donation of \$

CHECK TOTAL \$

Please print:

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE (H) (O)

(CELL) EMAIL:

EMAIL REQUIRED FOR ZOOM CONNECTION
ZOOM LINK WILL BE EMAILED PRIOR TO CONFERENCE

LOCAL BPW or OTHER ORGANIZATION

Check all that apply:

- State Officer
State Chair
Past State President
Local President
Local Member
Presenter
Sponsor
Guest
First Time Attending Annual Conference
Veteran

To register by mail, complete this form for each attendee
and send check made payable to BPW/MD to
Melissa McKenna, 22 Hidden Field Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.
For information, contact melmckenna@utexas.edu or 240-793-1287.

Wear ERA colors of
purple, green and white
on June 26!



Business and Professional Women
of Maryland

BPW/MD 2021 Annual Conference



BPW/MD 2021
Virtual Conference

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE and EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT ADVOCACY EVENT

Saturday, June 26, 2021 • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Conference Check in
9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Welcome and Review of Agenda
9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Memorial Service
9:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	BPW/MD Business Session
9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Business: Introductions, Reports
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.	Business: Reports, Nominations
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Keynote Speaker – Dr. Maya Rockeymoore Cummings
12:15 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.	Lunch Break - (Voting)
12:50 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Move It! Posture/Stretch Break – Jeannette Feldner
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Lifelong Learning and Leadership Program (L3P) – Dr. Trish Knight The DISC Model of Human Behavior - Learning to communicate effectively and build outstanding teams!
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Business: Election Results, Wrap up and Announcements

BPW/MD is . . .

- A member of the **Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI)** – www.womensclearinghouse.org
- A 2021 Partner of the **National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA)** – <https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org>
- A member of the **Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW)** – www.mdlegagendaforwomen.org

You can find some great information about women's issues, programs, resources, legislation, and more on these websites.

Dr. Maya Rockymoore Cummings

Dr. Maya Rockymoore Cummings

has built a career on being the change she wants to see in the world. A dynamic speaker, author, and advocate, she has given over 25 years of passion to public policy innovations and social change initiatives.

As Founder, President, and CEO of Global Policy Solutions LLC, she works with nonprofit, government, and corporate clients to create socially beneficial public policy. She has served on numerous nonprofit boards and championed causes including the national elimination of the racial wealth gap, healthy communities, Social Security, and the labor impacts of fully self-driving vehicles.

A lifelong advocate of women and their rights, Dr. Rockymoore Cummings taught women's studies courses while pursuing her graduate degrees and lectured at American University's Women in Politics Institute as an adjunct professor. She has testified before Congress, appeared on news outlets including MSNBC, CNN, Fox News, and NPR, and written for publi-



Jose Luis Magana / AP

Dr. Maya Rockymoore Cummings in action.

cations such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Atlantic*.

Dr. Rockymoore Cummings earned her Ph.D. and M.A. in Political Science

with an emphasis in public policy from Purdue University and her B.A. in Political Science from Prairie View A&M University.

Business and Professional Women of Maryland 2021 Annual Scholarship Committee Report



Scholarship Chairperson - Granis Dixon

The Business and Professional Women of Maryland offers five different scholarships. The scholarships are as follows, with the amounts each scholarship will be offering for the year 2021:

- **Florence A. Finlayson Scholarship** in the amount of \$1,000.00
- **D.A. Small Science and Business Scholarship** in the amount of \$1,000.00
- **Barbara F. Hiltner Scholarship** in the amount of \$2,500.00
- **BPW Foundation of Maryland Scholarship** in the amount of \$1,000.00

- The **Kathryn M. Daugherty Scholarship** is awarded to a recipient during the sophomore year and is renewable for two years, given that they meet the eligibility criteria for the renewal. In 2020, this scholarship was awarded to **Fatima E. Ruano** for \$3,200.00. If Fatima reapplies, she will receive \$3,200.00 for the 2021 year and could receive the same amount in 2022. There is a possibility that there will be \$1,000.00 available for a new applicant for the 2021 year.

The deadline for the applications to be received by the scholarship committee is **June 15, 2021**.

Please apply on the BPW/MD website at www.bpwmaryland.org.

The committee will review the applications received and determine if there are any eligible candidates for each of the scholarships.

Then, each of the applicants is notified as to whether their applications have been accepted or rejected. At this point, the committee has received applications from three different individuals.

Please contact Granis Dixon at granis.dixon@myactiv.net for additional information.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE CHARITIES
BPW/MD Is Supporting Two Charities This Year



We were thrilled and honored to have **Carol Jenkins**, President and CEO of the **ERA Coalition and the Fund for Women's Equality**, be part of the March 29 Marylanders Rise Up for ERA event. Recognizing the importance of this moment in time to pass the ERA, our charitable organization for the conference is the ERA Coalition.

The ERA Coalition works with more than 120 state, federal, and grassroots partners to advance the cause of women's equality in the United States, primarily through adding the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution and supporting states' ongoing efforts

to ratify the ERA. The movement is inclusive, gender-expansive, and led by women of color.

Your donation to the Coalition goes a long way toward creating a more equal future for women and girls and gender-expansive people. We are the future we want to see!

