



The Civic Voice

Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation | December 11, 2018 | Volume 103 | Issue 4

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



[Click here to read the December President's letter.](#)

AMAZON TOPS AGENDA FOR DECEMBER ACCF MEETING

The Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) will kick off its Dec. 11 membership meeting with the issue that is on tip of everyone's tongue – AMAZON. Victor Hoskins, Arlington County Economic Development Director, and Stephen, Moret, CEO of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, will present information to ACCF members as to the terms of the local and state incentive packages and other terms that have been provided to Amazon and led to its decision to establish a second headquarters in Arlington and Alexandria.

The meeting, which starts at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 11 in the Hazel Auditorium at Virginia Hospital Center, 1701 N. George Mason Dr., is open to the public. Following the presentation ACCF members will have an opportunity to ask questions.

"These are exciting times with Amazon rating Arlington 'Prime,'" said ACCF President Duke Banks. "The Civic Federation wants to keep members informed so they, and ACCF, can be fully engaged throughout this major project."

In addition to the Amazon presentation, the ACCF meeting will feature Arlington County Manager Mark Schwarz and Arlington Schools Superintendent Patrick Murphy to discuss and answer member questions about a variety of County issues, including budget and school construction. After ACCF delegates and alternates have asked questions, if time permits, the public also may be permitted to ask questions.

Other agenda items include electing members to serve on the 2019 CivFed Awards Committee and continuation of ACCF's "Open Mic" initiative.

Because of the addition of the panel on the Amazon second headquarters to this meeting and time constraints that have prevented adequate committee review of three resolutions (decriminalization of low-dose possession of marijuana, preservation of the tree canopy at Upton Hill Regional Park, the transparency of the Public Spaces Master Plan introduced at the November membership meeting, the ACCF Board of Directors voted to postpone consideration of those resolutions until the Jan. 8 special meeting.

Agenda:

- 7 pm: Call to Order
 - 7:10 Selection of Awards Committee
 - 7:15 Amazon Panel - Victor Hoskins, Arlington Economic Development Director, and Stephen Morlet, CEO of Virginia Economic Development Partnership
 - 8:00 Visit with County Manager Mark Schwartz and School Superintendent Dr. Patrick Murphy
 - 8:45 Old Business
 - 8:50 Open Mic
 - 8:55 New Business
 - 9:00 Adjournment
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The County is hosting a series of educational events on Amazon:

- December 6, 6:30 pm: [Virtual Learning Series on Amazon: Transportation](#)
 - December 17, 7 pm: [In-Person Community Listening Session on Amazon](#)
 - December 19, 6:30 pm: [Virtual Learning Series on Amazon: Schools, Higher Education and Workforce](#)
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 - January 12, 6:30 pm: [Virtual Learning Series on Amazon: Housing](#)
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ACCF TO GIVE MEMBERS 2 FOR PRICE OF 1

The Arlington County Civic Federation will start off the new year by offering members a good deal -- two for the price of one, that is, two January membership meetings—Jan. 2 and 8. Both meetings are free and open to the public.

At the Wednesday, Jan. 2 ACCF meeting, the Arlington County Board will discuss and answers questions about their priorities for 2019 and budget issues. The normal time, date and place of the membership meeting is being changed to coincide with the County Board's annual New Year's organizational meeting that day scheduled for 6PM. The ACCF meeting will start at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 2 in the County Board Room -- 3rd Floor, 2100 Clarendon Blvd. At 7 p.m., the County Board will host a reception for the public to include Civic Federation members. (Free parking for the meeting will be provided in the County garage.) All Delegates are encouraged to attend the County Board's organizational meeting beginning at 6 pm as a prelude to the CivFed meeting at 7:30 pm.

Following the County Board's presentation at the Jan. 2 meeting, Civic Federation Delegates and Alternates will have an opportunity to ask questions of and make comments to the County Board. If time permits, members of the public also may ask questions. The meeting agenda also includes continuation of CivFed's "Open Mic" initiative.

At 7 pm, Tuesday, Jan. 8. ACCF will hold a special meeting to continue discussion of the establishment of a second headquarters of part of Amazon in Arlington and Alexandria. At the Nov. 18 Board of Directors meeting, the Directors voted unanimously to also hold a special meeting in January. "There are so many questions and opinions about Amazon's coming to Arlington," said ACCF President Duke Banks. "that the Board believes a second meeting is necessary to give members an adequate opportunity to get information and voice their concerns and questions about the impact of this second headquarters."

