President’s Report, 7/1/2019- 6/30/21

On July 1, 2019 I took over as President of the Branch from Erin Prangley. Serving as President was an honor and a pleasure due to the support of a hard-working, creative and reliable slate of officers in both years. (See attachment for list of officers: - Appendix A)

In September 2019, we initiated the program year with a discussion of Immigration Priorities, held at Ingleside. We had 3 additional programs at Ingleside and a Holiday Party at the home of Ella and Howard Iams attended by approximately 28 persons. Speakers included Stephanie Fernandez, a scholarship student from Montgomery College and Ms. Shimrah, a Dian Belanger Fellowship recipient. In March 2020, AAUW and the entire country shut down due to the Covid 19 pandemic and the remaining activities of the branch were held virtually, using ZOOM through June 2021. (See attached list of programs: Appendix B) There were three very active interest groups: Great Decisions, Literature Group and Le Groupe Francais. The 2020 holiday party was virtual and included approximately 35 attendees and two scholarship recipients from Montgomery College.

In 2019-20 the Branch membership was 54 and 52 in 2020-21. In 2020, the Membership Vice-Presidents held a new member afternoon tea to introduce prospective members to the branch and its activities. Unfortunately, it was not possible to hold a similar event for the second year.

At the beginning of 2020, the Branch held several meetings with representatives from the Bethesda Chevy Chase (BCC) branch to discuss a possible merger between the two branches. The two branches agreed to hold joint activities (programs and interest group), but maintain separate finances and officers in what was described as a “trial marriage.” At the beginning of 2021, BCC and KR branches held several meetings to evaluate the merger. Both branches agreed that the joint programs and combined interest groups were very successful, but KR raised several issues about the limited participation of BCC members in the joint activities; what KR viewed as a strong, but small cadre of BCC leadership and a different cultural history and focus of the two branches. KR held a vote on whether to merge; not merge; or defer the decision on merger. After the final vote to defer the merger was conveyed to BCC, BCC decided to disengage from the merger and proceed separately.

Other information: As President, I attended the Women’s Legislative Briefing sponsored by the Montgomery County Commission for Women (live in 2020 and virtual in 2021); I also participated in several Maryland AAUW conferences: Fall 2019 (live) and Spring 2020 and Spring 2021 (virtual) and several AAUW State board meetings. The AAUW Maryland Spring Conference was cancelled in Spring 2020.

Hits and Misses: Margery Sullivan, Newsletter Editor, did her usual great job with the monthly newsletter with up-to date information on branch, state and national matters, as well as sending as timely e-mails on meetings and other AAUW events. Ella Iams and Dian Belanger served as Funds Chair and the branch contributed a significant amount to Montgomery College Foundation and to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders which enabled the branch to be a sponsor of at the Women of Distinction Award Ceremony (scheduled for June 2021). Janet Wert Crampton (Montgomery College Liaison) oversaw a mandated change in the requirements for the branch MC scholarship due to new federal guidelines. The required new language had to be “gender neutral.”

After an informal discussion with the elected Board, the Branch did not participate in the AAUW Five Star Recognition Program. During the 2020-21 year, the KR yearbook was not published as the Editor, Joyce Graf, was traveling a lot, but it will reappear in 2021-22. I did not appoint several positions: Public Policy Chair but was able to keep up with the information on the legislation provided by Roxann King, the Maryland Public Policy Chair. Fortunately, the Branch received several updates from State Senator Susan Lee during the two years. Also, Anna Palmisano provided up-to-date information on the Maryland Hospital Bill of Rights which passed in 2019, as well as a later attempt in 2021 to water down the law. Members were also able to participate in the Two-Minute activist lobbying efforts sent out by AAUW National.

Suggested duties (not inclusive):

1. Bylaws – read
2. Program planning – early June
3. New members – intro at meeting and in branch newsletter (didn’t always do); Life members (Jean Thompson July 2021- Note: she said that she had skipped at least one year.)
4. Conferences; MLAW; Women’s Briefing; NCWHS
5. Make sure that IRS Form 990N filed by AAUW national
6. Budget – proposed budget in September branch newsletter
7. Write a short article for the monthly newsletter (optional/assign to other branch member); Oversee the inclusion of other pertinent information from State and National, public policy and membership
8. Monitor dues renewal
9. Holiday Party – scholarship recipients; other guests; venue
10. Spring luncheon – program; venue
11. Public policy (suggestion – one bill which we follow in detail (like Patient Bills of Rights) encourage two minute activist
12. MCPS School Board Forum – branch usually sponsors and branch members provide assistance when held live.

