



Republican Women of Worcester County May 2026 Newsletter



Happy May 2026 RWWC!

As we enter the month of May, we turn toward reflection, service, and purpose. The three values that define who we are as Republican women and as leaders in our community are remembering, giving, and engaging.

May is a wonderful time to celebrate the spirit of volunteerism that runs so deeply through our club. Whether you're helping with community events, supporting local initiatives, or dedicating your time to educate and empower others, your efforts make a real difference. Volunteerism is not just an act of service; it is an act of leadership. It shows our neighbors what it looks like when women step forward with purpose, compassion, and conviction.

Now we need to look ahead. **Voter engagement** remains one of the most meaningful ways we can strengthen our community. Many people across the country have emphasized the importance of citizens staying informed and participating in the democratic process. Our club plays a vital role in encouraging that engagement. When we help others understand the issues, when we remind friends and neighbors to register and vote, and when we show up ourselves, we reinforce the idea that every voice matters and every vote shapes the future.

Later this month, we will pause for **Memorial Day**, a solemn reminder of the men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation. Their sacrifice is why we enjoy the freedoms, opportunities, and responsibilities we hold today. Honoring them means more than remembering their names; it means living with intention, participating in our civic life, and strengthening the country they fought to protect. I encourage each of us to take a moment this month to reflect on our departed's courage and let that reflection renew our commitment to service.

In May, let's carry forward the spirit of remembrance, service, and civic responsibility. Let's continue to welcome new members, support one another, and remain focused on the work that gives our club its purpose. Together, we honor the past, strengthen the present, and help shape the future.

As you read on, there are several opportunities for you to give and engage. Please take a moment to consider volunteering to help with the Candidate Forum and early voting, and to bring a friend to the May General Meeting.

Please stay safe, healthy & vote Republican!

Jennie Allen

May 2026 News

General Membership Meeting Thursday, May 28, 2026

Worcester Technical High School
Doors open at 10:30 AM

The April “Welcome Home” meeting was well attended. A total of 89 members and guests helped to welcome back Senator Carozza and Delegate Hartman. In addition, we welcomed the 3 essay contest winners who were awarded certificates and monetary prizes for their submissions.



Pictured L to R: Mary Beth Carozza, Jennie Allen, & Wayne Hartman

RWWC gave “Welcome Home” gifts to our speakers. The gifts included Old Bay Seasoned Goldfish Crackers and pewter crab mallets engraved with RWWC 2026.



Pictured L to R: Wayne Hartman, Jennie Allen, Caroline Bloxom, & Mary Beth Carozza

PayPal Issues: POC Jennie Allen

We are continuing to use the PayPal account for membership renewals and new applications. If you try to renew and receive a message that the payment can't be processed, let us know and send a check to RWWC, PO Box 1292, Berlin, MD. Unfortunately, we were again unable to create a link for the upcoming luncheon and process credit card payments. This time, we set up a PayPal link and thought we would succeed. Unfortunately, PayPal would not accept our lunch payments. So, we are back at square one.

We know you are all waiting patiently for us to resolve the online payments. If possible, we ask for a little more patience. This has turned out to be more difficult than expected. As we take a step forward, we are pushed back two. Currently, we are still working with the bank to set up "Tap2Local." This is a free bank service that works similarly to PayPal. The online credit card payment fee is 2.9% + 0.30 cents. Hopefully, this will be up and running soon. Keep your fingers crossed! We will keep you updated. Once again, thank you for your cooperation, patience, and understanding.

Membership 2026 Renewal: POC Linda Moran

We are still collecting the 2026 membership dues. As of 5/8/26, we received 118 renewals and enrolled 25 new members for a total of 143 members. This is 95% of our 2025 membership.

According to MFRW, membership dues had to be paid by February 28th, or you would be removed from both MFRW and NFRW's rolls and no longer receive NFRW's weekly Capital Connection. **If you did not renew, you have run out of time! Please send your renewals ASAP so we can reinstate you.** All RWWC dues were to be renewed NLT March 31, 2026. We reached out to the 47 members who had not renewed. As of now, 18 have renewed.

