



WORKING TO MAKE VIRGINIA RED AGAIN

**2018
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Lori Galbraith
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Janet McCaskey
1st VP

Linda Lamastra
2nd VP

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Recording
Secretary

Susan Schaffner
Corresponding
Secretary

Jennifer Rice
Treasurer

Beth Banks
Immediate Past
President

Jean Infantino
Parliamentarian

Tonya
Amankwatia
Chaplain

Higher Ground...

*A personal note from Club President,
Lori Galbraith*

Welcome to 2018! I want to start with a thank you to all for putting your trust in me and choosing me to lead this group for the next year. My leadership will be best characterized by a Ronald Reagan quote, "Surround yourself with the best people you can find, delegate authority, and don't interfere as long as the policy you've decided upon is being carried out."

That said, I have surrounded myself with all of you wonderful women and we are going to have a great year. We will work hard for our Republican candidates in the May Mayoral, City Council and School Board Elections and the November Congressional and Senatorial Election. We will raise money with our "One Sweet Year" fundraiser and our Leadership Luncheon, which is scheduled for October 20. We will have a Caring for America FUNraiser in June. We will feature engaging speakers at our meetings and yes, we will get our club and VFRW business done too!

Thank you everyone for joining committees, leading committees, and getting all our projects started. I look forward to the rest of the year!

All the Best,

Lori



CCWRC Lifetime Members

In the Spotlight ...

Carol Stevenson - Irene Hurst - Margie Blevins

A lifetime membership recognizes the extraordinary contribution of a CCRW member.

CAROL STEVENSON

In 1969, Central Chesapeake Republican Women's Club was organized by ten women in the Great Bridge area. The youngest of these **visionaries** was Carol Stevenson, and is the only member left of the original ten. Carol points out that the democrats were in charge of Chesapeake at that time, and they had to "dig deep" to find ten Republican women willing to form the club. CCRWC will celebrate its **50th Anniversary** next year thanks to the power of a few women working together!

Carol's political involvement began in her early 20's when she volunteered at a local Republican campaign office. She became active on the local and state levels. Her involvement opened **many opportunities** to meet prominent Republicans, and she has autographs from President Ronald Reagan (Governor of California at the time) and Elizabeth Taylor, wife of Senator John Warner. Carol can be quite persuasive!

She shares some **fun memories** regarding the Club's fundraising history. Military Circle Mall sponsored an annual bazaar (many, many years ago) and offered space to local organizations to sell items. CCRWC ladies enlisted the help of their husbands to build a wooden booth and "lug" it to the mall to set up. The women worked all year making crafts, etc. and selling them at the Mall Bazaar. Carol remembers it being great fun working together!

For over twenty years, Carol worked as an office manager, bookkeeper and realtor for Harold Thrasher ("Mr. Harold") at Greenbrier Realty. She describes him as the best boss you could ever want, a generous Republican, and a real gentleman. Carol is a widow with one son and two grandchildren who bring much love to her life. She is a beautiful woman who makes a great impression on all who meet her. Carol gives these words of encouragement to our younger generation: Work hard together because **WINNING IS FUN!**

IRENE HURST

Irene was invited to join CCRWC by Nancy Hall at the Richard Nixon Ball, held at the Cavalier Hotel in Virginia Beach – **a few decades ago**. She joined and thus began many years of leadership in Republican politics on the local and state levels.

Irene is a striking woman with gorgeous snow white hair and a charming smile! She is the widow of Ray Hurst, whom she met while working as a "**curb girl**" at **Doumar's** on 21st Street in Norfolk. Now there's a story!! For over twenty years, she was President of the **Kanak Ltd. Corporation**, a tugboat company, where she worked with Ray. Her only son is deceased, and she has two granddaughters and three great-grandchildren who adore her.

Irene remembers a fundraiser held by the Club at the time Chesapeake General Hospital was first built. Club members decided to hold a "**Horse Show**" and charge admission to see local folks ride and show their horses. Now, only one member of CCRWC had a clue about horses, but they worked together to raise \$1,750 toward their goal of \$2,000 – the amount needed to put CCRWC on a plaque at the new Hospital. Harold Thrasher donated the remaining \$250 and they got their plaque!

