



## MARYLAND COLLEGE REPUBLICANS

### Ideas for College Republican Chapters to Remotely Engage Members

Message from the Chairwoman:

As disappointing as it is for our chapters to have to cancel their events planned for the semester, it is unfortunately necessary due to COVID-19. For many of us, College Republicans has become more than a campus club, but a **family**. A community. A place where we belong. A place to learn and grow while forming lifelong friendships. A place where we can freely share our ideas, beliefs, and values without fear of the social stigma many of us face for no reason other than being a Republican on a college campus. A place to develop confidence and acquire leadership skills.

I know that's what College Republicans has done for me over the last four years.

It is for these reasons that I urge our CR chapters to continue their programming remotely this semester. Use this chance to grow your CR family wider while strengthening the existing bonds. Get to know members outside of your usual social circles. **Make sure people know that their family in College Republicans cares about them and hasn't forgotten about them during this time of great uncertainty and isolation.**

1. **Virtual Chapter "Hangouts"**: These could take place during your regular meeting time or at another time that is convenient for your members. I did some quick research on video conferencing options offered by our schools and found the following, though your school may offer other options in addition to these. You can also use Google Hangouts. Keep them informal, use it as a time to chat. I can help you come up with programming ideas.
  - Schools with Zoom: Salisbury University, University of Maryland (College Park), Goucher College, Johns Hopkins University, Loyola University of Maryland, and Mount St. Mary's University
  - Schools with WebEx: Towson University, University of Maryland (Baltimore County)
2. **Work with your scheduled guest speakers**: Ask your guest speakers if they can record a video message for your members. Candidates for MDFCR Executive Positions could also ask to "speak" to clubs this way.
3. **Virtual Book Club**: Kindle is offering a 'Kindle Unlimited' [two month free trial](#) right now and you do not need to own a Kindle device to take advantage of it. For virtual book club, you can hold book club meetings at a scheduled time on a video conferencing platform and have a club member/exec member designated to facilitate discussion. YAF has a list of book ideas that you can review [here](#). Some free book options include:
  - *America: Hope for Change* (Former Maryland Governor Bob Ehrlich, 2013) – Free copy available [online](#) via Open Library, 272 pages.
  - *The Conscience of a Conservative* (Barry Goldwater, 1960) – Free version [online](#) via Open Library, 123 pages.
4. **Participate in Trainings and Webinars**: Leadership Institute is keeping an updated list of trainings and webinars that can be accessed [here](#). The American Conservation Coalition is

organizing “virtual happy hours” for its members ([sign up here](#)) and offering [virtual events](#) with guest speakers.

5. **Host a CR Movie Night:** You can use a Google Chrome ‘[Netflix Party](#)’ browser extension which allows for a chat box. Third-party instructions on how to use the extension can be found [here](#).

Movie ideas available on Netflix:

- *Chappaquiddick*
- *Hell or High Water*
- *Miracle*
- *Mitt*
- *The Iron Lady*
- *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*

TV show ideas available on Netflix:

- *House of Cards*
- *West Wing*

Other Movie and TV show ideas:

- *13 Hours*
- *Act of Valor*
- *American Sniper*
- *Argo*
- *Darkest Hour*
- *Game Change*
- *John McCain: For Whom the Bell Tolls*
- *Rocky IV*
- *Top Gun*
- *Veep*
- *Vice*
- *Zero Dark Thirty*

6. **Brush up on historical speeches:** Several speeches from Ronald Reagan, “the great communicator”, are available online. The Ronald Reagan Foundation’s YouTube page has a lot of his speeches, including the “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!” speech at the [Berlin Wall](#). You can find shorter versions elsewhere. Also, CBS has a short clip about [President Reagan’s one-liners](#). Pick one a week to share with your chapter.
7. **Mobilize your chapter to volunteer:** Governor Hogan has created a website ([Maryland Unites](#)) for ways that Marylanders can safely help each other during the pandemic. Additionally, you can encourage your members to support the “[MDGOP Cares](#)” initiative by buying food from local restaurants who are hurt by the pandemic. Join the Young Republicans in [making calls to the elderly](#).

Remember, social distancing doesn’t mean that it’s time to stop being social. We need to find new ways to connect with each other. I hope these ideas will help your chapter in the coming weeks/months.

Sincerely,

Rosie Wilson, MDFCR Chairwoman