



THE Civic Voice

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation

Volume 101, Issue 10 June 2017

June Meeting: We have a packed agenda for our final meeting of the 2016-2017 year. First, we have elections of our 2017-2018 officers and Executive Committee. The Virginia Commonwealth legislative delegation presents an overview of their experiences in Richmond, followed by a question and answer period. We get to hear the lighting round of 1773 bills and resolutions, including the budget, and the 40 vetoes by Governor McAuliffe. Please join Senators [Janet Howell](#) (32nd District), [Adam Ebbin](#) (30th District) and [Barbara Favola](#) (31st District); and Delegates [Alfonso Lopez](#) (49th), [Rip Sullivan](#) (48th), and [Mark Levine](#) (45th). Unfortunately, Delegate [Patrick Hope](#) (47th) is out of the area, but many of you were able to speak to him at our recent banquet.

Our new Arlington County Internal Auditor, Dr. Chris Horton, and a member of the Army’s Inspector General’s staff, Chris Essig, provide explanation of their roles in good governance and oversight. Mr. Essig is a long-term resident of Penrose Neighborhood and Arlington County Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission member.

We will discuss and vote on a revised insurance resolution. Although at times discouraging, but informative, the May panel presentation provided additional points and clarifications for the resolution.

May Meeting: The insurance discussion brought out many new audience members. We also received updates for the yard waste program and newly funded Complete Streets program. R&E Committee’s Retirement Plan Information resolution by a vote 26 to 2 with 3 abstentions. If you missed it in person, please check out the digital recording posted via Vimeo channel.

Video Recording of Federation Meetings: Thank you to our Arlington County Career Center students Christian Porter and Daniela Londono for filming, Alex Pageotte for editing, and their Career Center instructor Tom O’Day, for making a [video recording](#) of the May Federation meeting. Member organizations’ yearly dues pay for video recording at significant discount, while also providing students a publicly accessible, professional portfolio. We hope their exposure to various topics grows our next generation of informed civic activists.

GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Hazel Auditorium
Virginia Hospital Center
1701 N George Mason Drive
Arlington VA 22205

Agenda

- 7:00 Meeting called to order
- 7:05 Elections
- 7:15 Virginia Legislative Delegation
- 8:15 Internal Auditor/Inspector General
- 9:00 Resolution Discussion and Vote on Liability Insurance
- 9:20 New Business
- 9:30 Adjourn

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101st Year and Counting

Stefanie Pryor

Serving as President of the Arlington County Civic Federation for the past 2 years provided a wealth of experience and understanding, covering local to national issues. We moved the organization into the next century of involvement, education and betterment of the community. I could not have done it without a multitude of fellow volunteers and activists. We covered government transparency, a topic near and dear to both me and Duke Banks, our Vice President. Jesse Boeding, Peter Oliviere, Dennis Gerrity, and Suzanne Sundburg ensured our banquets looked smooth despite editing, printing, hotel and many other behind the scenes requirements. We added online registration and payments for banquet, in addition to our recent addition of PayPal for yearly membership dues. Small item of using a standard post office box ensures smooth transition between groups of officers, rather than wondering where in the county the bank statement went. We adjusted a few items in our bylaws and helped train other members of the community thanks to Sarah Shortall, with more to come next year for incorporation.

Our regular guests provided informative, in depth sessions that we wished could run even longer. I thank the County Board members Jay Fiset, Libby Garvey, John Vihstadt, Katie Cristol and Christian Dorsey; County Manager, Mark Schwartz; Arlington Public School Board James Lander, Nancy Van Doren, Barbara Kanninen, Reid Goldstein, Tannia Talento, and past member Emma Violand-Sanchez; APS Superintendent Patrick Murphy; Hope Halleck, Bryna Helfer and so many more members of Arlington County staff who came out at night to help organize and present topics ranging from zoning to accessory dwellings, with every letter in between.