Membership can be renewed online at [Join/Renew](#), by sending a check payable to RWWC to: RWWC – Dues, P.O. Box 1292, Berlin, MD 21811, or at a meeting. If you have questions, contact Linda via email lindamoranwcrcc@gmail.com or by phone 443-614-2261.

Member Get a Member Contest: POC Jennie Allen & Linda Moran

This is a reminder that, effective the 2026 membership year (September 2025 through August 2026), we are running a "Member Get a Member" contest. For each member you bring in, you will be entered into the contest. The #1 recruiter with the most members will receive a \$50.00 gift card. If there is a tie, the names will be placed in a hat, and the winner will be drawn for the gift card.

Americanism: POC Liz Mumford

Join us on May 28, 2026, at Worcester Technical High School for our general meeting. You won't want to miss "our special guests celebrating America's 250th year!" **This patriotic ladies of America presentation will entertain, enrich, and be a fun time for all!** In addition, time permitting, we will discuss "All Things Maryland Gubernatorial Election 2026 - A Voter's Guide". We plan to send the Voter Guide presentation to all our members via a MailChimp email message.

Awards & Volunteer Hours: POC Jane Carmean

Each month, volunteer hours should be submitted by the 30th or 31st. This allows the Awards Chair to calculate our hours for monthly reporting. Please report your hours as political or non-political. If you have questions, examples are provided in the report form. The report form is available on the website www.gopwomenofworcester.org under the Volunteer Hours link. During the first quarter of this year, we accrued a total of 1,975.5 political hours and 505.5 non-political hours. Thank you for your time and effort in making RWWC the best women's club we can be.

The Maryland Shield was awarded to the RWWC at the Spring MFRW Board meeting in Silver Spring, MD, on Saturday, May 2, 2026.



Pictured L to R: Luanne Ruddell, President MFRW, and Jennie Allen, President RWWC

Campaign Activities: POC Jennie Allen

Calling all cookie bakers and cookie shoppers!

The RWWC & WCRCC Local Candidate Forum at the Ocean Pines Library, 11107 Cathell Rd, Ocean Pines, MD, on Thursday, May 21, 2026, from 6 PM to 9 PM needs **COOKIES!** WCRCC is bringing the coffee and water, and we will be bringing the **COOKIES.** If you can donate 2 dozen cookies, contact Linda Moran by email at lindamoranwcrcc@gmail.com or by phone at 443-614-2261.



Please save these dates:

- Early Voting is from Thursday, June 11, 2026, through Thursday, June 18, 2026; hours are from 7 AM to 8 PM daily (this includes Saturday and Sunday)
- Early voting location for Worcester County is the Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD 21811
- Primary Voting is Tuesday, June 23, 2026, from 7 AM to 8 PM, at your assigned polling place
- Mail-in ballots must be postmarked or placed in a designated ballot drop box by 8 PM on June 23, 2026, for the Gubernatorial Primary Election. (Note, USPS is not stamping a postmark at your local post office; it is now done at the distribution center, and this may be several days after you dropped it in the mailbox.)

For information on the 2026 Maryland voting, click this link: [2026 Gubernatorial Election](#). This page permits you to view the current gubernatorial and local candidate lists, register to vote, find your polling location, request a mail-in ballot, and provide information on voting by mail.

We are now **seeking VOLUNTEERS to assist at the polls** during early voting. Please come and join us at the polls. Click this link to sign up!

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18WeW88bCY/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

If you are unable to open the Facebook site, please telephone Susan Ostrowski at 717-448-1741, and she will add you to the roster.

Communication Committee: POC Weezie Carey

The communication committee is looking for photos for the webpage and Facebook. If you have photos that you are willing to share, please send them to Weezie Carey at

weeziecarey@gmail.com

Caring for America: POC Amy Mike

RWWC is once again sponsoring two (2) flags in the “Flags for Heroes” displayed each year on the grounds of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial from Armed Services Day, May 16th, through Independence Day, July 4th. This year, we are designating **Active Duty Military** and **First Responders** as our “Heroes.” Check out the **field of flags** during the display.