The ERA Coalition is a 501(c)(4) political organization. Contributions to the ERA Coalition are not tax-deductible. You can make a tax-deductible donation to our 501(c)(3) sister organization Fund for Women's Equality.

Donations can be made online at: <http://www.eracoalition.org/donate>.

Make check payable to ERA Coalition and mail to:

ERA Coalition/Fund for Women's Equality, 1 Thomas Circle, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005.

Donations for the **Fund for Women's Equality** will soon be accepted at: <https://fundforwomensequality.org>.



Following a year of food insecurity for many Marylanders during the COVID-19 pandemic, BPW/MD has also chosen to support **Maryland Hunger Solutions**. Their work helps Maryland families connect to available food assistance programs—like SNAP/food stamps, WIC, and school meals—that can help put food on the table, and improve

access to healthy, affordable food in low-income communities.

Your support will not only reduce hunger in Maryland, but boost financial security for Maryland families and improve children's health, wellness, and academic achievement.

Donations can be made online at: <https://www.mdhungersolutions.org/take-action/donate/>.

**Renew Your Membership – Refer a New Member
Update Your Contact or LO Page Information**

Please renew your membership by making your check payable to BPW/MD and mail to BPW/MD Membership, Marlene Spielman, P.O. Box 491, Williamsport, MD 21795. You may also pay your dues online with PayPal on the BPW/MD website www.bpwmaryland.org. If you need assistance logging in, please contact Pat Farmer, buttonspaf@aol.com or 301-776-4645.

All new members must submit dues with a completed application form.

- **Member of Local and Member at Large dues are \$100 annually.**
- **Student of Local is \$60 and E-Member is \$40 annually.**

E-Members receive only electronic communications and cannot participate in the governance of BPW/MD.

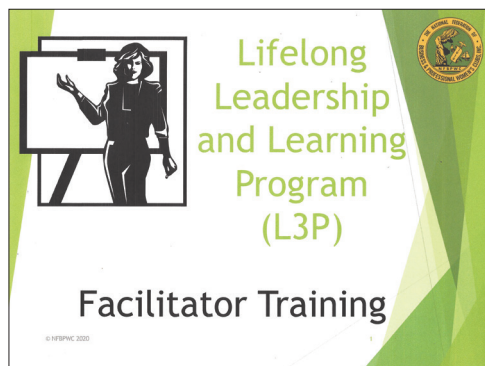
Local Organization Page Updates on Website – Please send updates about your LO programs and scholarship information to Pat Farmer, buttonspaf@aol.com or 301-776-4645.

Individual Development Program Becomes L3P

Nancy Werner, BPW/MD IDP or L3P Chair

I would like to reshare some information from the last *The Newscaster* for our newer members who have not a clue what the Individual Development Program is. It is a personal development program, which provides many classes on becoming the professional worker that we aspire to be. The IDP was written way back in the 1970s by the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. and started with sharing the history of the organization. I took this course back in 1976. But, then the IDP was expanded to incorporate more lessons on public speaking and learning how to develop presentations. It was only meant for the BPW members, but it was soon realized that it would be a great marketing tool for membership. Members and guests met in groups and covered the materials. Some charged fees, some did not.

More lessons were added, such as networking, interviewing, negotiating, leadership but all were centered around the DISC - a personal behavior model. It allows you to realize that your behavior styles impact yourself and those around you. The behavior models were applied to the newest modules or lessons. Soon, more lessons or modules were added, such as Parliamentary Procedure, Advocacy, How to Meet Goals, Business Etiquette, Branding and finally, Virtual Clubs. Now these last listed did NOT apply the DISC.



Now, the National Federation of the Business and Professional Women's Clubs has achieved the long-awaited revisions to the 2008 Individual Development Program. First, it has a new name - Lifelong Leadership and Learning Program, abbreviated to L3P. Each of the 15 modules or lessons are being revised with current information and even new names. New activities are being added. Changes in the class time and

updating of content sources are being listed. Twice a month, the NFBPWC L3P Committee meets via Zoom. One module at a time is shared and much discussion is entertained as we go slowly with our revisions. The pages are sharp with the BPW Emblem on every page.

The L3P Committee has completed the following modules: BPW-100 Years, Disc 2-Skills for Work and Disc Assessment, Public Speaking, Creating Presentations, Interviewing, Networking, Negotiating, Leadership, Parliamentary Procedure, Business Etiquette, Advocacy and the Goals and Objectives. We also created a Sexual Harassment Module.

We are proud to share that a 6-week course, "Developing Leadership Skills in Uncertain Times," was just presented to the NFBPWC members and nonmembers. It was the application of the modules to what is happening to the world around us and what we as individuals can do.

L3P • JUNE 26, 2021 • 1 - 2:30 P.M.

Lifelong Learning and Leadership Program (L3P) - Dr. Trish Knight

The DISC Model of Human Behavior - Learning to communicate effectively and build outstanding teams!



We are proud to present this professional development to our BPW Maryland members. **Dr. Trish Knight**, Past President of NFBPWC and a DISC certified counselor, will speak on L3P at our Annual Conference. Dr. Trish shared that the DISC Model of Human Behavior is learning to communicate effectively and build outstanding teams. When you understand what makes individuals tick, you can interact with them far more effectively. Discover what drives you, identify others' behavioral styles and choose the best ways to connect with them. Learn how to build great teams by identifying others' strengths. Embrace your personal style and your natural gifts, maximize your strengths, and minimize your weaknesses. Use the DISC to learn why you "click" with some people and "clank" with others!

