

# CRWC TEMPO

Alexandria, VA

May 2009

## Message from the President

Dear CRWC Members,

Thank you CRWC!

On May 5 the hard work of CRWC members brought about much needed change to the Alexandria City Council. As President of the Commonwealth Republican Women's Club, I have the privilege of being informed of the work our members do on behalf of Republican candidates running for office. In this election, CRWC members spent countless volunteer hours, energy and resources to bring back balance to our community. Have no doubt, our club, of Commonwealth Republican Women, was key in this election.

And while politics can often be a very intense experience, I am deeply moved and proud to be a member of the CRWC. Our members proved what we could do when we set our hearts and minds to an election. I am looking forward to our continuing this roll to victories as we enter the busy statewide campaign season. With the CRWC behind our Republican candidates, Fall 2009 is going to be a great time to be a Republican in the Commonwealth of Virginia!

Amy Millican CRWC President

**Congratulations to the new council members-elect  
GOP Frank Fannon, Independent Alicia Hughes  
and much thanks to Phil Cefaratti !!!**

## CRWC MEETING

*Winning Elections in Alexandria:  
The Importance of Building  
Grassroots Support or How to Build a  
Republican Precinct*

**Speaker: Nick Mead**

Nick Mead has worked on election campaigns for state and national Republican candidates and will share his expertise on precinct-building with us.

**Date: May 28, 2009**

**Place: Home of Susan Yonts-Shepard**

**4020 Moss Place, Alexandria  
703.823.4020 or seysrls@verizon.net.**

**Time: 7:30 p.m.**

## Terri Hauser's Opinion piece appeared in The Washington Post, Sunday May 10, 2009

It Started in Alexandria...

"The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated." --Mark Twain

Amidst all the hand-wringing and obituaries from politicians and pundits, Alexandria Republicans yesterday defied the odds, defeated two Democrat incumbents, and elected two of their own to the city's six-member City Council – Frank Fannon and Alicia Hughes (an Independent backed by the Republicans).

In many ways, Alexandria is as unlikely a place as you can find to launch a Republican resurgence. We haven't elected a Republican to anything since the start of the century. Alexandria is "Inside the Beltway." It is one of bluest jurisdictions in Virginia – a city Barack Obama carried with nearly 72 percent of the vote.

There were no national SWAT teams parachuting into Alexandria for our election; no contributions pouring in from across the country. No one thought we had enough of a chance to win.

Yet win we did – breaking the Democrats' stranglehold with strong local candidates running hard on local issues.

Frank Fannon's roots in Alexandria run deep. His family has been in business here for over 120 years, and he has a long list of civic contributions, including serving as Finance Chairman for the city's 250th Anniversary Celebration.

Alicia Hughes, an African American woman who works as a patent attorney, burst on the Alexandria scene like a fireball. The Alexandria Commission on Women recognized her in March with their "Rising Star" award.

I watched several of the debates and was struck by the fact that the Democrats were still talking about the same issues they promised to fix back when I was Party Chairman in the early 1990s – while traffic gridlocked more of our streets, open space disappeared from our neighborhoods, housing became increasing unaffordable for our families, and our schools continued to fail

**Opinion** *continued on page 2*

# 2009 Calendar

## MAY

- 28 CRWC Member Meeting Thursday  
7:30 pm home of Susan Yonts-Shepard  
Nick Meads will speak on  
"Republicanism" from the ground up  
29-30 Virginia Republican Convention, Richmond, VA

## AUGUST

- 30 Rally for Bob McDonnell, Burke Lake Park, 1 - 4 pm

## SEPTEMBER

- 28 CRWC General Meeting 7:00 p.m. A pot-luck supper.

