



# The Trumpeter

Winter 2026

## From the President's Pen

### 2026-2027 MFRW Officers

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Maria Sofia

2nd Vice President  
Linda Stine Flint

3rd Vice President  
Anne Koutsoutis

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Jana Barberio

Treasurer  
Susan Brainerd

Assistant Treasurer  
Anne White

Recording Secretary  
Jana Hobbs

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Communications  
Melissa Brown

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Susan Brainerd

Fundraising  
Anne Rutherford

Legislative  
Ella Ennis/Sharon Carrick

Literacy  
Liz Mumford

Membership  
Melita Friend

Political Activities  
Maria Sofia

Programs  
Kathryn Jerrard

### Trumpeter Editors

Anne White  
Carol Randall



Dear Members,

Membership is the heartbeat of our organization. It is where women find their voice, discover their strength, and step confidently into leadership. It is a place where energetic, enthusiastic, and like-minded women gather to speak freely, stand boldly, and work together toward meaningful change.

I want to personally thank the 1,085 women who renewed or joined prior to the February 28 deadline. Your commitment strengthens our foundation and fuels our momentum. If you have not yet renewed, I encourage you to do so today and continue being part of this powerful movement.

The candidate filing deadline closed on February 24, and we have strong Republican candidates running across our state. Between now and the primary, our mission is clear: support ALL Republican candidates as we are able, while remaining neutral in contested races. You may share candidate information, but please include the required disclaimer:

“This does not imply or constitute endorsement.”

Please take time to review the MFRW Bylaws and the NFRW Endorsement Policy on the MFRW website under “About Us” and “Governance.”

Now is the time for action. Set up voter registration tables. Share Get Out the Vote messages. Encourage members and residents in your county to serve as Election Judges or Poll Watchers through MDGOP. Every effort matters. Every conversation counts. Every volunteer strengthens our impact.

Our next event, Spring Board Meeting, will be held May 2. I look forward to gathering, strategizing, and continuing our work together.

The coming months will be busy – but they will also be meaningful. Thank you for your dedication, your leadership, and your unwavering commitment to making this year one of impact and success.

*Luanne*



### Celebrating Women's History Month

For more than 150 years, women have been an active and vital force in the Republican Party.

Because it seems only natural for men and women to work together on matters that affect the nation, the GOP has focused not so much on advertising what they are “doing” for women, but instead on simply utilizing the talents and energies of any individual who wants to share in the work for the benefit of our country.

Through the utilization of the unique talents of individual Republican women – as well as the combined energies of multitudes of Republican women – the Republican Party has proven itself to be the party of opportunity, the party of true equality.

Highlights of the role of women in the Republican Party and examples of the unique and vital contributions women have made to our Party may be found [HERE](#)

# MFRW MEMBERSHIP

## MFRW Membership Report

By Melita Friend

MFRW ended 2025 with 1308 members and we have already processed 1138 renewal and new members entries (as of 3/4/26). We are also proud to report that all 25 MFRW Clubs have submitted 2026 membership reports.

**A special thank you and shout-out to all the Clubs that submitted Membership by 28 February:** Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert Leaders, Carroll County, Cecil, Chesapeake, Chevy Chase, Garrett, Harford, Hopkins, Patuxent, Potomac, Rural WRC, St. Mary's, Severna Park, Taneytown, Upper Montgomery, Wicomico, and Worcester.

Both NFRW and MFRW conducted membership contests and we are proud to recognize the accomplishments of our clubs. Twelve MFRW Clubs have met the first Patriot Challenge with NFRW (see page 15) .

**The following Clubs have earned MFRW membership retention awards:**

Large — Harford County(87.8%);

Medium — Chesapeake RW 87.8%)

Small — Carroll County(100%)

**Clubs with the greatest number of new members include:**

Small club — Caroline County

Medium— Washington County

Large— Harford County



We are also excited to share wonderful news for 2026 — please join us in welcoming the new Washington County Republican Women's Club to MFRW!

The focus now is for each club to continue growing their membership.

Two new MFRW membership challenges have begun:

**1—Total renewals and new membership** combined from March 1 to April 27 and

**2—Growth Challenge Q2** for **TOTAL NEW MEMBERS** from March 1 to April 27.

(everyone starts on an even playing field for this next round and every contest that follows; giving all a chance to shine!)).



