



The Civic Voice



Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation | June 16, 2020 | Volume 104 | Issue 10



JUNE

VIRTUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2020
6:30-9:00 PM
VIA ZOOM

FEATURING:

Dr. Francisco Durán,
APS Superintendent

&

Arlington County Board
Special Election Candidates:
Susan Cunningham, Independent Nominee
Bob Cambridge, Republican nominee
Takis Karantonis, Democratic nominee



The Arlington County Civic Federation is the civic voice of Arlington providing a forum for civic groups to discuss, debate, inform, advocate and provide oversight on important community issues, on a non-partisan basis.



**Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
Arlington Public Schools**

Dr. Durán has a diverse background in education spanning 26 years, including top-level leadership and superintendent experience in a variety of large urban school divisions with culturally diverse populations. [Read more.....](#)



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Candidates Forum Arlington County Board - Special Election



Takis Karantonis



Susan Cunningham



Bob Cambridge

On July 7, Arlington County is having a special election for the County Board vacancy due to the untimely passing of Erik Gutshall.

Candidates:
Takis Karantonis, Democratic nominee
Susan Cunningham, Independent nominee
Bob Cambridge, Republican nominee

Here are the candidates:

Takis Karantonis (D)
Bob Cambridge (R)
Susan Cunningham (I)

[Here is how the Forum will be organized.](#)

June 16, 2020 Virtual ACCF Membership Meeting

The June 16,2020 ACCF Membership Meeting will be conducted on a virtual basis using Zoom, a video conferencing app. Delegates; Alternate Delegates; others associated with member organizations; and the public may attend the meeting if they register for the meeting on June 16 between 6:15PM and 7PM.

Registration for the meeting requires using Zoom's sign-in process. Please use your first and last name as your signin name so that we can track delegate participation.If you are not familiar with Zoom, here is a link for infomation and instructions on [how to register and participate in CivFed's June 16 Membership Meeting](#).

Civic Federation June 2020 Virtual Membership Meeting

June 16, 2020 06:30 PM Eastern Time

Use this link to join the June Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84047200229?pwd=WHFZM1ViZGRpbkZoaU9PQ2Y5amJGQT09>

You can join the meeting by logging onto Zoom's website and entering
Meeting ID: 816 1299 6398 Password: 022699

You can join the meeting by calling **+1 301 715 8592** and use this information to answer prompts: **Meeting ID: 840 4720 0229 Password: 075542**

There is also a one-tap mobile option:

+16465588656,,84047200229#,,1#,075542#

Agenda

June 16, 2020 ACCF Membership Meeting

6:30 Sign-in opens

7:00 Call to Order

- Pledge

7:10 Candidate Forum

- County Board special election candidate forum
- Questions

8:00 APS Superintendent Program

- Dr. Francisco Durán, APS Superintendent
- Questions

8:30 Awards

9:00 Officer Elections

- Officer Elections
- Old Business
- Minutes
- New Business
- Public Services committee chair, stormwater management

9:30 Adjourn

President's Corner

The last few months have been a time of unprecedented turmoil in our country. Widespread protests against police brutality towards people of color have followed a deadly pandemic and months of lockdown. Each of these have taken a tremendous toll on our collective and individual well-being- economic, mental and spiritual.

This last month has been a sobering reminder to many people of privilege, myself included, that even though we live in a free society, with a Constitution that guarantees our rights, many people do not experience the freedom and free expression that is our right as humans and as Americans. There has been a new understanding of the disproportionate impact on people of color of many of society's ills, most notably of course, the blatantly unjustified use of force, particularly deadly force.

It is tempting to feel that society is cracking at the seams, to demonize a particular group of people as responsible for the current issues; whether that group is the police, the demonstrators, opportunistic looters, the government, the left, the right, other nations, other ethnicities- all the many ways we can identify something or someone as 'other'.

It is times like these when the importance of connection and community have become paramount to our survival. We have seen many examples of neighbors helping neighbors in the community- to bring food to the hungry, to help small businesses survive, to help the elderly- so many examples of the true heart and connection we all forget sometimes, the truth that we are all human, and all of us are equal.