## Program Report

April's Program. On April 23, 2009 the Commonwealth Republican Women hosted their annual Membership Reception at the Lloyd House in Old Town, Alexandria. It was another outstanding success! Our guest speaker, Ed Gillespie, spoke eloquently on the art of turning Virginia from a blue to a red state. Before he spoke guests and members enjoyed a delicious buffet organized by Gail Ledwig and Mary Kapellas. Deb Rankin, Membership Chair, introduced Mr. Gillespie because President Amy Millican could not attend. Other political candidates circulated among attendees. Furthermore, by the end of the evening five women had become the newest members of the Commonwealth Club.

Linda Greenberg, VP Program

## Spotlight on the members: Jennifer White



Jennifer White is a vice president at the public relations agency Porter Novelli. She brings 16 years experience in communications strategy, issue advocacy, crisis management, materials development, media relations, and community outreach. Since joining Porter Novelli in 2007, her clients have included the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, American Chemistry Council, United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation, Navy Federal Credit Union and Medicomp Systems, Inc.

Prior to her work at Porter Novelli, she served as the Senior Director of Regulatory and Technical Affairs for the Corn Refiners Association. Jennifer developed and advocated association positions to Federal agencies and Congress on regulatory and legislative proposals. Prior to CRA, she managed distribution outreach for the American Chemistry Council. She developed operational and strategic plans for the sustenance of the Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response inter-industry initiative.

Jennifer had a twenty year career in the U.S. Army Reserve before retiring in 2006. She received the Bronze Star for exemplary performance as the Deputy Director of the Combined Press Information Center in Baghdad. She commanded a 20-person Mobile Public Affairs Detachment who trained over 230 public affairs officers in various Iraqi Ministries during 2005. She directed the daily operations of a staff of 65 individuals that included U.S. and Coalition military personnel and Iraqi civilian employees.

Jennifer is co-founder of the Iraqi Job Network ([www.iraqijobnetwork.org](http://www.iraqijobnetwork.org)), a non-profit organization with the primary mission to assist Iraqi immigrants who served courageously beside Coalition forces in finding good jobs in order to successfully resettle in the U.S.

Jennifer has a B.A. in International Relations and a M.S. in Technology and Environmental Management.

Jennifer grew up in Southwest Michigan and is one of six children and the favorite aunt to 11 nieces and nephews.

## Green Isn't Just For St. Patrick's Day

This May your copy of the 2009 CRWC Directory will be sent to you electronically if you have e-mail. We hope you will save it to your desk top and use it often to stay in touch. You will also receive an old fashioned "hard copy" by snail mail. If any members prefer NOT to receive the electronic copy, please call Sharon Annear at 703-751-9130 or e-mail: [gypsySLA@verizon.net](mailto:gypsySLA@verizon.net)

To save even more trees and increasing postage costs, the **CRWC Tempo newsletter will be sent only electronically to all members with e-mail beginning with our September issue.** Members without e-mail will continue to receive their newsletters from the postman. If you have a special problem or concern regarding electronic delivery, call Sharon to arrange for postal delivery.

too many children.

I was also struck by the enthusiasm gap. Far from being demoralized, Republicans were energized and excited about their candidates, while the Democrats were unable to muster their usual troops. Too many years of hearing the same candidates talk about how they would solve the same problems had taken their toll. Alexandrians recognized that the all-Democrat Council was part of the problem, not the solution. They were arrogant, they were arbitrary, and they acted as if they owned the city.

The tipping point came when, just one week before the election, the City Council adopted a budget that increases the typical homeowners' real estate taxes – in the midst of a recession. The county governments of Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William – even Arlington – all found ways to hold the budgetary line. But not Alexandria, where city budgets skyrocketed an average of 7 percent a year since the Democrats seized sole ownership of the local government.

I've had hard-core Democrats tell me they crossed over to vote for one or more of our candidates who impressed them. Independents as well as Republicans at the polls told me they "plunked" for the three Republican-recommended candidates. Our message resonated. Alexandria needs balance.

So does our nation. And in the end, this historic city where our nation's Founders gathered to plot the first American revolution may spark a new spirit of insurgency against the arrogant excesses of one-party rule.