### Looking back:

As one of her final duties as MFRW Membership Chair for 2025, Linda Stine Flint presented awards recognizing the clubs that submitted the highest percentage of 2026 renewals prior to December 31, 2025.

Upper Montgomery Republican Women's Club. Large club - 51%  
Republican Women Leaders of Calvert. Medium club - 70%  
Republican Women of Carroll County Small Club - 92%

Thank you for your support in 2025, Linda!

## Day 2 Legislative Visits

Seventeen MFRW members from a number of clubs across the State convened on the second day of the 2026 General Assembly to visit each member office to deliver our list of legislative priorities for the 2026 session.

Many thanks to Legislative Co-Chairs Ella Ennis and Sharon Carrick for organizing this year's event and preparing hand-out materials.

Participants enjoyed a thank-you lunch after meeting with legislators at Rams Head Tavern.



# RED SCARF DAY — 2026



Over 100 MFRW members representing 19 clubs attended the 2026 Red Scarf Day in our State Capital on March 3, 2026.

Several members attended the Legislative Session seated in the Gallery in either the Senate or House, while others watched the live stream on screen at the Calvert House.



Members then gathered on the at the Calvert House for the group photo, followed by lunch where four Senators and seventeen delegates stopped by for

a quick visit to update their constituents on their various Bills before the General Assembly.

The General Assembly Session ends on Sine Die—April 13th at midnight.



The common themes of messages from our legislators were: 1— The “spendocrats” are extreme in their ideology and desperate to maintain control; 2— Our officials are fighting for us at every turn and are very grateful for the work we do in supporting them; 3— Stay engaged and continue to testify on Bills when you can; and 4— Use social media to help them get the message out.

After lunch, the group split up and visited the Senate and House office buildings, attended a committee hearing, or explored Annapolis.

About a dozen members ended their day in Annapolis with a ‘Happy Hour’ at *The Lodge* on Jennifer Road.

Join us next year. Mark your calendar, now, for Tuesday, March 2, 2027!



CHECK OUT THE MANY RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON [WWW.MFRW.ORG](http://WWW.MFRW.ORG)

- ◆ GOVERNANCE
- ◆ COMMITTEES
- ◆ NEWSLETTERS
- ◆ PROGRAMS
- ◆ LEGISLATIVE UPDATES
- ◆ MFRW SUBMITTED TESTIMONY
- ◆ MFRW HISTORY
- ◆ AMERICANISM

**leadership** passion  
 motivation  
 dedication drive discipline  
 excellence heart

*The MFRW Annual Leadership Conference*

The 2026 conference was held January 10, 2026 at the Renditions Golf Club in Davidsonville, MD. Three Round Table breakout sessions for club presidents, treasurers, and Artificial Intelligence were well-attended and informative to new officers as well as veteran Club Presidents and Club Treasurers. In addition, attendees learned about our state organization and our parent national organization, and information on the legislative process, including – how you can participate – and support or oppose upcoming legislation.



*Over 100 MFRW club members attended the first event of the year in Davidsonville, MD*



*MFRW President Luanne Ruddell presided over the conference*



*Break-out session of Artificial intelligence led by MFRW 1st VP Maria Sofia*



*Break-out session for Club Treasurers led by MFRW Treasurer Susan Brainerd and Asst. Treasurer Anne White*



*Break-out session for Club Presidents led by MFRW 2nd VP Linda Stine Flint and 4th VP Jana Barberio*

**Leadership Raffle!**

MFRW'S first fundraising raffle of 2026 featured 4-tickets to join Senator Mary Beth Carozza for a personal tour of the Maryland State House followed by lunch in Annapolis.

Jane Reagan won this coveted Maryland State House tour.



*MFRW merchandise is available at all MFRW events*



## What is the Bay Club?

The **BAY CLUB** is a donor group supporting the work of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women.

Bay Club Membership helps fund MFRW efforts to increase the effectiveness of women in the cause of good government, inform the public through political education and activities, and elect Republicans at all levels of government.

2026 Bay Club membership is off to a record start with 33 individual and club members already.

Bay Club members enjoy special events, often coinciding with MFRW's Spring Board of Directors meeting and annual Fall Convention. Stay tuned for exciting Bay Club events in the planning stages for 2026.

