

Draft Minutes February 5, 2019 ACCF Membership Meeting

Call to Order: Federation President Banks noted the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. President Banks led the meeting in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting's agenda was approved as submitted and the minutes for the December 11, 2019, the January 2, 2019 and the January 8, 2019 Membership Meetings were approved as submitted. The January Treasurer's report was filed subject to audit.

New Delegate: President Banks welcomed new delegate Jennifer Davis representing the Fairlington Citizens Association.

Member Organizations All-Stars: President Banks announced that the following member organizations had two or more delegates and/or alternates present at the February Membership Meeting: AAUW Arlington; Alcovia Heights Citizens Association; Arlington East Falls Church Civic Association; Arlington Forest Citizens Association; Arlington Gay and Lesbian Alliance; Arlington Little League; Arlington Tree Action Group; Aurora Highlands Civic Association; Center for Urban Education; Bluemont Civic Association; Clarendon-Courthouse Civic Association; Columbia Heights Civic Association; Crystal City Civic Association; Friends of Aurora Highlands Parks; Glencarlyn Citizens Association; Lyon Village Citizens Association; Madison Manor Citizens Association; Maywood Community Association; Old Glebe Civic Association; Penrose Civic Association; Rock Spring Civic Association; Shirlington Dogs II; Waverly Hills Civic Association; Woman's Club of Arlington; Woodmont Civic Association.

Career Center Video Recording of this Meeting: President Banks thanked Career Center students Seb Duall, Campbell Hamilton-Howard and Emilio Tonelli; Duane Loomis a technician with the Career Center TV production program; and Career Center instructor Tom O'Day for making a video recording of this Federation meeting.

2019 ACCF Banquet and Awards Ceremony: President Banks announced that the 103rd Civic Federation Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony would be held from 6 PM to 10 PM on Friday, April 5, in the Koran Room at Patton Hall, the former Officer's Club of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. It will feature Col. Kimberly Peeples, post commander, as the program speaker. Meals would be priced at \$45 until March 10th and \$65 thereafter. Those registered by March 10th will receive a pass that will give them access to the post as guests of the commandant. President Banks thanked Sandy Newton for her efforts as chair of the Banquet Committee.

Board Officers and 2019-2020 Nominating Committee: President Banks reported that Federation Vice President Nicole Merlene and Secretary Maureen Coffey had resigned. On behalf of the Federation he thanked them for their contributions. Instead of electing replacements, the Board decided to create the 2019-2020 Nominating Committee at this meeting with the charge to have a slate of officers and board members ready by the Federation's April meeting. Michael Beer and Dennis Gerrity offered to serve on the nominating committee.

A Conversation with the Arlington County School Board: President Banks welcomed members of the Arlington County School Board: Reid Goldstein, Chair; Tannia Talento, Vice Chair; Barbara

Kanninen, Member; Monique O'Grady, Member; Nancy Van Doren, Member. They answered the following questions submitted in advance by the Schools Committee:

- 1. How can we improve citizen input (and the perceived experience) to the School Board?
- 2. What lessons have we learned from the Elementary redistricting process and how can we apply that to the follow-on redistricting of 2020?
- 3. Is there anything the SB can do to alleviate the differential between PTA budgets and academic enrichment opportunities such as field trips to Jamestown, model UN, international exchanges, science fairs or other with incremental cost at different schools? In what (non-boundary) ways can APS address inequities?
- 4. Are there additional resources that can be sent to Title 1 schools with very high percentages of children populations who are "free and reduced lunch"?
- 5. Given the \$43 million deficit in next year's budget and assuming the central administration will be cut first, if you had to choose between increasing class size or freezing teacher salaries (rather than doing both) which would you prioritize?
- 6. How can the board re-structure the ACI so that it can contemplate academic issues holistically rather than by subject?