Workshop materials will be emailed/mailed to everyone prior to the conference who has checked the workshop box on the Registration Form (see page 4).

Celebration of Votes For Women Extended

Nancy Werner, BPW/MD ERA Chair

What happened to our 2020 year of celebrating the Women's Suffrage Centennial? Let us see, we started the year on January 1 with the Rose Parade, which included our beautiful Women's Suffrage Centennial Float. Hope you all saw it for it was breathtaking to see "Years of Hope, Years of Courage" on the float's front. The Statue of Liberty was made of thousands of eucalyptus leaves and the descendants of suffragists Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Ida Wells, and Frederick Douglass stood among the many float flowers. Plus, the 100 contemporary suffragists all dressed in white with their signs held high, "Votes for Women," gave you goosebumps.

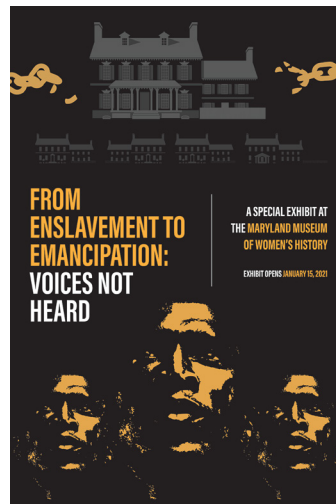
Then we saw the unveiling of the Central Park Statue of the **Women's Rights Pioneers Monument** honoring Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. That was August 26, 2020. Then many events stopped. With the pandemic arriving, many plans and projects were cancelled or delayed. Creativity on how to continue prevailed.

Many centennial projects were placed online whether at museums, libraries or historical societies; everyone was trying to keep the interest of the suffragists alive. But, it was exciting when we learned that the centennial would be extended into 2021. We are halfway through the 2021 year, and what is happening NOW?

With the slow reopening of the United States, many suffrage-related plans, projects and efforts are coming alive. Look at our Maryland. The Maryland Women's Heritage Center in Baltimore has a new home and a website from which one can download panels celebrating "**Valiant Maryland Women**" and a traveling suffrage exhibit. (www.mdwomensheritagecenter.org) In Centerville, there is a new **Maryland Museum of Women's History**. The first exhibit was "**Enslavement to Emancipation: Voices NOT Heard.**" (www.marylandmuseumofwomenshistory.org)

Please keep looking on the **2020 Women's Vote Centennial Initiative** website, (www.2020Centennial.org), which has continued to provide a calendar of events.

Lastly, never forget to look at the **National Women's History Alliance** for events. I enjoy seeing that the **Maryland Federation of Business and Professional Women** continues to be a sponsor of this prestigious group. During the past 40 years, the NWA has played an important part in bringing the 100 years of the suffrage story to us. This year's theme—"Valiant Women of the Vote-Refusing to be Silenced" says it ALL!



Marylanders Rise Up for ERA

A Call to Action to Make Equal Rights Happen NOW!

“When women put their minds together, they can move the Earth.” That is what we witnessed when an idea appeared to a few Maryland women that we needed to be doing something to move the Equal Rights Amendment through the United States Congress. Starting in early February, the great minds of **Dr. Jennifer Jones**, Women’s Champion and Founder, President, CEO and Chief Strategist of KyJour International; **Susan Horst**, President of BPW/MD, and **Jeannette Feldner**, President of Montgomery County NOW, began brainstorming about an event to focus on the ERA and create a call to Action. The leaders of four organizations agreed that their organizations would host the event: **Susan Horst**, President BPW/MD; **Holli Holliday**, President of Sisters Lead, Sisters Vote; **Diana Bailey**, Executive Director of the Maryland Women’s Heritage Center; and **Sandy Bell**, President of Maryland NOW, which was held on Monday, March 29, at 7:00 p.m. We used Eventbrite and the Zoom webinar feature.

Rebecca Wise:

“It was a truly inspiring evening. The speakers were informative and engaging, and especially excelled at sharing their energy around the issue of women’s equality. It was impossible not to share in their determination to achieve the ERA.”

The program included: **Holly Joseph**, ERA Activist and member of the Maryland NOW, who introduced **Senator Ben Cardin** of Maryland, sponsor of the S.J. Res. 1 to remove the Congressional deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; **Jeannette Feldner**, President of Montgomery County NOW, who introduced NOW President **Christian Nunes**; **Diana Bailey**, Executive Director of the Maryland Women’s Heritage Center in Baltimore, Maryland introduced Attorney **Wendy J. Murphy** who provided us the Legal Updates of the ERA. **Susan Horst**, President of BPW/MD introduced the keynote speaker, **Carol Jenkins**, President and CEO of the ERA Coalition/Fund for Women’s Equality. **Linda Fihelly**, Past Co-President of BPW/MD, presented **Kate Campbell Stevenson**, actor, producer, and women’s activist. Kate portrayed **Alice Paul**, the author of the ERA. Kate followed with an introduction of **Dr. Maya Rockey Moore Cummings**, Founder, President and CEO of Global Policy Solutions LLC. Every speaker brought us information on the necessity to push the Equal Rights Amendment.

