



## Republican Women of Worcester County February 2026 Newsletter



### ***Happy February 2026!***

February is often thought of as a month of reflection and renewal. It is our shortest but busiest month. This year, we have Ground Hog Day, Lunar New Year, Ramadan, Valentine's Day (and our raffle), President's Day, and Black History Month. This is a lot to pack into 28 days.

This year the filing deadline for Maryland elections is also in February. Everyone who is running in the primary election must have filed by Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

The link for looking at the candidates for Maryland State and Counties is:

<https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2026/index.html>

Once you enter the page, click 2026 Candidate List

The page will open to 2026 Gubernatorial Primary Candidate Listings and Statewide Offices. To locate the local offices, you need to scroll down to the bottom of the page, click Worcester and you will see everyone who is running locally. As I mentioned last month, we will be reaching out to you for help getting all these folks elected.

RWWC members, in February we need to continue to stand strong in advancing Republican women's voices. Together, we can turn ideas into action, and our momentum will grow. Let's carry our energy forward, support one another, and remain steadfast in shaping a future where equality and opportunity are not aspirations, but realities.

Please stay safe, healthy & vote Republican!  
Jennie Allen

### **February 2026 News**

#### **General Membership Meeting Thursday, February 26, 2026**

Ocean City Golf Club  
Doors open at 10:30 AM

#### **Valentine Raffle:** POC Dee Matthews

Our February raffle is well under way. Dee has given good news of winning \$25.00 to 8 people as of this writing. Actually, I am counting from Feb. 10th, but 2 of our winners have won twice. How wonderful! Keep tuned...there are 18 more winners to receive a phone call. Don't forget if Dee calls you on February 14th, you will win \$200.00. All money will be sent to your address after Feb. 28th. Thank you, Dee

**Restaurant Breakfast, Brunch, or Lunch:** POC Dee Matthews

The Bayside Skillet, 7701 Coastal Highway, OC, MD

Phone 410-524-7950

Now through February 28, 2026

7:30 am until 2:00 pm daily

It is not our typical modus operandi, but I believe it is better. Please try to have **breakfast, brunch or lunch** at **The Bayside Skillet** this month of February. This will be counted as our February Restaurant Fund-Raiser. Bayside Skillet is open every day from 7:30 am until 2 pm. If you see Becky Zweigbaum at the restaurant, be sure to say hello.

**PayPal Issues:** POC Jennie Allen

During the transfer of leadership, we encountered a problem with transferring our PayPal account. Currently, we are unable to accept electronic payments. This is a temporary situation as we attempt to transfer the account to the new RWWC Board. If you need to make a payment to RWWC, it needs to be in the form of a check or cash. We will notify you when this situation is corrected. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

**Membership 2026 Renewal:** POC Linda Moran

We are still collecting the 2026 membership dues. As of 2/10/26, we received 74 renewals and enrolled 12 new members for a total of 86 members. This is 57.3% of our 2025 membership.

According to MFRW, membership dues must be paid by February 28th, or you will be removed from both MFRW and NFRW's rolls and no longer receive NFRW's weekly Capital Connection. **You are running out of time, please send your renewals ASAP.**

Membership can be renewed 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](mailto:lindamoranwcrcc@gmail.com) or by phone 443-614-2261.

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

Effective the 2026 membership year, September 2025 through August 2026, we are having a Member Get a Member contest. For all members who bring in a new member, you will be entered in the contest. The winner for recruiting the most new members will receive a \$50.00 gift card. If there is a tie, the names will be put into a hat and the one that is pulled will win the gift card.

**Americanism:** POC Liz Mumford

Join us on May 28, 2026, for our general meeting. You won't want to miss "our special guests celebrating America's 250th year!" In addition, we will discuss "All things Maryland Gubernatorial Election 2026" - A Voter's Guide. "

**Awards & Volunteer Hours:** POC Raye Simpson & Jane Carmean

Please report your volunteer hours by March 1, 2026, for February political and non-political activities. The website [www.gopwomenofworchester.org](http://www.gopwomenofworchester.org) has the form for reporting under the Volunteer Hours link with a list of political and non-political examples. Thank you. Raye Simpson, Awards Co-Chair

**Campaign Activities:** POC Jennie Allen

Maryland voting information for 2026 is available at this link [2026 Gubernatorial Election](#).

