



Volume 8 No. 3 Summer 2025



A Heartfelt Farewell to an Incredible Organization

As I pen this letter, I find myself awash with gratitude, reflection, and a touch of nostalgia. Time, as ever, has been swift, and the chapter I have shared with this remarkable organization is coming to a close. Yet, as I step into a new phase of my journey, I am deeply moved by the memories, lessons, and connections that have shaped me during my time with LWAAAC.

The Early Days

It feels like yesterday when I first walked through the doors, eager and a little nervous about what lay ahead. From day one, I was welcomed with open arms, kindness, and an undeniable sense of belonging. It was clear that this organization was not just any organization, but a community of individuals united by a shared vision and passion. The initial days were filled with learning, adapting, and discovering the rhythm of this vibrant environment. Those moments, though challenging at times, laid the foundation for the journey that followed.

Moments that Defined My Time

Reflecting on my tenure, it is impossible not to recall the milestones—both big and small—that defined this chapter of my life. This organization became my canvas, where ideas were nurtured, creativity was celebrated, and efforts transformed into tangible impact. Whether it was collaborating on ambitious projects, solving complex challenges, or celebrating collective victories, each experience added a unique layer to my growth. I cherish the moments when we came together as a team, especially in times of adversity. It was in those moments that I witnessed the true spirit of this organization—resilience, collaboration, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. From late-night brainstorming sessions to heartfelt celebrations of success, these memories are etched in my heart as a testament to what we can achieve together.

The People Who Made It Special

At the core of every great organization are its people, and here, I have been fortunate to work alongside some of the most talented, compassionate, and inspiring individuals. Each of you has contributed to my journey in ways that words cannot fully express. You have challenged me to grow, encouraged me to dream bigger, and supported me through every stage of this adventure.

Your camaraderie, laughter, and shared wisdom have been a source of joy and inspiration. The relationships we have built extend far beyond the professional realm; they are connections that I will carry with me for a lifetime. Whether it was over a cup of coffee, during intense discussions, or amidst shared celebrations, I am deeply grateful for the bonds we forged.

Lessons I Take Forward

As I close this chapter, I carry with me a treasure trove of lessons that will guide me in the years to come. This organization has taught me the value of perseverance, the power of collaboration, and the importance of staying true to one's values. I have learned that success is not just about individual achievements but about lifting each other up and working toward a shared purpose.

The culture of innovation and inclusivity here has inspired me to approach challenges with curiosity and an open mind. It has instilled in me a belief that no idea is too bold and that every voice deserves to be heard. These insights will undoubtedly shape my path ahead and remain a part of who I am.

Gratitude Beyond Words

To the leadership, thank you for your guidance and trust. Your vision and dedication have been a beacon for all of us, and I am honored to have been a part of your journey. To my colleagues, thank you for your unwavering support and for making each day memorable. To everyone who has touched my path within this organization, you have my deepest gratitude.

As I step away, I do so with a heart full of gratitude and an unwavering belief in the bright future that lies ahead for this organization. While my role here may end, the memories, friendships, and lessons will endure, serving as a source of strength and inspiration in all that I pursue.

Looking Ahead

Though farewells are bittersweet, they also mark the beginning of new opportunities and adventures. I look forward to staying connected and cheering for this organization from afar as it continues to achieve new heights. May the legacy we have built together flourish and inspire others in the years to come.

Conclusion

In closing, I want to say thank you for the memories, the experiences, and the profound impact you have had on my life. This is not just a goodbye but a celebration of all that we have achieved together. As I bid adieu, I carry with me not just memories but a deep sense of gratitude and pride for having been a part of something truly special.

Here's to the journey we shared and the bright horizons that await us all. With all my heart, thank you.

Maxine Hooker

Maxine Hooker
LWAAAC President (2024-2025)

Thanks to the 2023-25 LWAAAC Board of Directors
for their service and both individual and collective efforts to further the goals and growth of the organization.



***l-r Janet Overton (deceased), Maxine Hooker, Janice Wallace, Sharon Boone
Eleanor Thompson, Judith Robinson***

Executive Committee*

Maxine Hooker, President
Janice Wallace, Recording Secretary
Sharon Boone, Correspondence Secretary
Eleanor Thompson, Treasurer
Judith Robinson, Financial Secretary

**(Janet Overton served as president from July '23- April '24.)*

Committee Chairs

Karen Robinson, Amenities
Juanita Sealy-Williams, Community Service
Alfonso Holston, Membership
Sandy Henderson, Programs
Sherry Weaver, Public Relations
Luis Alomar, Technology

(With special thanks to members of all the committees for their unfailing support, hard work, and good humor)

. . . And Speaking of Thanks and Farewell

While some members of the board will maintain their current roles or step into new ones, four members will step away from board service. So, we thank Karen Robinson, Sandy Henderson, Eleanor Thompson, and Sharon Boone for their fine work, and we wish them godspeed as they take the next steps on their journeys.



