

# CRWC TEMPO

Alexandria, VA

February 2011

## Message from the President

Dear CRWC,

Thank you to all members who came to our "New Year's" party on January 13. And THANK YOU again Julie for being so flexible and allowing us to reschedule the event. We had a terrific turnout and collected a great amount of books for Community Lodgings. Jim Dempsey from Community Lodgings was on hand to join the festivities and receive our donation.

As I mentioned in my last note, one of the priorities I hope to focus on this year is Community Service. Michelle Thissell, our Community Service Chair, has been working with the Commission for Women in preparation for the 2011 Salute to Women Awards. This year, the banquet will be held on March 28 and nominations are currently being accepted for the awards. The awards recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to improving the lives of women and girls in Alexandria. For more information, visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Women](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Women) or let Michelle or me know. We have had many of our members honored by the Commission over the years, most recently Alicia Hughes in 2009, and I hope we can continue that tradition.

I was also very happy to see quite a few of our members turn out for the City's Reagan Centennial held on February 4. Councilman Fannon did a fabulous job of organizing this event, which included our own Maria Ciarocchi leading us in the National Anthem and America The Beautiful, reportedly, President Reagan's favorite patriotic song. As Terri Hauser commented, this is probably the first time there were ever this many Republicans in Council Chambers. Former Governor George Allen gave a terrific speech, reminding us of President Reagan's influence both here and around the world.

Again, thank you every one for your continued work in making the CRWC one of the most respected organizations in the City. I am proud to serve with you.

Shari Bolouri

## Looking for a CRWC Photographer!!



Need:

Camera

Remember to bring camera

Ability to send photos digitally to Tempo

Be able to cover most (not all) meetings and events

(maybe a co-photographer!)

contact Shari at [sharibolouri@gmail.com](mailto:sharibolouri@gmail.com)

## CRWC Membership Meeting Thursday, February, 23 2011 7:30 P.M.

### Guest speaker



**Sue Lynch**  
President, NFRW

home of  
Luisa Rains  
301 North Quaker Lane  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
*park on Coventry Lane*

*From: King and Russell: West on King St. Left on JAnneys Lane, Left on Quaker, left on Coventry Ln.  
From: Old Town: West on Duke, right on Quaker, Right on Coventry.*

*From: Westend or 395 East on King or Seminary, South (right) on Quaker; left on Coventry Ln.*

## HOSPITALITY REPORT - Pauline Bacaj and Ann Hobbs

A very appreciative Thank You to Julie Lineberry who (after preparing, and the disappointment of seeing the planned Christmas Party cancelled at the last minute due to snow) very graciously hosted the January CRWC meeting and New Year Party. A brief Board Meeting was held, and the new officers for 2011 were installed during the general meeting. The party was very successful and attended by a large crowd, with a plentiful buffet enjoyed by all. Many thanks to all those who contributed a wide variety of delicious foods, from appetizers, entrees and salads to scrumptuous desserts, including of course good wines, sparkling water and sodas.

Our next meeting will be held on Feb. 24 at the home of Luisa Rains. As always refreshments will be served and some cheese with crackers, desserts and fruit would be very welcome. It would be nice if the members planning to bring goodies would email or call Pauline or Ann to make sure we don't get too much of the same thing and not enough of an other! With anticipated thanks,

Pauline Bacaj at 703-370-1768 or pbacaj@comcast.net

Ann Hobbs at 703-548-5798 or arhobbs@comcast.net



### Join NFRW members from across the nation on the Hill Wednesday, March 9, 2011

#### Details:

Total cost for the day is \$50.00

For more information and to register

go to page 12 and 13 of the link below on the NFRW website  
[http://www.nfrw.org/documents/forms/board\\_spring2011.pdf](http://www.nfrw.org/documents/forms/board_spring2011.pdf)

#### Schedule:

7:00 AM Buses leave from the Arlington Crystal Gateway Marriott

8:30 Breakfast at the Cannon House Office Building

8:30 - 11:30 Remarks by Republican Senate and House leaders

11:30 Picture on Capitol steps

1:00 Remarks from House Speaker John Boehner

2:00 Visit members of Congress

3:00 PM Buses depart for return to Hotel

For more information or to register call

CRWC members Callan Smith or Valerie Dowling at NFRW

703-548-9688.

