



The Civic Voice

Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation | October 1, 2018 | Volume 103 | Issue 2

Please join us at 6:30 pm in the Hazel Auditorium's lobby to enjoy light refreshments.



Dear Delegates, Alternates, and Presidents of member organizations,

This month we are trying something different – separating the President’s letter from the Newsletter itself. Hence this President’s letter will be issued before the Newsletter is sent out, thereby creating two forms of communication. Let us know what you think as we try new communication mechanisms to better inform the ACCF family.

[Click here to read the full letter.](#)

Oct. 2 Membership Meeting: Panel on County Bond Referendums

The upcoming Civic Federation meeting to discuss the four county bond referendums that will be included on November’s ballot, at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 2 in the Hazel Auditorium at Virginia Hospital Center, 1701 N. George Mason Drive, Arlington. The event is free and open to the public.

“Last month the Civic Federation candidates forum kicked off the campaign season in Arlington, and our October meeting focuses on the other half of the ballot—the bond referendums,” said ACCF Vice President Nicole Merlene, who will moderate the panel. “ACCF’s bond referendum panel is our new look at the campaign season and we believe it will provide useful information to help voters get fully prepared for the general election.” The general election is Tuesday, Nov. 6.

The panel will include the following speakers:

- John Touhy, Former Assistant Treasurer for Arlington County providing financial overview and background information on how to understand financial information concerning bond referendums;
- Katie Cristol, Arlington County Board Chair speaking about the \$74,570,000 transportation bond referendum;
- Lida Anestidou, 2018 Support the School Bond Committee co-chairs, speaking about the \$103,000,00 public schools bond referendum;
- Peter Rousselot, ArlingtonNOW columnist, speaking on the \$37,015,000 community infrastructure bond referendum; and
- Bill Ross, Arlington Parks and Recreation Commission chair, speaking on the \$29,330,000 parks and recreation bond referendum.

The speakers will also answer questions from ACCF Delegates and Alternates. If time permits, members of the public may be able to ask questions.

In addition to the bond referendum panel, the Oct. 2 ACCF meeting also will consider a

resolution on the Parks and Recreation bond referendum, and continuation of the Civic Federation's "open mic" public comment initiative.

Before the start of the meeting, Member Organizations will have an opportunity to pay 2018-19 dues (\$50), provide Delegate/Alternate contact information, and submit their membership certification form.



Do you know what happens when your organization does not submit its list of Delegates/Alternates and certification of membership by October 31?

You turn into a pumpkin!

The new ACCF bylaws require that all Member Organizations submit contact information for their Delegates and Alternates and certification of their organization membership by Oct. 31 in order for Delegates and Alternates to be allowed to vote at Civic Federation meetings.

The process is easy:

1. Submit the Delegates/Alternates Contact Information
2. Submit the Annual Membership Certification

Just fill out this certification form and send it to accfmembership@gmail.com or send it to ACCF, P.O. Box 42091, Arlington, VA 22204. You also may drop off your Delegate/Alternate contact information and membership certification at the Oct, 2 ACCF meeting. We will also take Member Organization dues (\$50 check or cash) at the ACCF meeting.

Energize Arlington!

ACCF will be collaborating again this year with Arlington County to bring together leaders of our County's civic fabric to discuss solutions to organizational deficiencies that were most prevalent during our brought up during our March President's Round-tables.

They will be held every Thursday evening this October with networking from 6:30-7 pm and programming from 7-8:30 pm.

Dates and topics will include:

- **October 4:** Energizing Neighborhoods: How to spark interest and engagement. Langston-Brown Community Center.
- **October 11:** Improving Communication with Multi-Unit Buildings: Tips on broadening your connections. Walter Reed Community Center.
- **October 18:** Essentials for Community Leadership: Create a toolbox of resources for your leadership team now and in the future. Walter Reed Community Center.
- **October 25:** Networking Happy Hour. New District Brewing Company.

A graphic featuring a blue calculator and a magnifying glass over a document, with the text "FINANCIAL AUDIT" in large white letters centered over the image.

