

TEMPO

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024



Commonwealth Republican Women's Club

"And the greatest phrase, I think, in the history of politics is on all of those red and white hats that I see: 'Make America Great Again.'

~ President Donald J. Trump

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Shirley Miles

Greetings, members and supporters! God picks his strongest soldiers to fight his most brutal battles. Do not be afraid, for he is with us, and with him, we will prevail. **ONWARD TO WINNING IN NOVEMBER 2024!**

First, I thank the members and guests who supported and attended our January and February program events. Our programs have been good and are forecasted to improve as we approach the election season. We have partnered with a significant Grassroots Entity to support marketing CRWC's program activities, which will also help support our conservative candidates. The candidates will have a platform from which their voices and agendas will be heard.

OUR GOALS

CRWC's goals are to grow our base of activists, support our conservative candidates, support selected Alexandria's charities, support the VFRW/NFRW, strengthen CRWC's Election Integrity Programs, advocate for passing commonsense legislation that improves and protects the quality of life for our community, family, and country, and convene monthly educational sustaining programs for keeping current in those areas that concern our local citizens and members.

MOST IMPORTANTLY OUR GOAL IS TO WIN THE 2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION!

FEB/MAR's OUTLOOK

Our outlook is exciting. We are in a Presidential election cycle. We expect local conservative candidates to win in November 2024 and a win on the federal level. The names of the local and regional candidates will be released soon.

ELECTION INTEGRITY:

**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY – VIRGINIANS CONSERVATIVES
FIGHT FOR COMMONSENSE - ELECTION INTEGRITY
LEGISLATION BILLS**

CRWC advocates for our legislators to stay the course for quality education, safe communities, low taxes, job creation, enhanced workforce skills, and election integrity.

A tremendous effort is being made to ensure Virginians' voters are not disenfranchised. See the link to the Virginia Fair Election Institute (VFE), a legislative workgroup I am a member of, and the recommended bills sent to Governor Youngkin to **VETO. We encourage you to send the Governor an email or letter urging him to veto the bills listed in this link. We appreciate you and thank you.**

Here's a link to bills that passed both chambers and were sent to the governor (towards the bottom of the page, which also includes some nonelection bills):

<https://mailchi.mp/virginiainstitute/press-release-veto-recommendations-to-safeguard-virginias-future?e=600e7a6f1d>

The two bills he's already acted on haven't been removed from that list, though, or from the file linked. SB 606 (one of the bills to put us back into ERIC) was vetoed, and for SB 196 (about voter challenges), he added a good amendment and sent it back to the general assembly for their approval or rejection.

Attached is a second resource, a file with one-page explanations for each bill. This is the file that VFE Legislative Workgroup delivered to the Governor with our veto recommendations.

MAKE IT HARD TO CHEAT!!!

OUR OUTLOOK IS PROMISING

The younger crowd sees their income dwindling due to increased inflation and the high cost of essentials, making it more difficult for them to buy homes and start families. CRWC is working on solid programs and activities to attract this unique group to our club, where they can learn and make a difference in sustaining their future by actively participating in the political process where they have a voice in determining their future.

*****1ST VP OF PROGRAM REPORT – LAURIE KIRBY*****

CRWC's program competed with the CPAC and Holy Thursday, March 28th events in February and March. Attendance was low. However, David Shephard's talk was intriguing, and he sold many books. As mentioned in David's book, *Elections Have Consequences, a Cautionary Tale*. "This section of the book touched home to me, and I thought I would share it: "Many who are politically conservative sincerely believe the political left intentionally stokes racism. They do so by constantly pounding the table about "White Supremacy," which nowadays is virtually non-existent, and by promoting Critical Race Theory in schools so that non-whites will grow up believing that they are helpless victims. The Left does so, they believe, to keep minorities perpetually in a separate underclass and struggling for survival. The logic is simple. Stunting the growth and development of non-whites will keep them voting for Democrats. In 2021, however, Virginians, by and large, saw through this ruse. For lieutenant governor, they elected a black female Republican, Winsome Earle-Sears. For governor, they elected a white male Republican, Glenn Younkin. Never before had a political party in Virginia offered up such an ethnically diverse ticket, nor had the citizens ever elected one".