Delegates and alternates at the meeting asked about Arlington's Title 1 schools; Stratford School construction progress; the \$43 million APS deficit forecast for FY 2020; tax increase to cover the \$43 million APS deficit; how will the committee that renamed the WL School be acknowledged; free and reduced lunches; Carlyn Springs as an immersion school; returning community centers to school use; reduced fee lunch debt.

ACCF Housing Committee: Eric Brescia, chair of the ACCF Housing Committee, gave a brief summary of issues his committee will be dealing with this year. He invited interested delegates and alternates to participate in his committee's meetings.

Legislative Committee Resolution on Marijuana Decriminalization: Andy Ludwig, a delegate representing NoVa Norml and a member of the Legislative Committee, presented a report on a resolution recommending decriminalization of marijuana possession prepared by the Legislative Committee. This resolution states in relevant part that the *Arlington County Civic Federation strongly supports the efforts of the Arlington delegation to secure passage of legislation decriminalizing marijuana possession; and further that the Arlington County Civic Federation urges the General Assembly to decriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana possession by adults so that, at a maximum, only civil penalties with reasonable fines are assessed; and further that the Arlington County Civic Federation urges the Arlington County Board to include marijuana decriminalization as part of its legislative package until possession of small amounts of marijuana is no longer a crime in Virginia.*

Questions from delegates and alternates included: What is a small amount of marijuana? What are other jurisdictions in the area doing about decriminalization? What would decriminalization mean for immigrants arrested for possession of small amounts of marijuana?

A motion to approve the Legislative Committee's Marijuana Decriminalization Resolution was approved by a vote of 37 ayes, 1 nay, and 2 abstentions.

New Business

Legislative Committee Resolution on Motor Vehicle Tax Relief for Disabled Veterans: John O'Hara, a delegate representing the Arlington East Falls Church Civic Association and a member of the Legislative Committee, introduced a resolution recommending motor vehicle tax relief for disabled veterans prepared by the Legislative Committee. This resolution states in relevant part that the *Arlington County Civic Federation recommends the Arlington County Board approve motor vehicle tax relief on one motor vehicle owned by Arlington veterans who have a 100 percent permanent and total disability rating as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs by amending Arlington County Code §27-11-1; and further that the Arlington County Civic Federation recommends the Arlington County Board adopt a reduced motor vehicle tax rate of \$.01 per \$100 assessed vehicle value on one motor vehicle owned by a disabled veteran with a 100 percent permanent and total disability rating, which is like the motor vehicle tax rate Fairfax and Loudoun Counties have approved for disabled veterans.*

Questions from delegates and alternates included: Does the resolution cover commercial vehicles? Are solid estimates of the cost of the software necessary to implement the resolution available? Is the resolution inequitable for vets who don't have a vehicle? Does the resolution cover other disability VA categories?

President Banks said he would refer this resolution to the Legislative Committee and the Revenues and Expenditures Committee.

Open Mic:

Juliet Hiznay said she wanted to make Federation delegates and alternates aware that the trend in criminal justice reform seemed to be bypassing juveniles. She said many of these children had learning disabilities and would benefit more from diversion and services.

Don Gurney said asking panels two or more questions at the same time seem to confuse some panelists. He recommended considering one question at a time, saying that this would improve the quality of panelists' responses.

Karen Rosenblum asked about the status of Old Glebe's request to expand its boundaries.

February Board of Directors Meeting: President Banks announced that the February Board of Directors Meeting would be held at 6:30 PM on February 10 at Fire Station 2, 4805 Wilson Blvd.

March 2019 Membership Meeting: President Banks announced that the March 5, 2019 Membership Meeting will be held in the Hazel Auditorium at the Virginia Hospital Center. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. The meeting's highlights will include a WMATA presentation with Christian Dorsey and a representative of the Federal City Council and a discussion and vote on a resolution recommending personal property tax relief for disabled veterans.

March Newsletter Deadline: President banks reminded the meeting that February 21 was the deadline for the March newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Dennis Gerrity, Secretary