### 2026 Bay Club Individual Members as of March 15, 2026

Nicolee Ambrose  
Jana Barberio  
Linda Bradley  
Sharon Carrick  
Sylvia Darrow  
Jean Delcher  
Lynne DeMinco  
Valerie Farrell  
Carol Frazier

Melita Friend  
Martha Hale  
Patty Hammond  
Lisa Herman  
Jana Hobb  
Jean Hruz  
Kahryn Jerrard  
Anne Koutsoutis  
Amy Leahy  
Carol Randall

Gary Ruddell  
Luanne Ruddell  
Anne Rutherford  
Linda Stine Flint  
Karen Tully  
Amy Wagner  
Anne White  
Brenda Yarema  
Sandy Zitzer

### 2026 Club Members

RW of Baltimore County  
RW of Charles County  
Garrett County RWC

Harford County RW  
RW Leaders of Calvert

RW of St. Mary's  
Wicomico Conservative RW  
RW of Worcester County

## NFRW SPRING BOARD MEETING

The NFRW held its annual Spring Board meeting on March 13-14 in Alexandria, VA.

Members of the NFRW Board of Directors come together at these meetings to conduct important organizational business and plan the future of the federation.

At Thursday's Legislative Forum, attendees had the opportunity to hear from twelve Senators, visit with their legislators, or explore DC exhibits and attractions.



Ten MFRW members attended Thursday's activities.

As State President, Luanne Ruddell was Maryland's voting member of the Board of Directors, which met on Friday and Saturday. Six additional MFRW members attended the Board Meeting as guests.



*The 2026-27 NFRW Executive Board sworn in at their Spring Board Legislative Day on March 12, 2026*

## MFRW Happenings from the Clubs

### Republican Women of Baltimore County

RWBC spent January and February focusing on failing Public Education on Maryland.

Chris Papst, a lead investigative reporter for Project Baltimore, FOX 45's ongoing investigation into Maryland's public education system was our featured speaker in January. He is a national award winning reporter and best selling author.

During his career Chris has received awards of recognition from many Maryland institutions. He has also been recognized with some of journalism's top honors earning over 100 regional awards including 49 Emmys.

Chris has appeared on Fox News, MSNBC, NBC Nightly News, CNBC and several National radio networks and Podcast discussing his reporting.

His books **Failure Factory** and **Capital Murder** were both Amazon bestsellers in multiple categories. Twenty members of RWBC left the January meeting with signed copies of Chris's book **Failure Factory** which depicts a complete failure of Baltimore City Public Schools to educate it's students with a clear focus on Baltimore City's money grab from taxpayers.



In February we followed this by hosting Baltimore County School Board member Maggie Domanowski. Maggie is one of the few, if not the only, conservative voice on the Board. Her focus is on the school budget with increased funds going to non teaching positions. Maggie exposed a \$24 million line item in the Baltimore County School Budget labeled confidential spending offering no transparency to parents or accountability to taxpayers.

Several RWBC members then followed up by attending the Baltimore County School Board meeting a few days later offering testimony on these concerns.

BCPS superintendent, Dr. Myriam Rogers walked out of the meeting during the citizen testimony of 5 people. She announced the next day she is retiring in June, one year before her contract is up!!



**AMERICA**



<https://theflagshirt.com/>  
Extensive collection of women's & men's apparel and accessories, including Made in USA and America's 250th Anniversary!

**FLAG SHIRT**  
GET PATRIOTIZED



**Consumer Corner**



Wholesome, woke-free products for shaving, hair & body, deodorant, soap & cleaning, and candles.

"Jeremy's Razors was founded because Harry's couldn't handle the truth that boys are boys, girls are girls, & one cannot become the other. We champion the glorious, God-given, scientifically-proven differences between men & women. Here's to celebrating the protection of children."

<https://www.jeremysrazors.com/>  
for more info, ask Cindy Swim

RWBC is excited to announce the launch of "Consumer Corner" in our award-winning newsletter. Each month we will highlight a business that is aligned with our conservative values, which may not be as well-known or well-advertised as its mega-brand competition.

In January, we promoted **Flag Shirt** for patriotic wear.

In February, we featured **Jeremy's Razors** as an alternative to Harry's. Spend mindfully!