We have seen the community come together; including county, state and federal elected officials and our local ACPD, to condemn unequal treatment, and protest against injustice. It is times of struggle and discomfort like these that are precisely when we have the opportunity to remake our institutions and society to help address the righteous anger and systematic inequities that have come to our collective awareness.

As a grass-roots collective of community organizations, the Arlington County Civic Federation has always been, and will continue to be, a forum for all voices in our community to be heard, and where we can work to address issues that affect all our community members.

I encourage all of you to remember our shared humanity, and that we are all one together. To coin a phrase: ***E Pluribus Unum.***

Warmly,

Allan Gajadhar

Nominating Committee
2020-2021 ACCF Officers and Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee has approved the following slate of candidates for the Civic Federation's 2020-2012 Officers and Board of Directors.

Allan Gajadhar, President
Vice President, Tina Worden
Allen Norton, Secretary
Burt Bostwick, Treasurer

Member at Large, Michael Cantwell
Member at Large, Eric Cassel
Member at Large, Mike McMenamin
Member at Large, Stacy Meyer
Member at Large, John Vihstadt

Preparing for and Responding to COVID-19

- [Steps to Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#), which tells residents what to do if they or family members are sick or have symptoms. In addition, the guide provides instructions about how to identify people who came into close contact with you while you were sick.

- The [Arlington Community Corps](#) includes listings by Arlington neighborhood and is designed to link people who need help with nearby volunteers willing to help out—by delivering groceries and medication to other residents at higher risk from COVID-19. For more information or questions, email arlingtoncommunitycorps@gmail.com.

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) updates from Arlington County](#)
 - This includes County Resources for food, financial and medical assistance
 - Business Resources for small businesses, property owners
 - Info from the CDC, VA Dept of Health and Arlington County

- [Virginia's stay at home order FAQ](#)

The links below are taken from a list provided by the Arlington County Public Library

- The Department of Human Services has an extensive [resource page](#) for mental wellness and self-care, including:

- Find a support hotline
- Keep your kids engaged while teleworking
- Take a free mindfulness class
- Build greater capacity to face challenges ahead

- The [Public Library](#) has [free resources](#) that can help get you through these stressful times.

- The [Department of Parks & Recreation lists](#) fun and safe activities for you to do at home and outside while practicing social distancing, including:

- Make your own ice cream
 - Try origami
 - Take a Zumba class
 - Start a garden
-

More about the Arlington Community Corps

Arlington Community Corps began in early March as a grass-roots community response to the County advice to ‘make sure you have a buddy’ during the Covid-19 pandemic. From that initial start, ACC has grown in three months to almost 500 volunteers across Arlington. And as our volunteer base has grown, so has our mission. Besides providing buddies to check in on vulnerable residents, ACC volunteers are helping many families—especially those without transportation and with young children at home—with

- picking up and delivering Arlington Public Schools meals if a family is unable
- picking up and delivering from Arlington Food Assistance Center [AFAC] if a family is unable
- shop for groceries at supermarkets and deliver them if a family is unable to shop (family reimburses the shopper)
- providing diapers and formula until families are connected to longer term resources

In many cases, ACC acts as a first line of assistance to families in need from the fallout of Covid-19, providing a bridge of support while county and APS social workers connect residents with longer-term resources.

As the school year comes to an end and the effects of economic stimulus wane, it is our belief that need in Arlington will only increase as 2020 wears on. We encourage ACCF delegates to spread the word about ACC in their neighborhoods; asking for volunteers, publicizing us as a resource ,and encouraging contributions to our storehouse of baby items though our Amazon list. Information on all this and more is available on our website at <http://arlingtoncommunitycorps.org/>.

Update Community Emergency Response Team Training

Did you know that there is a cadre of more than 300 Arlington County residents who stand ready to assist in times of disaster when professional responders are stretched thin? Be it natural or manmade, the Arlington Community Emergency Response Team or ArlCERT are ready.

Founded in 1993, the global Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is comprised of trained volunteers who assist their communities and emergency first responders (police and fire) when disaster strikes. Since 2002, Arlington County has offered free biannual CERT classes to train interested citizens who live, work, or attend school in Arlington County on how to be the help until help arrives. To date, the local program has trained over 900 volunteers. Arlington CERT consists of men, women, teens, ages 14–85. The program is strictly voluntary, educational and rewarding.