FINANCIAL AUDIT

Everything Adds Up -- You Can Take That to the Bank!

Finding that Civic Federation financial records and books are “kept in accordance with Generally-Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP),” ACCF Delegate Jay Jacob Wind, MBA, PMP, Certified CMMI Examiner, has issued a clean audit letter to Civic Federation for the 2017 - 18 fiscal year.

From his examination of the books, Mr. Wind concluded, among other things:

- All expenditures are backed up with a one-page Expenditure Form identifying payee, expenditure category, date, and amount, which was one of his recommendations after last year's audit;
- All income items and expenditures are correctly recorded in a well-organized Excel spreadsheet;
- Care was taken to follow CivFed's stated and unstated guidelines to document and record transactions completely and accurately; and
- The Operating Statement . . . was prepared in accordance with GAAP and accurately presents CivFed's financial position at the beginning of the fiscal year, incomes and expenditures through the course of the fiscal year, and financial position at the end of the fiscal year.

The [2017-18 Operating Statement](#) shows income from dues and the CivFed banquet was \$12,705.27. Of particular note, the 2018 ACCF Banquet finished \$1,311.08 in the black. ACCF received dues from 81 organizations.

Expenditures in 2017-18 totaled \$16,809.34. Those expenditures included \$4,732.50 in one-time legal services to incorporate under the Virginia Nonstock Corporation Act, paid from the CivFed savings account. Communication costs, including website maintenance and Constant Contact (email service), accounted for the largest operational and administrative costs (\$2,979.11).

ACCF finished the fiscal year with a combined checking and savings balance of \$22,022.89, \$5,873.37 in the checking account and \$16,809.34 in savings. The ACCF Board of Directors voted at this July meeting to put \$10,000 from the savings account into a certificate of deposit that yields a higher interest rate.

The Civic Federation thanks Jay for conducting the audit on the 2017-18 treasury records, his second year conducting such a review.

Update on Incorporation and Bylaws

It's Official—We are Arlington County Civic Federation, Inc.

The Civic Federation's efforts to incorporate under the Virginia Nonstock Corporation

Act (VNCA) came to fruition on September 10. On that date the Virginia State Corporation Commission certified the incorporation of the Arlington County Civic Federation! Among other things, incorporation provides indemnification for ACCF officers and directors from personal liability for CivFed debts or obligations and allows CivFed to purchase insurance on behalf of its officers, directors, volunteers and agents. View the certificate [here](#).

CivFed's incorporation and adoption of new Bylaws go hand in hand. In anticipation of incorporation, Delegates approved new Bylaws at the June Annual meeting that comply with the VNCA. For instance, the Bylaws establish new meeting quorum and notice requirements that are consistent with VNCA regulations.

The old Bylaws were changed considerably in order to be in compliance with the State Non-Stock Corporation Act. There were changes to six Articles (Name, Object, Members, Officers and Elections, Meetings, Executive Committee). In addition, several sections of the old By-Laws were intentionally not incorporated into the new By-Laws. These missing sections will be addressed through Board Resolutions in the months ahead, including Parliamentary Authority, Conflicts of Interest Policy, and procedural and process rules.

Some progress has been made on adopting these Board Resolutions. In September, the Board passed a Board Resolution to establish the committees, most which were included in the old By-Laws. The President has said until the changes and reauthorizations are completed the ACCF will use best practices until the Board Resolutions are in place.

A small group, including Board members who were on the Bylaws Subcommittee will be working on developing procedural and process rules for Board consideration and approval. If you are interested in participating in this group, please contact duke@civfed.org or come to the Board meeting at 6:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct, 7 at Fire Station 2 where this topic will be discussed.