CRWC members Jane Ring and Gail Ledwig have attended in the past and agree it is an experience and a day you don't want to miss.

*Dear CRWC Members,*

*I don't think I could ever accurately put into words how touched and humbled I was by your support of my performance in "Oliver!" at The Little Theatre of Alexandria.*

*It was such a thrill to walk into the green room after the January 20th performance and see so many smiling and supportive faces! It was definitely a veritable who's who of Alexandria. Special thanks to Gail Ledwig and Shari Bolouri for putting the evening together.*

*On a broader scale many members of the Cast and Crew, who had stopped by the reception, told me over the next few days how wonderful my friends were and how great it was that they were so supportive, not only of me but of this community production.*

*It's moments like this that I think truly makes the Commonwealth Republican Women's Club a special organization to be a part of. Not only do we support our shared interest of getting Republicans elected but we support each other as well.*

*What an extraordinary group of ladies! I am so proud to be a CRWC member!*

*Gratefully,*

*Maria Ciarrocchi*

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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>

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT - -Diane Murphy

We are most grateful for those women who have renewed their membership or who have recently joined us. In our “50th” Anniversary year, we hope to grow in numbers and in influence. Please think about women you would like us to contact or send information to in the new few weeks. Let’s spread the word about this wonderful group!!

Many thanks,

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## Alexandria Marks 100th Birthday Celebration for President Ronald Reagan

On Friday February 4, the City of Alexandria honored President Reagan in honor of his 100th Birthday. Councilman Fannon organized the celebration and our own Maria Ciarocchi entertained the audience with renditions of the National Anthem and America, The Beautiful. Mayor Euille, Governor Geoge Allen and Charlie Black addressed the crowd with eloquent and poignant speeches about our great President.



*Photo Mike Lane*

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT - Michelle Presson Marston

### Debt Ceiling Debate Deja Vu

The U.S. Department of the Treasury expects that it will meet the current cap on U.S. borrowing authority -- \$14.3 trillion -- somewhere between early April and the end of May. While raising the debt ceiling has become an almost perfunctory vote by Congress, it’s nearly always a great show to watch, with both sides engaging in extraordinary hyperbole.

Last February, Congress raised the debt ceiling for the fifth time in just two years. Now, with that ceiling looming and government spending continuing to outpace government revenue by more than \$1 trillion a year, some Republicans, led by a new debt-conscious breed of representatives, are saying, “no mas.”

In some ways, this is like déjà vu all over again. Back in 2006, when Barack Obama was a Senator and the White House was in the Republican hands of George W. Bush, the sides were reversed, but much of the rhetoric was nearly identical.

Take this quote from the Senate vote, in which Democrats voted en bloc against raising the debt ceiling:

“Washington is shifting the burden of bad choices today onto the back of our children and grandchildren... America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership.”

That was from Obama’s speech on the Senate floor in 2006. Today, his own Treasury Secretary, Tim Geithner, is warning of “catastrophic damage to the economy ... potentially much more harmful than the effects of the financial crises of 2008 and

2009” if Congress fails to raise the debt ceiling again.

The real difference in this round of debt ceiling debates is that while Republicans remain split over whether they need to raise the cap, they are speaking in unison about the need to couple any vote with cuts or a mechanism for ensuring greater fiscal responsibility.

For instance, the vote to raise the ceiling could be combined with a package of deep spending cuts. The House Republicans recently came out with a package of cuts of \$32 billion, which some have criticized as anemic and far below the \$100-billion marker set by Republicans on the 2010 campaign trail. In response, House Republican leadership has indicated that the package of cuts is likely to grow.