Our organization could not operate without our amazing volunteers. Michael Beer and Lois Koontz taught me and our audience so much about schools and issues impacting children. Martha Moore, Jackie Snelling, and Jim Pebley provided years of expertise, support and education

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tion for building heights, helicopters, flight path, zoning, housing, planning, flood plains, and so many more. Joe Pelton lead our 100th anniversary events, bringing together amazing speakers, in addition to his tireless efforts on environmental, community energy and technology. John Seymour stepped into Joe's shoes for the environmental committee, advocating for a broad range of topics. Jesse Boeding and Erika Waxbom kept us on track for timing of speakers and our audience members. Pat Spann stepped into the shoes of our past treasurer, Peter Oliviere, covering almost all of the meetings in between his travels and fun tales. Dennis Gerrity covered every hat on membership, a new electronic tool for membership tracking and communications, meeting notes, and a peek at the rest of the world through his wonderful travels — always arranged around our meeting dates so he could complete his duties. Our Executive Committee members serve as a board of directors, advisors and all around support far beyond attending Sunday evening meetings — about the only time we are all awake and actually available because of all of the obligations, memberships, and other activities. I relied heavily on Terri Prell, Jesse Boeding, Suzanne Sundburg, Lois Koontz, Sarah Shortall, and Alyssa Cowden to provide different views and options. Many more helped via email, phone calls, and side conversations before and after various events. All of us juggle work—whether paid or unpaid, family and other personal obligations. Many also fight through health problems, rarely letting it slow them down or dim their zest for life and helping others. As my term completes, I continue to be amazed at the depth of knowledge, sharing, and support of our organization.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

-Margaret Mead

Arlington County Civic Federation Resolution Concerning Liability Insurance

Whereas, one of the pillars of citizen participation in Arlington County embodied in the “Arlington Way” is encouraging citizens to participate in their civic associations and other civic groups;

Whereas, the Arlington County Civic Federation, throughout its 101 years with its +/-80 member organizations, was formed to facilitate citizen participation in Arlington County;

Whereas, the vast majority of these member organizations are small, nonprofit organizations run by volunteers, with limited organizational structure and/or financial and human resources;

Whereas, Arlington County has considered modifying some county processes — for example, the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee, which would require civic associations to assume responsibilities for certain NC functions including property owner notification, conducting and helping to design neighborhood surveys, maintaining records, etc. — thereby exposing civic associations, their officers and representatives to potential liability;

Whereas, the County specifically asks for the Civic Federation to solicit and provide input and feedback on county processes and policies, thereby increasing potential liability exposure to the Civic Federation, its officers, Executive Committee and member-organization delegates and alternates;

Whereas, in some instances the County may require nonprofits to obtain a Commercial General Liability Insurance policy for \$1 million “Per Occurrence” and \$2 million “Aggregate”;

Whereas, the current +/- \$1,500 cost of insurance premiums for civic associations to obtain Directors and Officers Insurance plus an umbrella Commercial General Liability Insurance policy of \$1 million far exceeds the financial ability of most ACCF member organizations;

Whereas, exposure to potential liability can deter citizens from actively participating in civic organizations and civic life;

Whereas, the County enjoys the financial and practical benefits of the time, effort and expense contributed by volunteers and volunteer organizations, including such efforts as invasive plant removal, Tree Stewards, library volunteers, assistance in the dissemination of community and public notices, environment cleanup events, County fair workers, Medical Reserve Corps, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members, etc.;

Therefore be it resolved, the Arlington County Civic Federation:

1. Asks Arlington County to reconsider requiring civic associations to have Commercial General Liability Insurance Coverage in order to use public property, which could discourage or restrict citizen participation;
2. Asks Arlington County to minimize factors that could increase exposure to civic association members, leaders and representatives in designing or revamping processes and policies that shift liability exposure from indemnified County staff to volunteers.
3. Asks the County to study alternatives to reduce liability and risk to civic organizations and their volunteer members, leadership and representatives when participating in or promoting civic activities.
4. Asks Arlington County to provide volunteer groups and individuals who are contributing their time and efforts for the benefit of the County with indemnification protection so long as those groups and individuals comply with rules established by County policies.

The Executive Committee prepared the resolution because most Arlington County Civic Federation member organizations have limited organizational structure and/or financial and human resources to pay for Commercial Liability Insurance and want to bring this to the attention of the County Board.

Committee members voting in favor of the resolution: Stefanie Pryor, Duke Banks, Dennis Gerrity, Jesse Boeding, and Terri Prell.

Absent – Sarah Shortall, Pat Spann.

Peace Officer's Memorial

Lois Koontz

For the first time since the Police Memorial Statue was dedicated in 2005, a fallen Arlington County law enforcement officer's name will be added in remembrance. Corporal Harvey Snook passed away on January 14, 2016, as the result of cancer contracted while working in the recovery efforts at the Pentagon following the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001. Corporal Snook was a U.S. Army veteran and had served with the Arlington County Police Department for 27 years.

I had the honor to represent the Arlington County Civic Federation at the [Peace Officer's Memorial](#) on May 10, 2017.

Lt. Medairos said ACCF's participation is very meaningful that as we represent every civic association from every corner of the county and other groups, as well. The presentation left few with few dry eyes -- especially when the fallen canine officer's dog started whining after the 21-gun salute.