Resolution in Support of the Park Bonds

To view the resolution as a PDF, [click here](#)

Proposed resolution to Arlington County Civic Federation for consideration on Tuesday, October 2, 2018

Whereas, Arlington's parks and recreation facilities add to the quality of life and property values; and

Whereas, a healthy urban forest produces oxygen, sequesters and stores carbon dioxide, removes pollution (ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and particulate matter), reduces rainwater runoff, and lowers building energy consumption; and

Whereas, according to Arlington County's Department of Environmental Services, regulated development activity is adding an average of nearly nine acres of impervious surfaces to Arlington per year, and 45 percent of Arlington is currently paved with impervious surfaces; and

Whereas, Arlington County's Open Space Policy endorses the following principles:

- Open Space – Arlington County shall insure, for this and future generations, the provision of an adequate supply of beneficial open space which is safe, accessible and enjoyable and take the necessary steps to protect, enhance and acquire open space to meet these needs.
- Acquisition – The County shall give high priority to preserving, enhancing and expanding public open space assets, with particular attention to the protection of important, threatened natural and heritage resources and the securing of open space throughout the County.
- Recreational, Natural and Heritage Resources – Arlington County shall insure the best utilization of parks and recreation facilities. The County shall preserve appropriate land areas in a natural state to conserve ecological resources, protect environmentally and historically significant areas and carefully maintain active and passive recreation areas and open space in neighborhoods and metro corridors; and

Whereas, Arlington County's 2016 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey showed that:

- Arlington households rate trails and natural areas & wildlife habitats as the types of outdoor parks and recreation facilities most important to them;

- Arlington households rate hiking trails and natural areas & wildlife habitats as the types of outdoor parks and recreation facilities for which there is the most unmet need;
- The outdoor facilities that are rated as the highest priorities for investment are:
 - Hiking Trails
 - Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitats
 - Paved, Multi-Use Trails

Whereas, the Arlington County Park and Recreation Commission June 19, 2018 letter to the County Board, “PRC Comments on Proposed FY 2019-2028 CIP” calls for “more of a balance between casual space and programmed space uses” (letter attached);

Whereas, the November 2018 ballot has a question asking if Arlington County shall issue \$30,330,000 in bonds to finance the cost of various capital projects for local parks & recreation,

Therefore,

Be it resolved that the Arlington County Civic Federation

Supports the parks and recreation bond issue and encourages all voters to vote yes; at the same time that it urges the Arlington County Board to:

implement a park land acquisition policy and use park bond revenues to achieve park land

acquisition of at least three acres per year on average over the next ten years; and

use parks and recreation bond financing only for capital improvements with a useful lifetime longer than the bonds’ maturity period; and

not use money raised from the sale of parks and recreation bonds to fund the destruction of mature trees or the replacement of natural areas with impervious surfaces.

*See [PDF version](#) for footnote references and copy of PRC letter

Candidate Forum Recap!

The September candidate forum crowd appeared to be a record-breaker! We undoubtedly have some of the candidate campaigns to thank for that, and it certainly made for a lively crowd. Seeing that level of enthusiasm and interest, while gratifying, suggested the need for changes going forward.

We are grateful to each of the candidates and their campaign staff who worked with us leading up to the event and who maintained good humor and decorum throughout.

The Forum is more introduction than debate, but we were all disappointed that the forum didn’t allow for as many questioners as we had. Because the candidates had agreed to and prepared for the prearranged format, we did not feel we could change it at the last minute. We’ve heard lots of suggestions on ways to improve the forum, so many thanks to those who offered feedback. We have hesitated to take away the direct voice of delegates, but will certainly have some alternative plans should attendance and interest dictate next year!

Fortunately, Civic Federation also offers the less formal opportunity to mingle with the candidates during the half hour reception preceding the meeting. We will continue to facilitate both formal and informal engagement as we do for all of our invited speakers. We invite Delegates/Alternates and Member Organizations to give us their recommendations for how we can make the ACCF Candidates Forum even better in the future.

Legislative Delegation to Discuss Priorities, Wants to Hear Ideas from ACCF

The legislative delegation representing Arlington in the Virginia General Assembly will

discuss and answer questions about their priorities and legislative proposals for the 2019 session at the Nov. 14 ACCF meeting. The delegation will also hear and discuss the legislative priorities of ACCF, its members and Member Organizations at the meeting.