At the special meeting, members also will consider and vote on resolutions addressing decriminalization of marijuana, tree preservation at Upton Hills Regional Parks and the transparency question concerning the draft of Arlington County's Public Spaces Master Plan, also called "Plan for Our Places and Spaces (POPS)." The presenters of the marijuana and Upton Hills resolution requested deferring consideration of those resolutions. The Board voted to postpone consideration of the transparency question of

the Public Spaces Master Plan resolution to the January special meeting because time constraints over the Thanksgiving holiday did not provide adequate time for committees to review and update the proposed resolution.

RESOLUTIONS ARE ON THE MARCH

The Civic Federation has had a productive year thus far when it comes to resolutions. At the Oct. 2 ACCF meeting members voted (18 to 15) to support the Parks referendum on the November ballot. At the Nov. 13 CivFed meeting, members approved a resolution (40 – 4) urging the General Assembly to revise the Virginia’s civil forfeiture laws. In addition, at that meeting three resolutions were introduced:

- [Decriminalization of marijuana](#),
- [Prevention of tree destruction in Upton Hills Regional Park](#), and
- [Lack of Transparency and Methodology Issues Undermine County's 20 Year Park Master Planning Efforts for the Public Spaces Master Plan \(PSMP\) or "POPS"](#).

Although ACCF’s longstanding rules (former Standing Rule 3) specify those resolutions are to be considered and voted on at the membership meeting following their introduction, which would be Dec. 11, they are being postponed until a special CivFed meeting on Jan. 8. The Legislation Committee requested delaying consideration of decriminalization of the marijuana resolution in order to meet and discuss it with Commonwealth Attorney Theo Stamos and Arlington Police Chief Murray Farr.

Similarly, Barbara Wien, of Bluemont Civic Association, requested deferring until January the resolution to preserve trees in Upton Hills Regional Park in order to update it and incorporate suggestions from the Parks and Recreation and Environmental Affairs Committees. Finally, the Board voted to postpone consideration of the transparency question concerning the Public Spaces Master Plan resolution because time constraints over the Thanksgiving holiday did not provide adequate time for committees to review and respond to or prepare reports on the resolution.

To ensure that ACCF members have the full range of views and positions when they consider and vote on a resolution, the committees will work with the presenters to bring opposing points of view to the table, include organizing panels when possible to reflect these different viewpoints.

The Best Job I Never Got Paid For

Submitted By: Lois Koontz

Perhaps like you, I am a parent who has traveled a familiar path of volunteering at the elementary school in the classrooms and with the PTA at school-based activities. I first looked beyond my child’s school when the plan to build a much-needed elementary school in South Arlington fell through. I looked around to figure out how I could help solve this problem.

I didn’t even realize I was getting hooked with a new addiction. My middle-schooler pointed it out to me when she complained that I went to meetings every night! And that doesn’t count the endless times speaking with neighbors, friends and acquaintances (picture my daughter’s eye-roll here) as we go about daily activities.

What has kept me going is the privilege to work alongside expert professionals and community volunteers who are all committed to complex and important civic work. I have found a real and diverse community of people who are dedicated to doing right by our children, our community, and our schools. I continue to learn from the experts, but also from the individuals alongside me who have very different challenges. I’m very proud of this complex and important work.

I started as a neighborhood representative on a working group looking at new sites for an

elementary school. I learned fast about how decision making works, and made important connections within Arlington that have since helped in my efforts to improve our community.

Over time, I have broadened my attention, and I serve today as the Acting Chair of the Civic Federation's Board of Directors. What I like about Civic Federation is that while anyone can weigh in with the County and schools on every issue, by working together with others with varying concerns and expertise, we can bring a different level of rigor and commitment to the process.

It turns out I love working in diverse teams, finding ways for each member to contribute meaningfully towards a mutual goal. My experience has borne out my personal values around diversity and the strength of diverse teams and made me a better leader.

Growing from my child's advocate to a county-wide activist and (on a good day) community facilitator has made me a better citizen. I hope it has also wrought meaningful contributions.

Maybe schools aren't your thing, so why does this matter to you? Whatever your interest, you can pursue it with Civic Federation. You will find good people to learn from and work with.

