



## Calvert County Republican Party

PRESS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release

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### **Republican Women Leaders of Calvert Celebrate 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The Republican Women Leaders of Calvert (RWLC) celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their 2003 founding on Sunday, April 14, at Running Hare Vineyard in Prince Frederick. Current RWLC President Carolyn Rice welcomed nearly 100 guests to the afternoon birthday celebration at the Vineyard's beautifully decorated reception room. Through their successful fundraising efforts, the RWLC donates to local groups including Safe Harbor, the Calvert Library, the Wounded Warrior, and Relay for Life.

The RWLC also supports local candidates in their campaigns and helps women run for political office. The Club sponsors campaign schools, workshops, and speakers. Members of the club have run successfully for political office and/or serve on state and national political and charitable boards and committees.

President Rice thanked Catherine Grasso, Chairman of the RWLC's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and her Committee who orchestrated the event. The Committee joined together to make the day a special event for the Club and worked for months creating beautiful red/white/blue origami flowers, filled guest bags, designed invitations, and more.

Rice also thanked and recognized many Calvert women who helped change the face and makeup of Calvert County. Republican Pioneer Patti Reick hosted the first meeting of 14 women in her Lower Marlboro home and started the first Republican women's organization in Calvert County in 1958. The ladies recalled that Calvert was solidly Democrat and it was hard to find a business that would let them use a room for a meeting. After holding an event at one of the local restaurants, the owners informed the Club that they were no longer welcomed there.

Through the years, Katherine Carr, Margaret Shields King, Joyce Lyons Terhes, and Bunny Parish firmly re-established a two party system in Calvert County where the Republicans now boast of having three women's clubs, a men's club, a club at Asbury, and in 2010, elected two State Delegates, five Republican County Commissioners, along with the Sheriff, State's Attorney, Treasurer, Judge of the Orphans Court, and last year a new member to the Board of Education. The County also is in the lead with a Republican majority.

Many of those elected officials joined the celebration including Delegates Tony O'Donnell and Mark Fisher, Commissioners Nutter, Shaw, Slaughenhaupt, and Weems, Treasurer Nova Soper, Judge Leslie Downs, and MD GOP Interim Chair, Diana Waterman. Several members of the Central Committee attended including Chairman Ella Ennis, Bob Arscott, Judy MacWilliams, Frank McCabe, and Rob Reed and Associate Member Catherine Grasso. Past RWLC Presidents were honored including Patt Parker, Judy MacWilliams, Ella Ennis, and Catherine Grasso.

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MD Interim GOP Chair Waterman expressed her congratulations to the RWLC and told her very personal story of how she began her journey in Queen Ann's County from a school volunteer to her current position. She often wondered, if "God has a plan for all of us, sometimes I wish he'd given me a neon flashing sign so that I could know where I'm heading." Waterman hopes to retain her position and is running for the MD GOP Chair position that will be voted upon at the State Convention.

Waterman spoke of the RWLC's achievements and reinforced that today's women make up 53% of the voters in our country. "Women are being seen and heard. You can do more – work at your level. We can do whatever we want – there is no limit. We must make sure they [the Democrats] hear our voices in 2014," said Waterman.

The afternoon party included heavy hors d'oeuvres by MD Country Caterers and delicious wines from Running Hare; each guest received a goodie bag. For more information on the RWLC, visit: [www.rwlc.net](http://www.rwlc.net)

**Pictured**: RWLC Vice President Terri Wolfley, MD Interim GOP Chair Diana Waterman, RWLC President Carolyn Rice

Commissioner Steve Weems, Central Committee Chair Ella Ennis, Delegate Mark Fisher, RWLC President Carolyn Rice, Commissioner Susan Shaw (holding grandson Collin), MD Interim GOP Chair Diana Waterman, Treasurer Nova Soper, Delegate Tony O'Donnell, Commissioner Evan Slaughenhaupt; not pictured but present, Commissioner Pat Nutter and Judge Leslie Downs

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