

MARTIN J. O'MALLEY  
Governor

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Lt. Governor



GLORIA LAWLAH  
Secretary  
*Maryland Department of Aging*

*Commission Chair*

*Commission on the Commemoration*

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Passage of the  
19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution**

*Commission Members*

**Katherine A. Klausmeier**  
Maryland State Senate

**Karen S. Montgomery**  
Maryland State Senate

**Ariana B. Kelly**  
Maryland House of Delegates

**Susan K. McComas**  
Maryland House of Delegates

**A. Diane Williams**  
Maryland Commission  
for Women

**Kathleen White, Ed.D**  
Maryland Commission  
for Women

**Nancy Kurtz**  
Maryland Historical Trust

**Hannah Byron**  
Tourism, Film and the Arts

**Patricia Dockman Anderson, Ph.D.**  
Maryland Historical Society

**Emily Oland Squires**  
Maryland State Archives

**Roberta Sharper**  
League of Women Voters

**Diettra J. Lucas**  
National Association for the  
Advancement of Colored People

**Blair Burns Potter**  
Maryland Democratic Party  
Women's Diversity Leadership  
Council

**Ruth M. Umbel**  
Maryland Federation of  
Republican Women

**Commission on the Commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
Passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution  
2014 Annual Report**

In July 2013, the Commission on the Commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution was authorized by Chapter 603, Acts of 2013; Code State Government Article, sec. 9-3001. In compliance with the law, the Commission presents the following annual report of its progress and activities.

From July through December 2013, the Commission was formed and appointments made. The membership is comprised of esteemed women from across the state, representing many organizations and perspectives. These Commissioners are united to fulfill the vision as laid out in the founding legislation under the leadership of Chair Gloria Lawlah.

The Commission held its first meeting on January 9, 2014. Commissioner Emily Oland Squires shared a brief historical overview of the national suffrage movement to establish a context for the meeting and the Commission itself. Individual members offered ideas of how best to address the charge set forth in the founding legislation including: creating an inventory of historic sites; promoting tourism; identifying and highlighting related facilities; planning and publicizing commemorative events; coordinating with federal and local organizations and receiving relevant testimony.

301 West Preston Street • Suite 1007 • Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2374  
410-767-1100 • Toll Free: 1-800-243-3435 • TTY users call via Maryland Relay  
FAX: 410-333-7943 • [www.aging.maryland.gov](http://www.aging.maryland.gov)

As a result of this first meeting, the following action items were completed:

- The Commission issued a press release announcing its formation, explaining its mission and calling for information and assistance. The press release called for assistance from local libraries, historical societies, women's organizations, and other interested parties throughout the state, to help compile the history and to actively participate in the commemoration of the passage of the 19th Amendment.
- Commissioners compiled a list of contacts to identify existing research on Maryland's suffrage story, to create a pool of interested stakeholders/volunteers, and to issue invitations during event planning. Commissioner Oland Squires has begun to develop a data base that can reach the widest possible audience with its message.
- Responses to press release were collected and responded to by the Maryland State Archives. The Archives is keeping an ongoing data files for the offers of assistance and share information for use by the Commission.

The second meeting of the Commission was held on March 12, 2014 in recognition of Women's History Month. During this meeting, the Commission formed Committees to best fulfill the goals of the legislation. The three Committees are: Event Planning led by Commissioner Hannah Byron, Historic Sites Inventory led by Commissioner Nancy Kurtz, and Communication/Coordination led by Commissioner A. Diane Williams. In addition, the following action items were completed as a result of the second full Commission meeting:

- The Commission created and published a website hosted by the Maryland State Archives to help communicate and publicize its efforts online (<http://msa.maryland.gov/mdvotesforwomen/>).
- Chair Gloria Lawlah created and Commissioner Dietra J. Lucas printed an informational brochure to introduce the Commission and its mission to the general public. These brochures will be handed out at Commission events.
- The Communication/Coordination Committee was tasked with organizing the Commission's Kick-Off Event. This Committee, comprised of Chair Gloria Lawlah, Commissioner Ariana B. Kelly, Commissioner Katherine A. Klausmeier, Commissioner Dietra J. Lucas, Commissioner Emily Oland Squires, Commissioner Blair Burns Potter, Commissioner Kathleen White, and staff Ms. Irnande Altama, Ms. Tiaa Rutherford, Ms. Allison Seyler and led by Commissioner A. Diane Williams, met on April 22, 2014, May 6, 2014 and May 20, 2014 to complete this task.