Introduced by **Nancy Werner**, BPW/MD, panelists from all around Maryland were asked: “Why ERA?” **Nakia Wright**, Faith Leader and Founder of a Woman’s Voice; **Maricé Morales**, Esq., Former Maryland State Delegate;

MARYLANDERS RISE UP for ERA

Marylanders Rise Up for ERA
A Call to Action to Make Equal Rights Happen NOW!

Monday, March 29, 2021
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Register Today
<https://marylandersriseupforera.eventbrite.com>

Join us for this virtual event as we honor and celebrate decades of persistent work towards the enactment of the Equal Rights Amendment. Let us work together to ignite a strategic movement to enshrine Equal Rights for Women in the U.S. Constitution that will benefit ALL!

Host Organizations

- Maryland NOW
- BPW Maryland
- Maryland Women's Heritage Center
- Sisters Lead Sisters Vote

*"I don't say women's rights — I say the constitutional principle of the equal citizenship stature of men and women."
— The Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

Marty Langelan, Economist and Human Rights Activist; **Dr. Denise McCain**, Executive Director of Family Justice Center and the Chair for the Commission for Women of Prince George’s County; **Veronica Jeon**, CEO, VSJ and Community Leader; **Christine Valeriann**, Chair, Women’s Equality Day Celebration Across Maryland Coalition and President of the Baltimore NOW; **Rebecca Wise**, Second Vice President, BPW/MD; and **Sylvia Johnson**, Founder and Appointed Community Leader, told us their experience with ERA, and their view on the importance of the ERA passage.

Nancy Werner, Hagerstown BPW:

“With passion and purpose, the coalition of Maryland women provided plenty of information to every listener on how to get the ERA passed—know why you are supporting its passage, sign onto the ERA letter, tell everyone to help in the cause, and contact your U.S. Senators. ERA must become LAW.”

Jeannette Feldner and **Christine Valeriann** created a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the ERA, and **Melissa McKenna**, President of MC BPW, engaged the participants in how to become actively involved in the Equal Rights Amendment movement by reaching out to our Senators and Representatives in the House as well as local and

state elected officials to amplify our voices for ERA. If your elected leaders are supporters of the ERA, thank them for standing up to make men and women equal. If they are not supporters, then ask for their support and tell them why it's important to you! Remember, our priority is having the Senate pass S.J. Res. 1 to lift the time limit from the ERA!

Melissa McKenna, Montgomery County BPW:

“Just WOW! What incredible, infectious energy! So much learned; so much to be frustrated about. To hear women who have fought for this foundational right for 50 years, my entire lifetime—Unbelievable. ERA Now indeed! It's well past time.”

One special part of the evening was the dedication of Marylanders Rise Up for ERA to **Linda Mahoney**, President Emeritus of Maryland NOW and a fierce champion for Women, Girls and Equal Rights. Linda was working with the committee when she died unexpectedly. It seemed everyone knew Linda and knew her convictions, and it was most fitting that we paid tribute to her.

Our closing was a Call to Action. We were asked to reach out to our U.S. Senators and ask for their support. Gather our thoughts on “WHY” the ERA is important. Prepare our reasons to share with family, friends, organizations, our church members. Reach out to everyone!

Dr. Jennifer Jones did a truly remarkable job providing the many Zoom planning meetings and rehearsals. She prepared a script for the committee members and she was the emcee of the “cast of many.” But the hours of dedication and devotion were apparent as we traveled through the webinar.

It was an outstanding evening for all who attended via Zoom, but we had a few shortcomings. There were some technical difficulties that restricted access for some participants, and we discovered that some of the beginning minutes were not recorded. Some of the segments were re-recorded, and the video recording will be available soon to view. The Marylanders Rise Up for ERA event was a night to remember! May all our efforts prevail with the ERA in the U.S. Senate!

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Advocacy – Equal Rights Amendment. **“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex”** needs to be placed into our Constitution. While most states have laws prohibiting discrimination of any kind based on sex, proponents of the ERA say laws can be reversed or eliminated. Having a Constitutional Amendment would cement those rights.

*Nancy Werner, Hagerstown BPW
ERA Representative*

Legislation Updates

Linda Fihelly, BPW/MD Legislation Chair

41st Annual Women's Legislative Briefing

BPW/MD co-sponsored the 2021 Women's Legislative Briefing, which was held virtually on January 31. This year's theme was *Beyond 2020: Advocating with Strength for Equality and Justice*. The opening panel focused on women who were working on the frontlines during COVID-19. The afternoon included workshops on Economic and Social Justice, Safety and Security, Healthcare, and Education, followed by time for networking. For more information, check the Montgomery County Commission for Women's website at <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw/wlb.html>.