**WE WANT YOU**

**To be a Bay Club Member  
Can we Count on YOU?**

# Wicomico Conservative Republican Women

by Jana Hobbs, WCRW President

The Wicomico Conservative Republican Women have had a very busy fall and winter season.

Four members of our club attended the NFRW Convention in Orlando in September and learned so much while having a wonderful experience! We also won our very first NATIONAL recognition! We hosted a Happy Birthday Charlie Kirk dinner where we all discussed his influence in our own activism as well as ideas for where we go next.



We had a large group attend the Fall Convention in Ocean City where new officers were elected and Jana Hobbs and Rebecca Tittermary continue to serve at the state level.

← *Jana Hobbs, Juliana Smith, Maria Cook, (Andrew Hobbs), David Cook, Susan Beauchamp, Jane Reagan and MaryAnn Fardelmann*



*L/R: Rebecca Tittermary, Jana Hobbs, Pamela Cahill and Tim Cahill*

We elected new club officers in November and will be continuing under the leadership of Jana Hobbs, President; Rebecca Tittermary, Vice President; Susan Beauchamp, Treasurer; and Marita Barnes, Secretary. We participated in the Barry Beauchamp Salt Water Social Fundraiser as well as Wreaths Across America. We ended 2025 with a Holiday party at Jana Hobbs' house where we celebrated the president of our local Salisbury University Young Republicans chapter as well as a founder of their Turning Point chapter as he graduates soon from college.



*L/R: Pamela Cahill, Cathy Townsend, Jana Hobbs, Mary Beth Carozza, Susan Bounds, Susan Beauchamp, Rebecca Tittermary and Heather Wilson (prospective new member)*



We had members attend Leadership training in January and had Jackie Sackstein, MD YR chair, present at our club meeting.

February brought our "State of the County" meeting with information shared from Julie Giordano, our County Executive; James Winn, County Council At Large member; and Randy Taylor, Salisbury City mayor as well as a lively question and answer period with those attending.

← *Our new officers: L/R: Susan Beauchamp, Marita Barnes, Rebecca Tittermary, and Jana Hobbs*

*David James helps Colin McEvers display his graduation gift from the Women's Club.* →



DO YOU HAVE YOUR CLUB SWAG?  
NEW ITEMS – CLOTHING, JEWELRY, AND OTHER FUN  
STUFF HAVE JUST BEEN ADDED TO THE COUNTRY  
STORE  
CHECK IT OUT [HERE](https://www.zazzle.com) (ZAZZLE.COM)

## Upper Montgomery Republican Women's Club

The Upper Montgomery Republican Women's Club has successfully used its programs and events to expand outreach and strengthen membership engagement.

The December Holiday Brunch served not only as a festive gathering, but also as a welcoming introduction for prospective members and guests. By creating an inviting atmosphere that blended social connection with organizational purpose, the Club reinforced its sense of community and showcased the value of membership, encouraging continued involvement and new interest.



In January, the Club enhanced its public profile and educational outreach by hosting Katie Novotny of *Maryland Shall Issue*. As a recognized advocate on Second Amendment issues in Maryland, Ms. Novotny drew strong interest and provided members and guests with timely, relevant information on legislative developments and citizen advocacy. Her presentation sparked discussion and engagement, positioning the Club as a forum for informed conversation and attracting attendees who are interested in policy education and active civic participation.

←Katie Novotny

The Club further broadened its reach by welcoming Candace Parrott of Araminta, whose presentation on preventing human trafficking in Maryland appealed to a wide audience concerned with community safety and humanitarian issues. Ms. Parrott's discussion of awareness, warning signs, and prevention efforts highlighted the importance of community involvement and education.

By offering programming that addresses both public policy and critical social issues, the Upper Montgomery Republican Women's Club continues to grow its visibility, demonstrate its relevance, and attract members who value meaningful engagement, service, and leadership.



Candace Parrott



## SPRING BOARD MEETING

May 2, 2026  
Argyle Country Club

Details & Register [HERE](#)

# Chevy Chase Women's Republican Club

The Chevy Chase Women's Republican Club maintained a very robust winter schedule. In December, we joined with the Montgomery County Republican Club to host the annual "Toys for Tots" party. The event, named for our club's late former president Katja Bullock, was well attended and headlined by our former Congresswoman Connie Morella.