#### Kick-Off Event - Overlea

On June 9, 2014, the Commission, with assistance from the Maryland Historical Trust and the Maryland State Highway Administration erected an Official Roadside Marker in Overlea (Baltimore County) to commemorate the historic women's suffrage march

through Maryland in February 1913. Commissioners Klausmeier and Kurtz led this project and were able to get approval for both the site and the text. The marker states:

*Women's Suffrage*

*Before the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was passed in 1920, American women were not guaranteed the right to vote. The National American Woman Suffrage Association organized a large parade in Washington, DC, for March 3, 1913. On February 12, a group of women called "The Army of the Hudson" began marching from New York City to the capital. They were met by supporters at Overlea Town Hall on February 23. After a journey of 230 miles, they joined the parade of 8,000, bringing national attention to voting rights for women.*

*Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland State Highway Administration*

The goal of this event was to make more people aware of the Commission and the upcoming anniversary of Women's Suffrage. The Commissioners were on hand to greet the public and provide information and build excitement for the upcoming anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The event was publicized on the Commission's website and by a formal press release to both the media and the Commission mailing list.

The marker, which was placed on the site of the Old Overlea Town Hall at 6908 Belair Road, was unveiled at the Kick-Off Event on June 9<sup>th</sup> amid great celebration. In addition to the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Commission, representatives from the Maryland Women's Commission, the Maryland Women's Heritage Center, the Maryland General Assembly, the Baltimore County Council, the Baltimore County Executive Office, and Vision 2020 were on hand to offer remarks of commemoration. The event was a success on all counts and an inspirational celebration of women's rights.

In conclusion, the Commission, as it moves toward the 2020 centennial anniversary, has adopted the following agenda:

- Promote state-wide awareness and celebration of the 100th Anniversary of women's right to vote
- Develop sources of funding to support the work of the Commission
- Discover and share a roster of the individuals across Maryland that fought for women's suffrage
- Discover and recognize the historic sites in Maryland that played a role in the suffrage movement
- Work with other local and national organizations to promote and celebrate women's suffrage
- Inspire women to take expanded roles in the public sphere

The Commissioners are confident that their progress to date and their common vision is consistent with the founding legislation and respectfully submit this report for your review and approval.

Sincerely,



Gloria Lawlah  
Chair

Commission on the Commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Passage of the 19<sup>th</sup>  
Amendment to the United States Constitution

Governor's Designee and Commission Chair:

Secretary Gloria Lawlah

Office of Secretary

Department of Aging

301 West Preston St., Room 1007, Baltimore, MD 21201

(410) 767-1102; 1-800-AGE-DIAL (toll free, Maryland)

e-mail: [ggl@ooa.state.md.us](mailto:ggl@ooa.state.md.us)

fax: (410) 333-7943; tty: (410) 767-1083

Senate Designees:

Honorable Katherine A. Klausmeier

James Senate Office Building, Room 103

11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 841-3620, (301) 858-3620

1-800-492-7122, ext. 3620 (toll free)

e-mail: [katherine.klausmeier@senate.state.md.us](mailto:katherine.klausmeier@senate.state.md.us)

fax: (410) 841-3085, (301) 858-3085

4100 Walter Ave., Baltimore, MD 21236

(410) 256-1353; fax: (410) 256-0319

Honorable Karen S. Montgomery

James Senate Office Building, Room 202

11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 841-3625, (301) 858-3625

1-800-492-7122, ext. 3625 (toll free)

e-mail: [karen.montgomery@senate.state.md.us](mailto:karen.montgomery@senate.state.md.us)

fax: (410) 841-3056, (301) 858-3056

House Designees:

Honorable Ariana B. Kelly

House Office Building, Room 210

6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 841-3642, (301) 858-3642

1-800-492-7122, ext. 3642 (toll free)

e-mail: [ariana.kelly@house.state.md.us](mailto:ariana.kelly@house.state.md.us)

fax: (410) 841-3026, (301) 858-3026

Honorable Susan K. McComas

House Office Building, Room 319

6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 841-3272, (301) 858-3272

1-800-492-7122, ext. 3272 (toll free)

e-mail: [susan.mccomas@house.state.md.us](mailto:susan.mccomas@house.state.md.us)

fax: (410) 841-3244, (301) 858-3244

Maryland Commission for Women Designees:

A. Diane Williams

902 Jennings Mill Drive

Bowie, MD 20721

Hm. [301.249.9696](tel:301.249.9696)

Cell [386.956.1481](tel:386.956.1481)

Email Address: [williamsdiane@gmail.com](mailto:williamsdiane@gmail.com)

Dr. Kathleen White

P.O. Box 608

Randallstown, MD 21133

Hm. [410.655.3916](tel:410.655.3916)

Cell [410.963.5105](tel:410.963.5105)

Email Address: [kawhite@dllr.state.md.us](mailto:kawhite@dllr.state.md.us)

Maryland Historical Trust Designee:

Nancy Kurtz

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville, Maryland 21032-2023

(410) 514-7648

[NKurtz@mdp.state.md.us](mailto:NKurtz@mdp.state.md.us)

Tourism Designee:

Hannah Byron

Assistant Secretary, Tourism, Film, & the Arts

World Trade Center Baltimore

401 East Pratt Street

Baltimore, MD 21202-3316

410-7676266

[hbyron@choosemaryland.org](mailto:hbyron@choosemaryland.org)

Maryland Historical Society Designee:

Patricia Dockman Anderson, Ph.D.

Director of Publications and Library Services

Maryland Historical Society

201 West Monument Street

Baltimore, MD 21201-4674

410-685-3750, ext. 317

[panderson@mdhs.org](mailto:panderson@mdhs.org)

Maryland State Archives Designee:  
Emily Oland Squires  
Director of Research and Education  
Maryland State Archives  
350 Rowe Blvd.  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
410-260-6443  
[emily.squires@maryland.gov](mailto:emily.squires@maryland.gov)

League of Women Voters Appointee:  
Roberta Sharper  
3737 Nortonia Road  
Baltimore, MD 21216  
[robertasharper@verizon.net](mailto:robertasharper@verizon.net)  
410-624-3144

NAACP Appointee:  
Diettra J. Lucas  
602 New Orchard Place  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774  
301-346-5535  
[Diettra.Lucas@outlook.com](mailto:Diettra.Lucas@outlook.com)

Maryland Democratic Party Women's Diversity Leadership Council Appointee:  
Blair Burns Potter  
8607 Northboend Circle  
Easton, MD 21601  
410-763-6688 (h/w/f)  
410-200-1334 (c)  
[blairbpotter@gmail.com](mailto:blairbpotter@gmail.com)

Maryland Federation of Republican Women Appointee:  
Ruth M. Umbel  
1002 Mosser Road  
McHenry, MD 21541  
301-387-5035  
301-387-7970  
[ruthumbel@comcast.net](mailto:ruthumbel@comcast.net)

Current Committee Membership:

Coordination and Communication  
Committee Chair, A. Diane Williams

Gloria Lawlah, *ex officio*

Ariana B. Kelly

Katherine A. Klausmeier

Dietra J. Lucas

Emily Oland Squires

Blair Burns Potter

Kathleen White

Events

Committee Chair, Hannah Byron

Gloria Lawlah, *ex officio*

Nancy Kurtz

Roberta Sharper

Kathleen White

Historic Sites Inventory

Committee Chair, Nancy Kurtz

Gloria Lawlah, *ex officio*

Pat Anderson

Emily Oland Squires