Rosemary Gibson | U.S. dependence on China for medicine a major problem



In March, we invited Rosemary Gibson, author of *ChinaRx: Exposing the Risks of Americans' Dependence on China for Medicine*, to present her findings. Rosemary describes herself as just an ordinary citizen who saw the need to sound the alarm about America's dependence on China for medicines. Her book is well-researched and has garnered much attention from the military, the U.S. government, and medical professionals.

Synopses & Reviews

Synopsis

With a New Epilogue by co-author Rosemary Gibson. Millions of Americans are taking prescription drugs made in China and don't know it--and pharmaceutical companies are not eager to tell them. This is a disturbing, well-researched wake-up call for improving the current drug supply and manufacturing system. Several decades ago, penicillin, vitamin C, and many other prescription and over-the-counter products were manufactured in the United States. But with the rise of globalization, antibiotics, antidepressants, birth

control pills, blood pressure medicines, and cancer drugs, among many others, are made in China and sold in the United States. China's biggest impact on the US drug supply is making essential ingredients for thousands of medicines found in American homes and used in hospital intensive care units and operating rooms. The authors convincingly argue that this scenario has at least two major problems. First, it is inherently risky for the United States to become dependent on any one country as a source for vital medicines, especially given the uncertainties of geopolitics. For example, if an altercation in the South China Sea causes military personnel to be wounded, doctors may rely upon medicines with essential ingredients made by the adversary. Second, lapses in safety standards and quality control in Chinese manufacturing are a risk. Citing the concerns of FDA officials and insiders within the pharmaceutical industry, the authors document incidents of illness and death caused by contaminated medications that prompted reform. This probing book examines the implications of our reliance on China on the quality and availability of vital medicines.

Synopsis

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JOIN US!

Date: March 28, 2024

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: Union Street Pub House, 121 South Union Street,
Alexandria

RSVP: March 26, 2024, information@alexandriacrwc.org

Please plan to arrive hungry between 6:30 and 7:00 pm to socialize and order your dinner and beverage. Our program starts at 7:30 P.M.

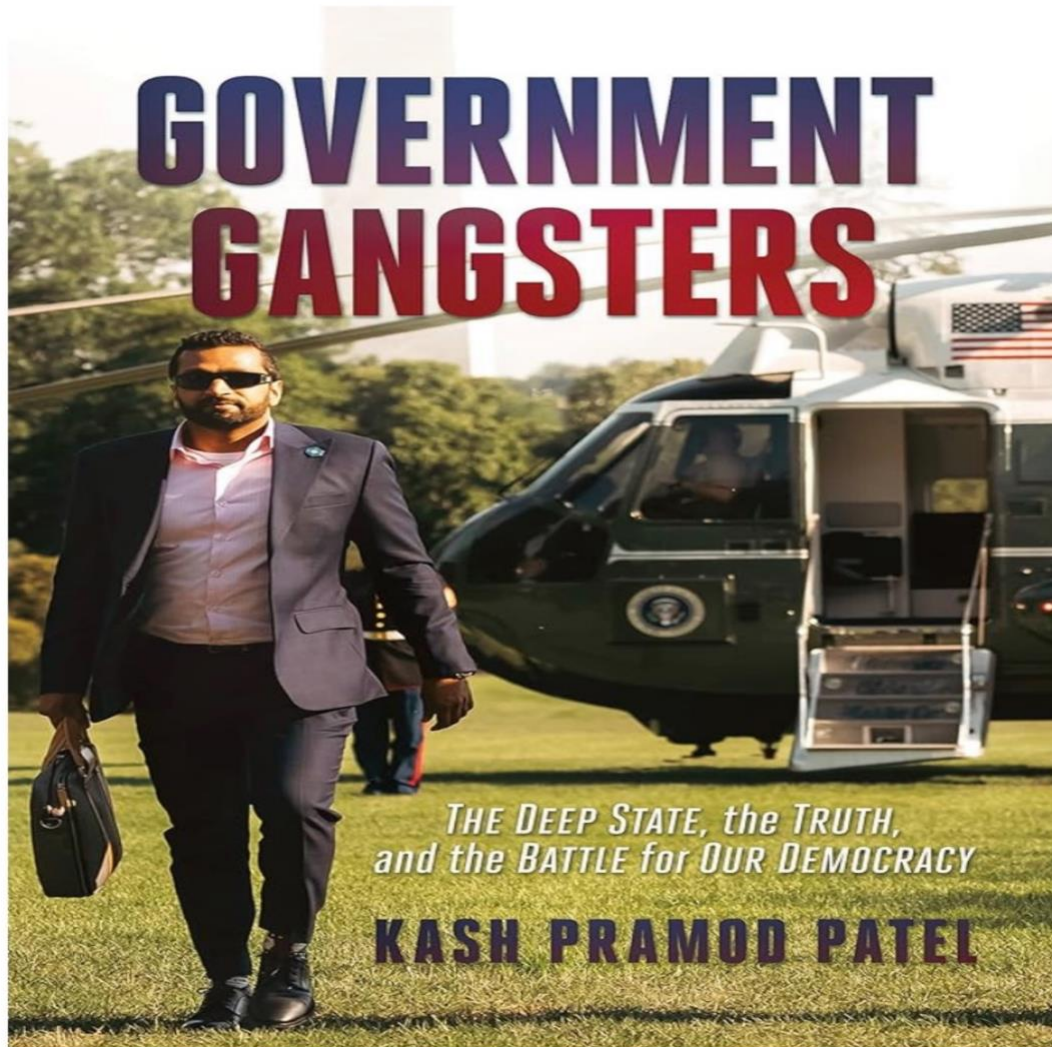
[RSVP at information@alexandriacrwc.org](mailto:information@alexandriacrwc.org) by March 27, 2024.