In an effort to involve **ALL** club members, we are undertaking a project that will allow time for everyone to participate in supporting a local non-profit. We have chosen a safe haven dedicated to improving the maternal health and well-being of women in the community. The **Grace Center for Maternal and Women’s Health**, located in Berlin, needs supplies to distribute to expecting and new moms.

The many crafters among the club can use your knitting and crocheting skills to create booties, hats, and blankets over the summer months. For those of “us” who don’t have these skills, we will be distributing over the summer a list of items the Grace Center can use, such as diapers, toiletry items, and outfits, that you can bring with you to the October General Meeting, when we plan to hold a “Baby Shower” for them and hopefully hear from their Executive Director. For those of you who don’t know anything about the Grace Center, it is a faith-based organization that provides free, life-affirming services to mothers and families in need. These services include parenting classes, essential baby supplies, and prenatal care.

Ladies, get those needles working and watch for information over the summer for a list of needed items! If you cannot attend the October meeting and have something to donate, please get in touch with Amy Mike in the fall.



Literacy: POC Susan Ostrowski

The book club meeting is on May 12th in the large room at the OP Library, beginning at noon with a bag lunch. Book: “How to Test Negative for Stupid”, by John Kennedy, U.S. Senator.

The next book club meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 14th, at the OP Library, beginning at noon, with a bag lunch. Book: “Lincoln’s Lady Spymaster”, by Gerri Willis.

Essay Contest: Our 3rd annual 8th-grade essay contest was a huge success. We received 18 essay letters written to “Dear King George”. The 3 winners were present at our April General Meeting and received their awards.



L to R: Linda Sirianni, Susan Ostrowski, 3rd place Most Blessed Sacrament’s Bryn Wanner, 2nd place Stephen Decatur’s Lily Riehl, 1st place Stephen Decatur’s Natasha Gonzalez-DeRoche, Jennie Allen, and Mary DiBartolo

We sincerely thank Susan Ostrowski and the judges of our 8th Grade Essay Contest for their time, thoughtful consideration, and encouragement of our young writers. Your dedication helps inspire the next generation to share their voices with confidence and creativity. Our judges this year were: Jennie Allen, Yvonne Babcock, Mary DiBartolo, Linda Sirianni, and Nina Willett.

Luncheon Meetings: POC Sandy Zitzer

- May 28 - Worcester Technical High School, Newark, MD
- June 24 – (Wednesday 5 PM to 8 PM) “Celebrating 250 Years of Freedom”, Ocean Pines Yacht Club, Ocean Pines, MD
- October 22 - Worcester Technical High School, Newark, MD

Speakers: POC Caroline Bloxom

- May - Liz Mumford, RWWC Americanism Chair

Save the date, Wednesday, June 24th, from 5 PM to 8 PM, as we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence! Happy Birthday to our independence from England! Traditional American food, patriotic sing-along, and much more! Hope to see you at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club for an evening of fun!

Save the date for the Fashion Show: The 17th Annual Patriot Day Fashion Show, recognizing the 25th anniversary of 911, is scheduled for **Thursday, September 17, 2026.** The venue will be Harrison's Harbor Watch in Ocean City, MD. Mark your calendar. Fashions presented will be "Fashions by Berlin" and include Bruder Hill, Patty Jean's, Dream Weaver, & Runaway Bride.

Please support RWWC's biggest fundraiser - the Annual Fashion Show!

We are again asking for member gift card donations of \$10 or more. Last year, with the help of many members and businesses, we filled more than 400 surprise mystery boxes, which sold out quickly. We need your help to reach this year's goal of 400 gift cards. Please bring your gift cards to the May and June General meetings/luncheons.

If you are unable to attend one of the meetings, please reach out to Amy to:

- Drop off your gift card donations
- Call to have them picked up, OR
- If you prefer to give a cash donation, the Fashion Show Committee will purchase a gift card for you from a local business of your choice

POC: Amy Mike, 410-208-9709 or 410-707-6328 or amike50@verizon.net

**If every member gave 1 card today, we would have 143 cards.
If you give 2 cards, we will have 286 cards.**

Thank you in advance for giving to this event!