Our January meeting's theme was "Kickoff to the Election Year," featuring our special guest speaker, former Maryland First Lady Kendel Ehrlich. To the delight of our members, Mrs. Ehrlich brought along Governor Bob to offer his greetings to our group. Many dedicated and enthusiastic CCWRC members enjoyed a delicious lunch at Seasons 52 as we launched into a new year.

CCWRC's February meeting was a combination pre-Valentines Day and America 250 themed event at a brand new restaurant in Rockville, *Terra Gaucha*. The event featured our guest speaker, Christy Stutzman, wife of Indiana Congressman Marlin Stutzman. A former state house representative, Mrs. Stutzman is also a musician, composer and theater owner. We were thrilled to hear about her new musical production which is an intriguing story about our Founding Father, George Washington.



**CCWRC Pres. Lorraine Kuchmy and Former MD 1<sup>st</sup> Lady Kendel Ehrlich at January Meeting**



**CCWRC member Dolores Reyes, former MFRW Pres. Sharon Carrick, Hon. Connie Morella, CCWRC Pres. Lorraine Kuchmy, MFRW 2<sup>nd</sup> VC Linda Stine Flint at Dec 7 Toys for Tots**

In addition to these events, CCWRC hosted a January Happy Hour, a casual event for the purpose of socializing and recruiting new members.

We had a jovial crowd with some new faces, lots of good conversation, libations, and food. The cold weather outside didn't stop us one bit! CCWRC members bundled up, showed up, and filled the place with laughter, stories, and nonstop chatter. We even warmed things up by welcoming and enrolling a brand new member into our club! Cheers to great company, happy vibes, and starting the year with a little sparkle despite the frost, as attendees were wishing each other Happy New Year and looking forward to the work ahead for the Mid-Term elections.



**Christy Stutzman speaks at CCWRC meeting**



**CCWRC member Marya Pickering, CCWRC Pres. Lorraine Kuchmy, Mrs. Christy Stutzman, CCWRC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Kerry August at February Meeting**



**DID YOU KNOW ??**

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE NEXT MFRW EVENT TO ORDER YOUR MFRW LOGO ITEMS**

**YOU CAN ORDER THEM RIGHT [HERE](#)**

# Allegany County Republican Women

*“Empowering Women – Engaging Communities – Advancing Conservative Values”*

In **September**, we proudly hosted our **Second Annual Reagan Day Dinner**, featuring guest speaker Nicole Harris. The evening was a tremendous success, with 97 attendees enjoying an inspiring night of food, fellowship, and conservative values. **October** saw our members collecting toilet paper and socks for the Union Rescue Mission, continuing our tradition of compassion and community support. Our club officers also attended the Fall Convention in Ocean City, Maryland, representing Allegany County with pride. And in **November**, Senator Mike McKay shared insights from his recent trip to Israel, offering a valuable perspective on international issues and global affairs.

Throughout the **entire year**, we welcomed a number of guest speakers from community organizations, including The League, Robotic & Engineering in Allegany County Together which gives children exposure and practice in these fields, CASTL, the Local Management Board of Allegany County, Allegany County Library, (Md.) Area Health Education Area Center West which works to improve access and quality of healthcare in underserved Western MD. communities, and The Optimist Club. Their presentations helped us stay informed and engaged with key initiatives shaping our community.

We are proud to have been recognized by the **National Federation of Republican Women** this year for our membership growth—a testament to our club’s energy, outreach, and strong leadership. A heartfelt **thank you** goes out to all our members, volunteers, and community partners who made 2025 such a remarkable and successful year. We look forward to continuing our mission of service, education, and leadership in 2026!

## Republican Women of Worcester County

The RWWC women were very happy to spend the afternoon with MFRW First VP Maria Sofia. Maria graciously taught the group a beginners course on Artificial Intelligence.



L/R: Carol Frazier, Maria, President Jennie Allen, & County Commissioner Chip Bertino

Some of our members were able to attend “Melania” at the local theatre.



L/R: Amy Mike, Merilee Horvat, Kris Barron & President Jennie Allen

Our Caring for America in collaboration with our local elementary schools we once again did the “Valentines for Veterans” program. Many thanks to Linda Dearing and the staff of Copy Central who generously packaged and shipped out the finished products.



L /R: Kris Barron, Amy Mike & Linda Dearing

The February meeting was very stimulating. Worcester County Sheriff Matt Crisafulli discussed all the harmful law enforcement legislation being considered in Annapolis this session.