The Arlington CERT basic training program is approximately 30 hours of classroom and hands-on training and concludes with a final training exercise before graduation. In the CERT Basic Training program, participants learn disaster preparedness, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, team organization, disaster psychology, fire suppression and terrorism awareness.

Since all in-person activities had been canceled indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Arlington CERT hosted CERT Basic Training virtually in May. More than 45 people enrolled in the online training. Participants

completed a hybrid training through weekly Zoom sessions, independent study, YouTube and online FEMA courses. To complement the online training, Arlington CERT will conduct practice sessions then the final exercise at the ACFD Fire Training Academy (FTA) in Shirlington when in-person activities resume.

The fall sessions will start in September, presumably at the FTA. The classroom sessions are taught by Arlington County Fire and Police Departments, Cherrydale Volunteer Fire Department, and active duty CERT members.

So far in the pandemic, Arlington CERT volunteers have supported the County quarantine hotels with food distribution and other assistance. Moreover, the benefit of CERT basic training became evident in July 2019 after severe weather caused widespread flooding and significant damage to public facilities, roads, businesses and homes. Volunteers from Arlington CERT, the Arlington Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and Team Rubicon trained and mobilized to go door-to-door to assist with damage assessments in the County.

If you are interested in becoming a part of this worthwhile community program, please visit <https://emergency.arlingtonva.us/get-involved/cert/> to request information about the next training classes For tips, webinars and resources on CERT and general emergency preparedness, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/arlingtonvacert.

Arlington County Public Schools

[APS Update on the Coronavirus](#)

[The Civic Federation's Website](#)

2019-2020 Board of Directors

Allan Gajadhar, Acting President
Tina Worden, Acting Vice President
Allen Norton, Secretary
Burt Bostwick, Treasurer

Board of Directors Acting Chair, Eric Cassel
Board of Directors Vice Chair, Vacant
Member at Large, Allan Gajadhar
Member at Large, Tina Worden
Member at Large, Dennis Gerrity
Member at Large, Mike McMenamin
Member at Large, Stacy Meyer

Here is a [link](#) to Board members bios to learn about their backgrounds.

2019-2020 ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES

Cultural Affairs – Chair Tina Worden – tinaw@civfed.org
Environmental Affairs – Mary Glass – mary@civfed.org
Housing – Chair John Vihstadt – housing.chair@civfed.org

Legislation – Chair Ron Haddox – ron@civfed.org
Parks and Recreation – Chair Duke Banks – duke@civfed.org
Planning and Zoning – Chair Ben Kenney – ben@civfed.org
Public Services - Chair Jackie Snelling – jackie@civfed.org
Revenues and Expenditures – Burt Bostwick (POC) – burt@civfed.org
Schools – Chair Michael Beer – michaelbeer@civfed.org
Transportation – Chair Jerry Auten – jerry@civfed.org

2019-2020 FEDERATION SUPPORT COMMITTEES

Audit -- Chair Jay Wind – jay.wind@att.net
Awards – Chair – Tbd
Bylaws and Rules – Chair Allen Norton – allen.n@civfed.org
Banquet – Chair – Tina Worden – tinaw@civfed.org
Communications – Chair Tina Worden – tinaw@civfed.org
Membership – Chair Dennis Gerrity – membership@civfed.org

Any Delegate, Alternate or member of a Member Organization may participate on any Public Interest or Support Committee (Please contact the Committee chair or point of contact or [Acting President Allan Gajadhar](#) if you are interested participating on ACCF Committees.)

LINKS TO MEETING DOCUMENTS

[Draft May 19, 2020 Membership Meeting Minutes](#)
[Draft May 24, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting](#)
[May 2020 Treasurer's Report](#)

!Please Remember!

The Civic Federation has changed the day and venue on which it holds its monthly meetings.

Effective October 2019, the Federation's General Membership Meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of the month.

Effective April 21, meetings are being held on a virtual basis using the Zoom video conferencing app until further notice. You must sign-in when joining the Zoom meeting. Please use your first and last name as your sign-in name so that we can track delegate participation. You can join the meeting between 6:15pm and 7pm on the day of the meeting.

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