ACCF Delegates and Alternates will have an opportunity to ask questions of the Arlington legislative delegation. If time permits, the public may be able to ask questions.

The delegation is pushing hard to meet the Dec. 3 deadline for pre-filing drafts of legislation with Legislative Services. The Virginia General Assembly opens its 2019 session on Wednesday, Jan. 9.

The ACCF Legislation Committee needs your help for this program

The Committee wants to hear from you about what issues ACCF and the Legislation Committee should place on its priority list for 2018-19 and raise them with the Arlington delegation. Please send your ideas and recommendations to Legislation Committee Chair Ron Haddox at ron@ciufed.org by Friday, Oct. 12.

Member Organization Candidate Forums

Several Member Organizations will hold their own candidate forums.

Yorktown Civic Association will host an Arlington County Board candidates forum with John Vihstadt and Matt De Ferranti at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 1, at Yorktown High School.

The North Rosslyn Civic Association and Radnor/Ft. Meyer Heights Civic Association are cosponsoring a candidates night on **Tuesday, October 9** at the Belvedere Condominium Party Room. The event will start at 7 pm. The Belvedere is at 1600 N Oak Street, Arlington.

Columbia Heights Civic Association will host a County Board Candidate Debate at 7 p.m., **Monday, Oct. 15**, at the Walter Reed community Center, South 16th Street and Walter Reed Drive.

The Arlington League of Women Voters (LWV) will hold two candidates forums in October. On **Oct. 17**, Arlington LWV, together with the Fairfax and Falls Church LWV, will hold will hold forum with 8th Congressional District candidates Rep. Don Beyer and Thomas Oh at 7 p.m., at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7439 Bath Street, Springfield, VA. On **Oct. 25**, Arlington LWV hosts a second forum and the County Board candidates at 7 p.m., at Arlington Mill Community Center.

September Membership Meeting Minutes

Secretary Maureen Coffey noted that we reached a quorum, and President Duke Banks gave a brief introduction, thanking Virginia Hospital Center for their space and providing their contact information for questions and comments on the expansion project. Duke also highlighted last year's 11 Civic Federation All-Stars and the 13 with perfect attendance. Vice President Nicole Merlene called the meeting to order at 7 pm, and thanked Arlington Independent Media (AIM) for filming.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Sarah Shortall reminded those in attendance that membership verification forms must be submitted by October 31. Organizations that do not submit their membership forms, including a verification of 20 members and their list of delegates and alternates, will not be able to vote.

Vice-President's Report: Vice President Nicole Merlene gave an overview of the strategic planning process that the Board of Directors undertook at our August meeting. She introduced one of the results of this process, which is the addition of an open mic session to the end of meetings. Each delegate or alternate will get 30 seconds to provide productive comments.

Candidate Forum: Vice Chair Lois Koontz introduced the candidate forum. AIM provided raw footage of the forum, available at our website CivFed.org, and will provide an edited version in the coming weeks.

County Board Candidates: Matt de Ferranti and John Vihstadt

- Each candidate gave brief opening remarks
- Questions asked focused on the development of Lee Highway; why they were each running; and increasing the accessibility of voting in Arlington County.
- Each candidate gave a closing statement

School Board Candidates Barbara Kanninen and Audrey Clement:

- Each candidate gave brief opening remarks
- Questions asked focused on the Mongolian School and rising facilities costs; how Arlington Public Schools (APS) can protect the environment and tree canopy; the school construction costs report and the rising cost of APS; and the re-segregation or lack of diversity in some APS schools.
- Each candidate gave a closing statement

US Congress, Virginia's 8th District Candidates Don Beyer and Thomas Oh:

- Each candidate gave brief opening remarks
- Questions asked focused on the separation policy at the border; the ways that the tax burden has been shifted to local and state taxes and how to meet needs with fair allocation; and the potential threat to democracy that is posed by the current Presidential Administration.
- Each candidate gave a closing statement