You can start slow and grow your involvement at your own pace. There are no personal requirements. Already an expert? Please share with your fellow Arlingtonians. Want to explore a possible area of interest? We can use your enthusiasm and talents in many ways in the Civic Federation and on CivFed committees

The one thing I can promise is that you'll get more out of being an active part of this community. Go beyond listening to programs, help create them! Help shape understanding in your chosen domain. We invite you today.

ACCF Budget for 2018/19

Submitted by: Duke Banks, President

In September I submitted a proposed Budget for consideration by our Board of Directors. At the November meeting of the Board, the Budget was approved. [Click here](#) to read the President's Report with the proposed budget, along with the addition of columns to represent the adopted budget. As noted, the initial report was modified to represent the total cost for legal services for incorporation and the impact on our Savings as of October 31, 2018.

Key takeaways I want to share with membership concerning our budget:

- Last year we managed to stay in the black because additional revenues from the banquet covered our deficit in the operating budget.
- Given the over \$14,000 we have in savings, at this time the Board of Directors is reluctant to recommend a dues increase in June (when we are required to inform general membership).
- Our projected operating deficit of \$2,350 is similar to last year where we anticipated a \$2,634 deficit, which did not materialize because of contributions by members of the former Executive Committee.
- A main driver of our increase in costs is D&O insurance and Communication expenses.
- As I stated to the Board of Directors, we are constrained from doing anything new unless we use monies from Savings.

After discussion with the Board, it was agreed that in future budgets we would not reflect Donations for the Teachers Scholarship (a program CivFed helped establish) and the floral wreath for the Peace Officers memorial held in mid-May. Instead we would raise the funds through suggested donations for those attending our annual banquet. This would mean that the banquet invitation would have two lines: one for the banquet, and another for a

donation for these worthy causes. For this year the line item would appear, and funds raised at this year would be the donation we would give the following fiscal year.

We should note that helping CivFed keep costs down is the generosity of the Virginia Hospital Center in allowing us to have our meetings in the auditorium free of charge. Likewise, Adam Henderson (with assistance from Ron Haddox) provide us free webmaster services. If for some reason we needed to pay for meeting space or a webmaster, our costs would escalate.

DOWN TO THE WIRE – ACCF DUES DUE BY DEC. 31

For the 67 Member Organizations that have paid their 2018-19 Civic Federation dues, you can skip this. For the 16 organization that have not paid their dues, your deadline is approaching almost as fast as Christmas. Dues must be submitted by Dec. 31 – just 25 days from now.

The Civic Federation Bylaws state that the Board of Directors shall disqualify any organization and remove its Delegates and Alternates from the rolls if the organization that does not its annual dues by December 31 of each year (ACCF Bylaws, Section 2.03(b)).

To help Member Organizations meet the deadline, the Board of Directors are contacting each of the organizations that have not paid dues as well as those Member Organizations that have not submitted a statement that the organization has at least 20 members and/or provided contact information for its Delegates and Alternates.

Some ACCF members have questioned why ACCF has become such a stickler this year about getting Delegate and Alternate contact information. The simple answer: It's the law. The Virginia Nonstock Corporation Act (VNCA) requires that corporations deliver notice of meetings to each Voting Member and Alternate in accordance with the "delivery" methods authorized by the VNCA. VNCA §13.1-803 defines delivery as any method of delivery used in conventional commercial practice, including mail, hand delivery, commercial delivery and, methods authorized by §13.1-810. That section allows delivery by electronic means, such as email, but only if the Voting Member or Alternate so consents. Finally, VNCA §13.1-842 also allows corporations to deliver meeting notices publishing it in a local newspaper two weeks in a row. So, to avoid having to drop off meeting notices at 320 residences every month, ACCF requires Member Organizations provide contact information for its Voting Members and Alternates, including whether they will accept notice by email.

A PENNY SAVED IS A PENNY EARNED

One of the goals the Civic Federation Board for Directors set this year has been to make the organization's money work harder for its members. To that end, the Board voted to put almost 70% of ACCF's savings into CDs at the Arlington Community Federal Credit Union.

To ensure that ACCF will earn interest income without jeopardizing its ability to access funds, ACCF purchased two 2 CDs – a \$5,000 15-month no penalty CD and a \$5,000 18-month regular CD. The no-penalty CD allows the Civic Federation to close it out without loss of interest should need arise. The two CDs combined are estimated to earn about \$320 during the term. The November Treasurer's Report reflects the purchase of the CDs.