2021 MLAW Legislative Briefing

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) held its 2021 Legislative Briefing virtually on January 28. BPW/MD was a co-sponsor. Attendees were able to learn about the MLAW Agenda and hear how to help pass legislation to improve the lives of Maryland women and families. If you were not able to attend, the briefing was recorded. You can view the full briefing [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63*hrz?B). (Passcode: 63*hrz?B)

The Final 2021 Agenda was comprised of seven legislative initiatives chosen from 14 presented for consideration at MLAW's Fall Agenda Conference. (As a member of MLAW, BPW/MD voted for the Agenda proposals based on how our members ranked them; of the seven ultimately chosen, three were among those ranked highest in importance by BPW members.) To see the Final Agenda Report (bills listed below), visit the MLAW website at <https://mdlegagendaforwomen.org/>.

BILLS THAT PASSED (Sent to Governor)

- Criminal Law — First Degree Child Abuse — Continuing Course of Conduct
- Public Schools — Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products — Requirements
- Maryland Health Equity Resource Act
- Labor and Employment — Maryland Essential Worker Protections Act

BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS

- Family Law — Custody and Visitation
- Labor and Employment — Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program — Establishment
- Criminal Law — Sexual Crimes — Repeal of Spousal Defense

SUCCESSFUL VETO OVERRIDES (FROM 2020)

- Public Safety — Rifles and Shotguns — Sales, Rentals, and Transfers
- Correctional Services — Prerelease Unit for Women

The Equal Rights Amendment: Interviews and News



Montgomery Municipal Cable



GOOD NEWS!!!! The House passed H.J. Resolution 17 on March 17, 2021, the legislation that removes the time limit to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Chairman Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), and Rep. Jackie Speier (D-Calif.), along with other advocates, delivered speeches on the floor in support of the resolution, arguing that the time limit was not part of the actual amendment, and since it was imposed by Congress, Congress has the authority to remove it.

The legislation passed by a vote 222-204. Several Republicans joined the Democrats in voting yes. Now it goes to the Senate, where we will need to have every-one contact their senators to support this vital legislation. There were those who spoke against ERA, saying that women already had equal rights per the 14th Amendment, and that the ERA was redundant. We are reminded that the late Justice Antonin Scalia agreed that the 14th Amendment did not prohibit discrimination against women. Women have already waited 234 years to have equal rights under the law, and the time is now!

[Programs - Montgomery Municipal Cable Television MMC-TV -](#)

During Women's History Month, Storyteller Ellouise Schoettler (remember her stories about the Hello Girls of WWI?) interviewed Maryland women about their experiences with the Equal Rights Amendment. These are among many shows that Ellouise records on the Montgomery Municipal Cable TV (Channel 16 on Xfinity) called "Stories in Time at Home."

If you haven't seen these interviews, click on the links below—each 30 minutes—about the Equal Rights Amendment during Women's History Month.

March 8 - Storyteller Ellouise Schoettler Interviews Susan Horst, BPW/MD and Jeannette Feldner, MCNOW, about the Equal Rights Amendment



[Looking Back & Looking Forward at the Equal Rights Amendment - Montgomery Municipal Cable Television MMC-TV](#)

March 15 - Ellouise Schoettler interviews Jennifer Jones, former Chair of the PG Commission for Women, and Holly Joseph, MCNOW



[The Equal Rights Amendment is NOT part of the Constitution - Montgomery Municipal Cable Television MMC-TV](#)

*Congratulations to 2nd Vice President **REBECCA WISE**, Laurel BPW, on earning a Master's in Communication, with a concentration in Nonprofit Communication, from Johns Hopkins University on May 26, 2021!*



The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial

Nancy Werner, BPW/MD - Hagerstown BPW

On May 16, 2021, the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial was dedicated in Fairfax, Virginia. The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association and the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission began this undertaking 13 years ago. They are extremely grateful to Fairfax County for the land and funds they provided. Also, they are grateful to the many groups that supported this project through donations.

A few of the donors participating in the dedication were: National League of Women Voters, General Federation of Women's Clubs, and the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission.

The purpose of the memorial is to thank the millions of women who fought 72 years so that women would have a voice in government. Following their mission, "To educate, inspire, and empower the present and future generations to remain vigilant in the quest for equal rights," is inscribed on their monument.

Please connect with Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Dedication - YouTube and also search for www.suffragist-memorial.org.

If you would like to visit the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, the address is 5400 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, Virginia 22039.

Sara Brownlowe

7/29/33 - 04/25/21

**Beloved Friend,
Sister & Member
Frederick Business &
Professional Women**

*Spunky, Vivacious,
Loving Heart,
Full of Grace*



BPW/MD Calendar of Events



2021

- June 23 BPW Foundation of Maryland Trustees Meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom.
- June 26 BPW/MD 2021 Annual Conference 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Virtual via Zoom. Registration Required. Zoom link will be forwarded to all registrants in advance. Free for members, \$10 for nonmembers. Open to the public.
- Aug. 26 Women's Equality Day. 101st Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment. Watch for more information.
- Oct. 17-23 National Business Women's Week®
- Nov. 13 Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) Fall Conference. Watch for details.

2022

- Jan. 30 Women's Legislative Briefing, sponsored by the Montgomery County Commission for Women. Statewide representation. Details pending.



Saturday, June 26 • 12:50 – 1:00 p.m.

By this time in the conference, you will have been sitting a long time.

Please join Jeannette Feldner and

**Move It!
POSTURE | STRETCH BREAK**

You can sit or stand. Dress up or dress down. It will be fun. It will feel good!