Terri Hauser is a free-lance writer living in Alexandria. She served as Chairman of the Alexandria Republican City Committee from 1992-94.

## Legislative Report - Michelle Presson

Remember ACORN? The liberal grassroots group of community organizers? They were utilized very effectively by the Obama campaign in the 2008 campaign to register voters in urban Democrat strongholds across the country. And, they've been doing it with your tax dollars -- \$54 million of your tax dollars since 1994.

Despite the fact that they've been investigated or indicted or forced to sign into consent decrees in more than a dozen states by both Republican and Democrat prosecutors for voter fraud, tax code violations, and campaign finance wrongdoings, they're still getting your tax dollars. In fact, between the so-called "stimulus" package and the Fiscal Year 2010 budget, the First 100 Days have given them access to up to \$8.5 billion.

Some in Congress – read: Republicans – think that that's just ridiculous. No one has a right to taxpayer money. And, certainly Congress should be able to pull the plug on funding that's going to an organization that has been engaged in a pattern of criminal behavior. But, others in Congress – read: Democrats – disagree. And, they've been going to great lengths recently to keep your money flowing to their good friends at ACORN.

In fact, even as new criminal charges were filed by Democrat prosecutors against ACORN and its employees in both Nevada and Pennsylvania, Democrats voted to strip language from a mortgage reform bill that would have kept organizations indicted for voter fraud or related tax and campaign finance violations from accessing new pots of federal money.

Minnesota Republican Michele Bachmann, who is leading the fight to stop these funding streams, recently brought Anita MonCrief, an ACORN whistleblower, to the Capitol to shed light on how the corruption and fraud are systemic at ACORN. Anita MonCrief is part of an organization known as ACORN 8. They are current and former employees and board members of ACORN who want to expose the corruption at the core of this left-wing operation. They believe in the community activism that ACORN was founded to promote and they are sickened by how that mission has been hijacked by a political, power-driven agenda.

For Republicans, like Congresswoman Bachmann, the issue is even more fundamental than that: No organization is entitled to taxpayer funding; it's not a right, it's a privilege. And, if Congress can't cut off funding to an organization engaged in a pattern of criminal behavior, where will they draw the line? And, to put it bluntly, as Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele noted, if Democrats can tap taxpayer dollars to fund

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Pauline Bacaj  
Danielle Beach  
Cathy Deeds  
Valerie Dowling  
Sasha Gong  
Nancy Rawlings

*These wonderful new members joined our ranks at the recent Membership Reception at Lloyd House. We look forward to working with them for the benefit of our Party.*



## *CRWC - Spring Membership Reception*



*Deb Hunt leads members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag*



*Deb Hunt, Fran and Gant Redmon*



*Margaret Johnson, Paula Potoczak, Martha Foster, Jean Kling*



*Ann Kavaljian, Ed and Cathy Gillespie and Frankie Roberts*

### **Hospitality Report** - Mary Kapellas and Gail Ledwig

The CRWC Hospitality Committee wishes to thank the CRWC membership for the delicious and plentiful food at the Lloyd House New Member Reception. The food certainly contributed to the success of the wonderful event.

Special thanks to Jeff Millican, our bartender, and to "The Kapellas Kitchen Team." Mary's effort planning and preparing for the event, and Mary and Christopher's attention to details during the evening and clean-up after the party was noted and appreciated by all.

Thank you to Susan Yonts-Shepard for hosting the May meeting.

Our next regular meeting will be the CRWC potluck supper at Jane Ring's on Thursday, September 24. Have a great summer.

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**Facebook** is a wonderful networking and communication tool for CRWC. Through our CRWC facebook group we can instantly notify members of events or rallies where they could work to promote local candidates. There is a special tool to create event invitations which can be sent not only to group members but emailed to anyone. We also post information about the speaker for our upcoming meetings and links to information they have presented us. Photos have been added to our page from previous meetings as well as events, such as the George Washington Parade. Join us on facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=54856131881>