The Board's decision already has paid off. Since purchasing the CDs last month, they have generated almost \$10 in interest whereas the ACCF savings account yielded only \$5.70 for the entire 2017-18 fiscal year.

November Membership Meeting Minutes

Secretary Maureen Coffey noted that we reached a quorum, and Vice President Nicole Merlene called the meeting to order and gave a brief introduction, thanking Virginia Hospital Center and calling the meeting to order. Ms. Merlene also thanked the career center and its students for filming the meeting. The agenda and the consent agenda were both approved unanimously, with no amendments.

Vice-President's Report: Nicole Merlene reported that with the Amazon announcement of the day, the Federation would be shaping the December meeting to address Amazon. She also guided delegates and alternates that were present to be sure to sign in, and encouraged all to participate in the many wonderful committees the Federation has.

Special election: Due to two resignations for personal reasons, the Board of Directors required a special election. The candidates were Mike McMenammin of Maywood, Allen Norton of Bluemont, Sandy Newton of the Women's Club of Arlington, and Takis Karantonis of Columbia Heights. Voting was done by secret ballot. Mike McMenammin and Sandy Newton won, with the two highest vote tallies. Vice-President Nicole Merlene thanked all of the candidates, and encouraged them all to stay involved and consider running for the 2019-2020 Board.

Legislative Panel: Moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Legislative Committee Juliet Hiznay, five of Arlington's seven state legislators participated in a panel on their priorities for the upcoming session. In attendance was Senator Barbara Favola, Delegate Rip Sullivan, Delegate Alfonso Lopez, Senator Adam Ebbin, and Delegate Mark Levine. Questions were asked regarding renewable energy and green tech development; medicaid expansion funding; automatic voter registration; data sharing across localities; energy efficiency; preserving mature trees and the tree canopy; conversion therapy and its legality; redistricting/gerrymandering; and natural gas pipelines in Virginia.

Old Business: Juliet Hiznay, Vice-Chair of the Legislative Committee, presented the Civil Forfeiture resolution once again, this time providing a background report and answering questions from delegates and alternates. After debate, the resolution passed (40-3-5).

New Business: Three resolutions were introduced:

Bluemont Civic Association presented a resolution on saving trees in Upton Park

The Legislative Committee introduced a resolution on decriminalizing marijuana

Delegate Jesse Boeding presented a resolution questioning the methodologies being used in the Public Spaces Master Plan and its affects on transparency.

Nicole Merlene announced our upcoming events, including the subsequent Board of Directors meeting and the December membership meeting, of which the date changed to December 11th.

Open Mic: Delegates received time to comment on issues of concern to them. Brought up at the November meeting were: Amazon employee safety and welfare; the legislative committee's work; Amazon's effect on affordable housing and property taxes; general concerns/worries about the Amazon decision; the need to incorporate a variety of viewpoints into the Civic Federation; questions about Amazon's APS investment; and questions on the re-development of the Harris Teeter on Glebe Road.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30.

MCMENAMIN, NEWTON JOIN ACCF BOARD

At the Nov. 13 Arlington County Civic Federation meeting, members elected Mike

McMenamin and Sandy Newton to fill the two at-large vacancies on the Board of Directors. Mike and Sandy will serve the remainder of the unexpired term, which ends June 30 (ACCF Bylaws Section 3.07(b)).

Many Civic Federation members already know Mike McMenamin as past President of ACCF and a former member of the CivFed Executive Committee. Currently, Mike is a CivFed delegate from the Maywood Community Association, where he previously served as its President. He is a former member of the Arlington County Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee (FAAC) and ran for the County Board. An attorney and small business owner. Mike and his wife, Kristam, have two grown children, Patrick and Riley, who attended Arlington County schools.

Although Sandy Newton may be new to the Civic Federation Board, she is veteran community activist and volunteer. During her 28 years as an Arlingtonian, Sandy has served as President of the Women's Club of Arlington, worked on outreach programs through the Women's Club, and is an ACCF delegate representing the Club. For 22 years Sandy worked at Mount Vernon and before that as an assistant curator at Hillwood Museum.