This page permits you to view the current gubernatorial and local candidate lists, register to vote, request a mail-in ballot and provide information on voting by mail.

Dates to be aware of are the following:

- Candidate Filing Deadline – Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 9 PM
- RWWC & WCRCC Local Candidate Forum at the Ocean Pines Library at 11107 Cathell Rd, Ocean Pines, MD on Thursday, May 21, 2026, from 6 PM to 9PM
- Early Voting is from Thursday, June 11, 2026, through Tuesday, 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 being done at the distribution center, and this may be several days from when you dropped it in the mailbox.)

We will be reaching out for volunteers to assist at the polls during early voting. Please come and join us at the polls.

**Caring for America:** POC Amy Mike

Thank you to all members who contributed to the Valentines for Veterans campaign that ended this week. Due to your generosity, we were able to ship out on Monday, 2/9/26, almost 700 Valentine cards to the four veterans hospitals located in Maryland. Last year there were just over 500 residents in these homes as compared to the almost 700 this year. Special thanks to the schools that participated: Ocean City Elementary, Pocomoke Elementary, Pocomoke Middle, Showell Elementary, Snow Hill Elementary, and Worcester Prep. We also received a beautiful batch of over 100 hand-crafted cards created by the Delmarvelous Stampers.

**Literacy:** POC Susan Ostrowski

Red Shoe Book Club will meet Tues March 10 at OP Library, small meeting room, bag lunch.



Book: Right Wing Revolution by Charlie Kirk.

Essay Contest: Our essay contest is in full swing inviting all 8th graders from our Worcester County home-schooled, public, and private schools. With the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we are asking students to write a breakup letter to King George III, “Dear King George.” Students must write a letter to King George III explaining why unalienable rights are being violated, to explain unalienable rights (life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness), and describe two ways they believe the king or British government has violated these rights.

**Luncheon Meetings:** POC Sandy Zitzer

- February 26 - OC Golf Club, Berlin, MD

- March 26 - Worcester Technical High School, Newark, MD
- April 23 – Location to be determined
- May 28 - Worcester Technical High School, Newark, MD

**Speakers:** POC Jennie Allen

- February – Matt Crisafulli, Worcester County Sheriff
- March – Invitations have been sent to the GOP primary candidates for governor
- April - “Welcome Home Legislators”
- May - Liz Mumford, RWWC Americanism Chair

**Save the date for the Red, White, & Blue Event:** Wednesday, June 24, 2026, we will be celebrating our Red, White, and Blue with a Happy Birthday USA Dinner at the Yacht Club in Ocean Pines! Details will be forthcoming!

**Note, this is a DAY CHANGE, we are meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday not Thursday in June.**

**Save the date for the Fashion Show:** The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Patriot Day Fashion Show, recognizing the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 and stay tuned for more information.

**MFRW Dates to Remember:** POC Sandy Zitzer

- March 3 - Red Scarf Day - Calvert House, 58 State Circle, Annapolis – Registration closes February 23, 2026.
- May 2 - Spring MFRW Board meeting – Argyle Country Club, Silver Spring, MD
- June 11-18 Early Voting

**January Minutes:** POC Gwen Crisafulli

Republican Women of Worcester County  
 General Luncheon Meeting  
 January 15, 2026

**Minutes**

Excused: Liz Mumford, Dee Matthews

**Call to Order** - Jennie Allen, President - 11:04

**Opening Prayer** - Jan Kolesky

**Pledge of Allegiance** - Kris Barron, Sgt. At Arms

**Welcome** – Jennie Allen welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year

**Officer’s Reports**

**Approval of Minutes** - Gwen Crisafulli made one correction to the October 23rd General Meeting Minutes. She then asked for approval of the minutes as stated. Carol Frazier so moved. Susan Crisafulli seconded. MCU (Motion Carried Unanimously).

**Asst. Treasurer/Membership** - Linda Moran announced to the group that as of today we have 7 new members and 70 renewals. Linda informed all that were present that if their dues are not paid by the end of February, they will be removed from both the MFRW and

NFRW rosters. She introduced the new members that were present, and then the members introduced the guests they brought to the meeting.