Irene loves "Dancing with the Stars", martinis, and her gal-pals in the Glow Girls. Her advice to our younger members is simple: Be a team player (even if you have to hold your nose) because together we win!

MARGIE BLEVINS

Margie joined our Club in 1998 when her husband, **Harry B. Blevins**, succeeded **Randy Forbes** in the Virginia House of Delegates. He went on to succeed Randy in the Virginia Senate also, and served from 2001-2013. Prior to their political involvement, Harry was the principal of Great Bridge High School for many years. Margie and Harry have been married for **64 years** and are an amazing, inseparable team. They have four children, 11 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren who keep them young.

Margie's sweet spirit wins you over as soon as you meet her and look into those beautiful blue eyes! She loves the fellowship of our Republican women who encouraged her to "toughen up" when Harry first ran for office. She is truly a **Steel Magnolia!** Margie loved going to Richmond with club members to visit the General Assembly and join with the VFRW on Legislative Day. She and Harry have given the CCRWC great support through the years.

Margie worked for 20+ years as a preschool teacher at Centerville Baptist Church. She had such a wonderful influence on many of our locals as she encouraged and nurtured them. To Margie, it was not a job but **a calling**. She loved every minute!

Margie's advice to our members is this: **Support your electeds!** Communicate with your state and local elected officials and realize how much your interest means to them.

CCRWC Committees in Action

Committee Chairmen

Debbie Smith
By-Laws

Debbie Ritter
Campaign Activities

Beth Banks
Caring for America

Phyllis Krasnoff
Blaine Lamonea
Finance & Ways
and Means

Ruby Young
Historian

Donna Twiford
Hospitality

Jane Kish
Literacy

Sue Cosgrove
Legislative

Linda Lamastra
Membership

Toni McKenna
Public Relations

Sandra Swoope
Scholarship

Peggy Matthews
Sunshine

Ways & Means

The CCRWC Ways & Means Committee is very busy planning for our Leadership Luncheon scheduled for October 20, 2018. In addition to this wonderful Leadership Luncheon there will be FUNraisers through out the year. Our very first FUNraiser of 2018 is **ONE SWEET YEAR**. Tickets for One Sweet Year will be on sale February 19, 2018 through March 19, 2018. The lucky winner will be announced at the March meeting. Please contact Phyllis Krasnoff to pick up your tickets. The price of the tickets are \$1.00 each. Ways & Means is asking all CCRWC members to sell a minimum of 20 tickets and many more if possible.

Literacy

Eight years ago, CCWRC made a commitment to G. A. Treakle Elementary School in Chesapeake to mentor young children who struggle with reading proficiency and/or math skills. This initiative has grown through the years. Our Literacy Committee Chair, Jane Kish, has developed a working relationship with the administration, librarian and teachers. Not only do our CCWRC weekly volunteers help the students in the classroom but our mission has grown to include helping families at G. A. Treakle Elementary School by purchasing gifts for the children at Christmas. Just last year CCWRC volunteers worked at the Scholastic Book Fair assisting the students select appropriate books to purchase. Not every child has money to purchase a book at the Scholastic Book Fair. Our club will donate \$80.00 to the school in 2018 so more children will be able to afford a book.

The Literacy Committee would like to thank all of you who currently volunteer and encourage other members to participate in this remarkable program that benefits the children for a lifetime. CCRWC Volunteer, Tonya Amankwatia, said, "The rewards are the hugs as soon as we walk into the door." Teresa Davis shared a memory of an adorable, bright young man who would come each week to read to her. Every week he wanted to read *Green Eggs and Ham*. After a few weeks she explained to him that he needed to bring another book to challenge himself. The next visit he asked if he could read *Green Eggs and Ham* one last time and she agreed. This time to her surprise he pulled out his book and instead of reading *Green Eggs and Ham* he started to sing the story. As he continued, he would stop once in a while and point at her to join in with a word or line! He managed to sing the entire book and she loved it!

If you would like to volunteer to work with the children at Treakle Elementary School on a regular basis or volunteer during the Scholastic Book Fair, April 30 - May 4th, please contact Jane Kish.

CCRWC Campaign Activities

May 1st is just around the corner- that's the day of the next City Council and School Board election. As always, our Club members' generosity and volunteer time will be very important to assure victory for our candidates.

The Republican Party of Chesapeake has endorsed the following candidates:

Mayor

Rick West

City Council 4 year term:

Steve Best, Roland Davis, Vice Mayor John de Triquet, Matt Hamel and Susan Vitale

City Council Special 2 year term:

Marty Williams

School Board

Christy Craig, Colleen Leary, Harry Murphy, Louis Tayon and Mike Woods.

As in the past, Irene Hurst has enlisted members to "man" the Republican Headquarters and we thank Irene and her faithful volunteers.

Within a few weeks your campaign committee will be asking for help for our candidates- everything from putting signs together, to walking neighborhoods with lit drops to working at the polls on election day.

Janet McCaskey has invited our candidates to attend our meetings. The City Council candidates will come in March and the School Board candidates in April. If you have questions for the candidates, please write the question on a piece of paper. All questions will be collected at the meetings and chosen at random to ask each individual candidate. The one exception is Matt Hamel, who will be serving his Navy Reserve duty in March- so he will visit us this month.

One final word (or two)...this is one year we cannot rest on our laurels of past wins. There are going to be lots of candidates and lots of noise surrounding the campaigns. I hope every one of us will be able to help our good candidates and keep Chesapeake moving in the right direction!!

Debbie Ritter

May 1, 2018 General Election Voter Registration Information

Deadline to register to vote, or update an existing registration, is Monday, April 9, 2018.
Deadline to request an absentee ballot to be mailed to you is Tuesday, April 24, 2018. Your request must be received by your Registrar by 5:00 p.m.

Important Dates

February 19th
CCRWC Regular Meeting,
6:30 PM, Towne Hall, Mt.
Pleasant Road,
Bishop E. W. Jackson &
Matt Hamel, Guest
Speakers

February 23rd
Susan Vitale Fundraiser,
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM,
Greenbrier Country Club

March 7th
Matt Hamel Fundraiser,
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM,
1308 Turnberry Court

March 19th
CCRWC Regular Meeting,
6:30 PM, Towne Hall, Mt.
Pleasant Road,
Chesapeake City Council
Candidates, Guest
Speakers

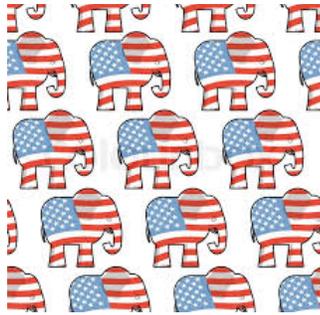
March 22nd
NFRW Legislative Day
on Capital Hill
Washington, DC

March 24th
RPC Mass Meeting,
10:30 AM, Greenbrier
Middle School

May 1st
General Election,
Mayor, City Council &
School Board

May 5th & 6th
VFRW Annual Convention
Hilton Downtown
Richmond, VA

Welcome to the Herd



*Please extend a warm welcome to
these new members!*

Jean Infantino

Donna Marie Walker

Hal Ferguson - Associate Member

**Do you know women who are
concerned about the direction of
our country? Invite them to our
next meeting.**

One *woman can change anything.*
Many *women can change everything.*

Political News and Highlights

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

Senator John A. Cosgrove, 14th Senate
District
district14@senate.virginia.gov

Delegate S. Chris Jones, 76th House District
DelCJones@house.virginia.gov

Delegate Barry D. Knight, 81st House
District
DelBKnight@house.virginia.gov

Delegate James "Jay" Leftwich, Jr., 78th
House District
DelJLeftwich@house.virginia.gov

STAY INFORMED! WEBSITES FOR REPUBLICAN WOMEN

VFRW.org Virginia Federation of Republican Women

NFRW.org National Federation of Republican
Women

cityofchesapeake.net Up-to-date city council
information and more

VPAP.org Virginia Public Access Project; General
Assembly news, donor information

www.elections.virginia.gov