Step Up and Carry On BPW/MD

2021 Is a Great Year to be a Leader!

Now is the time that BPW/MD members should think about stepping up and taking on a leadership role for 2021-2022. The benefits to you are many. You will improve skills by listening, engaging and empathizing with team members to focus plans to move forward in this new environment. The organization's mission is strong and you can continue its efforts by motivating members to discuss what is in our control and look at new ways to approach supporting our mission. One hundred years ago, women worked extremely hard to get the vote. We don't want to let them down. Together, we can



continue to work towards goals such as Equal Rights for Women and for Equal Pay for Equal Work. You will work together via meetings, conference calls and social media such as with Zoom to bring members important programs and guest speakers, etc.

We have many women who went before you who are still available to mentor you as a future leader. Everyone has talent and skills to learn something new. To carry on BPW/MD, we need a President, Secretary and Treasurer. We also have other offices such as 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents and Committee Chairs to fill.

So, if you are ready to carry on BPW/MD's mission, please contact me by June 10 via phone or email: **Susan Horst**, 240-498-8434, susanhorst@yahoo.com

BPW/MD ELECTED OFFICERS' DUTIES Bylaws ARTICLE XI

PRESIDENT: The president shall serve as the principal officer of BPW/MD and preside at all meetings of the organization – the board of directors, the executive committee; assure appointments of committee chairmen and non-elective officers; is ex officio member of all committees, except the nominating committee.

PRESIDENT-ELECT: The president-elect shall act as representative of the president; serve as planning chairman to develop and coordinate programs of the ensuing year; select committee chairmen for the following year.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: The first vice president shall perform the duties of president in the absence of the president; become the president for the unexpired term in case of death, resignation or incapacity of the president; is administrative coordinator.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: The second vice president shall perform the duties of the president in the absence of the president and the first vice president; is program coordinator.

SECRETARY: The secretary shall record and transcribe the proceedings of the Annual Conference, the board of directors and the executive committee meetings; manage the BPW/MD correspondence.

TREASURER: The treasurer shall deposit, immediately, all monies of BPW/MD in a bank account approved by the executive committee; remit to BPW Foundation all money payable thereof; remit all appropriate money to the Local Organizations; file federal and state tax returns; prepare budget, monthly financial reports and treasurer's annual report for audit; is ex officio member of the finance committee.

All Executive Committee members are Directors/Trustees of the BPW Foundation of Maryland.

2020-2021 BPW/MD Chairs and Appointments

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Conference

Annual 2021 Rebecca Wise

Annual 2020 Susan Horst

Finance Mary Veber

Legislation Linda Fihelly

Membership Marlene Spielman

SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Audit Alicia Hannon

Bylaws Karen Evelius and
Marlene Spielman

History and Records Mary Ellen Poole and
Betty Abbott

Individual Development Nancy Werner

NBWW® Greta Davis

Nominating Vacant

Public Relations Rebecca Wise

Website Liaison Pat Farmer

Social Media Outreach Rebecca Wise

Graphics Support Jeannette Feldner

Young Careerist Nancy Werner

APPOINTMENTS:

Chaplain Vacant

Hospitality Vacant

ERA Representative Nancy Werner

Legal Advisor Marylin Pierre

MLAW Representative Caren Williams, PSP

Parliamentarian Karen Gessert Evelius, PSP

Resident Agent Susan Horst, PSP

Your 2020-2021 BPW/MD Officers



Susan Horst
President
Montgomery County BPW



La'Kenya Walter
1st Vice President
Southern Prince George's BPW



Rebecca Wise
2nd Vice President
Laurel BPW



Margie Kotzalas
Secretary
Southern Prince George's BPW



Sharon Jacob
Treasurer
Southern Prince George's BPW

BPW/MD Local Officers

Frederick:

President - Alice Houck
Secretary - Mary Ellen Poole
Treasurer - Francine Heaton

Hagerstown:

President - Ann Mazingo
Vice President -
Julianna Albowicz
Secretary - Granis Dixon
Treasurer - Marlene Spielman

Laurel:

President/Treasurer - Mary Veber
Pat Farmer, Secretary

Montgomery County:

President - Melissa McKenna
1st Vice President -
Dr. Mona Shing
2nd Vice President - Vacant
Secretary - Susan Horst
Treasurer - Alicia Hannon

Southern Prince George's:

President - Diane Hampton
Vice President - La'Kenya Walter
Secretary - Brenda Savoy
Treasurer - Sharon Jacob

Towson/Hunt Valley: Inactive

**Ideas,
Successful
Programs,
Exciting Events**



**Local Organization
Presidents and
Federation Committee Chairs:**

Reports Due by June 16

Please prepare a verbal report highlighting programs or activities that you found successful in helping to promote BPW and women in the workplace, support community services, or help grow your own Local! Sharing ideas will help another Local discover something new. Reports will be given during the virtual business session on June 26.

Plan on five minutes unless you request more time in advance of the meeting. Please send all reports via email to Conference Chair **La'Kenya Walter** by June 16 at lakenyasw@yahoo.com. Contact La'Kenya via email or cell at 434-825-8837 with any questions.