**ELECTED OFFICERS, K-R 2017-2021 APPENDIX A**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2020-21 | 2019-20 | 2018-19 | 2017-18 |
| President | Ruth Spivack | Ruth Spivack | Erin Prangley | Erin Prangley  Kate Campbell Stevenson |
| Program V-P | Anita Rosen | Anita Rosen  Pat Ameling | Anita Rosen  Pat Ameling | Jane Gentleman  Sylvia Crowder  Ginny Collins  Monique Briend Walker |
| Membership V-P | Maritsa George  Sylvia Crowder | Maritsa George  Sylvia Crowder | Maritsa George  Sylvia Crowder | Ella Iams  Gale Greenberg |
| Treasurer | Jeri Rhodes | Joyce Graf  Ella Iams | Joyce Graf  Ella Iams | Ruth Spivack |
| Secretary | Pat Ameling | Margaret Schweitzer | Margaret Schweitzer; Michelle Beach | Joyce Graf |

**PROGRAMS – APPENDIX B**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Program | Place |
| 5/15/21 | Annual Meeting and Social  Roxanne King, update on women’s legislative issues and MLAW  Update on MC scholarship recipients | ZOOM |
| 4/10/21 | AAUW: Our History, Our Legacy, and Our Current Challenges.  Dian Belanger, historian  Eilieen Melton, national AAUW board member | ZOOM |
| 3/13/21 | The Sandy Spring Slave Museum and African American History of our Area, Natalie Williams is a member of the Sandy Spring Slave Mu | ZOOM |
| 2/13/21 | Activism and Youth:  March for Our Lives  Tatiana Washington (MFOL Advocacy Associate)  Linnea Stanton (MFOL Regional Director) | ZOOM |
| 1/9/21 | Implications of the November Elections. Mark Medish | ZOOM |
| 12/12/20 | Holiday Party  MC Scholarship recipients: Jessica Moskowitz and Rosa Choi. | ZOOM |
| 11/7/20 | Supporting our Sisters of Col**or**, with Jacki Gray, MD. Diversity Chair; speakers include Arlinda J. Clark, Esq., a new commissioner on the County Commission for Women, and a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. – Eta Pi Zeta Chapter; Dr. Rachel N. Bonaparte-Hagos, Chair of the  President’s Advisory Committee on Equity and Inclusion at Montgomery College; and Lt. Monique Tomkins, Deputy Director of Major Crimes Division, MCPD | ZOOM |
| 10/10/20 | Living in the Age of Coronavirus-especially for Older Adults,  Speaker: Dr. Marie A. Bernard, Deputy Director, of the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health | ZOOM |
| 9/12/20 | Maryland Legislative Priorities: A Panel Discussion  Speakers include: Senator Susan Lee, Catherine Hill (Exec. Dir., Women’s Caucus of the Maryland Legislature), and Stephanie Hall (Exec. Dir, Black Caucus of the Maryland Legislature). Moderator: Kate Campbell Stevenson, immediate past co-President of Maryland AAUW. | ZOOM |
| 4/20  5/20 | None |  |
| 3/21/20 | **~~AAUW Maryland Convention~~**  **(**cancelled due to Covid) | Annapolis |
| 2/15/20 | Nicole Y. Drew, Esq. President, of the Montgomery  County Commission for Women, “A Tale of Two  Counties” | Ingleside |
| 1/11/19 | Women, Music and Arts in Montgomery County, Dr. Suzan Jenkins, CEO of the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County and branch talent | Ingleside |
| 12/15/19 | Holiday Party  Ms. Shimrah, the recipient of the AAUW Maryland Dian Belanger International Fellowship.  Stephanie Fernandez, MC Foundation scholarship recipient  Francene Walker, MC Foundation | Home of Ella and Howard Iams |
| 11/16/19 | The Antarctic Treaty: The Second Political Miracle, Dian Belanger | Ingleside |
| 10/12/19 | Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence National Portrait Gallery, Dian Belanger | National Portrait Gallery |
| 9/21/19 | The Preference System – Who Should Legally Enter the U.S? Sameen Ahmadnia, Dzubow and Pilcher | Ingleside |