RWWC Members Attend the Spring MFRW Board Meeting

Pictured L to R: Beth Rodier, Jennie Allen, and Carol Frazier



MFRW Dates to Remember: POC Sandy Zitzer

- May 2 - Spring MFRW Board meeting – Argyle Country Club, Silver Spring, MD
- June 11-18 Early Voting
- June 23 - Primary election

April Minutes: POC Gwen Crisafulli

**Republican Women of Worcester County
General Luncheon Meeting
April 23, 2026
Minutes**

Call to Order Jennie Allen, President @11:00

Opening Prayer Jan Kolesky

Pledge of Allegiance Kris Barron

Welcome

Jennie Allen welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the guests that were in attendance. She also introduced the people in attendance that were running for local elections.

Officer's Reports

Approval of Minutes - Gwen Crisafulli requested approval of the minutes from the March 26th General Meeting at Worcester Technical School. Maddie Pettolina so moved. Carol Rose seconded. MCU (Motion Carried Unanimously).

Bylaws Chair Report/Vote - Julie Koehler moved to approve the bylaws that were distributed on April 2, 2026. The floor was opened for any questions or comments. Jennie Allen called for a vote to approve the bylaws. MCU (Motion Carried Unanimously).

Treasurer/Budget Jane Wolnik -Table document

Asst. Treasurer Linda Moran, Membership - Table document

Corresponding Secretary - Weezie Carey - Table document

1ST Vice President Caroline Bloxom - Table document

Literacy – Essay Awards

Susan Ostrowski introduced the essay contest winners and presented them with their awards. This was the 3rd Annual essay contest and the topic was a Breakup Letter to King George. There was a total of eighteen submissions.

First Place – Steven Decatur Middle School: Natasha Gonzalez-DeRoche

Second Place – Steven Decatur Middle School: Lily Riehl

Third Place – Most Blessed Sacrament: Bryn Wanner

Introduction of Speakers

Caroline Bloxom introduced the guest speakers.

Senator Mary Beth Carozza introduced her team and personally thanked each one. She also thanked the RWWC for all we do, including letters, emails and visits. Next, Mary Beth recognized the student essay winners. She went on to inform the group about some initiatives that she took part in while in Annapolis. This included the Charles J. Otto Maryland Agricultural Education Promise and the Kennedy Krieger special education school. Mary Beth also spoke about some educational and public safety issues.

Delegate Wayne Hartman also thanked his staff member Will. Wayne spoke about the fees on power bills that are being used to balance the budget, tourism issues including IGaming and a possible increase in sales tax. Wayne also spoke about issues with immigration, law enforcement and the lack of juvenile accountability. Wayne also announced some positives from the session including the special event area bill, the stop to the bouillon tax on sales and the Line and Dine initiative which would allow fresh caught fish to be prepared in restaurants.

Mary Beth and Wayne were then presented with gifts from the RWWC.

With the remaining time available, the winning students were able to read their essays to the group.

Lunch 12:15

Closing remarks/Announcements

Central Committee – Susan Ostrowski

Sign up for early voting – Susan will help you sign up after the meeting

SAVE the Date – 5/21/26 1800-2100 Candidate Forum at OP Library

SAVE the Date – 6/24/26 1700-2000 Red White Blue Dinner at Yacht Club

SAVE the Date – 9/17/26 Patriot Day Fashion Show at Harrison’s Harbor Watch

Mary Dibartolo announced that there is a new Turning Point USA group at Salisbury University and that she is going to be putting forth a motion of variety.

The 50/50 winner was announced.

Adjourn - 1:15 pm

Calendar

May

2 – MFRW Spring Board Meeting, Argyle Country Club, Silver Spring, MD

5 – Board Meeting

21 – Candidate Forum, Ocean Pines Library, 6:00 to 9:00 pm

28 - General Meeting – Worcester Tech High School, Speaker Liz Mumford

TBD – Restaurant Event

June

2 – Board Meeting

11 to 18 - Early Voting, Ocean Pines Rec Center, 7:00 am to 8:00 pm daily

23 – Primary Election from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm

24 – RWB 250th Birthday Dinner – O.P. Yacht Club, 5 to 8 pm

TBD – Restaurant Event

Election Dates to be aware of:

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