In Memoriam



MARGARET M. (PEGGY) LUBER

Laurel BPW, PSP BPW/MD

November 23, 1926 – December 23, 2020

Margaret M. (Peggy) Luber, 94, of Delmar, Maryland, passed away December 23, 2020 at Tidal Health Peninsula Regional Hospital in Salisbury. She was born in the Bronx, New York, on November 23, 1926, a daughter of the late Lester and Mary (McSweeney) Buckley.

Margaret worked for many years at Bell Atlantic and Applied Physics Lab as a telephone operator, NSA as a computer programmer and in later years as a real estate agent. She was very active in the Business and Professional Women's (MD) organization, the Red Hats, Sweet Adelines and Pythians. She enjoyed helping others and developed many wonderful relationships through the years. She was a member of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Delmar, the Moose Lodge and the VFW. While her career was important to her, taking care of her family and always making sure everyone was ok was her main focus. She will be remembered as a loving and caring wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend to many.

She is survived by her children, Theresa , of Delmar; Bryan Souder, of Cambridge; and Timothy Souder, of Richmond, Virginia; grandchildren Staci Widner, Stephanie Klaiber, Michael Souder, William Souder, Angela Souder, Damian DiLauro, Heather Scionti, Justin DiLauro and Taylor Howe; and great-grandchildren William, Abby, Liam, Sienna, Lily, Austin, Zachary, Nathan, Eva, Madelyn and Myles. She is also survived by a sister, Eleanor Payne, of Iowa, and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Lewis Luber; a daughter, Jeannie Howe; and a brother, Bill Buckley.

Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.shortfh.com.



LINDA L. MAHONEY

Montgomery County BPW

June 10, 1947 – March 8, 2021

We were very sad to report the death of **Linda Mahoney**, age 73, a past President and Treasurer of Maryland NOW. Linda died suddenly on Monday, March 8, 2021, International Women's Day.

Linda joined Maryland NOW and her local chapter, Montgomery County NOW, in 2007. She became Maryland NOW'S state president in 2010, serving three terms, and was Maryland NOW's state treasurer from 2018-2020. She worked on numerous projects with our organization, one of her passions being women's history.

Linda was also a member of Montgomery County Business and Professional Women (MC BPW), and she was honored in 2017 as their Woman of Achievement. She was a staunch supporter of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center and served on its board. Linda also served on the board of the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women. She had been a member of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee. She supported many other organizations that championed women's rights. She held a law degree from American University. Linda's family is from Arizona, Oregon, Mississippi and Quebec, Canada. Her wife and partner of 24 years, Edith Miller, died in 2018. Linda was the oldest of seven children, 5 girls and 2 boys. She is survived by two

sons, Bill Whitecotton of Phoenix, Arizona and David Whitecotton of Quebec, Canada, siblings, Gary Mahoney, Carol Mahoney, John Mahoney, Joy Staab, Faith Pourkeveh, and Jill Mahoney. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Carol Mahoney, P.O. Box 3043, Bay City, OR 97107.

Her family will hold a memorial service in Arizona, but they have asked that her Maryland friends plan the memorial service here, and individuals interested in serving on the planning committee may contact Susan Horst.

Memorial Service

A Memorial Service will be held at the Annual Conference on June 26 at 9:15 - 9:45 a.m. for any BPW/MD sisters who have passed away this year. Please forward names of deceased BPW sisters, copies of obituaries and any other remembrances to **Pat Farmer**, buttonspaf@aol.com by June 15.

LO Presidents, please invite family members of the deceased to attend the memorial service, and confirm their email address with Registration Chair **Melissa McKenna** so that the zoom link can be emailed to them.

In Memoriam



SARA MAE BROWNLOWE

Past President, Frederick BPW

July 29, 1933 – April 25, 2021

Sara Mae Brownlowe, 87, of Frederick, Maryland, and formerly of Delaware, passed away on Sunday, April 25, 2021 at Citizens Care and Rehabilitation Center, Frederick. She was the wife of the late William E. Brownlowe who died in 1979. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on July 29, 1933, she was the daughter of the late William T. and Sarah B. Moorhouse Slater.

Sara worked in the hospitality field as a manager for several years, and fostered over 54 children for more than 17 years. Sara was an alumna of the University of Delaware and an active member of the All Saints Episcopal Church, Frederick. She was a member of the Daughters of the King and the Frederick Business and Professional Women's Club, having served as a past president. Sara was a charter recipient in the Delaware Tourism Hall of Fame in 1991, and was also inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1998 for the Professional Women's Club.

Surviving are her children, son Edward Gschwandtner; Charles W. "Chuck" Brownlowe and wife Patricia; Donna E. Blankenship and husband Ralph; Lee W. Brownlowe and wife Katherine; daughter-in-law Candace Winn; 12 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a son, Richard Winn, two brothers, Robert and William Slater and a sister, Myrtle Watson. The family received friends on May 1st, 2021 at the Keeney and Basford Funeral Home, 106 East Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701. Private interment will be in the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery, in Bear, Delaware. A celebration of Sara's life will be at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made in her memory to the All Saints Episcopal Church, 106 West Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701. Online condolences may be shared at www.keeneybasford.com. Cards may be mailed to her daughter, Donna Blankenship, 2178 Ambleside Ct., Frederick, MD 21702.