Sheriff Crisafulli and Jennie Allen

## Harford County Republican Women

Congratulations to Harford's Liliana Norkaitis who was nominated and confirmed On Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, as a member of the Harford County Board of Education! She will serve in this position through 2029. **(Photo)**



Liliana Norkaitis and Amy Wagner, Harford County Republican Women Literacy Committee, led the February Book Club. The book this month was Governor Bob Ehrlich's book, "Trump 2.0." Always a great time together with friends and looking forward to the next one. **(Photo)**



Volunteering time in our community is very important and Caring For America Chair Paula Mullis organized this bag filling project for the club. Several members gave their time, Tuesday February 10<sup>th</sup>, at The Hope Center in Churchville MD, filling bags with food that will be distributed to school children in Harford County. They filled over 100 bags for 3 schools. This is for 100 students out of 650 students who get food bags provided every weekend. Food is donated or provided through specially funded county programs. Our club has committed to do this Caring For America project every other month.



One of our newest members, Judi Robilotta, runs "Creative Crochet" which is a small group of about 10 women who make and donate winter items to Harford County people in need. They use yarn that is donated and this past year made and donated 400 hats and scarves. At the recent Harford County Republican Women luncheon on February 21st, several members brought in yarn they no longer needed. HCRW will continue yarn collection into our March 21st luncheon.



## Hopkins Women's Republican Club

by Gail Thies, President of the HWRC

Baltimore Republican activist Victor Clark, Jr. was the featured speaker at the club's January 7<sup>th</sup> lunch meeting, held at Monaghan's Pub in Gwynn Oak, MD. The theme of his presentation was "A Walk Down Memory," recalling his decades of challenging the Democrat Party machine in the city. A lengthy question-and-answer period followed!

After a recap of our successful December fundraiser (silent auction at our holiday party), a brief tribute to our late Secretary-Treasurer, Eleanor Fitch DeMario, took place. Eleanor will be sorely missed! The members then agreed to nominate and unanimously approve the appointment of member Cornelia Mueller to fill the vacant post of Secretary-Treasurer of the Hopkins Women's Republican Club. Maryland Federation of Republican Women immediate past President Sharon Carrick announced the January 10, 2026 Leadership Conference at the Renditions Golf Club, in Davidsonville, MD.

Associate member Mark Hart, during the Good-of-the-Order meeting segment mentioned the can-top collection project supporting medical transportation for veterans, the January 2026 March for Life in Washington (note: HWRC supported Pregnancy Center North with a donation in 2025 and received a letter thanking us [on file]), and the need for more Republican Baltimore City election judges, so as to maintain fair election practices at the polls. He also mentioned the documentary film "The Librarian" regarding banning of books and respective librarians' commentaries.

The meeting concluded with the announcement that our March meeting's featured speaker would be Maria Sofia of the CATO Institute and our own newly-elected First Vice President of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women.

# Garrett County Republican Women's Club



Garrett County ended 2025 with our annual Christmas party/meeting. The Club collected donations for the Dove Center, Garrett County's Domestic Violence facility, and held a silent auction for fund-raising.

The Garrett County Republican Woman of the Year award went to Melita Friend, **pictured** receiving a plaque from WOY Chair Lisa Herman, flanked by President Patty Hammond. Melita is the Club's Vice President, Chair of the MFRW Western Region and the MFRW Membership Chair.

We also drew the winner of our 2025 quilt raffle, the proceeds of which benefit the Ruth Hinebaugh Umbel Scholarships for local senior students. The winner, who is also a quilt maker with a very impressive inventory of quilts, graciously suggested we draw for another winner. The ultimate winner was Diane Bosley of Frostburg, Maryland.

Our meetings continue to focus on timely topics. In January, three Republican candidates spoke. This included Edward Clemons, Jr. and Daniel Duggan, candidates for District 1A, House of Delegates, and Chris Burnett, candidate for Congressional District 6. A **photo** of each is attached.



*Edward Clemons, Jr.  
Candidate for Delegate D1A*



*Daniel Duggan  
Candidate for Delegate D1A*



*Chris Burnett  
Candidate for US Congress LD6*



*Quilt winner Diane Beasley*

February's speaker was Kate Sullivan, founder and team director of SecuretheVoteMD, an election watchdog group dedicated to securing elections through good policies, sensible legislation, and holding the local and state Board of Elections accountable through meaningful citizen engagement.