In the Senate, New Pennsylvania Senator Pat Toomey’s Full Faith and Credit Act would prioritize payments from available funds (like income withholding and payroll taxes) so that the U.S. doesn’t risk default. Senator Jim DeMint has suggested that Congress could use this as an opportunity to pass a Constitutional amendment for a balanced budget.

There’s a lot about this year’s debate that sounds just like all the political theater that accompanies every debt ceiling vote. But, there also seems to be a new energy from Republicans this year that changes things a little. Even if the final outcome is another increase in the debt ceiling, it’s likely that it will be combined with something new to Washington, like fiscal responsibility.

# 2011 Calendar

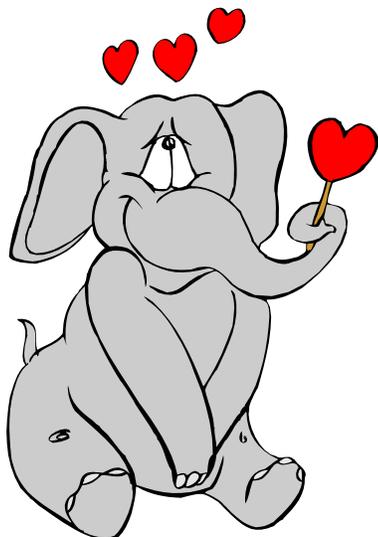
**Save The Dates!!**

## Board Meetings

March 10  
April 14  
May 12  
September 8  
October 13  
November 10  
December 8

## Membership Meetings

February 24  
March 24  
April 28  
May 26  
September 22  
October 27  
November 17  
December 15



HAPPY VALENTINE'S  
DAY  
TO THE  
SWEETHEATS  
OF  
CRWC

## Mark Your Calendar

Thursday, March 9th.  
NFRW - Spring Board Meeting  
& Legislative Day  
National Federation of Repub-  
lican Women's  
Spring Board Meeting March  
8 - 12, 2011.  
Legislative Day in DC on Capi-  
tol Hill

Check othe upcoming Stat Events at  
<<http://www.vfrw.org/calendar.htm>>

## 2011 CRWC Officers and Board 2011

**President:** Shari Bolouri  
**VP Program:** Valerie Dowling  
**VP Membership:** Diane Murphy  
**Recording Secretary:** Luisa Rains  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Tracy Schairo Johnson  
**Treasurer:** Callan Smith  
**By-Laws and Parliamentarian:**  
Ann Hobbs  
**Legislation & Campaigns:**  
Federal Michelle Pressons Marston  
**Finance:**  
Fundraising 50th Fundraiser:  
Co-Chairs: Maria Ciarocchi & Jane Ring  
**Achievement Awards: Co-Chairs**  
Leslie Anderson & Becky Davies  
**Hospitality:** Pauline Bacaj  
Assistant Chair: Ann Hobbs  
**Community Service:** Michele Allan Thissell  
**Public Relations:** Linda Greenberg  
**Newsletter Editor:** Jane Ring  
**Newsletter Desktop/Website:** Julie Lineberry  
  
**Directory Editor:** Sharon Annear  
**Special Advisor to the President &**  
**VFRW/NFRW Liaison:** ~ Gail Ledwig

## COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT -

Michele Thissell

Salute to  
Women  
Awards  
Banquet

Each year, the Alexandria Com-  
mission for Women recognizes the  
community's most outstanding  
women who go above and beyond  
to improve the lives of women  
and the larger Alexandria Com-  
munity. There are nine categories  
of awards that are given at the  
2011 Salute to Women Awards  
dinner. If you wish to nominate

someone whom you believe should be a recipient of one of  
these awards, please notify

Michelle Thissell at [michelle.thissell@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.thissell@gmail.com) Please  
note: the nominations are due by February 24th, so if you  
have someone in mind, please let us know before this date.

Again this year the dinner will be held at the Crowne Plaza  
Hotel on Monday, March 28th. CRWC plans on purchasing  
a table and being a silver sponsor of this very special event; if  
you are interested in attending, please contact Michelle This-  
sell via email at [michelle.thissell@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.thissell@gmail.com)