Open Mic: This meeting's open mic featured a guided topic: how can the Civic Federation better help its member organizations? Feedback received included: helping civic associations with bylaws/incorporation; better sharing with the community as a whole what the organization is doing; listen more directly to member organizations; bridging the gap between PTAs and the Federation; provide greater opportunity for the civic association presidents to interact, present interests or concerns; create and share best practices; shift demographics to be more reflective of Arlington County; provide more online options; give space to non-civic association member organizations; reach out to organizations rather than expecting them to come to the Federation on their own; focus on non-voting communities to provide an advocacy outlet; and have a clear vision on what the Federation can provide for member organizations.

Next Meetings: Board of Directors will meet on September 9th, 6:30 pm at the fire station. The next general membership meeting will be October 2nd.

Resolution in Support of Parks and Recreation Bond Fund: Jay Wind presented a resolution in support of the Parks and Recreation Bond Fund and answered questions on the change from \$29,330,000 to \$30,330,000 which occurred because the County Board increased it during their meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

— ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION —

UPCOMING EVENTS

— 2018 - 2019 —

Oct. 2: General Membership Meeting, Virginia Hospital Center, 6:30 pm

- Bond Referendum Panel
- Voting on Parks Bond Resolution

Oct. 7: Board of Directors Meeting, Arlington County Fire Station 2, 6 pm

Nov. 14: General Membership Meeting, Virginia Hospital Center, 6:30 pm

- Legislative Panel featuring all of the Arlington County representatives to Richmond

Tenant-Landlord Commission: The Tenant-Landlord Commission meets at 7:00 PM on **October 10** in the Azalea Room at 2100 Clarendon Blvd. Comprised of tenant, landlord and public interest representatives the commission hears grievances and facilitates disputes between tenants and landlords and advises the County Board on policy and programs. Public comment is welcome.

NCAC: The Neighborhood Conservation Advisory will meet from 7:30 pm on **October 11** in the Navy League Building at 2300 Wilson Blvd. For information about this meeting here is a link to the NCAC [website](#).

Transportation Commission: The Transportation Commission's September meeting will be held on **October 4**, starting 7:30 p.m. at the Ellen M. Bozman Government Center in Courthouse.

Planning Commission: The Planning Commission's June meeting will be held on **October 10**, starting 7:00 pm at the Ellen M. Bozman Government Center in Courthouse.

Housing Commission: The Housing Commission's September meeting will be held on Monday, **October 11** starting 7:00 p.m. at the Ellen M. Bozman Government Center in Courthouse.

Arlington County Board: The County Board's September meeting will be held on Saturday, **October 20**, starting 8:30 a.m. Click here for this meeting's [agenda](#) a few days before June 16 The Board Recessed Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 19, starting at 3:00 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission: The Parks and Recreation Commission will hold a meeting starting at 7:00 pm on **October 23**, in the Azalea Room in 2100 Clarendon Blvd. Click here for this meeting's [agenda](#) a few days before the meeting.

Officers and Committees

2018-2019 Officers and Executive Committee Members

President Duke Banks (duke@civfed.org)

Vice President Nicole Merlene (nicole@civfed.org)

Secretary Maureen Coffey (maureenc@civfed.org)

Treasurer Sarah Shortall (sarah@civfed.org)

Executive Committee Vice Chair Lois Koontz (lois@civfed.org)

Executive Committee Member Rick Epstein (rick@civfed.org)

Executive Committee Member Alexandra Bocian (alexandrab@civfed.org)

Information on committee structure and chairs will be provided in the November newsletter. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Duke at duke@civfed.org

Parking at the Virginia Hospital Center

Remember to park in the **B/Gold** Garage. On Civic Federation meeting nights, the gates of the **B/Gold** Parking Garage, will be open, and there will be no charge for parking there. The **B/Gold** Parking Garage is located under the

1635 Medical Office Building. If you use another lot, you will have to pay the regular rate to exit.