A number of members braved the elements and traveled to see the Melania documentary, returning with rave reviews! That included Club VP and MFRW Membership Chair Melita Friend and MFRW President Luanne Ruddell.

*L/R: Melita Friend, Luanne Ruddell →*



## HOW WILL YOU CELEBRATE?



The 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America offers an opportunity for Marylanders to reflect on the struggle for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, the ongoing evolution of American democracy, and the impact of Marylanders on the nation's past, present, and future.

Find your Maryland celebrations:

[HERE](#)

# Rural Women's Republican Club

In January, Rural Women's Republican Club had a pop up social to see the movie *Melania*. This was a big hit with many members. We nearly filled the small theater with Rural women. Many of us then walked over and enjoyed a nice meal together after.



February was a busy month with several big events. Our monthly meeting was an "Afternoon Tea in the Country".

Members brought their fanciest tea cups, sweet treats or flowers to share. A cozy Sunday afternoon tea with great speakers and questions and answers afterward.

Our topic for the meeting was "Young Republican Voices, The Next Generation of Republican Leaders." Our speakers were the new President of the Montgomery County Republican Club, Wallis Stanfield, and President of the Maryland Young Republican club, Jackie Sackstein. Both women shared the issues most pressing to their generation. Wallis is growing her club and reaching out to all the different republican clubs in the county to interact and grow her base. Jackie informed us what they are doing on the state level. They have accomplished getting 100 YRs on the ballot for 2026 in Maryland. A record for the state!! Two Frederick County women also spoke; Heather Fletcher running for the Frederick County School Board, and Marie Boschoff of the Orange Ballot, a conservative school board option for Frederick County. Chris Burnett (running for Congress in CD6) also stopped by to speak.

Rural filled their table with members at the Montgomery County Lunar New Year celebration, a fundraiser for Republican Montgomery County Candidates.



The speaker at the event, Xi Van Fleet, discussed the slippery slope of socialism that often leads to communism.



Several Rural members attended Red Scarf Day in Annapolis as a big group. Many of the women new to our club thoroughly enjoyed a visit to our State Capitol and lunch with Republican members after.

# Republican Women of Frederick County

## RWFC Adapts and Thrives Through Temporary Transitions

The Republican Women of Frederick County continue to navigate venue challenges after the *Red Horse Steak House*, our newly adopted venue, suffered a catastrophic fire. While we await their rebuild, we've discovered new opportunities to serve our members and strengthen our club.



### Launching Daytime Meetings

On January 5th, we held our inaugural lunch meeting at *Saisaki Asian Fusion* on Old National Pike. The gathering was such a pleasant and successful experience that we're going to make it a regular winter occurrence. Many of our members are elderly and prefer not to drive at night, especially during winter months when daylight hours are limited. These daytime meetings solve that challenge while maintaining the fellowship and engagement our members value.

### Finding an Evening Home

Our next hurdle was securing a suitable temporary venue for evening meetings.

Provisionally, member Shelley Aloï offered the use of her office space while we're in transition.

Our first meeting there on February 19th was a blessing in every sense. Nineteen members drove to an unfamiliar location through pouring cold rain, knowing there would be no meal service. Members brought hot tea, homemade cookies, gluten-free muffins, and an array of snacks. The space was warm and inviting, and we accomplished significant club business including bylaw amendments, endorsement policy votes, and the exciting announcement of our first-ever annual fundraising dinner. The **Trailblazers Dinner** will honor two extraordinary women who shaped our club's past and future: founder Bertha Trail, who established RWFC in 1920, and Connie Onspaugh, who preserved the club during challenging times and ensured our 105-year legacy continues.



### Looking Ahead

We're excited to host Maria Sofia, 1st Vice President of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women, on March 19th at our temporary evening venue. Maria will demonstrate how Republican candidates and volunteers can use AI tools to enhance campaign communications and legislative advocacy.

The 2026 election season is upon us, and RWFC is energized and ready. Despite facility challenges, our membership remains engaged, our volunteers are active, and our mission is clear: elect principled conservatives who will serve Frederick County with integrity.

