

NEWS RELEASE



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At the February meeting of the Commonwealth Republican Women's Club in Alexandria Bill Cleveland, Ruth Cleveland, and Fernando Torrez spoke about strategies for building the base of Republican minorities and the importance of serving as Election Officers.

GOP Women Discuss Outreach to Minority Communities with Shared Values

ALEXANDRIA, VA –

The Commonwealth Republican Women's Club (CRWC) of Alexandria focused its February meeting on enhancing communications with minority groups.

Former Alexandria Vice Mayor Bill Cleveland and former city council candidate Fernando Torrez, both Republicans, shared their thoughts on ways to connect with minority communities. Cleveland emphasized the need for voting on values and principles, rather than feelings and emotions, and how that change in perspective will help bring more conservative minorities into the Republican party. He praised the work of the Douglas Leadership Institute (DLI) (<https://www.dlinstitute.org/>), named for Frederick Douglas, which focuses on the concepts of righteousness, justice, liberty, and virtue. DLI is not a political organization, but is engaged in many issues from with a conservative viewpoint.

Torrez, President of NanoTech and a former candidate for city council, provided insights into the concerns and experiences of the local Latino community. He said they share conservative values and are deeply concerned about finding work. Torrez spoke of a program he initiated to teach technical skills to inmates and Latino immigrants to prepare them for joining the local workforce.

Both Cleveland and Torrez agreed that Latino and African-American families place great importance on their faith, family, and work ethic and those priorities reflect the conservatism of the Republican platform.

Ruth Cleveland, a member of the CRWC Board, spoke about her responsibilities and experiences over the last several decades as an Election Officer. Alexandria has a shortage of Republican Election Officers and she encouraged more participation by Republicans to sign up, get trained, and spend Election Day at the polls to help ensure election integrity.

CRWC is the Alexandria chapter of both the Virginia and the National Federation of Republican Women (VFRW and NFRW). CRWC encourages local Republican women of all ages to become more politically involved by helping support and elect GOP candidates to public office at the local, state, and national levels. The club also has a conservative book club and organizes activities to support charitable organizations. More information is available at www.alexandriacrwc.org.

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