Executive Committee

Jesse Boeding

The Executive Committee met on Sunday, May 7, 2017 to plan the agenda for June 6, 2017 general meeting and discuss future events.

The Executive Committee will meet on Sunday, June 12, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. at 4805 Wilson Blvd, Arlington VA 22203 (Fire Station 2). This typically is a transition meeting from the current 2016-2017 officers and members of the Executive Committee to the new group elected at our June meeting.

The deadline for newsletter articles is late AUGUST due to the next meeting date of Tuesday, September 5, 2017—the day after Labor Day. Newsletters are published approximately 1 week before the meeting.

Our first meeting of the 2017-2018 ACCF year brings named candidates for the November election for presentations and questions from member organizations' delegates and alternates.

Year-Round Yard Waste Program

John Seymour

At the request of the Civic Federation (2015 Resolution), Erik Grabowski, Chief of the Solid Waste Bureau of the Department of Environmental Services, reported on the one-year anniversary of the new Year-Round Yard Waste Collection Program. That program, begun in April 2016, seeks to divert organic yard waste from incineration at the waste-to-energy facility and collect it for recycling and reuse. Mr. Grabowski reported that more than 90% of eligible households had elected to receive yard waste carts, indicating widespread participation in the program. The County estimates that, of 9,000 total tons of organic waste generated annually, nearly 7,200 tons had been collected for recycling during the first full year—nearly 5 times the volume collected during the prior seasonal organic waste collection process. Arlington's residential recycling rate has increased from 51% to 58% of total waste. Arlington is also beginning to mix its shredded organic waste to create topsoil for use at Arlington's parks. Mr. Grabowski expressed the Solid Waste Bureau's desire to extend the organic waste program to include food waste in future years, provided issues of capacity, cost, and infrastructure availability could first be resolved.

[Engage Arlington County](#)

Arlington County has multiple projects open for feedback—both online and in person. Current topics: property use, car sharing, VRE Crystal City station improvements, public art master plan, Lubber Run Community Center, Neighborhood Complete Streets.

ACCF Scholarships June 14

Jim Pebley and Stefanie Pryor will present for the 15th year of the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) 911 Scholarships on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm at the Kenmore Middle School Auditorium. The [Arlington Community Foundation](#) expects to award over \$500,000 in college scholarships to Arlington high school students this year.

Civic Federation Meetings Schedule and Programs for 2016 - 2017

Meetings are the 1st Tuesday of each month at the NEW TIME of 7 p.m.

June 6: ACCF Elections; Virginia Commonwealth Legislative Panel, Inspector General/Internal Auditor Panel, Vote on Liability Insurance Resolution

June 30/July 1: Fiscal Year Closeout and Officer transition

Tuesday, September 5, 2017:
Candidates' Forum

Arlington County Civic Federation Mission

The ACCF is dedicated to advocacy and community involvement. Its purpose continues to be promoting the general welfare of Arlington County and vicinity in a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-sectional, and non-political manner.

Committees of the Civic Federation

The committees provide the basis for most actions of the Federation. We strongly encourage every delegate and alternate to serve on at least one committee. If you have an interest in any topic please contact the chair. If a chair is not listed, contact our President Stefanie Pryor at stefanie@civfed.org

Committee	Chair(s)	Email Address
Executive	Jesse Boeding	jesse@civfed.org
Awards	Elected at December Membership Mtg	TBD
Audit	Jay Wind	Jay@civfed.org
Bylaws	Sarah Shortall	sarah@civfed.org
Community Relations	Duke Banks	duke.banks@gmail.com
Cultural Affairs	Chair(s) needed	TBD
Emergency	Jackie Snelling	jackie@civfed.org
Environmental Affairs	John Seymour	john@civfed.org
Housing	Chair(s) needed	TBD
Legislation	Ron Haddox	ron@civfed.org
Membership	Chair needed	membership@civfed.org
911 Scholarships	Stefanie Pryor	Stefanie@civfed.org
Nominating	Elected at April 2017 Membership Mtg	
Parks and Recreation	Michael Thomas	michaelthomas@civfed.org
Planning and Zoning	Martha Moore	martha@civfed.org
Public Services	Jackie Snelling	jackie@civfed.org
Revenues and Expenditures	Chair(s) needed	TBD
Schools	Michael Beer	michaelbeer@civfed.org
Special Events	Joe Pelton	joepelton@civfed.org
Transportation	Jerry Auten	jerry@civfed.org