MARILYN L KRANTZ

Past President Frederick BPW

(then known as Marilyn Young)

Died April 30, 2021

Marilyn L Krantz, 68, passed away April 30, 2021 in Castle Rock, Colorado, where she lived since 2013, after a courageous battle with cancer. Marilyn is survived by her daughter Sarah (Evan Tomlin) Evans, grandson Henry Reardon and sister Leasa (Barry) Mercer. She also enjoyed special relationships with her nephew Dusty (Kristina) Rood and her two nieces Dallas (Mike) Rausch, Katie (Gretchen Ruck) Renner. Marilyn is preceded in death by her parents John H. Krantz Jr. and Joyce L. Remsberg, and by her sister Jody Krantz-Workman.

Marilyn spent most of her life in Frederick, Maryland where she held several key professional and civic roles. She worked as a banker, first, at Woodsboro Bank and then, at Farmers & Mechanics National Bank (F&M), where she grew ties to many community organizations including Business and Professional Women and Kiwanis. Marilyn served as President of the Kiwanis Club of Frederick in the late nineties. She also served as President of the Frederick Business and Professional Women's Club (BPW) and was chosen as their 1998-1999 Woman of the Year. During the same era, Marilyn was appointed to serve as a Judge of the Orphan's Court for Frederick County. Marilyn retired from Frederick Community College (FCC) after serving as Director of Resource Development for several years. Marilyn played piano and organ throughout much of her life. She also liked to create with paper, paint and fabric. She treasured being a vendor at The Barn Antiques & Specialty Shops in Castle Rock where she sold unique items that she sourced or created. This chapter of her life brought many new friendships and discoveries. Whether on a trip with her girlfriends to the casino or a trip across the Atlantic Ocean on the Queen Mary 2, she maintained an adventurous spirit that will live on and continue to brighten the lives of those who knew and loved her.

A reception to honor Marilyn's life with was held May 20, 2021, at the Delaplaine Art Center, located at 40 South Carroll Street in Frederick. Memorial donations may be made at coloradophc.com.



BPW/MD ANNUAL CONFERENCE • JUNE 26, 2021

We are excited to offer members and guests an opportunity to participate *virtually via ZOOM* in the **BPW/MD's Women's Leadership Conference and Equal Rights Advocacy Event on June 26, 2021**. You do not need a Zoom account to participate.

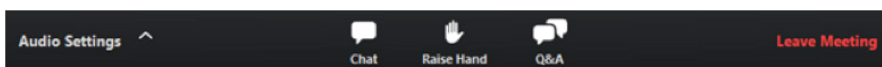
If you don't have a computer with a camera or you would like to attend the virtual conference with another BPW member, you are encouraged to sit together to participate in the conference.

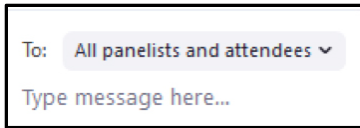
Members and guests are required to pre-register for the conference, either with the Registration Form or online at our website www.bpwmaryland.org.

Once your Registration has been received, a Zoom link will be sent to all registrants in advance. You will click on the link for the conference, and it will allow you to enter the conference. Click on "Join with Computer Audio."

If you have never used Zoom before, it will take approximately 30 seconds for the application to upload to your computer, and you will be able to join the meeting. We ask that you enter the meeting any time after 8:30 a.m. so that you are connected in time to begin the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Basic Controls for Zoom - You will see a tool bar across the bottom of the screen like this one.



- **Audio/Video settings** – you will be automatically muted on entry. There will be opportunities throughout the sessions for you to raise your hand and the host will unmute and/or share your video.
- **Chat** – this is the best way for attendees to communicate and share with each other throughout the conference. Simply type your message in chat and select the drop down "all panelists and attendees" and your message will be shared with everyone!

- **Q&A** – throughout the event you will have the opportunity to ask questions or make comments. There are two ways to do this:
 - Type your question by clicking the Q&A icon on the bottom of the screen
 - Raise your hand to ask your question via audio.
- **Screenview and settings** – in the top right corner of your screen you can toggle between Speaker and Gallery view to find your preference. In addition, if you click on the various boxes (chat, Q&A, etc.) you can minimize and maximize views.

Tips for a better view using



1. Set your laptop or computer so that the camera is at your eye level. (Too much ceiling or neck are not desirable!) Use books or a PC stand to elevate your PC.
2. Make sure your face is lit from the front and sides. An overhead light is usually too dark.
3. Unless you add a virtual background (available to anyone who purchases a Zoom subscription), everyone can see what is behind you.

Do You Need Zoom Assistance?

If you are new to Zoom and would like assistance, please contact **Susan Horst** (susanhorst@yahoo.com) for a practice session in advance. Any person with a PC with camera, or smart phone, will be able to attend via Zoom. If you do not have a PC with a camera, you may purchase a webcam that can be attached to your PC. You also have the option of participating by telephone, and telephone numbers with meeting ID and passcode will be provided to you.

Google "Zoom" on the Internet and take a basic tutorial—this will help you get comfortable with the application. Zoom offers a free subscription; sign up for it and open an account. It will offer you a 40-minute free Zoom meeting for starters.