When Sandy retired, she jumped even further into volunteer work, saying her "daily goal is to accomplish something each day that makes my part of the world just a little bit better." Sandy is weaver and spinner at the Mount Vernon farm site and spinning house. In addition, she volunteers with Meals on Wheels, Arlington House garden, Gulf Branch Nature Center, Ball Seller garden, Thomas Jefferson Middle School garden, Arlington Hospital, Lions Club eye glass center, Arlington Food Assistance Center and Arlington Street People Assistance Network.



Dec. 11: General Membership Meeting, Virginia Hospital Center, 7 pm

- Agenda:

- 7 pm: Call to Order
- 7:10 Selection of Awards Committee
- 7:15 Amazon Panel - Victor Hoskins, Arlington Economic Development Director, and Stephen Morlet, CEO of Virginia Economic Development Partnership
- 8:00 Visit with County Manager Mark Schwartz and School Superintendent Dr. Patrick Murphy
- 8:45 Old Business
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Dec. 16: ACCF BOD Meeting, Fire Station 2, 6:30 pm
Dec. 31: Deadline for Membership Organizations to Pay Dues
Jan 2: General Membership Meeting, Arlington County Board Room, 7:30 pm
Jan. 8: Special Membership Meeting, Virginia Hospital Center, 7 pm
Jan. 13: ACCF BOD Meeting, Fire Station 2, 6:30 pm
Feb. 5: General Membership Meeting, Virginia Hospital Center, 7 pm
Feb. 10: ACCF BOD Meeting, Fire Station 2, 6:30 pm

Does your organization have events to advertise? Email maureenc@civfed.org before the next newsletter deadline for inclusion in the December Civic Voice!

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Tenant-Landlord Commission: The Tenant-Landlord Commission meets at 7:00 PM on **December 12** 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 **December 13** in the Navy League Building at 2300 Wilson Blvd.

Transportation Commission: The Transportation Commission will not meet again until 2019.

Planning Commission: The Planning Commission's will not meet again until 2019.

Housing Commission: The Housing Commission's meeting will be held on Monday, **December 6** starting 7:00 p.m. at the Ellen M. Bozman Government Center in Courthouse.

Arlington County Board: The County Board's meeting will be held on Saturday, **December 15**, starting 8:30 a.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission: The Parks and Recreation Commission will hold a meeting starting at 7:00 pm on **December 18**, in the Azalea Room in 2100 Clarendon Blvd.

2018-19 ACCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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
Acting Board Chair Lois Thomas Koontz -- lois@civfed.org
Board Member Alexandra Bocian – alexandra@civfed.org
Board Member Rick Epstein -- rick@civfed.org
Board Member Mike McMenamin -- mikem@civfed.org
Board Member Sandy Newton -- sandy@civfed.org

2018-19 ACCF MEMBER STANDING COMMITTEES

Banquet – Chair Sandy Newton -- sandy@civfed.org
Bylaws – Chair Allen Norton -- allen@civfed.org
Cultural Affairs – Chair Tina Worden - tk.worden@gmail.com

Emergency Preparedness – Chair Jackie Snelling - jts3147@verizon.net
Environmental Affairs – Chair John Seymour --juliaseymour@att.net
Housing – Chair Eric Brescia -- ericbrescia@civfed.org
Legislation – Chair Ron Haddox -- ron@civfed.org
Membership – Chair Stef Pryor – ACCFMembership@gmail.com
Parks and Recreation – Chair needed
Planning and Zoning – Chair needed
Programming - Chair Nicole Merlene - nicole@civfed.org
Public Relations – Chair Nicole Merlene - nicole@civfed.org
Public Service - Chair Jackie Snelling - jts3147@verizon.net
Revenues and Expenditures – POC Burt Bostwick – burt@civfed.org
Scholarship – Chair Lois Thomas Koontz -- lois@civfed.org
Transportation – Chair Jerry Auten - jerry@civfed.org

Any Delegate, Alternate and member of a Member Organization may participate on any Member Standing Committee (ACCF Bylaws, Section 3.03). Please contact the Committee chair or point of contact if you are interested participating on ACCF Member Committees.

Parking at the Virginia Hospital Center

Delegates, Alternates and others attending Arlington County Civic Federation meetings can **park for FREE in the B/GOLD** garage under the 1635 Medical Office Building at Virginia Hospital Center. Although everyone must take a ticket to enter the B/GOLD garage, the exit gate will be raised when you leave or you can insert your ticket and it will raise. The garage has abundant parking spaces. Please note, parking in any other lot on the Virginia Hospital Center property is not free.