**Treasurer/Budget** - Jane Wolnik presented a detailed report of the group's financial status.

**1ST Vice President** - Carol Frazier informed the members that the upcoming speaker for February will be a representative from Mom's for Liberty. In March she hopes to have the GOP candidates for Governor come to speak and in April we will Welcome home our Legislators.

**2ND Vice President** - Kris Barron for Dee Matthews. Kris told everyone about the Valentine Raffle tickets that are being sold. Each day in February the winner will receive \$25 and a \$200 prize on Valentine's Day. Tickets are \$25. Please see Kris if you are interested in purchasing a ticket. Dee will continue with restaurant nights. The next one is next Friday at Taphouse West from 4-9. You will need to bring the flyer with you. Last year's two final restaurant nights generated \$310 from Pancho and Lefties and \$500 from Sophias. Kris encouraged members to visit those restaurants and show them support.

**President** - Jennie Allen introduced herself and gave a brief background. She is an out-of-the-box thinker who is looking forward to changes this year.

- Newsletters – Since newsletters were not being read, she plans to include the newsletter in the Presidents message.
- Survey – We are working on a survey that she will be sending out through Mailchimp. She is looking to find out what the members are interested in.
- She plans to bring in speakers that interest the members. Please let Carol know if you have any ideas for upcoming speakers.
- Try some ads to pull in some new members
- Considering a membership contest
- Succession planning – Encouraged members to become involved. The current board members won't be here forever.

### **Committee Reports**

Jennie Allen for Sandy Zitzer - Red Scarf Day is March 3rd in Annapolis. It is a free event. Registration is at 9:15, from 10-10:45 you can view sessions from the gallery, tour the State House, or relax at the Calvert House. At 11:00 the group meets for a group photo. From 11:3-1230 there will be a lunch with the legislators. From 1-3p you can visit the Senate and House office building and there will be a happy hour from 3-5. This is a part of your membership that is paid for by your dues. Go online and register if you are interested.

Susan Ostrowski – Literacy - The Red Shoe Book Club met Tuesday at Carrabba's. The book they read was “The Man who Killed Kennedy” Their next meeting will be March 10th at the Ocean Pines Library, and they will be reading Charlie Kirk's book. The Literacy contest is getting ready to begin. Since the Declaration of Independence is 250th years old, the topic of the essay will be to write a breakup letter to King George. Susan consulted with Maria Sophia and used AI to help generate the question.

Susan Ostrowski – Central Committee updates. Susan informed the group that there are several offices that have no Republican candidates. We need more Republicans running for office. She also announced that they will be looking for volunteers for early voting, which will be from June 11-18th at the Ocean Pines Community Center.

### **Introduction of Speaker -Carol Frazier**

Maria Sofia – Manager of Government Affairs at the Cato Institute and MFRW First VP

Maria Sofia addressed the group and began her presentation about Using AI in Your MFRW Club – Worcester Edition. Maria informed the group that there are primarily four AI chat engines. They include Chat GPT, Grok, Claude, and Gemini. She explained what each software is best for and which ones she prefers. She then gave the group tips on the best ways to use AI. These included asking clarifying questions, being specific, and giving clear instructions. Some things to avoid are using personal information like SS# and credit card information. Some ways it can be used with in the club is for press releases, announcements, event planning, fundraising ideas, letters to the editor and social media posts. Maria finished her presentation by answering member questions.

### **Lunch 12:00**

### **Closing remarks/Announcements**

- Linda Sears addressed the group about Unstoppable Joy, a nonprofit organization in Berlin that provides cancer services. They are losing their lease, and she is requesting help with finding them a new space.
- The Red, White and Blue luncheon will be a Gala this year since we are celebrating the 250th Anniversary of America. See Jean Delcher if you are interested in joining the committee.
- The 50/50 winner was announced and received \$120. The other half was donated to Worcester Tech.

### **Adjourn –1:00**

### **Calendar**

January 23 - Restaurant Night at Taphouse West Bar & Grill from 4 – 9 PM, bring the flyer

February 3 – Board Meeting

26 – General Meeting – OC Golf Club, Speaker Brenda Barbato

TBD – Restaurant Night

March 3 – Red Scarf Day in Annapolis

10 – Board Meeting

26 – General Meeting – Worcester Technical High School, Speaker TBD

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gwendolyn Crisafulli  
Recording Secretary