



POTOMAC  
RIVERKEEPER®  
NETWORK

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## POTOMAC RIVERKEEPER NETWORK 2018 GALA CAPITAL SUCCESS

*Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Delivers Powerful Keynote Address  
on Challenges and Achievements of Clean Water Movement*

**Washington, D.C. – November 5** – Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., President of Waterkeeper Alliance and leading environmental advocate, keynoted a fantastic Potomac Riverkeeper Network (PRKN) Law & Water Gala, Nancy Stoner, President of PRKN, announced today. “Bobby is a legendary figure in the struggle to protect our right to a clean environment and for social justice around the world. We were honored that he gave his perspectives on how we all can work to achieve a future of clean water and environmental justice here in the Potomac River watershed and throughout the world,” said Stoner.

Hundreds of clean water supporters turned out on November 1 for a fun night of dinner and dancing at PRKN’s Law & Water Gala. The Gala ensures that PRKN can continue its important work protecting and defending the river that flows through our nation’s Capital and made this fourth annual Gala the most successful ever.

A key to the success was the keynote delivered by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who in his own unique and dynamic way, applauded PRKN’s work and exhorted the attendees to stay dedicated to the cause we all support – swimmable, fishable, and drinkable water across the country and around the world. His appearance was a real honor and the crowd welcomed him enthusiastically.

This year’s Gala was also the opportunity for Nancy Stoner, PRKN’s new president, to meet members and clean water advocates in a night of fun, drinks, dinner, and dancing. “Having grown up on the banks of the Shenandoah and spending my career in the struggle for clean water, to see how our work is supported by so many wonderful and enthusiastic people is incredibly rewarding to me,” said Stoner.

Emily Franc, PRKN’s Vice President of Development and Philanthropy, said “Everyone in that room was a donor, and sponsor and partner in our work. Those are the people we celebrate at the gala. And they make it possible for our Riverkeepers and staff to patrol, investigate and fight environmental crimes. We are so grateful to them.”

The night also featured the presentation of PRKN’s Service to Clean Water awards. This year, the winners were Alexandria Renew Enterprises, former PRKN president Jeff Kelble, and PRKN volunteer pilot Don Sutherland. Alexandria Renew was recognized for its signal partnership with PRKN in resolving long overdue sewage and stormwater discharges into the Potomac which will reduce pollution by 96 percent. Kelble was honored for his leadership in growing PRKN over his tenure and for the energy he shared and the results he produced. Don Sutherland, a volunteer pilot in the Shenandoah Valley, was acclaimed for his unique service to the organization. The photos PRKN staff capture while Don

pilots his plane document devastation, pollution, and improper farming and construction practices are invaluable to PRKN. Without them much of the organization's work enforcing clean water laws would be impossible.

Concluded Stoner, "Law & Water is a wonderful opportunity for our friends and supporters to gather for a night of fun and celebration. Bobby Kennedy is simply an outstanding individual who energizes us for the work that must be done in the months and years ahead. We're honored to have him, and we are also grateful for the support of our members and partners who made the event such a success."

### **About Potomac Riverkeeper Network**

Potomac Riverkeeper Network is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization with three regional Waterkeeper branches: Potomac Riverkeeper, Upper Potomac Riverkeeper, and Shenandoah Riverkeeper. Our mission is to protect the public's right to clean water in our rivers and streams. We stop pollution to promote safe drinking water, protect healthy habitats, and enhance public use and enjoyment.

For more information, visit [our website](#).

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