2nd VP OF MEMBERSHIP – MARY FROEHLICH

Programs and activities are being vetted to expand our membership in Alexandria's many diverse neighborhoods. Other Republican women's clubs collaborate on specific activities, conservative grassroots organizations, and high school civic programs.

BOOK CLUB Susan Yonts-Shepard

seys7335@gmail.com



The March book selection is GOVERNMENT GANGSTERS: THE DEEP STATE, THE TRUTH AND THE BATTLE FOR OUR DEMOCRACY by Kash Patel.

According to Kash Patel's book, *A Wall Street Journal* Bestseller, "A Brilliant Roadmap Highlighting Every Corrupt Actor, to ultimately return our agencies and departments to work for

the American People...we will use this blueprint to help us take back the White House and remove these Gangsters from all of Government!” —Donald J. Trump.

The highest levels of government have been infiltrated by an anti-democratic Deep State that can be defeated by refocusing our national security mission and relentlessly defending the truth.

A sinister cabal of corrupt law enforcement personnel, intelligence agents, and military officials at the highest levels of government plotted to overthrow a president. Even after they failed, they continued secretly pulling the levers of power without accountability to the American people. This isn't the synopsis of a fictional spy thriller. This is what is actually happening in the United States government.

In *Government Gangsters*, Kash Patel—a former top official in the White House, the Department of Defense, the Intelligence Community, and the Department of Justice—pulls back the curtain on the Deep State, revealing the major players and tactics within the permanent government bureaucracy, which has spent decades stripping power away from the American people and their elected leaders. Based on his firsthand knowledge, Patel reveals how we can defeat the Deep State, reassert self-government, and restore our democracy.

Susie Miller will host on March 23 at 1:00 pm
5904 Mount Eagle, Apt 1014

Alexandria, VA 22303

RSVPs information@alexandriacrwc.org to register and for building access.

We look forward to seeing all of you.

Susie Miller
912-577-8478

FEB/MAR 2024 School Board Reports – Deborah McKeeman

School Board articles – Deborah McKeeman

The Jan 4 School Board meeting focused on the Superintendent’s proposed FY 2025 \$373M Budget and a “Parent Square” 2-year update. Parent Square is a web interface that allows parents to get information to/from the Central Office. The Jan 18 board meeting preceded a public hearing on the proposed 2025 Budget. Over a dozen residents spoke on cuts/modifications to programs imposed due to City Council ACPS budget cuts. The regular board meeting began with the recognition of new board members from District A, VIP awards to school support staff, and acknowledgment of the death of Louis Kokonis, a beloved ACHS math teacher. The meeting then exploded with heated words from Board Members Alderton, Greene, and Elnoubi before a vote on the Central Office’s proposed new ACPS logo. The three members claimed the logo was racist and berated the Central Office for working on this and not other, more important projects. A School Board budget work session followed the regular meeting. Two more work sessions are planned to tweak/finalize the proposed budget.