Karen, Sandy, Eleanor, and Sharon

The Nominations and Election Committee (NEC) Was on the Case

It was chaired by Sharman Dupree, who was joined by Elizabeth Brooks-Evans, Njeri Nuru-Holm, Karen House, and John Randall. Long-time LWAAAC member and former committee chair Patricia Means served as advisor to the committee. The team did their work in the short window allowed over the spring and brought in an uncontested slate of candidates for the executive committee (EC) that was elected and sworn in at the June 26 Annual Meeting. The 2025-27 EC consists of Kent Amos, president; Janice Wallace, vice president; Alana Brice, recording secretary; Antoinette (“Tony”) Schooler, correspondence secretary; Judith Robinson, treasurer; and Marsha Bera-Morris, financial secretary. Kudos to the NEC for their efficiency and timely work, and welcome to the executive committee for 2025-27, pictured below except for Tony Schooler.



l-r: Kent Amos, Janice Wallace, Alana Brice, Marsha Bera-Morris, Judith Robinson

LWAAAAC MOMENTS

By Al Holston

Fun Night



Juneteenth



The Lanai Summer Celebration (Inside, this Year)



Standing Committees and Their Work

Amenities Committee - Assures members that friends and neighbors in the organization offer their support and compassion during times of illness and bereavement. The name of this committee will be changed to describe its services more accurately. More information will be forthcoming in the new membership year. Meanwhile, thanks to Karen Robinson, Elise Nicholls, and Louise Markray for their many years of service.

Community Service Committee - Initiates, plans, and implements projects and activities to support needs on the LW campus and in the wider Montgomery County area.



Constantin Bell and Jayla James, Recipients of 2025 Blake Scholarship, with LWAAAC presenters Elise Nicholls and Louise Markray

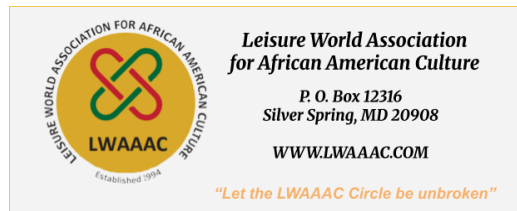
For details on any of the above opportunities, check in with committee chair Juanita Sealy-Williams (202) 494-5633, sealyjaws@gmail.com.

Membership Committee - Enrolls members and maintains a membership database. Alfonso Holston, chair, alholston38@gmail.com (301) 438-3537.



Alana Brice and Al Holston at LW Community Fair

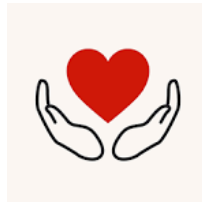
Public Relations Committee - Publishes information about LWAAAC members, events, and activities. The new LWAAAC business card will be available to all in the fall. Sherry Weaver, chair, lwaaacprcom@gmail.com



Programs Committee - Plans and executes educational, social, and recreational events. Sandy Henderson bids farewell and thanks to committee members:

Thank you for always going above and beyond to make a difference. Your dedication and hard work have not gone unnoticed. I am truly thankful for your exceptional contribution to our LWAAAC Family.

Members: Barbara Euell, Sharon Boone, Sharon Mitchell-Boyd, Sharon Lee, Patricia Langevine, Millie Overton, Casandra Alomar, Gail Cooper, Joyce Lucas-Terry, Jeanne Markray



Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. (Elizabeth Andrew)

With Appreciation,

Sandy Henderson,
Programs Committee Chair



Technology Committee - Provides short- and long-range planning for all technology initiatives: innovation, vision, goals, program objectives/strategies/activities, infrastructure, evaluation, and budgeting. The committee collaborates with all standing committees in support of their technical objectives. The committee maintains the organization's website, event calendars, email accounts, and cloud storage. Luis Alomar, chair, lwaaactc@gmail.com.



President Maxine Hooker presents Special Appreciation Award to Luis Alomar

A Well-Deserved Nod to Men's Fellowship for Some of their Work

LWAAAC members of the Mu Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi again sponsored a presentation that provided important medical information and advice.



A Final Word:

See lwaaac.org for continually updated information on LWAAAC goings on.

The new membership year began in July, and the first membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 3, at 4:00 pm in the Crystal Ballroom.

THINK COMMITTEE SERVICE.



A Few Opportunities in Our Community

- The Red Wiggler Farm of Germantown will return to the Inter-Faith Chapel for **farmers markets on August 7, 14, and 21, 10:00 am to noon**. Fresh items will include tomatoes, peppers, and herbs; no peaches or corn this year.
- The **MVA Mobile Office** will return to LW on **Tuesday, 8/12, 10:00 am to 1:45 pm**. Appointments must be made at the Lifestyle office in Clubhouse II. No walk ins!
- LW management and leadership will hold a **community town hall meeting** to discuss the proposed 2026 budget on **Thursday, 8/14, at 2 pm** in the Crystal Ballroom.
- MedStar will be offering free **flu shots beginning on Sept. 11**. Call MedStar at **301-598-1005** or see the Leisure World News for more information.
- The Club Helping Neighbors in Need (CHNN) will hold a **school supplies drive** on **Wednesday, 8/20, 9:00 am to noon**, in the Crystal Ballroom. Curbside drop off at CH I also will be available. See the LWN for a list of items needed.

The Drumbeat

The Drumbeat is issued quarterly. It is generated by the public relations committee. It does not endorse political candidates or publish information intended to elicit personal or commercial profit, and it promotes no religious beliefs. The 2024-25 public relations committee was chaired by Sherry Weaver, who was joined by Millie Overton, Connie Ambush, Patricia Means, Lois Pope-Fuller, and Sam Langevine.

Please direct comments or questions to LWAAAC, Attn: Public Relations Committee, POB 12316, Silver Spring, MD 20908.

Thank you for reading *The Drumbeat*.

Sherry Weaver, Editor
lwaaacprcom@gmail.com



Enjoy the rest of your summer!



Let the LWAAAC circle be unbroken