*Flexibility and resilience aren't just talking points—they're how conservative women get things done.*

**EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT!**

The Republican Women of Frederick County are thrilled to welcome **Maria Sofia**, 1st Vice President of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women, as our featured speaker for our March 19th meeting!

Maria will be teaching us how to harness the power of AI tools like Claude AI and ChatGPT to:

- Write compelling letters to legislators
- Craft powerful letters to the editor
- Create engaging social media content
- Amplify your conservative voice with confidence and clarity

**No tech experience necessary!**  
**If you can type, you can do this!**

**Thursday, March 19, 2026**  
**6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

Restoration Church  
Frederick Marriage Resource Center  
7899 Opossumtown Pike,  
Frederick, MD 21702

REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF FREDERICK COUNTY  
"Conserving Beauty, Truth and Grace since 1920"

.....To Be a Bay Club Member  
Join Today!!!

[HERE](#)



## Republican Women Leaders of Calvert



Leadership Conference. Left to Right, Mary Jane Rolens, Janet Cosh, Jonse Sutana-Shomo, Ella Ennis, Jana Barberio, Donna Zupancic, JoMarie Coster



Melania' movie left to right, Janet Cosh, Jana Barberio, Jonse Sutana-Shomo, Donna Zupancic, and Carolyn Smithburger



February meeting with speaker States Attorney Bob Harvey who is running for re-election



Visit to Washington, D.C. with left to right, Winston Mann, John Barberio, Jana Barberio, and Kate Sullivan outside of Congressman Brandon Gill (R, Tx)

## The 2026 NFRW Membership Challenge



This campaign honors the enduring legacy of 1776 while empowering our clubs to grow stronger, engage more deeply, and prepare the next generation of conservative women leaders. Just as our Founding Fathers united with courage and vision to build a free America, we are called to rekindle that patriotic spirit within NFRW—ensuring our Federation thrives for centuries to come.



**Patriot Keepers Guild** — Honoring clubs that **maintain** membership strength, keeping the flame of commitment alive. To achieve this level in 2026, clubs must meet or exceed their 2025 membership count by March 1, 2026. Focus on renewing all of your 2025 members! **Twelve MFRW Clubs have earned the Patriot Keeper Guild:** Chesapeake RW, RW of Anne Arundel County, RW of Carroll County, RW of Calvert County, Caroline County RWC, Wicomico Conservative RW, Rural WRC, Harford County RW, Upper Montgomery RWC, Allegany County RW, RW of Frederick County, RW of Taneytown.

**Liberty Builders Brigade** — Recognizing clubs that actively recruit **new members**, bringing fresh voices and energy to our cause. To achieve this level in 2026, clubs must increase their 2025 membership count by 10% by July 4, 2026. New clubs chartered in 2026 need 25 members by December 31, 2026. **Five MFRW Clubs have already achieved this level:** RW of Carroll County, RW of Calvert County, Caroline RWC, RW of Anne Arundel County, and Wicomico Conservative RW.

**Signers Circle** — Celebrating clubs with exceptional growth, echoing the bold courage of the original signers of the Declaration. To achieve this level in 2026, clubs must **increase their** 2025 membership count by 25% by July 4, 2026. New clubs chartered in 2026 need 50 members by December 31, 2026. At the pinnacle awaits the prestigious Founders Honor Medal, awarded to clubs that achieve Signers Circle status for two consecutive years. These exemplary clubs embody the consistency, leadership, and unity that have defined both our nation and NFRW since our founding in 1938. **Three MFRW Clubs have met the Signers Circle level:** RW of Carroll County, RW of Calvert County, and Caroline County RW.

*Upcoming Dates to Remember*  
*Save the Dates: for 2026 Events*



- ◆ Saturday, May 2- MFRW Spring Board Meeting in Chevy Chase, MD
- ◆ Sunday, September 20th - MFRW Fall on the Farm in Bowie, MD
- ◆ November 6/7 - MFRW Fall Convention in Frederick, MD

Details on the MFRW website ([www.mfrw.org](http://www.mfrw.org))

Please submit articles on club activities

*by June 1st*

for the Spring *Trumpeter* Issue



Deadline is FINAL — submit early — Thank you  
Sorry, but unlabeled photos will NOT be used



*Maryland Federation  
of Republican Women*

**www.mfrw.org**  
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