Please consider attending board meetings. It will give you perspective on what you thought was happening in our schools. For more detailed notes on January meetings, email dmckeeman0002@outlook.com.

For more detailed notes about each meeting described, please email me at dmckeeman0002@outlook.com

The Feb 8 school board meeting was dominated by the 18 people who spoke during public comments. Most discussed the draft proposed collective bargaining agreement between ACPS teachers/staff and the

school board. The Central Office updated the Annual Financial Report, citing that an audit was performed without significant findings. After the regular meeting, the board held a sometimes contentious FY 2025 budget work session that ended well after midnight. At the Feb 22 board meeting, several people spoke up again for collective bargaining, including Princess Moses, VP of the National Education Association. The Special Ed Advisory Committee chair discussed current challenges to the program, including staff retention. A motion by the board to approve the FY 2025 Budget passed with a 7-2 vote (unusual for the board). The Central Office gave presentations on the Weapons Abatement Program and School Safety. Incidences of weapons found in schools with abatement equipment were reduced significantly from the first half of this school year over the previous semester. Please consider attending board meetings. It will give you perspective on what you thought was happening in our schools. For more detailed notes on February meetings, email dmckeeman0002@outlook.com.

LOCAL ADVOCACIES AND GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION

- **PRO NEIGHBORHOOD WARDS**
- **ANTI-ARENA**
- **ANTI- ZONING CHANGE**

CRWC supports United Sovereign America. This conservative grassroots organization is an organization of citizen volunteers working to ensure valid Constitutional elections that are fair, accurate, and trustworthy. We also seek to hold citizens, politicians, and officials responsible for obeying our election laws. See the link below for more on this much-needed watchdog group.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzGxSRGfRxzlrRMLscdNSBIFnlzl?compose=DmwnWtDpKBzckwjnJGBjXnvdIshFfwdlbcQFbVqRsrsZMLWKdvsKSxwtdRTNRfdbSJZgDtfCrBWI&projector=1&messagePartId=0.1>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CRWC's Board has one opening.

- 2nd VP – Membership

Please get in touch with Shirley Miles at information@alexandriacrwc.org if interested.

VFRW CONVENTION – SAVE THE DATE – MAY 17 – 19, NORFOLK, VA. See the link below:

<https://vfrw.org/Convention>

MORE DETAILS ARE COMING SOON!

VIRGINIA EIGHT DISTRICT REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE – See the Details in the Link Below: 8TH DISTRICT 2024 CONVENTION
OFFICIAL CALL 8th Congressional District Biennial Convention of the Republican Party of Virginia Knights of Columbus, 8592 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22309 Thursday, April 11, 2024, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

<https://vagop8cd.org/2024-convention/>

SAVE THE DATE

JOIN US AT CRWC's ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RECEPTION ON THURSDAY, APRIL 25TH - HEAR CRWC's KEYNOTE VINCE COGLIANESE!



**Host of
The Vince Coglianesse Show
Mon-Fri 3p to 6p**

JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RECEPTION ON THURSDAY, APRIL 25TH - HEAR CRWC's KEYNOTE VINCE COGLIANESE!

Forget the mainstream headlines—get the truth. The Vince Coglianesi Show cuts through the nonsense to deliver the real daily news. With nearly two decades in conservative journalism and broadcasting, Vince provides a shockingly refreshing and entertaining take on the day's biggest stories. His unparalleled roster of expert guests and newsmakers offer fresh insights that blast through the BS of Washington, DC politics.

In addition to hosting The Vince Coglianesi Show, Vince is the editorial director and former editor-in-chief of The Daily Caller.

Where: The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum

Date: April 25, 2024

Time: 7 pm to 9 pm

Location: 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

RSVP: April 23, 2024, information@alexandriacrwc.org

Please plan to come and enjoy a buffet of heavy hors d'oeuvres and desserts as we mix and mingle before our formal program.

CRWC LOSES LONG-TIME FRAN REDMON



Photo by Steven Halperson/Tisara Studios

Fran Redmon defined graciousness. Known to many as the matriarch of arts in the community, for decades, she opened her home to numerous nonprofits to help raise funds for the many organizations that sought her support. On March 11, the longtime

community philanthropist died after an extended struggle with dementia and Alzheimer's disease. She was 86.

Frances Mae Redmon was born May 16, 1937, in Collinsville, Ill., the only child of Herman Moritz Wilhelm and Frances Ida Wilhelm. She attended a Lutheran school until the fourth grade, when she transferred to a public school and met Gant Redmon, who would be by her side for over eight decades.

Redmon attended Southern Illinois University at Carbondale before transferring to the University of Illinois. She was elected president of her sorority, Sigma Sigma, and graduated in 1961 with a degree in speech education. Redmon and Gant married in 1958, the same year she was first runner-up and talent winner in the Miss Illinois pageant, which is part of the Miss America Scholarship organization.

Following graduation, the couple moved to Alexandria, first to Belle Haven, then to Tall Oaks, their stately home in the Seminary neighborhood. They raised one son, Gant Redmon III.

“Both my mom and dad were so integral to the Saint Stephen’s and Saint Agnes community,” said Redmon’s son Gant. “The cheerleaders were always saying how much they appreciated all she did helping them with choreography. And you could always hear her ringing a cowbell from the stands during football games.”

The younger Redmon remembers the more playful side of his mother, saying, “Mom was a master at surprise birthday parties – no question about that. And I don’t think she ever missed one of my lacrosse games.”

Redmon had begun a fashion career on the College Fashion Board of Stix, Baer & Fuller, a St. Louis department store. She continued in the Washington area as Assistant Fashion Director of Woodward & Lothrop, soon moving onto the runway as a free-lance fashion model

in the frequent fashion shows sponsored by charities in hotels and embassies.

A “triple threat” performer who could sing, dance, and act—she won the pageant talent competition with a dramatic scene from Joan of Arc—Redmon participated annually in the Hexagon Show, an original musical, political, and satirical revue written, produced, and presented by an all-volunteer group of Washingtonians. Later, she established an award in her name at the University of Illinois to be given annually to a sorority member in the performing arts.

In the 1980s, Redmon turned her focus to advocacy, serving on the boards of several arts and civic organizations. She was active in the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and SOLA, its support organization, Virginia Chamber Orchestra, Wolf Trap, Alexandria Singers, Little Theatre of Alexandria, Friends of the Torpedo Factory, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, BalletNova, Washington Ballet, Washington Choral Arts, the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington, and others, usually concentrating on fundraising for each by chairing special events and hosting such events at her home.

Gov. Jim Gilmore appointed her to the Virginia Commission for the Arts and served from 1998 until 2003. In this capacity, she advocated for grants to arts organizations throughout the Commonwealth, especially those in Northern Virginia. Along with her husband Gant, a managing partner with Redmon, Peyton, and Braswell, LLP, Redmon was recognized as a Living Legend of Alexandria in 2011.

“We have shared values and enjoy being a team,” Redmon said when named a Living Legend. “We can’t imagine not partnering with each other. It takes a lot of planning and work to partner in life and the community, but when you find your niche and do something about it, you’ve found your place.”

The Redmons were named the 2008 University of Illinois Alumni of the Year, the first time the distinction was awarded to a married couple. In 2017, the couple was recognized for their many years of leadership and service to the community at the Senior Services of Alexandria gala.

“From my days as a substitute teacher in the Alexandria public schools to working with arts organizations, it’s been a joy watching this community grow,” Redmon said at the gala.

Redmon is survived by Gant Redmon, her husband of 66 years; son Charles Gant Redmon III of Boston; granddaughter Hannah Winslow Redmon of Basalt, Colo.; and granddaughter Leah Virginia Redmon of Melrose, Mass.

Visitation will be held Friday, March 15, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 West Braddock Road. A Celebration of Life will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, 118 N. Washington St., on Saturday, March 16, at 11 a.m. Interment in Ivy Hill Cemetery will be private at a later date. Contributions to Goodwin Living Foundation, 4800 Fillmore Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22311 are suggested.

Redmon, who hosted fundraisers and events at her home for as many as 250 guests, valued social connections in building friendships, fundraising, and advocacy, saying, “People have to be so aware of the friendships they have and how we can help each other.”

Photo by John-Mark Smith: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/low-angle-view-of-pink-flowers-against-blue-sky-250591/>

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Spring is here!



(www.AlexandriaCRWC.org and on Facebook as @AlexandriaCRWC) is the local chapter of the Virginia Federation of Republican Women (VFRW) and the National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW).